



# CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

JUNE 1994





# How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, and make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

There are two options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

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You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.



1st Battalion



2nd Battalion



June 1994

Vol. 9 No. 3

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## Our cover

Reproduced from the original painting by Charles C. Stadden of a Regimental Drummer against a background of the Abbey Gate, Bury St. Edmunds.

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Pte Francis of the Vikings on patrol in the Cookstown area in Northern Ireland

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# From the Colonel of the Regiment

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THIS six-monthly message is in danger of becoming a long running resumé of who is either taking, or planning to take, yet another swipe at the already over-stretched structure of this country's Armed Forces. No sooner had we emerged rather battered and bruised from Options for Change, with the siren words of Whitehall still ringing in our ears, that the necessary blood letting was over and we could start to plan on the basis of the post options structure, than a series of lesser, but no less damaging attacks were launched on the Territorial Army, RHQs, bands and many other parts of the organisation, most of which were and continue to play a vital role in the overall good of the Army.

I am of course desperately sorry to see the departure of both our Regimental bands over the last six months. Like most of the good things in life that one takes for granted, one never really appreciates what one has had until it is taken away. The Queen's Division bands will, I know, do a wonderful job in filling the gap, but the close proximity and involvement in the everyday life of the Battalion of its own band was, to my mind, the vital ingredient that will make them impossible to quite replace; it was a Viking, or a Poacher, or a Pompadour, at the head of the parade and that's what made them so special.

Better news on RHQs. I have a probably illogical theory that the more

extreme the conclusions of a study (and in this case there were three of them), the more likely it is that management will wake up and seriously address the problem. Whilst the final decisions are yet to be made, I hope it is not premature optimism to say that RHQ at Bury St Edmunds and the majority of our out-stations look reasonably secure for the future.

The most worrying aspect of this whole reductions exercise is its potential impact on our Territorial Battalions. This is unlikely to be known until later this summer, and details may well not be confirmed until the autumn. In the meantime we continue to make it clear to those that ask, or will listen, that the retention of three Royal Anglian Territorial Battalions is vital to the ongoing health and strength of the Regimental family, be it on representational, recruiting, geographic or historic terms. Our Territorial Battalions have never ever been anything else but equal members of the Regiment. The loss of the 3rd Battalion has greatly increased the Territorial Battalion's responsibility as guardians of the Regiment's interest in our counties and any reduction in their numbers must be and will be strongly resisted. We can all play a part in this, and must do so as the financial decisions are turned into reality later this year.

As I write the 1st Battalion is coming towards the end of a most successful tour in Northern Ireland. The 2nd Battalion, as

most of you will know, commenced a six month tour in Bosnia in early May. Whilst I make no attempt to compare these two separate operations, other than to note that both are a result in the main of ancient ethnic and religious differences, they each present in their own way the severest test that our Regiment can be put to in the current time. I am sure all of us therefore take huge comfort in knowing that both Battalions have consistently set the very highest professional standards over many years and will, I know, continue to do so and wish them both success and a safe return.

My last thoughts on this, the 50th anniversary of the allied landings in Europe, turn to the retired members of our former Regiments and to our Associations. Anyone who watched the D-Day ceremonies of remembrance on the television, must have been struck by the quality, spirit and sheer courage of the veterans who had so proudly gathered to remember their fallen comrades and celebrate the staggering achievements of June 1944 in which they had all played a part. As I watched I could not help but remember that it was from this fine stock that the Regiment emerged 30 years ago and these are the qualities that we must continue to nurture in all our Battalions today.

**Maj Gen PPD Stone**



### **Colonel-in-Chief**

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

### **Deputy Colonels-in-Chief**

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon  
Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

### **Colonel of The Regiment**

Major General P P D Stone, CB, CBE

### **Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment**

The Reverend T B F Hiney, MC

### **Deputy Colonels of The Regiment**

1st, 5th (V) and 6th (V) Battalions: Major General M J D Walker, CBE  
2nd & 7th (V) Battalions: Brigadier C Groves  
Colonel D K Harris, OBE, TD

### **President of the Regimental Association**

Major General Sir David Thorne, KBE

### **Deputy Honorary Colonels TA**

Norfolk: Colonel P B D Long, OBE  
Suffolk: Brigadier W C Deller, OBE  
Cambridgeshire: Colonel J P Macdonald  
Lincolnshire: Colonel D K Harris, OBE, TD  
Leicestershire: Colonel W G Dawson, TD DL  
Northamptonshire: Colonel P Worthy  
Bedfordshire: Colonel T A Winton  
Hertfordshire: Colonel N H Kelsey, OBE TD, ADC  
Essex: Colonel R C Tomkins, OBE, TD, DL

### **Alliances**

Canadian Armed Forces	Sherbrooke Hussars The Lincoln and Welland Regiment The Essex and Kent Scottish The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment
Australian Military Forces	The Royal Tasmania Regiment
New Zealand	3rd Battalion (Auckland {Countess of Ranfurly's Own} and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment 5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment
Pakistan Army	1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment
Malaysian Armed Forces	The Barbados Regiment
Barbados	The Bermuda Regiment
Bermuda	The Gibraltar Regiment
Gibraltar	Belize Defence Force
Belize	

## Civic Honours

The Regiment has been granted the honour of the Freedom of Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham, Grimsby, Hertford, Hinckley, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough, Romford, Southend, Grays and Thurrock, Watford, Wellingborough, Wisbech and Yarmouth.

## REGIMENTAL LOCATIONS

### Regimental Headquarters:

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.  
(Tel: 0284 752394, Fax: 752026 / Colchester Military 5124)

Regimental Secretary: Colonel C J Dale  
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major M Jones  
Regimental Careers Officer: Major R C Gould

### Area Office, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia Barracks, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4HJ. (Tel: 0603 628455)

Area Secretary: Major W H Reeve

### Area Office, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire

Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton NN1 3RE. (Tel: 0604 35412)

Area Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel J L Wilson, DL  
Designate: Captain D J Lee BEM (Lincoln) (Tel: 0522 525444)

### Area Office, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Essex CM13 3BN. (Tel: 0277 213051)

Area Secretary: Major D J Thorogood

### Regimental Information Team

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn. (Tel: 0763 242271)

Captain J J Wilcox

## BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion, Colchester.

Lieutenant Colonel R M Brunt, MBE

2nd Battalion, Celle BFPO 23. (Op Grapple, Bosnia BFPO 547  
May – Nov 94)

Lieutenant Colonel J C McColl, OBE  
(Lieutenant Colonel D J Clements MBE Mar 95)

5th (V) Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Cambridgeshire),  
TA Centre, London Road, Peterborough.

Lieutenant Colonel P G R Horrell TD

6th (V) Battalion (Norfolk, Suffolk & Essex),  
TA Camp, Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds.

Lieutenant Colonel C A F Thomas, TD

7th (V) Battalion (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and  
Northamptonshire), TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

Lieutenant Colonel R M L Colville (V)  
(Lieutenant Colonel J B C Prescott Oct 94)

### Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Captain B A Foster  
Infantry Training Battalion, Ouston: Lieutenant A G Grinonneau  
RMA Sandhurst: Captain D G H Hunter (designate — Captain B A Runciman, 8 Sep 94)

# Mainly about people

## DIARY DATES 1994/95

### JUNE

- 1st Battalion returns from Northern Ireland.
- 3 Royal Norfolks' Officers' Dinner Club dinner.
- 10 Royal Lincolns Officers' lunch.
- 17 Annual Regimental golf meeting, Stowmarket.
- 24/25 Royal Tigers' weekend.
- 26 Essex Regiment reunion, Warley.

### JULY

- 2-3 Northamptonshire Regimental Association reunion.
- 5-6 Queen's Division postings meeting.
- 10 Association Gathering, Bassingbourn.
- 22 Essex Regiment Association dinner.
- 30 Suffolk Regiment Officers' dinner.
- 31 Suffolk Regiment reunion.

### AUGUST

- 1 Minden Day.

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 30th anniversary of founding of the Regiment.
- 3-18 7 Royal Anglian camp, Penhale.
- 9 Autumn golf meeting, Flempton.
- 10 Annual golf match v Flempton.
- 10-24 5 Royal Anglian camp, Oakehampton.
- 11 Royal Lincoln's reunion, Lincoln.

- 24 Royal Norfolks' Association dinner.
- 24-8 Oct 6 Royal Anglian camp, Oakehampton.

### OCTOBER

- 3rd Battalion Officers' Club lunch.

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Royal Anglian Officers' Club dinner. Council meeting, London.
- 10 Field of Remembrance.
- 13 Remembrance Sunday.
- 20 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association reunion.

### DECEMBER

- 2 Royal Leicesters Officers' Dinner Club luncheon, Duke of York's.

## 1995

### APRIL

- 15 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association annual dinner.
- 21 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party, London.
- 29 Planned date for presentation of new colours to 1st & 2nd Battalions.

### JUNE

- 24-25 Royal Tigers' weekend.
- 25 Official opening Royal Leicesters Wood.

### JULY

- 1-2 Northamptonshire Regimental Association reunion.

## Promotions awards and departures

THE Colonel of the Regiment congratulates Capt R W Potter on his award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours List and also the following who received awards in the Northern Ireland list in April: Lt Col J C McColl OBE, Maj R J Kemp MBE, Capt S W Carver and Maj S L Porter Mentioned in Despatches, and Capt R F L. Lyne QC'VS.

### Newly commissioned

We welcome to the Regiment 2Lts J D Hughes, M M Sheath and S M Vincent following the Sovereign's parade on Apr 9. We also congratulate Lt W H Eke who is now UFO 2 PWRR.

### Departures

We have said farewell over the past six months to Lt Col D R Bailly MBE on Feb 1, Capt S Dexter MBE Mar 1, Maj J C D G Pollard Feb 28, Capt N J R Green Apr 20, Lt J Chastney Mar 31; also Capt G D Cattermole, Maj S P B Badger and Maj G W M Hipkin all on Mar 1 and Maj H M B Halcrow MBE Mar 9. We wish them all the very best of good fortune in civilian life.

### Transfers

Lt N J Richardson has transferred to RRF. We wish him all the best of good luck in his new Regiment.

### Redundancies

The following have been selected for redundancy under stage 3 of Options for Change: Lt Col P W Field OBE, Lt Col K M Ryan MBE, Lt Col A D Slater OBE, Maj S W Lamb, Maj F R Antolik and Maj T D G Townley. Thirty-two soldiers have also been selected for redundancy; all were volunteers.

### Promotions

We congratulate WO1 P K Cavaliero on his promotion.

### GOC's Commendation

We congratulate the following on being awarded the GOC's commendation in the recent Northern Ireland list. All are from the Poachers: Pte C B Hannigan, LCpl R J Heap, Pte C Mallett, LCpl T McNally and Sgt S R Rouget.



## Mainly about people



The Vikings in Northern Ireland. The ATO briefs CLF about an explosives find. More Vikings pictures — page 14

## Gallipoli Association seeks new members

SIR, April 25 was the anniversary of the day in 1915 when British and Allied forces landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in an effort to capture the Dardanelles, defeat Turkey and open a supply route to Russia.

Had we been successful there is no doubt that it would have had a significant influence on the length of The Great War.

However, in fighting as severe as anything experienced in France and Flanders during the whole of the War, the Allies, in the eight months they were on the Peninsula, suffered an estimated 250,000 casualties, the vast majority of whom were British.

Fighting during the eight month campaign was constant and heavy, an indication is that 30 Victoria Crosses were awarded.

The Gallipoli Association was founded to ensure that the memory of Gallipoli, the

men who fought and died on its inhospitable shores and the many sacrifices they made, are not forgotten. The Association is worldwide in membership and includes over 50 veterans of the campaign, all now in their mid/late 90s. The remainder of the membership consists of those who have family connections with someone who served in the Gallipoli campaign, or have a specific or general interest in the activities of The British Army on the Peninsula.

The Association welcomes new members and would be pleased to provide further information to anyone who has an interest in keeping alive the memory of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915.

J.J. Fallon, Hon public relations officer, The Gallipoli Association, 2 Sunnysfield, The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts.

## New colours — a reminder of developments

THE 1st and 2nd Battalions are entitled to new colours in 1994 but, because of operational and training commitments this will have to be delayed until 1995.

We are planning to hold a Regimental parade on Apr 29 1995 in Colchester. We aim to involve all our Volunteer Battalions, the Regimental Association and former Regiment Associations.

Please note in your diaries.

## Officers' cocktail party cancelled

LARGELY because our two Regular Battalions are away, the cocktail party this year had to be cancelled because of lack of numbers.

We will try again next year!

## Mainly about people

Some of the Royal Anglian permanent staff at Ouston:

Back row, l. to r:

Cpls Jackson, Clarke, Johnson, Gibson, Turner and Parker; Front

row, l. to r: Sgt

Fox,

Lt Grinonneau,

C/Sgt

Huddleston, Cpl

McCarroll.



## Anglians play major role in Ouston training battalion

Adrian Grinonneau writes:

FOLLOWING the report from ATR Bassingbourn, it only seems right that we should inform the Regiment of our activities at the Infantry training battalion Ouston.

After his Phase One training at the ATR, our now trained soldier is dispatched up to the wild northern wastelands and Ouston. Once there, he embarks on the 11 week combat infantryman's course (CIC) along with other would-be infantrymen from the Scottish and Light Divisions.

There are almost 20 Royal Anglians among the permanent staff here at Ouston, but following the departure of Maj B McDonnel to BAOR the only officer remaining is Lt Grinonneau as a Platoon Commander and Regimental Representative. We are also thin on the ground with SNCOs.

At present we have only C/Sgt Huddleston as CQMS C Company and Sgt Fox as a Platoon Sergeant in B Company.

As the three companies here usually have at least one platoon from each division, the JNCOs are well spread, ensuring a good all round Royal Anglian influence.

The only area of concentration is in the

Guardroom, where we have Cpls Turner and Turvey keeping the trainees in order.

The CIC itself is a very intensive 11 weeks of which about four-and-a-half weeks are spent on exercise.

This added to the fact that the companies are staggered by four weeks, means that there are only 14 days in each course when all the training teams are in camp together.

The net effect of this is maximum turnout of trained infantrymen to the battalions. However the adverse side means that as a unit we are unable to play much sport.

Our football team has fielded more players than Graham Taylor ever did and it looks as though our cricket team this summer will be much the same. Despite this, Lt Grinonneau has been selected to represent the Infantry and the Army under-25 cricket teams.

With the move to Catterick coming next year to form the Infantry training centre, merging the ITBs from Ouston, Strensall and Catterick, the future of Infantry training is becoming more organised.

As a result it is destined to be more efficient, making the future of the battalions promising.



Maj Tony Cobbold's farewell office party. Looking well pleased with a respectable golf trolley (at last) given by RHO staff

# Mainly about people

## From the Padre

### Much evidence of God's protecting hand over Regiment



THESE are tremendous and memorable days, in the middle of 1994, for both looking forward and looking back. The Regular Battalions have done credit to the Regiment wherever they have served, especially in the high profile tours of Northern Ireland. We all have confidence that they will do so in Bosnia.

You may be assured that prayers at The Royal Hospital Chelsea always include the safety and well being of our soldiers, and for wisdom and guidance for those who command and direct them. God is not allowed to forget our Regiment. Nor would he wish to do so. As we approach the 30th anniversary of the forming of the Regiment, we can see much evidence of God's protecting hand being over us, individually and as a family regiment.

We have confidence that this will continue to be the case in the future. These few remaining years of this century will see the last of the great anniversaries of the Second World War, from the point of view of the attendance of veterans.

But the legacy which our veterans have passed on, achieved at so great a cost, is clearly visible in these our Regular Battalions. It is the duty of all of us to wish them well. It is the duty of all Christians to pray regularly to God – for their safety, well being and happiness.



The ATR hierarchy swings into action: from left to right, Lt Col Graham Duthoit (CO), Lt Col Peter Field (Inspecting Officer) Capt Andy Foster (Adjutant), now in Bosnia, and WO1 (RSM) McCready perfectly in step (of course!).



## Meritorious medal presentation

WO2 T H Wesley BEM was presented on Feb 1 with the Meritorious Service Medal by Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright CB, CBE at the Army Careers Office, Ipswich (pictured above). His wife Tina and children Laura and Peter attended the presentation.

WO2 Wesley spent almost all his service

with the Poachers, with exception of two postings, first to DLB Shorncliffe and second to 5 UDR.

He has now moved to the Long Service List and runs the Army Careers Office in Ipswich, which is now sadly the only office in Suffolk.

# Mainly about people



## Allied Regiment keeps in touch

The Regimental Secretary has received the following letter from Lt Col Zahid Mahmood Khan, the Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion The Frontier Force, one of our Allied Regiments.

"I hope and pray this letter of mine finds you in good health. The Regiment is in receipt of your magazine Castle for which I am indeed grateful to you for keeping up the association. I am enclosing photographs for publication in your magazine and we will contribute more in future."

The photograph shows Gen Abdul Waheed, Chief of the Pakistan Army, signing the visitor's book of the 5 FF Regiment (3rd Royal).

The letter was duly acknowledged with thanks.

### Regimental Gathering

The Regimental Gathering will be held at Bassingbourn on 10 Jul '94. The format will be:-

1130	Drumhead Service
1214	March Past
1230	Bars Open & Lunch
1330	Shooting and Static Displays
1500	Band Display

We hope that even more Association Branches will attend with their standards and increase the 1200 who were present last year. If you would like to join us for our annual family day, please contact your Area HQ if you belong to an association, or direct to RHQ, using the application form below.

### Regimental Gathering Bassingbourn 10 Jul '94

(Please complete and return either to your OCA Branch or to RHQ)

- Attendance.** I/We would like ..... tickets for the Gathering on 10 Jul '94.
- Food.** Please reserve ..... box lunches at £5.00 each for which I enclose a cheque for £ ..... made out to 'RHQ R Anglian' \*

Name & Address .....

(IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

.....

.....

..... Post Code .....

\* There will also be bars and stalls for hot dogs, ice creams etc. and a picnic area if you prefer to bring your own food.

**NOTE:** Would OCA Branches please send consolidated returns through Area Secretaries at Lincoln, Norwich, Northampton and Warley as appropriate who will co-ordinate contingents from their area.

## Former Eaton Hall officer cadets sought for reunion

THE Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School reunion dinner came into being from the fact that over the years, I met people all over the world who turned out to have been at Eaton Hall OCS (or Mons!). Everyone agreed it would be a good idea to try to organise a reunion. The Duke of Westminster kindly agreed to be our Patron.

Enquiries at MoD for lists were unsuccessful and no archives appear to exist. A notice was placed in the Times and Telegraph and the first dinner was held in 1983. We have subsequently held dinners in '84, '85, '88, '92 and '93, all of them in London ('In and Out'), except '93, which was held at the Grosvenor in Chester.

We now have about 800 names, built up by word of mouth but since 15,000 National Service officer cadets passed through Eaton between 1947 and 1955, we have a long way to go! We are non-profit making, have no committees. We are anxious to trace further OEs who are unaware of the reunion dinner.

For further information contact: 2 Needham Road, London W11 2RP. Tel: 071-221 0681.

The 1994 dinner will be held on Thursday Oct 13 at the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly. Everyone on the database will be written to in June.

Keith M Taylor  
Chairman (Eaton Hall OCS 1950)

## Mainly about people



A pontoon bridge on the road from Zadar — which was shelled from time to time

# Recce Platoon veterans in Bosnia

Roy Smith and Charlie Shropshire were members of the Recce Platoon of the 1st Battalion in Cyprus in 1972. Charlie was badly hurt by a booby trap in Northern Ireland in Oct 74 and is now the attendant at the Suffolk Regiment Museum here at the Keep in Bury St Edmunds. This is their account of their second voluntary trip to Bosnia transporting aid.

HAVING collected the necessary cash and secured the use of a 7.5 ton ex Sunblest bread lorry, Charlie and I set off with our load of food and medical supplies for the port of Split.

Loading in Norwich went fine and after a good meal the journey began.

Arriving at Ramsgate in the middle of a storm, the check-in procedure and the documentation went quite smoothly, being almost a tonne overweight did not seem to worry anybody so we were duly lined up ready to board. The storm had now reached its full fury and the lorries were all rocking in the gale force winds as we waited and waited and waited – finally after a delay of four hours we were waved on board.

Another good meal on the ferry and then we were off and away soon through Dunkirk and heading for Mons.

Deciding to push on to Germany, we at last stopped to refuel and had a bratwurst and chips. Then on again at a punishing pace averaging 50 miles per hour.

Unfortunately we were approaching the German-Austrian border after work time on Thursday and the next day was Good Friday – half of Germany was heading for the ski slopes and consequently we crawled along in a queue for six to eight hours, but having crossed the border we were again motoring at speed through the tunnels and tolls of Austria (without paying) and on to the Slovenian border.

Here we had to have a vet sign our new and expensive documents; they were worried about imported food; a seal was put on our back door and we were off again.

Eventually we came to the Croatian border and once more we had to purchase new documentation and then we headed off for Ryeka.

An early breakfast, a couple of brandies and we were on our way down the coast road to Split. The drive to Split is made quite pleasant by the breathtaking scenery and one is kept awake and alert by the sheer drops on one side and the threat of avalanches on the other.

Nearing Zadar we begin to see the war

damage and the many empty shell-struck houses together with the numerous check-points that serve to remind one that all is not yet well in the area. We travelled over the makeshift pontoon bridge (still shelled from time to time) and on past more desolate villages and broken houses.

At last we arrived in Split and so to our digs for the duration of our stay. A good meal of fish soup and bread inside us and we retired exhausted to bed.

We were up at 0400 hrs and after breakfast of painted blessed eggs (it was Easter) we set off for the customs and excise to obtain the necessary paperwork etc to distribute our aid.

First on the list was Split Hospital for the incubators and medical items, when we again had a complication. Our incubators were urgently needed in Mostar and the administrator of the Split Hospital said she would do all the necessary paperwork.

While this was being completed (paperwork out there takes longer than in the British Army!) we proceeded south east down the coast to Makaska Children's Hospital with a consignment of food and teddy bears, both of which were gratefully received.

*Continued Page 12*

## Mainly about people



Charlie, left, and Roy on the road.

### *From Page 11*

We were force fed more local brandy. By this time it was getting late so we returned to our digs for another meal of fish soup, bread and litres of wine.

Next day, returning to Split Hospital for the relevant documents we only had to wait a couple of hours before we were bounding for Mostar. However we were stopped about 30km from the town and told that procedures had changed and our documents were useless! Not wishing to argue with the AKs, etc. we turned around and contacted the hospital at Split. They were most apologetic and suggested as an alternative another small hospital further down the coast.

Having located this on our map, we set off again and although no English was spoken we 'made the drop' as they say in the trade and the hospital seemed quite happy with their unexpected presents.

Next day we delivered our final 1.5 tonnes of food and some teddies to an unofficial refugee camp in the area. Unloading was no problem – we only had to open the back of the truck and it was done. The children loved the teddies and many happy photos were taken.

Conditions in this camp were poor with 150 families living in huddled accommodation with only one toilet for them all. As you can imagine, they were very pleased to see us and made us very welcome.

Being now totally empty we started out on the uneventful return to UK, another successful trip over, the second for Charlie and the tenth for myself.

I am already collecting for the next trips and anybody wishing to contribute can do so by contacting: Roy Smith, Humanitarian Aid to Bosnia, c/o 151 Dereham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3TA.

## Impressions of the Normandy invasion

Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard KBE CBE DL commanded the 2nd Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment prior to and during the Normandy operation, sustaining serious injury shortly after the landing. At this time of the 50th anniversary of what can truly be called a titanic military undertaking, General Sir Christopher writes:

### Introduction

MUCH has already been written on the subject of the invasion of north-west Europe, from both a political and a military point of view. I do not intend to enter into the field of controversy nor indeed to express any strong views, military or otherwise.

My purpose is to record some personal impressions of that great occasion from the point of view of an Infantryman in an Infantry Battalion – a very small cog in a very large wheel.

My excuse for writing on so personal a theme is that in searching for an incident or an occasion that has made a lasting impression on me, I am compelled to admit that I have led a remarkably uneventful life, and that everything I have done or seen pales into insignificance compared to the events of the spring of 1944.

I propose to divide my account of these events into two parts; first the period of final preparation and secondly the invasion itself.

### Final preparation

THE unit in which I was serving at the beginning of 1944 had been training for many months in the UK, in fact ever since the disastrous days of Dunkirk.

It formed part of a division that had had many disappointments, having been selected for several previous operations including the invasion of Sicily, only to be told at almost the last moment that its place was to be taken by another division.

*Continued Page 13*

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# Mainly about people

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*From Page 12*

By 1944 the unit had been thoroughly trained in combined operations and had experienced many a wetshod landing in Scotland. We felt that we were well trained, particularly for an assault role, and that we were ready for anything.

We were, however, beginning to wonder whether we should ever get the chance of putting into practice what we had rehearsed so thoroughly and so often. Where was all this training leading us to? Here we were in the fourth year of the war and yet most of us had not yet seen a shot fired in anger. This lack of battle experience applied to many of the units forming part of the Army assault force, but training technique had developed to such an extent that morale was exceedingly high and there was a tremendous feeling of confidence in all the units with which one met and trained.

The first real indication that the invasion was not far distant came when all commanding officers in the division were assembled in Invernesshire, where for a week or two the first detailed planning on a unit level took place.

That early knowledge of the plan was invaluable as it was then possible to concentrate in the very greatest detail on the final arrangements. After the preliminary planning we remained in Scotland a few more weeks and then moved south to our appointed concentration area just north of Portsmouth.

As we were one of the first units to arrive there was plenty to do in putting the camp straight, as the arrangements for organising the marshalling area were yet fully into their stride.

When we had made ourselves as comfortable as we could, the problem was to occupy the troops and to prevent them from getting restless; to take their minds off the more morbid aspects of what the future held in store. This was achieved by strenuous marches and other forms of training and by providing as much entertainment as possible.

Leave was still allowed and there was time for every man to spend three or four days at his home.

Two other events of major importance took place during this period. One was the final rehearsal for moving down to the hards, for embarkation, an exercise designed to test the complicated arrangements for organising the marshalling area. It was rather like being put in at one end of a maze and being guided through to the other end.

The other event which really preceded this exercise was the division of the unit into craft loads, which involved very precise

calculations. It transpired that all serials were to sail from Portsmouth at different times according to their importance, except for one serial which was destined to sail from the east coast; this consisted of half the carrier platoon, one ammunition lorry, and the battalion water cart – a curious mixture.

The last event of note before D-Day was the final briefing. For this a special tent was erected in the camp, in which was set up a detailed model of the assault area and air photographs covering every inch of the ground.

No actual place names were used, of course, but code names were substituted on all maps and photographs. Every man in the unit was shown the model and the plan was explained in detail. As soon as this briefing was started the camp was 'sealed' and all contact broken with the outside world.

All these security arrangements were most impressive and it would be interesting to know whether there is any authentic case of a leakage of information.

## The Invasion

ABOUT two days after the final briefing, we formed up into our craft serials, as we supposed for the last time. We climbed into our lorries where we sat for nearly an hour, and were then told to go back to camp. This was of course due to the 24 hours postponement of which we knew nothing; it was not until long afterwards that we were able to read the full story of those fateful meetings and of the Supreme Commander's famous decision that we would sail. The next day there were no delays and we entered the now well-known maze to emerge in the afternoon on board our LCIs.

The next 16 hours were unforgettable; in the evening there was the amazing spectacle of the invasion fleet at anchor, a sight that could not fail to give one immense confidence, coupled with the knowledge of the tremendous air bombardment that was to support it.

Later on when we sailed we ran into weather sufficiently bad to upset the troops, and I remember vividly experiencing a kind of nightmare in which all the troops were so prostrate with sea sickness that none of them were able to get off the ship when we reached the other side. Fortunately that did not materialise.

As we did not form part of the leading waves of the assault, we were not due to land until about H plus 3 hours, so the night was spent in unsuccessfully trying to get some sleep. When it was light our little flotilla of LCIs – I think there were six of

them – surprisingly found itself almost alone at sea; somehow one never expected that. As we got nearer to the coast of France it was easy to recognise the prominent points we had memorised from the air photographs and we knew we were at the right place. The stillness was uncanny; one had to pinch oneself to realise that this wasn't just another exercise.

An occasional aircraft, now and then a few rounds of gunfire from one of HM ships in the distance, and that was all. It was difficult to believe that this was the biggest combined operation of all time; that we were part of the biggest assault force that had ever been launched.

The actual landing was equally quiet, the Navy ran us ashore at exactly the right place but owing to the swell we had a very wet scramble ashore, a few wrecked landing craft and one or two dead Germans told us that this was no exercise but it was remarkable to see how quickly the beaches had been cleared of the results of the battle that had taken place on them only two hours before.

The whole battalion reached its appointed assembly area without incident and even the party that had embarked from the east coast rejoined at exactly the time that it was expected.

But from that moment the whole scene changed; we soon discovered that the leading brigade had not got as far as had been hoped and in fact the whole plan was changed as far as we were concerned. The part we had so carefully rehearsed was never implemented, and we were allotted an entirely new role.

We had soon learnt that the unexpected always happens in war. As an end to that remarkable day we saw, at dusk, the Airborne Division flying in to its dropping zone – a heartening sight indeed when one knew that things had not been going quite according to plan.

## Conclusion

IN this short account I have only mentioned certain aspects that have made a lasting impression on me. This is not a military study and therefore I shall not attempt to draw any lessons from the experiences of my particular unit.

I have intended only to give some idea of what Operation Overlord meant to us. It so happened that we had no fighting on D-Day, but yet the very minor part that we played was for us just as eventful as the many battles and varying experiences that were to come our way later.



# VIKINGS



A multiple deploying on operations by Puma, not unusual for an Airmobile Battalion!

## Vigilance in East Tyrone

THE Vikings took control as the East Tyrone Battalion (ETB) from the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry in late December 1993. Tyrone has been home for the last six months and by July the Battalion will be back in Colchester. As a battalion in 24 Airmobile Brigade, the Vikings have a busy season of exercises ahead.

### Northern Ireland

THE ETB is divided into three Company areas of responsibility. To the north Maj Jones and B Company were responsible for Cookstown and its environs. In the centre A Company, with Maj Knox at the helm, look after Dungannon. Further south the gunners of 127 (Dragon) Battery kept an eye on Aughnacloy and the border until April when they were replaced by 22 (Gibraltar) Battery. Also based at Dungannon was the Operations Company although Maj

Wenham and his men spent most of their time out and about. The ETB was also fortunate to have two part time and one full time company of 8 R Irish under operational command until March when the full time company moved to Armagh.

Most members of the Battalion have served in Northern Ireland before and indeed Dungannon is not a new location for some. The RSM WO1 Grenfell, the RSWO WO2 Hamilton and the WO and Sgts' Mess Manager, C/Sgt Neal all served in Dungannon in 1974. Twenty years later they are here again, although "it wasn't like this in '74". The MTO and MTWO were keen to point out that they were also in Northern Ireland in '74 but in Portadown not Dungannon.

### Incidents and finds

The IRA started the year with a double

proxy attack on Dungannon and Cookstown on Jan 1. The ATO declared them both hoaxes after investigation, however on a follow-up search Pte Lavers of A Company found a command wire in the Ardbeg estate Dungannon. Jan 16 saw the find of a firing pack by Sgt Sykes' multiple in Coalisland and not long after that Ops Company also found a command wire with a firing pack, this time in Cappagh. On the 23rd a large explosion took place near Galbally and injured two civilians. The building in which the bomb exploded was destroyed along with several sheep. In the follow up operation Operations Company made several interesting finds.

February was very quiet in East Tyrone. On the 12th a coffee jar bomb was thrown at an RUC mobile patrol in Cookstown. Fortunately it failed to detonate and no injuries resulted. The soldiers of A



## News from the Vikings



Company also had to react when a suspect package was discovered in the Dungannon library. This time it was a hoax.

The highlight of March was a reactive operation that resulted in the find of 481 kilogrammes of home-made explosive and several arrests. Such a large find lifted every one's spirits as this much explosive could have injured and killed many people or caused much damage to the commercial centres of East Tyrone. March also saw Operations Officer Capt Hart dealing with more than the usual support in the form of D Company 1 Staffords, Sp Company 1 KOSB, ATO, RESA, REST, RIC, AES Dogs, Royal Navy on the lough and the Royal Engineers at Aughnacloy. Even the RAF came closer than normal by landing a Chinook inside Killymeal camp.

April started with a bang as 127 (Dragon) Battery was attacked with a mortar aimed at the Permanent Vehicle Checkpoint (PVCP) outside Aughnacloy. Fortunately the mortar failed to cause any damage. B Company had an excellent find of two barrel hides, one of which had terrorist equipment inside. They also dealt with a

*Continued Page 16*

Above: Sgt Jones and his multiple prepare to deploy by Helicopter to Cappagh.  
Below: Loading bay drill before deployment.



# News from the Vikings



Top: A broken Wessex being prepared for lifting out by Chinook. Middle: The Wessex blade is carried to the Chinook. Above: A Chinook lifts the broken Wessex.

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device found near Pomeroy. The Operations Company was involved in the much publicised rebuild of Crossmaglen base in South Armagh. They also found a secondary incendiary device following a double hoax proxy at RUC Stewartstown and Coagh and an under vehicle booby trap device during a route check near Ballygawley.

## Visits

THE Battalion was visited on many occasions during the tour. The Commander Land Forces was a frequent visitor and in February the Permanent Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir John Chillcott, came to have a look at the ETB.

During March the Band, on its last engagement in its current guise, played for a host of local units and a performance for Cookstown School. The Band also played at the Battalion's drum head service on Mar 20. Among the guests were the GOC and several Royal Anglians serving in Northern Ireland including Lt Col Dick Harrold, Maj Mac McGowan, Capts Abbot and Palmer and Lt Jackson. The Padre Capt Griffith took a memorable service which was followed by curry lunch. The day after his promotion to CDS, the Battalion was honoured by a visit from Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge. The CLF and Maj Gen Mike Walker also spent time with the Vikings as did the Commanders of 24 Airmobile and 3 Infantry Brigades.

Lord David Poole from the 10 Downing Street policy unit, Mr Legge the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Chief Constable of Suffolk all received briefs in April on the Battalion's role in East Tyrone. Chief Constable Coe was able to meet his son who is currently serving with Operations Company. The Colonel of the Regiment stopped by, as did Commander UK Field Army Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn.

## Media interest

Mark Laity, the senior defence correspondent for BBC radio, visited Dungannon in January and later broadcast interviews with the Commanding Officer and Sgt Lenton of the Drums Platoon.

The Colchester Evening Gazette and Southend Evening Echo visited the Battalion in February and ran stories in March covering soldiers serving with the Battalion. This was their first visit to the Province, and they were very interested to learn about the job the Battalion is doing in

*Continued Page 18*

## News from the Vikings



Above: The Pomeroy Platoon relaxing on one of their rare off-duty moments. Below left: L/Cpl Plant in the guardroom at Cookstown. Below right: "Working out or watching" – The gym at Cookstown.



# News from the Vikings

*From Page 16*

support of the RUC, and the conditions their 'local boys' are living in. They left with notebooks full of interviews and an overall impression of mature professionalism from even the youngest soldiers. The resultant articles were excellent and boosted morale considerably. This was enhanced by the visit of the East Anglian Daily Times team which ran a four-part pull-out series on 'Our boys in Ulster'.

## Sport

OUR sportsmen and women have been busy during the tour with Pte Harrington being selected to represent the Army at pole vault in the Combined Services indoor championships this year.

Also selected for Army honours is L/Cpl Dunne who will compete in the 1500m. The rear party managed a creditable 10th place in the Army cross-country finals, boosted by a stunning 6th place from L/Cpl Thomas, and 20th from L/Cpl Dunne. The doctor has been keeping her basketball hand in with games in the Province and a training session with the Welsh national side in Cardiff.

L/Cpl Thomas, who is currently serving with 160 AYT in Colchester, was placed 4th in the inter-corps cross-country championships at Blackdown. He was the first placed in the Infantry team which won the event after being runners-up for several years.

WO2 (TQMS) Bonnett came 35th in his class at the national orienteering championships, proving yet again that the Army has in its ranks some of the best athletes in the country.

## Relaxation

IN March the soldiers were entertained with a CSE show in Dungannon. The Baron Knights and Silver Fox proved to be a welcome, if very short-term, distraction for the Vikings. The town centre protection that night comprised the CO, MTO, QM, OC Headquarter Company, IO, Int Sgt, RSO, Commcen Sgt, Tac Ops Sgt and commanded by Sgt Lenton. He had his work cut out answering questions from a highly qualified if rather older than normal multiple.

## Families Office

WHILE the Battalion is in Tyrone the Wives Club is thriving. A weekly programme of swimming sessions, aerobics, coffee mornings and children's games ensure no-one has time to mope. Weekend

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Above: Cookstown hoax proxy bomb after ATO had finished dealing with it.  
Below: The Ops Officer Capt Hart getting to grips with the computer.



Caption competition (Lt Shea-Simmonds in plaster, Pte Mitchel asleep)

# News from the Vikings



Above: Sgt Marsh and his Multiple. Below: Sighting! MT Platoon in uniform.



## News from the Vikings



Above: Operations Company prepares to deploy by Chinook. Below left: WO2 Brooks and Sgt Tate looking for landmarks.



*From Page 18*

activities began in early January with the children's Christmas party, Timmy Mallet's Panto and the first of the wives Sunday lunches, which continued every three weeks.

In May London Zoo was the excursion venue and proved to be a great day out. In June it was planned to visit a theme park and to have the much awaited end of tour dinner.

### Vikings Rear Party

THE Rear Party has been extremely busy while the Battalion has been away. The QM as OC Rear Party has set a number of goals to be achieved before the end of the tour including: redecorating the accommodation blocks, conducting PRE on all vehicles, weapons, instruments and radios, and tidying up the barracks. The rear party also hopes to raise money for the ABF by sponsored events.

In February, 10 Vikings volunteered to deploy on Operation Grapple with the 2nd Battalion and after some refresher training flew to Germany. The Band has also been doing some training to get through the annual tests.

The LAD managed to take time out from vehicle maintenance to compete in and win the minor unit event at Corps AAM 1994

# News from the Vikings



Top: CO and OC Operations Company brief CLF on explosive find. Middle left: Padre and Drums Platoon in good voice during drumhead service. Middle right: B Company search team ready for action. Above left: Culvert check by Pte Griffiths  
Above right: Lt McClure and an RUC Constable in the snow

## News from the Vikings



Above: The MO and Pte Glenton perform a minor face lift!  
Right: Capt Jenkins, the Vikings Medical Officer.



# The doctor and the Vikings

### Capt K Jenkins writes:

IT was with nervous anticipation that I deployed to Northern Ireland as RMO of The First Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

This was to be my first tour. I had been with The Battalion only two months, prior to that I was still being moulded and polished on the postgraduate medical officers course at Sandhurst and Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale.

I had requested this tour of Northern Ireland on my career dream sheet. This, I believed, was to be the big chance to put all my years of training into practice – especially all the trauma (blood and gore) aspects.

As a doctor you are caught between wanting to put your hard earned skills to use and, of course, wanting no harm to come to the soldiers of the Battalion.

After two months with the Vikings I had already begun to feel a tremendous sense of responsibility towards all the soldiers and maintaining their good health. I

looked around me on the Hercules, wondering if I would have any of 'their lives in my hands' over the next six months.

The nervous anticipation soon ebbed away and day to day life in Dungannon took over. After six weeks of bruises, barbed wire cuts, sprained ankles and flu, I was beginning to realise the reality of life for an MO on a roulement tour. It is a case of being always ready, crash bergen packed, waiting for the batphone to ring. This is the lot of the Medical Centre personnel. The biggest enemy initially was complacency and boredom. This was soon counteracted by many teaching sessions, departmental PT (always popular), guitar lessons and for me a chance to study for further exams.

My interest in minor surgery flourished as many soldiers used the opportunity to have various lumps and bumps removed from their anatomy.

All said and done, however, the Medical Centre personnel liked to look upon themselves as coiled springs – ready

for action any time, any place'

Fortunately there were no major casualties during our time in East Tyrone (correct at time of writing).

Much of my time was spent dealing with the mundane health problems of the fit young soldier. Ensuring high standards of health and hygiene were being maintained within the bases also fell within my domain.

Mealtimes proved a good chance to promote healthy eating and encourage a few lifestyle changes here and there (not always terribly popular with certain officers).

The tour has been invaluable in allowing me to get to know the Battalion better and them likewise. It has been a time of establishing trusts and friendships. On returning to Colchester we will all look back on what we have learnt from our time in East Tyrone. We must then build on it and utilise all our collective experiences in the next phase of our Airmobile role



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# News from the Vikings

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## Band tours North America

THE latest biennial, coast to coast, tour of North America by British service musicians took place during the latter part of 1993. Entitled 'Royal Regiments On Parade' the complement of 90 was drawn from the bands of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queens and Royal Hampshires) and the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment together with the pipes, drums and dancers of the 1st Battalion Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, under the direction of WO1 Calum Gray and Pipe Major Jim Motherwell.

Starting on the east coast of the US, working across to the Pacific coast, with two forays into Canada, and back again to finish in New York, the tour encompassed 77 performances at 75 venues, each in a different city, over a period of 85 days. The 21,000 miles covered, by road and air, included 292 hours of travelling by coach.

All the major cities were included and although audiences varied from the 1,000



The Band relax after the drumhead service in East Tyrone

mark up to about 7,500, there was no doubting the considerable interest generated with participants kept busy, during the intervals and after shows, dealing with questions. These occasions also bring out the homesick expatriates.

The carefully chosen two-hour programme covered a whole range of band and bagpipe music. It included WO1 Parkinson's fanfare '40 Glorious Years', written to celebrate the 40th anniversary

of the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

A very comprehensive printed programme was available containing both formal and informal photographs of members of the bands and brief regimental histories, and a recording of the tour music was on sale. The latter was produced by Bandleader for the American promoters and is not yet available in the UK.

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## From civilian life to patrolling in Tyrone



Lt Paul Gotobed and his multiple on a Seaking.

THE metamorphosis from civilian to Viking was sudden though anticipated, writes Lt Paul Gotobed:

My arrival towards the end of March marked the return of Operations Company from its mid-tour training and R and R. Introductions were swift as I woke the next morning to find myself patrolling the countryside of East Tyrone, not that different to the countryside of East Anglia. Life has not slowed down since.

The company has operated far and wide within the TAOR and on the odd occasion further afield. I had to learn quickly the art of the weather and the right way to cross the many barbed wire fences and hedges.

I have also participated in the company's many recent successes, particularly with the discovery of an explosive device by a member of my multiple on a patrol. What has come as a shock to more than me is a Territorial Officer working weekdays! Whatever will happen next



# POACHERS



## Deployment to Bosnia

WITH Batus and a Northern Ireland tour successfully completed during the first 10 months of 1993, the Battalion may well have expected a slightly easier period. How wrong it proved to be.

On our return from Batus, the Battalion started to prepare immediately for the forthcoming Brigade FTX by deploying on its own CPX. This was coupled with the Battalion catching up with a great deal of administration resulting from the past busy year, completing the Battalion's ATDs, and finally preparing for the CO's inspection. However, the first priority remained the CPX.

The operations officer, Capt Des O'Driscoll and the CO thoroughly exercised our Battalion headquarters in all its staff and its command procedures for three very long days in sub zero temperatures on Bergen Hohne training area.

Finally, after strenuous effort by all concerned, the Battalion deployed on the brigade FTX exercise Rampant Rat in December. The exercise was conducted on the Bergen Hohne Range complex and covered all phases of high intensity conflict. The Battalion once again showed its prowess at AI warfare during a very successful exercise, especially the RSO and RSWO who found themselves in conditions not dissimilar to the Somme, knee-deep in mud on the final night while trying to manoeuvre the headquarters into a hide! Only after these exercises could the Battalion finally prepare for a very well deserved month's Christmas leave.

However, before the Poachers could finally take their leave, we had to first dispense with the Queen's Royal Hussars boxing team in the semi-final of the BAOR Grade 3 novice boxing competition. Under the expert guidance of the Quartermaster, Maj David Whitehead and WOII Micky Downland, we managed a comfortable victory, seven bouts to two. The team immediately started preparation for the final which included many rounds of sparring and numerous miles running around the countryside of Celle.

And lastly, to cap a quite remarkable year the Poachers were warned of possible



Pte Wellard during the platoon competition.

deployment on Operation Grapple 4 to Bosnia. For many people this was the most preferable option rather than the alternative of Belfast over Christmas. The prospect of a quiet 1994 suddenly changed and planning for our training immediately rolled into

action – 1994 looked to be as busy as 1993.

January saw the Battalion return from its well-earned leave and plunge straight into Operation Grapple training. The first phase was very much concentrating on individual

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## News from the Poachers

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Above: Milan Firing their GPMG on live firing. Left: Maj Wadman. Below: Maj Wadman receiving the Major unit trophy for the brigade cross-country race (Capt O'Driscoll and Lt Woodisse behind).



# News from the Poachers



Above: Capt Lyne consulting the user handbook on how to mount his CVRT.  
Below: Pte Ling playing the wounded Croatian during the platoon competition.



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skills and training. Cadres included section medics, assault pioneer, 432, CVRT and warrior driving training, signal and support platoon number cadres. Any other spare time was spent on low level weapon training and personal skills with a great emphasis on the forthcoming tour of Bosnia, including an initial brief for the soldiers. The officers and warrant officers attended a series of more in-depth Bosnia background briefs, designed to make the trainers fully aware of the current situation and put them a step ahead of those they have to train.

Despite the hectic period, 45 soldiers still managed to enjoy a two-week skiing package in the Bavarian Alps as a part of the brigade's Exercise Snow Queen adventure training. As always the Battalion continued, as best it could, to play sport. The football team played throughout the period despite the pressures of training, enabling the soldiers some resemblance of normal battalion life and the Battalion managed numerous CO runs on a Friday afternoon. The rugby team managed a few games although regrettably in one Pte Gelder broke his leg and the RMO broke his arm in the next game. Not a good start to the relaunched Poachers rugby team.

The CO's initial reconnaissance took place in January with the Operations Officer and the quartermaster close at hand to concentrate on the logistic side. However, the situation the Commanding Officer faced (a withdrawal scenario) was somewhat different to the situation which met the main Recce party which then visited Bosnia in February when there had been a much firmer UN commitment. The main Recce enabled the command and logistic elements of the battalion to effectively plan and prepare the Battalion's forthcoming training and deployment.

Back in barracks, the individual package culminated with a platoon competition in the end of February. The competition was staged over four arduous days, with a wide range of skills and disciplines covered including a march and shoot over 8 km, which 6 platoon led by Lt Martin won; APFA style fitness tests, in which Cpl Limb C Company gained the best result, media training, first aid, weapon skills and Operation Grapple related tests. The competition was extremely close with very little between any of the platoons but Milan Platoon, led by Capt Paul Bailey, was the eventual winner. The Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, Brig Ridgeway, presented the prizes.

Sporting activities continued to flourish

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## News from the Poachers



Above: The LAW 94mm indoor trainer in action during the platoon competition.  
Left: RSM WO1 Cutter giving some advice to the cameraman.  
Below: Warriors during the platoon competition.



## News from the Poachers



Above: Brig Behagg watching the warrior platoon trainer in action.  
Left: Cpl Knott going through the dip tests in the platoon competition.



### *From Page 26*

The Poachers became BAOR Grade 3 novice boxing champions, by defeating 7 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps by five bouts to four in one of the most enjoyable and in many people's opinion, the best boxing evening ever staged within the Battalion. Congratulations go to the whole squad. Lt Ralph Woodisse also led a very successful Nordic ski team, which culminated months of hard work by finishing as the 4th Army side and 6th national team in the British national championships, while earlier becoming the best infantry side.

Pte Robb and Pte Geary both managed to be selected for the British junior biathlon ski squad and were invited to train in this year's summer camp in May with the possibility of selection for next year's team. A most creditable performance. The Poachers also organised and ran the Brigade's cross-country championship in the surrounding Celle woodlands. The Poacher team led by Maj Andy Wadman (2nd overall and best veteran) won convincingly.

March saw the Battalion move into an even busier time. The Battalion went, en masse, to Sennelager to complete two intensive five-day field firing packages which enabled the companies to polish off their low level weapon and infantry skills. On

## News from the Poachers

return to camp a wives brief was organised regarding the deployment to Bosnia. This was an opportunity to explain and illustrate the locations and jobs the Poachers were expecting to complete. It also enabled the wives to ask questions and clarify the facilities provided by the rear party while the Battalion is away.

This was closely followed by preparation for the battalion gunnery camp. This included the platoon gunnery training on a state-of-the-art computer simulator where all of the crews were put through their gunnery drills in realistic conditions. This excellent training facility enabled each platoon to be fully prepared for the gunnery camp at Bergen Hohne. Once again the Battalion proved what good preparation and planning can achieve, by watching the amazing progress of the Battalion's gunners. They fired consistently at a very high standard and continually improved throughout the camp despite their relative inexperience and yet again enduring some awful weather conditions with the temperature often falling below zero. The package was finished off with a brigade test exercise, Exercise Rat a Tat Rat. This combined Warriors Live and each platoon facing many differing and wide ranging situations which they may well face in Bosnia. This was the final element of the collective training before deployment and proved to be extremely challenging.

Before the Poachers could enjoy their Easter and pre-deployment leave, the command elements moved onto a five-day BBGT package at Sennelager, which included a Bosnia study day with a number of guest speakers emphasising a wide range of challenging problems we may well face.

Here, the command element were not only tested on normal radio procedures but all had to undertake realistic negotiation training, interpreter training and for a lucky few some media training in which they were pushed to their diplomatic limits by Maj Tony Gaithe the Army's interview supreme. The package put the finishing touches to the Battalion's preparation for deployment, by which time it had not only earned but was undoubtedly ready for its leave.

However, the return from leave saw the Battalion move immediately into more media training, extra driving and gunnery cadres and the liaison officers' training package. The Headquarter Company ran a small cadre to enhance the skills of the soldiers who had recently joined the Battalion, including a number of reinforcements from other arms and infantry units. This included another mini gunnery camp whereby the maximum number of crews were trained



The Milan Platoon during their live firing, practising NBC drills.

giving the Battalion and the soldiers the greatest flexibility possible in theatre.

Once the final training packages had been completed packing in preparation for deployment began.

This has been no mean feat, co-ordinating the movement of 60 AFVs and 800 men, the quartermasters department yet again providing the support to enable us to deploy operationally.

At this time the Battalion hosted a two-day press visit in which UK and German national press and local county press interviewed many soldiers and wives and saw the

Battalion at work in its run up to deployment.

At the time of writing the Battalion is in the final stages of training and just beginning its move into theatre. The pre-advance party left on the Apr 23 and the advance party of 130 including the majority of the command element is due to fly from Hannover to Split on Apr 25. The sea move, where all the warriors and equipment was transported to Bosnia left on Apr 24 with a small party lead by Lt Gandy. Finally the main body moved between May 3 and 11, with the Battalion finally assuming command on May 8.

## News from the Poachers



# Rock climbing in Sardinia

Above: The team on Ex Deci Drop. Below: Cpl Jackson trying to beat the overhand.

*By Alistair Martin writes:*

**EXERCISE** Deci Drop was an adventure training exercise held from Nov 31 to Dec 14 in Sardinia at the Army adventure training centre.

The exercise aim was to introduce nine Poachers to basic rock climbing and hill walking.

Sardinia in December, now that was an opportunity not to be missed.

There was a great deal of organising to be completed but the incentive was good enough. However, people had great pleasure in telling us how cold and miserable it was going to be.

Within ten minutes of arriving we had realised that the weather was going to be marvellous and we all enjoyed the prospect of basking in glorious sunshine.

After finalising the last details at our base camp, we set off toward Arbatax and began some excellent introductory climbing.

A wonderful seastack on the beach provided not only some great climbing but also a 70ft abseil straight into the

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# News from the Poachers

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Mediterranean. A small crowd gathered to watch our antics which undoubtedly provided extra motivation for the team and the climbing became a matter of national and battalion pride.

After five days, top roping quivering knees and white knuckles were definitely becoming a thing of the past, so we moved swiftly onto more advanced lead and secondary climbing.

The expedition also included a trek over Monte Corradi at a height of 1463m. This provided some spectacular views and a chance to rest our sore hands and exercise our lungs.

We ended the expedition with some well earned R&R, which gave us a chance to practice our ever-improving Italian with the extremely hospitable locals. Overall, we had an extremely worthwhile and fulfilling time.

The island holds a wealth of fantastic adventure training opportunities. So my advice is if the offer ever comes up, do not hesitate to take it.

The team comprised: Lt Martin, Sgt Roberts (APTC), Cpl Jackson and Ptes Eggleton, Garner, Johnson, Mansfield, Gallagher and Renshaw.



Pte Renshaw reaches the peak



Capt Gerrard Wright firing in Zimbabwe.

## Loan Service in Zimbabwe

**Capt Lance Gerrard Wright writes:** MY OC in Northern Ireland, Maj David Napier, had advised me that Loan Service was "where it's at". However, one application and a couple of pessimistic interviews later (Brigadier "Mmm, the Seychelles? I'm not sure") I was not holding out too much hope.

It was therefore something of a bonanza when Col John McColl calmly asked me how I would like to spend the next few months in Zimbabwe, a country I had visited before.

So at the end of August last year I joined the Mozambique training team, as part of BMTT Zimbabwe. Our brief was to train the emergent FADM, the new Mozambiquan Army. After 16 years of civil war, elements of both sides (Renamo and Frelimo) were leaving the bush and making their way to UN assembly points. Five-hundred-and-fifty of these were selected to train at Border Camp, Nyanga, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

They had been due to arrive in March – they were finally complete in October ("This is Africa!") resulting in a complete rewrite of the course, cramming in lessons in evenings and at weekends, so that the course could still finish as originally planned in late December.

Acting as Company Commander to 90 students, I had a British Sergeant as 2IC/CSM and Zimbabwean Platoon Commanders and NCOs. There was firstly a five-week basic course, followed by a week's method of instruction and five week

"modules" – my module being skill at arms.

It certainly was challenging: I had four-and-a-half hours to teach RDA (templates, traces etc) from scratch to stage 4 and initial interviews (all conducted through interpreters) revealed that a third of the course could neither read, write or count! On the other hand, virtually all the students had extensive experience of war (as witnessed by the Civis and Refugees paragraph of one set of orders – "We will capture them and make them carry our equipment!") and my senior interpreter had won the Foreign Students Cane of Honour at Sandhurst.

Of course, none of my friends back in Battalion could believe I was having anything other than a holiday and living conditions were undeniably comfortable.

My one regret is that because of the rewritten course, I did not have much time to travel in country. Fortunately, however, I had previously seen most of the sights and so weekends allowed me to notch up experiences such as hunting on elephant back, sparring with tame lions and joining the obligatory band!

It was an enthralling four months. I fired thousands of rounds through AK-47s, Uzis and RPG-7s, became adept at sign language and ultimately realised that man management is something that is not restricted by times, places, skin colour or even language!

Sadly, BMATT Zimbabwe has gone the way of all flesh (at least for captain instructors). But for those of us lucky enough to have shared the experience, the sound of massed African voices is indeed hard to forget.



# STEELBACKS



Lt Foster and his team prior to the brigade military skills competition.

## Company Commander mourned

THE first thing that comes to mind about the last six months is the tragic death of OC 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company, Maj Mike Veal, in an adventure training accident with the ACF before Christmas. Maj Veal was a popular and highly respected officer who had served with 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company for eight years and had commanded the Company from October 1990 until his death.

The Padre and the CO visited both 3 Company TACs and prayers were said in his memory.

Many members of his company as well as other members of the Battalion attended his funeral and the Battalion was well represented at the service of thanksgiving for his life at Ely Cathedral in February.

A new OC, Maj Nigel Ffitch, was appointed fresh from his attendance at the command and staff course at Cambridge. Maj Ffitch is an experienced officer having

previously completed a tour as a company commander and having been Battalion 2IC until December 1993. He also knew 3 Company well from his last post.

Maj Ffitch handed over as Battalion 2IC to Maj Neil Darlington. Maj Darlington served with 5 R Anglian from 1984 to 1992, serving as OC 2 (Essex) Company from 1989 to 1992 before TA reorganisation led to the Company's transfer to 6 R Anglian. He then served as OC C (Essex) Company.

On the training front the Battalion was determined to win the brigade military skills competition. The event had an added poignancy for 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company in that the winning cup was named the "Veal Trophy" in honour of Maj Veal's memory and was presented by his widow Mrs Diana Veal.

3 (Cambridgeshire) Company did well in the run up to the competition but it was Headquarter Company that fielded the win-

ning team, led by Capt Tim Seal, ably assisted by Sgt Neil Oram from Kettering. The CO announced before the competition that the winning 5th Battalion team would instead of attending annual camp with the rest of the battalion attend a two-week training exercise on Ascension Island.

The majority of the Headquarter Company team were from the Recce Platoon augmented by the Mortar and Assault Pioneer Platoons.

The brigade military skills competition proved to be a close fought contest with teams from 6 R Anglian and Cambridge OTC keeping up the pressure to the very end. Indeed the event was only decided after the final shoot. In this Ptes Dwayne Northern and Shane Jackson were outstanding on LSW, knocking down all their targets in under 10 seconds.

In the night driving competition, Pte Gary Ratchliffe's former parachute training

## News from the Steelbacks



Left: Lt Tim Seal receives the veal trophy from Mrs Diana Veal for the brigade military skills competition. Right: Lt Seal leads in his team.

came to the fore; indeed his passengers felt that he was doing a free-fall jump across country with the Rover!

In the orienteering, mention must be made of LCpl Shaun Palmer and his 'gazelle' team which did especially well.

However, the team's efforts were not without mishap as LCpl Stephen Jansky dislocated his shoulder on the FIBUA assault course and had to retire.

It was particularly fitting that Capt Seal should receive the 'Veal' trophy from Mrs Diana Veal as her late husband was Capt Seal's former OC in Cambridge.

Another event of significance, not only for Headquarter Company but also for the battalion as a whole was the recent retirement of the Company's OC Maj Ken Lacey. Maj Lacey joined the Army in August 1964 and had regular service with the Royal Military Police and in 1970 joined the 5th Battalion. He has served continuously with the Battalion from 1970 until March of this year, a total combined military service of almost 30 years.

Maj Lacey has commanded Headquarter

Company since 1991 and the Company's success in the brigade military skills competition is testimony to his success in welding the Company into an effective and cohesive sub-unit. He will be missed by all ranks.

The new OC Headquarter Company is Maj Tom Dormer. Maj Dormer served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions from 1972-1973 in Munster and Cyprus. He joined the Territorial Army in 1985 and has served in both the 5th Battalion and latterly the 7th Battalion. Until taking over from Maj Lacey he was OC C Company 7th (Volunteer) Battalion based in Northampton.

Capt Maria Hope has also handed over as RSO to Capt Keith Greenough. Indeed there have been a number of changes at Headquarter Company. Sgt Mick Baker has retired after giving the Battalion almost 10 years of outstanding service. However, he is as committed to soldiering as ever and is now a member of the Army Cadet Force staff. CSgt Paul Cox, Mortar PSI, left us in February in a new export BMW bound for Celle. Unfortunately he has not been replaced and a question mark still hangs

over the future of the Mortar Platoon.

There has been an internal reshuffle with Sgt 'Griff' Griffin after nine years as Headquarter Company AO (NRPS) and resident computer buff, transferring to the orderly room with Mrs Karen Bosworth, taking his place in the Company office.

WO2 'Minnie' Minns Headquarter Company SPSI is due to leave the Battalion shortly on posting to the Depot. He is handing over to WO2 Nigel Barker a fellow Poacher, who we welcome to the Battalion. WO2 Minns has been highly successful in his present post and we all wish him and his family good luck on their new posting.

There has also been a change in Battalion Headquarters with the Adjutant Capt Tony Marinos handing over to Capt James Woodham.

The Battalion is also saying goodbye to OC RRTT Maj Geoffrey Walton who previously commanded 2 (Hertfordshire) Company and who has been with the Battalion for many years. Maj Walton is moving further afield, the US to be precise.

*Continued Page 35*

## News from the Steelbacks



Above: Maj Ken Lacey hands over Headquarter Company to Maj Tom Dormer Below: Sgt Horton from Wisbech directs his team on a command task during the brigade military skills competition.



## News from the Steelbacks



Above: Headquarter Company team – winner of the brigade military skills competition. Right: A team from Cambridge during the NBC stand on brigade military skills competition.

### *From Page 33*

We all wish him luck in his new home.

1 (Bedfordshire) Company returned from annual camp in high spirits and the OC Maj Nick Goulding decided the best way to capitalise on this was to stage a recruitment drive. The plan of action was to have a series of recruiting weekends. The first one proved to be a success but was costly to stage. A change of tactic was to hold a recruiting evening on a training night. This has proved successful and has kept 1 (Bedfordshire) Company's PSAO happy by keeping down expenditure!

In November the most important events were Remembrance Day and the Bedfordshire and Herts parade, the latter taking place on the Sunday following the Remembrance weekend. For the Remembrance parade, 1 (Bedfordshire)

*Continued Page 36*



# News from the Steelbacks

*From Page 35*

Company was represented at Dunstable and Bedford and the Band was available for the Bedfordshire and Herts parade. The combination of the Band and a high turnout of Old Comrades made for a particularly moving service and parade. The socialising after the parade was also useful in pushing up the bar profits!

1 (Bedfordshire) Company has had a few changes of personnel, with Lt Guy Gibson and Sgt Gorge moving to Headquarter Company and the arrival of 2Lt Paul Aldridge who has taken over 1 Platoon. CSgt Okopskyj has also handed over as PSI to CSgt Sinar.

Change has certainly been the order of the day at 2 (Hertfordshire) Company where Maj Stephen Card has taken over as OC. It is Maj Card's second tour as a company commander. Three new platoon commanders are currently settling in: Lt Douglas Flemington ('Raving'); Lt Simon Watson ('Barking') and Officer Cadet Mark Thurley ('Howling'). There has been some speculation as to how they acquired these nicknames!

Holder of the pace stick at 2 Company is WO2 Byford. During week days WO2 Byford straightens out vehicles with a hammer, so straightening out soldiers at the weekends comes quite naturally to him.

Stability reigns at the Machine Gun Platoon. Capt Nigel Brown has continued the task of converting from Milan to SF, despite the problems caused by the loss of SPSI post.

On the recruiting front, WO2 Edwards has retired after a long and distinguished career although his services will not be lost entirely, since he will continue in his role as the sub-units civilian storeman. The Battalion has been fortunate to obtain the services of WO2 Tufts as WO2 Edwards' replacement. WO2 Tufts recently completed 22 years service with the Coldstream Guards. After four years at Sandhurst sorting our officer training, he should not have a problem with TA recruits

WO2 Pallant has been posted to the 2nd Battalion as RQMS, just in time for a tour in Bosnia, and in his place as PSI 2 Company is CSgt Kretay, fresh from service as a CQMS with the 1st Battalion in Cookstown.

2 Company's PSAI, Capt Colin Albany, is now fully recovered from his illness and back in harness.

The Battalion has in training terms had an excellent six months. Recruiting is buoyant and the Battalion is actually over strength. Whatever the future holds the Battalion is in good shape and morale is high.



Above: Cpl Fuller RSDC 3 Company during brigade military skills competition.  
Below: L/Cpl Sean Palmer (Recce Platoon) trying the Indian rope trick in the brigade military skills competition.



# Regimental Museum

THE collection of exhibits has progressed well due to increased publicity and knowledge of what is needed. All presentations have been much appreciated and in recognition will be listed from time to time in this journal. The Museum trustees are grateful to the following for their contributions:

Maj D Whitehead.....	a quantity of items from 2nd Battalion, including 4 tons of Berlin Wall
Lt M A Lyne .....	pamphlets
Capt M B Dicker.....	accoutrements
Maj P King.....	Malayan memorabilia
Sgt Paul.....	sporting items
CSgt Tubby.....	memorabilia
Capt S D Eldrington.....	memorabilia
Col J R Wooddisse.....	uniforms
Capt D P O'Driscoll.....	memorabilia
Lt Col R E Harrold .....	memorabilia
WO1 (BM) Shearer.....	uniforms
WO1 Pacey .....	UDR uniforms, accoutrements
Maj J R Oldfield .....	advice
Maj M J Menage.....	advice
Maj F M Froud.....	memorabilia, script, photographs
Maj C J Pearce .....	script, uniforms, photographs
Col N H Kelsey.....	films
Capt D M Harding .....	information on sports, cadets
Lt Col B H M Davenport .....	script on Bahrain, Malta
WO2 Barker.....	memorabilia
Capt Thurston .....	memorabilia
Miss Ryley .....	ties
Capt M E Robinson .....	uniforms
Lt Stephenson .....	uniforms
Lt J C Jackson.....	uniforms
Maj R J Ladley.....	assistance with 3rd Battalion items
WO2 Thomas.....	uniforms
Mrs Stallybrass .....	memorabilia
WO2 Joseph.....	uniforms
D/Maj Robinson.....	uniforms
Maj J G G Ross.....	accoutrements
WO1 Hillier .....	assistance with ceremonial
Capt A C E Marinos .....	assistance with TA

*Continued Page 40*

# The Royal Anglian Reg

Planning for the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum continues and members of the Regiment any time now will receive copies of the Appeal brochure. The museum is planned to open at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, near Cambridge, in spring 1995, but the project will not start until £150,000 of the total £250,000 has been raised.

## **Your contributions, interest and support are needed**

All other Regiments have a museum. Ours will record our history, operations, customs and dress since 1958-60 when the first amalgamations formed the East Anglian Regiments and the 30 years of The Royal Anglian Regiment since its formation in 1964.

The collection will not only record events, personalities, customs and dress for members of the Regiment, but will educate the public and provide facilities for research.

The first design of the museum is shown here. Every aspect of Regimental life will be illustrated using the most modern techniques of lighting, sound and film.

The first duty of all members of the Regiment is to ensure they contribute to the Appeal so that the project can start. Easy methods of payment are available by small monthly contributions. You are also asked to explain the project to relatives and friends, and particularly

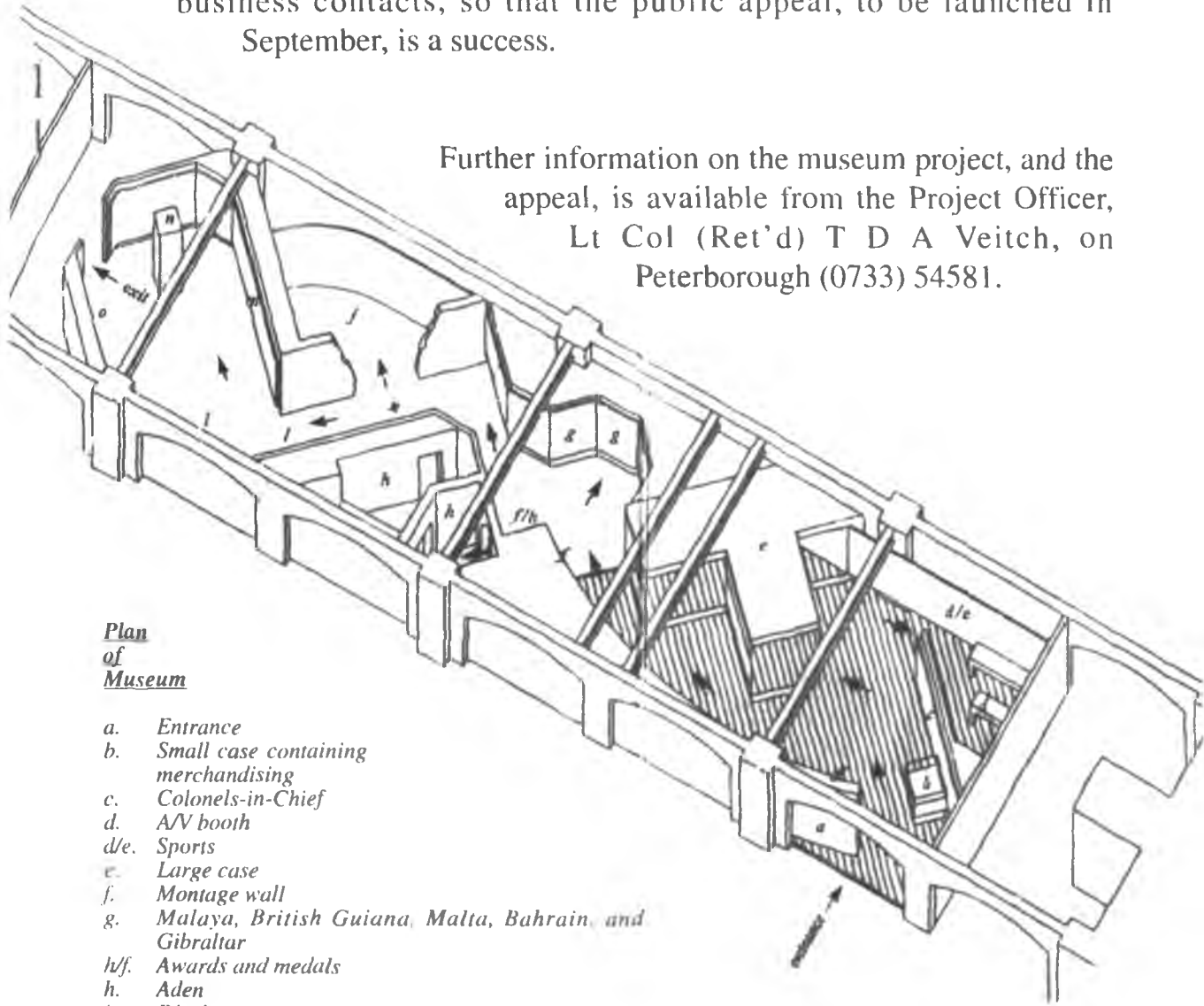




# iment Museum, Duxford

business contacts, so that the public appeal, to be launched in September, is a success.

Further information on the museum project, and the appeal, is available from the Project Officer, Lt Col (Ret'd) T D A Veitch, on Peterborough (0733) 54581.



## Plan of Museum

- a. Entrance
- b. Small case containing merchandising
- c. Colonels-in-Chief
- d. A/V booth
- d/e. Sports
- e. Large case
- f. Montage wall
- g. Malaya, British Guiana, Malta, Bahrain, and Gibraltar
- h/f. Awards and medals
- h. Aden
- i. Display case
- j. Northern Ireland
- k. Cyprus, UN tours and Desert Storm
- l. BAOR, Berlin and Norway
- m. Zimbabwe, Falklands and Belize
- n. Roll of Honour
- o. The Regiment into the future

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# Regimental Museum

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*From Page 37*

Maj A W M Petch.....	militaria
Maj R P Crosbie-Wood .....	assistance with weapons
Maj J Fisk .....	assistance with weapons
WO2 Bedding .....	assistance with military music
Maj M Jones .....	Royal Lincolns drum, colours
Maj D J Thorogood.....	3rd Battalion items
Maj W H Reeve .....	assistance
Lt Col J L. Wilson .....	assistance
Maj S J Bacon.....	Zimbabwe CMF items
Lt Col C M F Randall .....	script, photographs of Malaya
Maj R C Cross .....	assistance with museum administration
Mr C Simpson.....	England rugby cap
Lt Col J P Macdonald .....	assistance with British Guiana
Mr J W A Veitch.....	photographs of Aden

Finally, there are certain items that have not yet been found or information that is needed, for example:

- a. Early Band records and cassettes
- b. Medals
- c. Any interesting or unusual memorabilia
- d. Photographs, reports and original maps covering tours in British Guiana (1 East Anglian 62), Malta (4 Royal Anglian 66-68) and Bahrain (4 Royal Anglian 69-70), Gibraltar (2 Royal Anglian 68) First Day Cover.
- e. Aden – three complete uniforms, terrorist flags, weapons and memorabilia.
- f. Northern Ireland – details of incidents, early riot equipment and dress.
- g. Berlin – memorabilia covering checkpoints, corridor, military train, border, Spandau Prison, Russian War Memorial; also old-type Russian flag and Berlin bulletins.
- h. Zimbabwe – CMF and terrorist items, maps.
- i. International sportsmen – information is required on members of the Regiment who represented their country. Are these our only internationals: Cpl Gooden, Sgt Paul, WO2 Darland, Lt Simpson, SSgt Tancred, Cpl Taylor, Pte Strudwick and Pte Maxwell?

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# 6th Battalion



9 Platoon, C Company, winners of the battalion falling plate competition.

## Shooting dominates events

SHOOTING has once again dominated the first half of the year. The year started on a successful note with the Battalion dominating the TARA fullbore non-central skill-at-arms competition for 1993-94 by winning all four matches, with each of our companies being placed in the top nine in every match. The winning teams were as follows:

Match 1 Rifle (all arms) – A Company; Match 2 LSW (all arms) – B Company; Match 4 90mm Pistol (all arms) – Headquarter Company; Match 8 NBC (all arms) – Headquarter Company.

On Feb 19 in the Edist Match 118 small-bore shoulder to shoulder competition at Strensall. Headquarter Company came out with a very creditable second place.

After company shooting weekends in March the battalion skill-at-arms meeting

was held at Colchester over the weekend of Apr 16-17. The brigade commander, Brigadier A J K Calder OBE, kindly presented the prizes. After some excellent shooting by everyone involved, A Company eventually came out on top. Also of note were the performances of 5 Platoon, the champion platoon; LCpl Feaks, A Company; the CO's champion shot; and Pte Todosijevic, the best young soldier. In an invitation falling plate competition, the Officers' Mess team of Brig Calder, the CO the Adjutant and the Adjutant (Des) soundly beat the Warrant Officers team headed by the RSM.

After the battalion SAAM, the Battalion team under the watchful eye of WO2 Smart then underwent some intense training in preparation for the Eastern District SAAM

on May 7. During a mixed weekend the Battalion achieved excellent results in the rifle match, the LSW match and the Fibua match being placed first, third and fourth respectively. Unfortunately, the Parachute Cup let us down, resulting in an overall position of fourth. In previous years this would have been enough to qualify for Bisley but this it was not to be.

As well as shooting during February and March, the Battalion was also busy preparing for and competing in the 54 (East Anglia) Brigade military skills competition at Stanford. The weekend of Feb 12-13 was a battalion sponsored military skills training weekend at Wretham, where the teams were put through various stands and scenarios in preparation for the forthcoming competi-

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# News from the 6th Battalion

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Above: A Company team, this year's champion company at the Battalion SAAM. Below: WO2 Smart, receives the Match 4 9mm pistol trophy for Headquarter Company.

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## From Page 42

tion. A second weekend on Feb 26-27 took this training one step further as the final preparation before the competition. March was dominated by the competition with the Battalion entering seven teams, two from each Rifle company and one from Headquarter Company. During a hectic 36-hour period they competed in a range of subjects including: section attacks, signals, command tasks, a foot and vehicle NAVEX and map reading.

Having completed a number of stands on day one, day two started with a Fibua assault course followed by a march and falling plate shoot. The aim of the competition, as given by Brigadier Calder was: "To test the basic level of skills in the brigade in order to ensure a standard of training from which individual and collective training can progress during the remainder of the training year." The Battalion certainly met this criteria by having four of our seven teams in the top seven places (out of 17 entries) and all but one of our teams in the top 11. This

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## News from the 6th Battalion



Above left: Sgt Meekoms, C Company, with the CO's prize for the best APWT score this year. Hoping to win the rest of the rifle next year. Brigadier A J K Calder and Cpl Fuller do a jig with the champion company shield. Taking a break in the sewers during Fibua training.



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compared most favourably with the other entrants.

The Battalion has also been out and about, during the first weekend in February the Recce Platoon took nine members to the Lake District under the direction of OC Recce, Capt Pete Chilvers and the PSI, Sgt Cowell.

Despite the extreme conditions, all returned safely after scaling the well-known features of Striding Edge, Helvelyn and Swirral Edge. The Battalion was also represented by two teams in the UKLF cross-country final at Longmoor. After a demanding seven miles both teams managed to finish; enough said!

Recruit training has also been ongoing throughout the first six months of the year and is featured in an article elsewhere. It is, however, worthy of note that in the last combined TA potential officer and potential JNCO cadre held at Oakington in May, the best student was Pte Turtle, the best shot

*Continued Page 47*

## News from the 6th Battalion



Above: A, B Company team grapple with the command task on the brigade military skills competition. "Where did you leave the rest of the Rover?" Right: "Has anyone got my working parts?" More military skills fun. Below: Cpl Henderson, A Company, emerges into daylight.



# News from the 6th Battalion

"I thought this was a bungalow."



## Midnight escape and evasion at STANTA

"HELLO 0 this is 10 Enemy moving south along Smugglers Road."

"0 Roger out to you, hello 20 this is 0, move to Point B to intercept."

"20 Roger out."

And so the exercise phase of the Headquarter Company, 6 Royal Anglian FTX had begun with OP1 under command of Pte Codd doing their job and locating the enemy. The time 03.30, the place a chilly but dry STANTA.

But it had been some five hours earlier when the exercise had started with the soldiers parading at the TAC at 22.00. As usual some had come straight from work but the more fortunate had managed a few hours at home with their families before leaving them once more for a weekend.

OC Headquarter Company, Maj John Allcock, had issued a "bluff" joining instruction suggesting the FTX was a patrolling exercise against 21 SAS. The SNCOs were told they had a key role in running the exercise so imagine their shock when at their "O Group" given by the SP51, WO2 Phil Cater, they were stripped, given coveralls and blindfolded. They were to be the runners in an escape and evasion exercise! The remainder were given their orders including prisoner han-

dling procedures; weapons, G10 and ammunition were issued and the Company was on the move by 01.00.

Would the first patrol group callsign, 20 catch the enemy? On this occasion no – the old sweats had given the young bloods under command of L/C Westley the slip.

Within an hour reinforcements arrived by way of 12 heavily armed US Air Force police from RAF Lakenheath. Formed into two more patrol groups they were issued with our radios so 0B, under command of our signals PS1, Sgt Shand, had to get used to their unusual radio procedure – e.g. "go ahead" and "affirmative."

Dawn had now broken and from his forward TAC HQ, the OC started to move the Op and patrol groups back to intercept the runners. Meanwhile the Company 2IC, Lt John Hadaway, using his Royal Engineers experience, built a barbed wire POW cage, while the SQMS, WO2 Heskett, was preparing breakfast.

Enemy groups were caught steadily during the day but perhaps none were so 'unlucky' as RQMS, WO2 Hitchings, and QM storeman, CSgt Moffatt. Both enjoy a cigarette or two and were dying for a smoke after several hours on the run. So when an American pick-up truck came

down the road they broke cover hoping for a 'tag', not bargaining for the six soldiers in the back and promptly got captured! What a shame the SP51 had forgotten to tell them the US was in on the exercise!

All those caught were 'interviewed' by two members of the Hertfordshire Police brought along for the occasion. Their methods were obviously very effective as several "sang like a bird." Only two SNCOs made it to the FRV, the RSWO, WO2 Leach and the CQMS, CSgt Goddard, but even they had one or two anxious moments having to climb a tree to avoid detection.

The day's training was rounded off with a splendid barbecue washed down with ice cold American beer. Later 21 SAS did arrive (it was not all bluff) and gave a display of foreign weapons including the AK47 and the US M203.

As is usual with Headquarter Company exercises, the Sunday was completely different. We avoid the tired old routine of the dawn attack like the plague. The SAS gave a series of lectures and demonstrations about combat and battlefield survival including navigation, medical aspects and preparation of game.

Rabbits and chickens (live) were on hand for the Company to kill, skin and prepare. Finally there were three practical tasks to complete – preparation of snares, building shelters and how to light a fire.

All in all a very interesting and varied programme conducted in beautiful spring sunshine. What more could you want from soldiering?



# News from the 6th Battalion



Pondering over the map at the brigade military skills competition.

*From Page 44*

was Pte Green and on the officer front OCDT Price won the award for the most improved student.

After a testing start to the year we face an uncertain future, as do all in the Territorial Army. With the Battalion up to strength and in the best of heart, we face it with confidence.

## Mainly about people

CHANGE is still the order of the day in 6 Royal Anglian. Since the last Castle notes, Battalion headquarters has completely altered. The QM, Capt Stan Bullock, was the continuity man at the turn of the year, followed closely by the new CO, Lt Col Charles Thomas. Maj Seymour Blyth, erst-while training major, left for a senior UN appointment in February. Capt John Milward, AO for some 12 years also retired that month after only 40 years in uniform.

Capt Simon Etherington departed from the appointment of Adjutant (and, for a while, doubling up as Training Major) in April, on posting as an LO to 2 R Anglian in Bosnia. WO1 (RSM) Kevin Brett relinquishes his appointment in June and leaves the Army in September. We wish them all the very best for the future, wherever they go. They have seen the Battalion through part of its transformation in a thoroughly professional way.

Congratulations to Maj Chester White, the battalion doctor, for being awarded the appointment of MBE in the New Year's Honours List. Also we say a fond farewell as he retires this June after 12 years' happy service with the Battalion.

In their steads we welcome Maj Dick Gould as TM, double-hatting with the RCO appointment at Regimental headquarters and Capt Adrian Gosling (from 2 Royal Anglian) as Adjutant following JDSC. The AO slot is now filled by Capt Keith Martin, late QM, Yorks, and WO1 (RSM) 'Chico' Duncan is our new Regimental sergeant major.

All this has occurred as planning was seriously underway, amid training for the spring events of the 54 (EA) brigade military skills competition and the battalion SAAM, with three major CPXs, one major unit FTX and camp to prepare for.

It is fair to say that a considerable degree of flexibility has been exhibited by the headquarters to accommodate more than its fair share of change in what amounts to one fell swoop. To the credit of all concerned it has been a 'Commercial Union' job – we don't make a drama out of a crisis.

In Headquarter Company, we bade farewell to CSgt Phil Conopo, who has left the Regular Army, but has rejoined 6 Royal Anglian. WO2 (SPSI) Phil Cater has completed his tour and has been replaced by

WO2 (SPSI) Thomas. Sgt Shand also joined Headquarter Company as Signals PSI in February.

A Company said goodbye to CSgt Page in February on posting to 1 Royal Anglian. In his place we welcome CSgt 'Jock' Atkins from the 1st Battalion.

WO2 Smart also leaves the Battalion shortly after 17 years' service. He will be missed by all but will be best remembered for his outstanding contribution to the Battalion shooting success.

Just before the guillotine on S Type and SSVc engagements dropped, the Battalion found two places on SSVc for Lt Clive Trott who joined 2 Royal Anglian, and Lt Paul Gotobed who joined 1 Royal Anglian. Both joined their Regular units in mid-March. We wish them all the best.

The Officers' Mess welcomes two new officers – 2Lt Jo Richards takes up the appointment of Assistant Adjutant. 2Lt Bevis Allen joins C (Essex) Company as a Platoon Commander. Particular congratulations are due to 2Lt Allen. He was awarded the TA Cane of Honour from his commissioning course. 2Lt Allen hopes to join the Regular Army on completion of his degree. 1 Royal Anglian is his target.

Change, though, is not just about people. The Battalion looks forward to new military challenges as it continues to strive for excellence in all it does.

## News from the 6th Battalion

# Training recruits in just two weeks

RECRUIT training in two weekends and one two-week course – impossible – but achievable! The TA Infantry recruits training is hectic and demanding, especially when undertaken at the end of a 'normal' working week (whatever that is).

Having trained recruits for both of Regular and TA Infantry, I find the tasks equally satisfying, but no comparisons should be made.

At present the TA recruit selection and training, in 6 Royal Anglian, is achieved over five weekends within the unit – culminating in a two-week course at Strensall.

The variety of recruits for the TA Infantry is certainly more extensive than that of the regulars, the last intake alone crossed the spectrum of unemployed, owner/manager of a scaffolding business, Ford Motorsport technician and university graduate.

All of these to be selected on the basis that they wish to become privates in the

Regiment. So what are the criteria when selecting over a 36-hour period? The essentials I believe being motivation, determination, enthusiasm and commitment.

The assessments take the form of:

o. Team tasks – watching for the 'doer', the 'follower', the potential leader and the down right idle.

o. Instruction and written test – assessing information uptake and retention, i.e. memory ability/intelligence.

o. Lecturettes – one to two minute talk about themselves, their background, why they want to join the TA and what they expect to get out of the TA. Initial expectation may indicate the potential to stick it out.

o. Not least the physical – this starts with a 1.5 mile run followed immediately by upper body and cardiovascular tests. This is later followed by the Evergreen assault course on Stanford training area and finally the 3 mile BFT. It is a tiring weekend to say the least –

you only have to look at the instructors!

If the potential recruit enjoys the weekend, feels he (sometimes she) can meet the commitment of two weekends per month, then he is attested and welcomed into the family of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Now the training and hard work begins. In four weekends a minimum standard of the Unit training objectives must be attained, hence failure to turn up for any of the training sessions will normally result in backsquadding. This whole period is also a continuation of assessment.

The first weekend – recruit continuation training 1 (RC1) concentrates on the 5.56 rifle and first aid.

By the end of Sunday, they must have passed the TOETs, bore sighted their weapon and fired on the .22 indoor range – soon to become small arms trainer (SAT).

The second weekend (RC2) continues with the SA80 training combined with a

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## High spirits on the Swanton Morley march

*A COMPANY has been busy preparing a team for the Nijmegen Marches. As part of this during the weekend of Apr 8-10 a team from the Company took part in the RAF Swanton Morley two-day march. Sgt MA Hansen writes:*

HAVING arrived late on Friday night after a short briefing the team finally got their 'heads down' at 0100 hours in a cold, damp and windy hangar. After an early breakfast the team started out at 0700 hours. All went well for about 15 miles then the pace began to slow down so we began singing, which was hard work at first but, after a few songs with the shyness gone, things went well.

Saturday as a whole went to plan with minimal injuries incurred (i.e: minor blisters) and a few stiff legs, not a bad result after tabbing 40m carrying 30lbs and taking only 8.5 hours including stops! In the evening there was a disco laid on in an adjoining hangar with all entry proceeds being donated to a local children's charity.

On Sunday after another early breakfast we set out at 0715 hours with

the local ATC 469 Squadron band based at Lowestoft playing the teams out of the camp gates. The weather was rather inhospitable to say the least, throwing at us driving wind, rain, hail and snow showers throughout the day. After each stop we set off again, automatically striking up a song and stamping out our blisters for the first 300m after which our feet became settled again ready for a further pounding on the tarmac of the Norfolk countryside.

We marched through various towns and villages singing aloud and in good spirit while at the same time being cheered by local residents. On arrival back at Swanton Morley we marched into camp with our heads held high to the reception area with 469 Squadron playing out loud and collected both our individual and team medals while being applauded by other entrants who had already completed the march ahead of us. To add to the feeling we had completed the second 40m march in just 7.75 hours.

The event was very well organised

from the start to the finish and the personnel responsible deserve a pat on the back for all their hard work. The atmosphere at such an event is absolutely amazing – you forget all about the pain, the sore feet and blisters and 'go with the flow'. This year is the last time that the Walking and Road Marching Association march will be held at Swanton Morley. From next year it will be held annually at RAF Cranwell.

It should be remembered that the two-day march, like the Nijmegen march is not a competition or speed march, it is a march to be enjoyed by all who partake. In total approximately 1,138 entrants started and 1,078 finished, including 140 from the Dutch and Norwegian Army. The weekend was good training for all concerned, both young and old (one man whom I spoke to was 68 years old and had completed 30 Nijmegen marches, with intention of getting another one under his belt, and eight Swanton Morley marches). It gave us a good idea of what to expect in July at Nijmegen, plus we noted various tips from people who had done it before, and to that end we would strongly recommend the two-day marches to everyone as a most excellent weekend with a brilliant atmosphere where everyone is equal irrelevant of sex, age, civilian or service (regular or reserve).

# News from the 6th Battalion

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large chunk of NBC, the organisation of the Army, obviously concentrating on the TA (the content of this has been altering somewhat just recently). The Sunday is spent on Colchester Ranges firing full bore.

RC3 is the first introduction to field training, concentrating on the basic fieldcraft skills, personal field discipline and minor tactics.

Every opportunity is taken to ensure good lessons are learnt and trailed, from the correct fitting of webbing, personal hygiene and feeding including the difficulties of operating at night.

RC4 is another weekend in the field where the initial lessons are built on and in that well-known phrase "taken a stage further."

This culminates with basic patrol techniques, introduction to orders and concurrent activity, while working in an NBC environment.

All the above is done with a goodly amount of physical expectancy as the majority of training on this side must be done in the recruit's own time.

We can only put down the markers which the recruits must attain and this is in the form of three mile runs with webbing and early morning PT.

At the end of year we will be adding RC5 to the programme which will become a mini test exercise to confirm all the instruction and disciplines of the previous sessions.

To ensure good training there must always be two essential elements – good instruction from capable instructors and enthusiasm from the recruits – the result, a demanding and enjoyable time (if sometimes realised in retrospect).

At the time of writing this we have some 70 recruits undergoing training in the Battalion two of whom have achieved the 'best endeavour' award on consecutive courses at Strensall. The present investment in the Battalion is looking good for the future!



Exercise Cumbrian Ramble – Cpl Hill leads the team up another scramble.

## Hill walking in the Lake District

THE beginning of February saw Recce Platoon taking a break from military skills training to go hill walking in the Lake District. Rations, accommodation and weather were booked and off we set. The village of Satterthwaite that formed our base had one church hall and one pub – all we really needed in fact

Arrival over, we carried out a short walk in the Borrowdale valley before descending in the dark to a meal, and I use the term meal in its loosest sense, prepared by our illustrious Recce PSI, Sgt Mick "all in close your eyes and you won't know the difference" Cowell.

Day two meant Striding Edge, Helvelyn and Swirral Edge, which had seen one fatality and one serious injury the previous week. As we reached 7000 feet the rock gave way to snow and later ice. The route was all up and can truly be deemed a thigh busting experience.

After a brief stop for lunch, we carried on along the Edge itself. This feature is called an arete and is basically two cliff/rock faces back-to-back. Similar to walking along a knife edge, only in this case you have a drop of about 500 ft. on either side. The route narrows to about 3 ft. wide in places, so as you can imagine, it can be

quite interesting. The thing to remember though, is it does not matter how far you fall, it is only the last couple of feet that are a problem. Nature can be humbling, and we were all impressed by the terrain and conditions that required among other things, stamina and fitness to overcome.

A well earned visit to the pub that night saw little conversation, as most of the party was dead beat after the day's activities and another of the PSIs creations.

The final day involved a walk and climb in the Langdales that again took in some breathtaking views. It also saw Cpl Hill regressing to his childhood. It is not every day you see a 38-year-old man doing penguin sliding impressions in the snow. On our descent we were reminded, if we needed it, of the dangers of poor planning and lack of respect for the mountains. Just off the peak, at the base of a large rock face, we witnessed a joint rescue operation between Ambleside Mountain Rescue and the RAF Rescue helicopter, in near zero visibility, to save a crag-bound solo climber.

The three days we spent in the Lakes were not only extremely enjoyable, testing our fitness, nerve and navigational skills, they also taught us a great deal and we all look forward to returning in the future

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# TIGERS



The SF deployed on Stanta.

## Business as usual

AS always a TA Battalion is a hectic and busy organisation with company and battalion training being the key events in the calendar, but numerous other activities taking place throughout the country and Europe. The last six months have been no different for the 7th Battalion. The Battalion continues to be recruited to 120% of establishment, with the aim of reaching 130% over the next six months. We currently have 140 recruits on our books and every week more waiting to join.

The last six months we have built on the lessons learnt at last year's camp, with high quality training taking place at company and battalion level. The Battalion continues to do well at brigade, district and UKLF competitions and also enjoys a high level of social contact with the counties of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

The period began after camp with the Quartermaster, Maj Bill Burford MBE, organising the Battalion's driving and maintenance competition. Exercise Mechanical Tiger which took place on Oct 26-27 provided a thoroughly competitive test of individual driving and maintenance skills, including cross-country driving, highway code tests, fault finding and first line repairs. The competition was won by A (Lincolnshire) Company with Wpte Cook and LCpl Read from A Company lifting the best Landrover crew trophy.

At the end of October the Commanding Officer managed to get himself abroad again, attending the Reserved Forces Association Sponsored Mobilisation Forces Course at NATO (SHAPE) School at Oberammergau.

This gave him an opportunity to brush up on his German and his German customs

especially as the course was held in October. On Nov 4 Brig D A K Biggart OBE, Commander 49 (East Midlands) Brigade presented Sgt Smith with his Mention in Despatches for his work in Londonderry with the 3rd Battalion. This was a happy occasion with all the permanent staff present to see the presentation and then to celebrate in a traditional way with a buffet lunch in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

A (Lincolnshire) Company celebrated bonfire night with their traditional celebration at Sobraon Barracks in Lincoln. A record crowd watched a splendid display which entertained the City of Lincoln as well as those who actually attended the evening.

Not to be outdone, CSgt Bird and his team of assault pioneers helped the Leicester Social Services Department put on

## News from the Tigers



a display in the grounds of Enderby House, old people's residential home. The event was a great success and raised money for the residents' comfort and holiday fund.

The highlight of November is always the parades that are held on Remembrance Sunday. Each company had its own part to play, with parades taking place in Lincoln, Northampton and Leicester. Each mess provided a lunch after the church services, with C Company winning the hospitality stakes again with Capt Amos (PSAO C Company) getting more than 500 old comrades, friends and relations into Clare Street TA Centre.

As part of the Brigade Commander's directive, the Battalion ran an extremely well attended Defence TEWT for the brigade's officers and SNCOs. Maj Richard Cole, as OC Headquarter Company, planned and ran the TEWT that exercised all ranks from Sergeants to Major in a series of different problems and scenarios. The setting of an all-arm battlegroup in a conventional operation gave everyone a chance to discuss mission command and highlighted to the younger elements the amount of equipment and firepower available at battlegroup level.

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Above: Five serving RSMs: L to R, Messrs Hillier, Eke, Brett, Goodchild, and Pacey.  
Below: Lt Aub-Robinson getting coaching from Cpl Fox.



# News from the Tigers

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November also proved to be a sporting month with all companies entering teams for the Edist(s) TA hockey and rugby competitions at Chilwell on Nov 21. Headquarter Company reached the final of the rugby but even their considerable experience did not match the fitness of the students from EMUOTC. Headquarter Company also ran a successful football team that reached the quarter finals of the Edist knock-out competition before finally going out to 187 Sqn RLC.

The Beckingham weekend in early December was the Battalion's only training activity prior to the Christmas break. The weekend involved all ranks, as the training was structured for officers of each rank, senior NCOs and junior NCOs alike. The private soldier underwent upgrading training and the Saturday finish with Christmas festivities held in respective messes, followed by a priceless Battalion karioke after the cabaret.

Sunday was the Battalion sports competition, geared to clear sore heads, and A Company lifted the trophy.

The Beckingham weekend in the final weekend of the year launched the Battalion into the Christmas period.

To make sure that the fat of Christmas could be shaken off, company firing weekends took place on Jan 7-9. A (Lincolnshire) Company went for an arctic approach by going to Warcop for a field firing weekend and were blessed with snow. The two other rifle companies moved south to find the sun in Colchester: what they did find were Middlewick ranges and Friday Woods, both of which were used to shake off 1993 and launch into 1994 in a positive manner.

The Battalion deployed to its first main weekend of the year on Jan 28-30 to Stanta, for its annual Fibua weekend. This year, rather than do the Fibua package the Battalion carried out an FTX which was very successful, culminating in a battalion night attack and counter-attack. The Battalion second-in-command got fully involved to such an extent he broke two fingers after the enemy attacked the battalion main headquarters.

Also at Stanta that weekend, Headquarter Company ran a recruit selection cadre for 140 recruits, which highlights how strongly the Battalion is recruiting.

February saw a very busy month for the Tigers. The Commanding Officer again managed to go abroad, this time to Brussels to a seminar on the Reserve Forces Association.

The Battalion had an extremely busy weekend on Feb 26-27. The battalion sec-



The Quartermaster and Training Major relaxing after a social function.

tion competition was held on Feldon training area in very cold conditions. The snow and winds made navigation difficult but the A Company team, commanded by Sgt Sackree, pulled through to become the winning team. Also at Feldon the Quartermaster ran Exercise Tasteful Tiger for the Battalion's cooks. Not only were their culinary skills tested, but the teams did a number of military tests. The Quartermaster and RQMS, WO2 Hackett, were the only two who were really embarrassed when they got a Landrover stuck in the snow and had to be pulled out by a group of local lads. The Quartermaster has been warned about not leaving the roads when he reaches Nepal.

The Edist(s) indoor sports competition was also run on Feb 26 when the gladiators from EMUOTC showed the remainder up, except in the squash world. The Headquarter Company team with nearly 100 years of experience to its name won the competition. The Commanding Officer, Pay Master and Adjutant showed that on a squash court, experience counts over the ability to run quickly round a court.

With the end of the training year, March was dominated by bounty testing and the brigade inter-section competition. The preparation of the battalion section competition proved extremely worthwhile as A Company won the last stand, the falling plate. Although the weather was better than on the battalion competition, Exercise Polar Challenge proved to be very challenging and Sgt Sackree did well to beat some strong teams from 3 WFR.

The battalion skill-at-arms meeting was held at the end of March but unlike last year

was a one-day meeting due to the accommodation shortages in Colchester. The meeting proved to be very successful with Headquarter Company doing very well. Signals Platoon led the company challenge and collected a fine display of silver at the prize giving.

That evening the Officers' Mess held its traditional black tie dinner at which the Second in Command, Maj Martin Mee, was dined out. The Commanding Officer designate, Lt Col Prescott, also took this opportunity to meet the Officers' Mess prior to him assuming command in November.

The small but perfectly formed RSM, WO1 Pacey left us in April. Mr Pacey stays in Leicester and now works for the ACF but it was sad to see him go after two outstanding years as RSM. To mark his leaving, the training major, Maj S J Bacon, arranged a lunch at which five serving RSMs were gathered, all of whom were Pompadours.

We wish Mr Pacey's successor, Mr Kelly late PWRR, all the very best in Leicester in his first tour with the TA.

As 1994 sees the Tigers return to BBGT, the April weekend was a CPX weekend, giving both companies and battalion headquarters a chance to shake out and practice its procedures.

Capt Frank de Planta, the Operations Officer, of Viking fame, wrote an interesting scenario for the base of the CPX which proved to be a good and well paced CPX.

May saw the Battalion host its annual cocktail party, which was a great success. Capt Mike Cunningham, PSAO Headquarter Company organised the event

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# News from the Tigers



Above: Brigadier C Groves presenting a Territorial decoration to CSgt Marriott.  
Below: The Headquarters Company trawl from the battalion skill-at-arms meeting with WO2 Picker on guard.



*From Page 52*

with great style and aplomb. The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire gave out a number of awards to employers who support the TA, and it was a perfect opportunity for the Battalion to thank local communities and organisations for all their support.

The support to local employers was repaid by Maj Rod Burns and his A Company which organised the 49 Brigade Exercise Executive Stretch. This exercise gives local executives the choice to be tested in a variety of skills that are useful in all walks of life. The Battalion staff ran three syndicates of executives, all of whom found the weekend informative and challenging.

The Battalion now looks forward to the second half of 1994 in good shape. Annual camp in Cornwall is expected to be a great success and is being particularly looked forward to by the East Midlands surfing team.

We hope to send a number of soldiers on our affiliated ship HMS Quorn in the autumn.

Capt Frank de Planta has organised what should be a memorable battlefield tour to the Somme at the end of June. All in all, 1994 looks to be another vintage year for the Tigers, and although eyes are turned to Whitehall the majority of the Battalion are getting on with business as usual.

## Personnel changes

THE Battalion has seen a number of changes in the personnel over the last six months. We say thank you and goodbye to the Battalion Second-in-Command Maj Martin Mee. Martin has provided excellent service to the Battalion over a number of years and we wish him all the best in his retirement from the TA.

We also say goodbye to Maj Tom Dormer who moves from Officer Commanding C (Northamptonshire) Company to 5 Royal Anglian as Officer Commanding Headquarter Company. Tom passes on an excellent company to Maj Petar Starcevic who we congratulate on his promotion.

Lt Mark Windibank has moved to the London Regiment as he now lives in London, and we wish him well in the big smoke.

On the permanent staff side, we thank Mr Pacey for all his work as SPSI Headquarter Company and Regimental Sergeant Major. Mr Kelly, who took over as Regimental Sergeant Major, is now well established and we wish him a good tour with the Battalion. The Battalion also thanks Colour Sergeant Thorpe for his time in Lincoln and wish him every success with the Poachers.

## News from the Tigers



Sgt Richard Moore on the high seas with Callista.

# Following in Nelson's wake

**Sgt Richard Moore writes:**

THE letter from Battalion said "for all budding Nelsons". Well I have both eyes, two arms and I do not have a friend called Hardy! Despite these failings I put my name forward for a place on a sail training course at the Joint Service sail training centre.

I had enough sailing experience to undertake assessment for the day skipper course and my joining instructions arrived confirming acceptance of my bid. With the joining instructions came a pre-course study pack along with orders to read them!

I arrived at Gosport in good time for the opening address where we were briefed and introduced to our instructor. I was detailed, along with five other students to the yacht Callista. The boat was one of a fleet of 14 ocean-going yachts used by the school, 34 ft long and fully equipped with every piece of state-of-the-art sailing kit available, a fully equipped galley (kitchen), heads (toilet), seven bunks, electric lights and a powerful diesel engine for auxiliary power.

After a basic introduction to the layout of the boat and a lesson on the engine, the first job was to get the board provisioned with water, food and fuel. I was appointed

pursuer for the week, this involved creating a menu for the week, a cooking rota and the purchase of fresh rations to supplement the compo as well as paying for mooring fees at any marinas and harbours visited.

After a final assault on Waitrose we were ready for sea, now the work began...

All the sailing took place within the Solent, an area of sea between the south coast and the Isle of Wight.

Like all courses we were given appointments at various times, skipper, navigator or deck crew, under the watchful eye of the instructor, we planned and executed passages to and from a variety of harbours and marinas, giving due consideration to tides, wind, sea state, admin of the vessel and the busy shipping lanes.

We practised man overboard drills over and over again, under sail and engine power, so many times in fact the instructor was in danger of becoming the man!

As the week progressed the tasks became more demanding, with night sailing proving a real challenge.

Commanding a £90,000 boat with six people on board, in a force 7 wind in one of Britain's busiest shipping areas was no joke.

As skipper you were responsible for the navigation of the vessel, you had to be aware of water depths and tidal conditions at all phases of the passage, ensure the crew were kept busy and well administered throughout and of course ensure the boat is sailed properly. After several hours of this the ultimate challenge: steer the boat through a dark, narrow channel between sandbanks and millions of pounds worth of moored yachts and finally into a marina via a gap only 3ft wider than the boat, all without bumping into anything!

For the duration of the course we were blasted by strong, cold northerly winds. Thermals, fibre pile and wet proofs were the order of the day. Working on the deck was bitterly cold – to wear gloves for such work was considered 'civvy' and so in order to maintain the proud traditions of military life we kept our gloves in our pockets and got very cold fingers! Character building no doubt.

Our final sail, a 22 mile passage along the length of the Solent heading west towards a setting sun brought the week's sailing to an end. All that remained was our debrief and the none too pleasant task of cleaning up the boat after seven days afloat with seven men on board!

Exercise Foxhound Cutter is run annually for the benefit of all Infantry Units, TA and Regular alike. It was hard but enjoyable and worthwhile training and I would recommend it to anyone with a little bit of sailing experience and a sense of adventure.



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# ATR Bassingbourn

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## A strong Anglian representation

ATR Bassingbourn is now fully established, having been running for 18 months. Before giving an account of Royal Anglian involvement here it is probably worth giving a brief resume of how the new Regiment is organised.

There is a Regimental headquarters, consisting of the Commanding Officer, the 2IC, the Adjutant and the RSM with one solitary military clerk, the Staff Support Assistant (SSA). The orderly room is now called the Regimental Administration Office (RAO) and is still manned largely by civilians, although the Paymaster's new 2IC is the former Chief Clerk; they are now known as the RAO and the RAOWO respectively and there is no longer the luxury of an Assistant Adjutant or a Staff Assistant. The Quartermaster's Department is again largely civilianised now, although we are fortunate to have been left with a QM, an RQMS and two colour sergeants.

All infrastructure posts are divided between the three capbadges at Bassingbourn: the 2IC is already a sapper and OC Headquarter Company is shortly to be a signaller. There are currently three training subunits, one RE (28 Squadron), one Royal Signals (1 Squadron) and one Infantry (C (Queen's Division) Company), and they all train recruits from their respective capbadge in the Common Military Syllabus (Recruits) CMS(R). At full capacity, a fourth mixed subunit will be formed.

Overall, the training regiment is far more streamlined than the Depot was, but it has its advantages. There is no longer a Depot Held Strength as we are not established to administer non-effective bodies; this means that the 'dead wood' which could build up no longer exists and the Adjutant has thankfully fewer major discipline cases to deal with as a result. As far as recruit training is concerned, the new system seems to have been a great success. By having a system designed specifically for the 'decivilianisation' of recruits, it means that major issues such as rehabilitation and fitness of poor recruits can be given full attention. The Regiment has an APTC Master at Arms to oversee all fitness training and to command the Remedial Platoon and this means that recruits who were lost to

injury before are now returned to training, having received continuation training during convalescence or remedial fitness training. Overall the Regiment is passing more recruits out than before and this frees ITB Ouston to concentrate on Phase 3, as comparatively few recruits fail once they have proved themselves in CMS(R).

There is a strong Royal Anglian representation at ATR Bassingbourn, although there are considerably fewer here than before. Most importantly the Regiment is now commanded by a Royal Anglian, Lt Col Graham Duthoit, who took over in mid-March; he is particularly keen that the Regiment wins a reputation for being a place where high-quality instructors, while doing a vital and satisfying job, have a stable two years to gain the final two recommendations for promotion and to enjoy family life before going back to the serious business and bustle of Senior Brecon and Battalion life.

Maj John Ross is the Quartermaster and he continues to find new depths to his resourcefulness in order to make ends meet in a Regiment that seems underfunded and understaffed. He has also found time to lead the Regiment orienteering team to success at the Edist minor unit championships.

Capt Andy Foster will just have completed two years as Adjutant as this article is published and he goes on to spend a year attached to the Spanish Army via Operation Grapple with 2 Royal Anglian. Lts Bruce Down and Eddie Reynolds are both Platoon Commanders in C (Queen's Division) Company and both are 'gutted' that they are missing 2 Royal Anglian's Operation Grapple tour.

RQMS Duncan has been selected for promotion and shortly moves on to be RSM of 6 Royal Anglian and WO2 Barker has been standing in as RQMS before moving to Peterborough as an SPSI at 5 Royal Anglian. Other SNCO's at ATR Bassingbourn are CSgt Cussons, Sgt Walker and the ever-present and larger-than-life Sgt Urand (who was a private in the CO's Recce Platoon!). Corporal instructors serving with C (Queen's Division) Company are: Cpls Aspinall, Clarke, Cole, Cowan, Cutts, Jarvis, Routledge, Watson; other

Royal Anglians are LCpl Hardie (CO's driver), LCpl Vangucci (Provo Corporal) and Ptes Bagshaw, Wiltshire and Coulthard.

There is less Regimental activity here than there was when Bassingbourn was the Depot, but the links are as strong as ever. The relationship with Headquarter Queen's Division is still close and this has meant that Maj Dick Gould (and latterly Maj Corin Pearce) have been able to help ease our undermanning with some judicious bending of the rules concerning the black economy! The Queen's Division 50th postings meeting took place at Bassingbourn in January and it is planned to keep the meeting here for the foreseeable future. As ever they are efficiently run by the Staff Assistant at Headquarter Queen's Division, WO1 Hoyles. Other Regimental activities which continue to take place are pre-brecon (senior and junior) and pre-RCB, as well as pre-PCBC briefings and the Queen's Division undergraduates convention. This summer it is planned to play two of the Regiment's cricket matches at Bassingbourn, and the Regimental Gathering will stay at Bassingbourn – this year it takes place on Sunday July 10.

**The Commanding Officer writes:** ALTHOUGH Bassingbourn is now one of five Army training regiments, coming under Brig C Groves, deputy colonel 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, it is still the home of C (The Queen's Division) Company and the starting point for all Royal Anglian soldiers and we look forward to seeing any Royal Anglian take his place on our team.

It should also be mentioned that the Dry Ski Slope Skiing Club still thrives; the greens and bunkers on the golf course (judging distance range) are better than ever; the lake contains trout and other sporting fish under the surface – windsurfers and dinghy sailors on the surface; cricket, football, rugby, hockey, squash, orienteering, cross-country are all flourishing, plus sprint triathlon, mountain bike orienteering and occasionally expeditions can be undertaken (adventure training in Sardinia this year)

Come and join us – you know it makes sense!

## Cadets

# Lincolnshire winter training

ALTHOUGH it is expected that the winter months will be a quieter period of the year with regard to training and activities, these aspects of ACF life continue without a break.

All companies have fulfilled some training and testing during this period sufficient to maintain the interest of the cadets and the momentum of the syllabus.

1 Company held a weekend at the county training centre at Beckingham in December for all recent recruits in readiness for a mass enrolment ceremony at which 23 were accepted for various detachments in the company.

A comprehensive and full programme had been arranged, which was to tax both their mental and physical ability.

Another weekend was held by the Company in February for the more experienced cadets to further their training on fieldcraft and map and compass.

Some detachments had a very entertaining evening when the Guards Division regimental information visit Newport to display some of their modern military equipment.

Cadets were to enjoy shooting on a high-tech laser landscape target range, introduction to infantry weapons, signals equipment and shooting on the mechanical and amazing recruiting display trailer.

An important part of the weekend for 2 Squadron during January was the instruction in casualty code first aid, 22 cadets qualifying in this subject. This will now enable those junior cadets to undertake their initiation to adventurous training activities.

For the rest of the squadron the concentration was on fire and manoeuvre and advance to contact exercises.

A course had been conducted in casualty

code at Stamford during December for members of the detachment, of which eight qualified.

3 Company braved the wintry conditions and held a weekend at Beckingham in November, where good use was made of the assault course and the local training area.

Training was received by many of the senior cadets on the light support weapon in the warmth of the large cinema building while other, more junior cadets, were to undergo basic drill movements at the halt ready for a 1 star test.

On the Saturday evening the cadets were served an early Christmas dinner by the officers and instructors to the ear-splitting and head-splitting sound of drum beats on the dining room tables, initiated by the hungry cadets waiting to be fed. Even the officers and instructors joined the funny hat brigade as they served the meal.

For the cadets from 4 Company, the first weekend of January was one of the varied training activities at Beckingham and allowed isolated subjects of the APC at 1 and 2 star to be tested. The programme also included range classification on the gallery range, where many cadets were given their first opportunity to fire the Ensign. For some members of the rifle team there was chance of more practice with the target rifle.

Other cadets were to suffer the wintry conditions in field training exercising section patrols and map and compass.

Saturday evening heralded a slightly belated Christmas dinner, served as normal by the officers and instructors to the now familiar sound of the cheers of the cadets.

Training within the company had been ongoing from November when a 1 Star first-aid course had been held at Gainsborough,

at which 23 cadets qualified.

Following this a JCIC was also held at Gainsborough in December with a good attendance and equally good results.

Members of the Market Rasen detachment, which included a good number from Brookenby, spent a cold yet exhilarating day at Willingham Woods in December when they entered an orienteering competition. They were supplemented by cadets from North Hykeham and the orienteering officer WSMI Denise Artis.

Some cadets found the activity very enjoyable and decided to try out more than one of the courses set.

At the end of the orienteering, with a little time to spare before the arrival of their transport, the Market Rasen cadets spent some time on the erection of improvised shelters in the nearby woods. This proved to be a worthwhile exercise.

The Combat Cadet team has been spending many weekends training ready for the 13 Cadet training team competition and gaining experience in section tactics, orders, groups and patrols.

During one weekend they were continually practising 1 Section's tactics to enable a video to be prepared. Considering that the snow was fairly thick on the ground it was surprising how the section was seen to blend with the background of grass and nettle clumps.

No to be outdone, the musical department has also had a busy period practising its repertoire, leading parades and displaying their skills.

One of the bigger parades was that at the Cathedral for Remembrance Sunday where the very windy and wet weather did little to encourage either the band or the guards as

## Regimental Information Team focuses on ACF visits

THE winter saw the Regimental Information Team concentrate on visits and training to the ACF. Over 100 detachments benefited from our visits. We also ran 15 training weekends at the ATR for ACF/CCF.

Look-at-life visits are becoming a regular occurrence, at least once a

month, there is a three-day visit to give an insight to Army life for school leavers.

Easter saw Sgt Almond and his team move to St Martins Plain for two weeks on annual camp with Humberside and North Yorkshire ACF.

Col M J Ball inspected the RIT on

Apr 25 prior to the show season starting.

The show season is now in full swing with over 30 shows already attended.

We said farewell to WO2 N S J Barker who has been working in the QM's for the past six months and to Cpl P A Eyles on redundancy - he is changing his uniform to blue (HM Prison Service).

We welcome WO2 M Minns, Sgt J Fisher and LCpl M Williams, "Poachers" and LCpl Sweet and LCpl Ellis, "Vikings".

# Cadets

## Woodbridge school pupil wins Army scholarship

WOODBRIDGE School CCF cadet Robert Sledmere has won a prestigious sixth form Army scholarship, which will assist with school fees to help him through his 6th form studies.

Only 36 of these have been awarded this year. In return he has to pass two 'A' levels and then take a short service commission in the Army.

In any case Robert is committed to a career in the Army and hopes to take a



Robert Sledmere

longer term commission than the three year requirement.

Once he has completed his studies at Woodbridge School, Robert will go to Australia for his 'gap year' to work at Newington College in Sydney. This is a school with which Woodbridge has had close connections over many years. He then hopes to go to university, with a cadetship or a bursary, which will again provide financial assistance. After one year's officer training at Sandhurst, he hopes to take a commission in the Army.

Robert has been an enthusiastic member of Woodbridge School's CCF Army section since he was in the third form. As part of the CCF he has taken part in many camps, adventurous training in Snowdonia, a snow cadet course in Scotland where he has learnt to ski, and at present is very much enjoying instructing the younger cadets.

they marched from the Castle grounds. Unfortunately quite a few berets were to bite the dust as the salute was taken by the commandant.

After the service, all on parade were entertained to an excellent buffet prepared by the regular catering crew, Ged Clarvis and his wife Ding. For entertainment a video of camp was shown and also one taken that morning of the parade which caused some amusement among the audience.

On Feb 5 the band was to lead another parade at the cathedral prior to the anniversary service of the Air Training Corps.

They also put on a display at the Lawn Centre when they appeared on the evening of musical entertainment by the band of the 1 Royal Anglian Regiment.

### Market Rasen Detachment

SINCE annual camp the detachment has concentrated on increasing its strength and has undertaken many and varied activities to advertise the unit in the area and hopefully encourage new recruits.

The first of these events was a canoeing cadre held on the River Witham at Fiskerton on Sept 11 under the expert guidance of SMI Colin Scrimshaw.

Weather-wise a better day could not have been hoped for, very warm, very little breeze and no tidal currents to have to consider, just what was desired for a day in the fresh air.

There was, occasionally, the problem of

getting out of the way of the larger motorised craft and keeping the canoe facing the right direction against the swell. Thereby ensuring that you were not suddenly looking at the vegetation on the river bottom.

Some cadets were very unsure of their stability but gradually their confidence grew and more so when the craft began to head in the direction it had been intended.

Even the detachment commander, Captain Ogg, two of his instructors and the PRO spent some time on the water although Sgt Warburton decided rather rapidly that he was safer on the bank.

To increase confidence, a game with a wet sponge was introduced whereby the sponge was filled with water and pelted at a fellow paddler. This was not too bad unless the missile hit you round the head and the water cascaded down the inside of your water-proof jacket!

Although SMI Scrimshaw had avoided earlier ducking he was not to get away unscathed. As he prepared to berth at the end of the day, cadets were lying in wait and had their revenge against strong resistance and the good SMI was given a taste of the river.

Continuing the theme of recruiting visits were made to two schools in the area, Yarborough High and Caister Grammar. The pupils were very receptive to the visit and all that is required now is for some to turn up at the detachment.

It could have been somewhat embarrassing at the Caister Grammar School, however, as we were asked to remove our footwear

when entering the gymnasium. Standing in front of a captive audience, in uniform but bootless was not considered a good advertisement, so dispensation was sought, and granted, to remain correctly dressed. Advertising at a nearby village has had good effect with three boys turning up on parade night.

The recruiting caravan was on display in the Market Square on Oct 9 and at a steam engine rally locally on the 10th. Also at the rally the cadets were employed in security duties overnight for the displays and stalls at the event.

During the weekend the Deputy Commandant, Lt Col Dickinson presented the following awards to members of the detachment:- Army cadet force medal - SMI T Killelay, pewter tankard on retirement - Company Sgt Maj Roger Holder; 2 Star certificates - Cpl M Shaw and LCpl L Crompton-Howe; 1 Star certificate - Cadet S Wilmore.

It had recently come to notice that the youth club members at Brookenby (formerly RAF Binbrook) were keenly looking for activities military and with this in mind contact was made with the OC of Market Rasen for ideas.

The outcome was that a presentation on the Army cadet force by Capt Ogg, RSMI Sharpe and SMI Killelay took place at the youth club on Nov 8.

If all goes well, the 16 youngsters who attended and expressed their interest, even in a quick period of basic drill, may now become a satellite detachment to Market Rasen.

# Around the Branches



YOU will be pleased to hear that there is life still at Britannia Barracks and the building continues to hum with good works being conducted downstairs by SSAFA, RBL with a new county field officer, Regular Forces Employment Association staff trying to match redundees to jobs, and upstairs our own staff dealing with Association affairs as they occur.

## Normandy 1994

THE Royal Norfolk Regiment D-Day Veterans numbering almost 100 are off on a week's programme of visits to former battlefields and will be present when a new memorial is unveiled at Pavee.

## Jamieson VC print

THIS will shortly be delivered at RHQ, Norwich, with both signed, unsigned and framed versions available to order. Prices have yet to be determined but watch out for the notification in order to obtain your own copy.

## Regimental Museum

NOW that the 200,000th visitor has graced the portals of the Shirehall, it is worth reminding readers that there is always a different display or exhibition in place every few months. Recently the Regimental Memorial Homes were fully covered and to come are to be exhibitions on Kohima, D-Day and in the summer Sport in The Army.

## History

OF the 971 copies of Volume IV printed, more than half have been sold. The price will soon be raised to the shop

price of £19.95, so if you have yet to buy your copy from the Regimental Association at £13.30 plus £2.70 p&p, you should do so.

## Dinners

THE 4th Battalion held its annual dinner at Gorleston on Apr 16 which attracted some 60 diners including a large party from A Company 6 R Anglian. The previous evening the officers had gathered for their dinner at Aylsham Road TA Centre under the president, Mr Tom Eaton.

## Gorleston, Gt. Yarmouth & District Branch

HAVING missed writing in the last issue, I would like to congratulate our members who made up the shooting team at the last Royal Anglian gathering at Bassingbourn; namely John Morley, Brian Becket, John Green and Ray Pillar, who after some stern coaching by Drummie Huxtable and a tense but thrilling 'shoot off', won by just one point.

On the two previous occasions when we had been runners-up, Ben Turner had been in the team but unfortunately, due to family ill health, he was unable to attend. Thus we had to coerce John Green into the team. Maybe this was a good omen as the branch did not have to present Ben with a third 'wooden spoon' for the lowest team score.

All in all the members had a very enjoyable day. Maybe, meeting up with so many old friends again is one of the reasons that makes being a member of any branch worthwhile.

Twelve of our members were able to attend The Royal Norfolk Regiment dinner in Norwich and again our luck held with Tony Waters winning four whisky tumblers engraved with Britannia as first prize in the draw, followed by Mick Ellis getting the second prize, a litre bottle of whisky. No way could we get them to let us try out either the glasses or the whisky, but

this did not spoil the excellent meal and night out.

Our own annual dinner and Christmas draw was again held at the St. Edmund's Hotel, Gorleston, where 60 members and guests attended, what by all accounts, appears to have been our best ever. Thanks go to Maj Willie Reeve, Regimental Secretary, Norwich for honouring us as dinner chairman. Also to Tony Barfield for again laying on such an excellent meal. Even the 50 prizes were fairly evenly spread between members and guests.

This year's dinner will again be held at the St. Edmund's Hotel on 19 Nov. Regular attenders will be sent the normal proformae giving date, time, accommodation details, etc. Anyone reading this who wishes to attend should contact Ben Turner (0493) 600070 or Ray Pillar (0493) 601131 nearer the time. On these occasions, Tony Barfield offers very good rates for bed and breakfast.

Sadly, just before Christmas, David Page, one of our very staunch members, 'passed away' after a long illness. David had also been a member of the 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Association. Ray Pillar and Jim Culley represented the branch at his funeral in Norwich.

As usual, our first meeting of the year was a games night. Geoff Smith won the darts and after several hard-fought games, Bert Major and Ray Pillar won the crib.

In February, we had our first guest speaker of the year. Ex-Detective Sergeant John Sullivan gave a first class account of his experiences aboard HMS Cornwall during the Second World War up until she was sunk in an engagement with the Japanese off Ceylon. I do not think I would fancy floating in an overloaded, partly submerged Carley Float with sharks swimming around me.

Should any member of any other branch visiting the Great Yarmouth

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# Around the Branches

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area like to give us a visit they will be made more than welcome. Our meetings are always held on the last Wednesday of the month at the White Lion Hotel, Cliff Hill, Gorleston at 8 pm, where you may meet an old friend.



The Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association has seen a resurgence in membership throughout the county and the many and varied functions that the branches are organising bodes well for the future.

## Lincoln Branch

THE Lincoln Branch said farewell to its president when he was posted to Bury St Edmunds and bestowed life vice-presidency upon him. The Rev David Bates kindly agreed to step in as president.

The branch continues to meet monthly and held a most successful luncheon at which 139 members and their guests were seated. This is the highest total to date and hopefully there will be even more next year on Mar 12.

The branch was present to support the dedication ceremony of Scunthorpe Branch's new standard. A good turn out saw George Mason yet again in his No.1 dress hat!

Other scheduled events are:

- **June 12** – Summer barbecue at Sobraon Barracks at which the ACF Cadet Band will play starting at 3.00pm.
- **July 12** – Branch outing to Eden Camp North Yorkshire followed by the Transport Museum at Beverley. Book early to ensure your place on the coach (Details to be given out by the branch secretary).



- **Aug 21** – Autumn barbecue at Sobraon Barracks at which the ACF Cadet Band will play starting at 3.00pm.
- **Oct 1** – Malayan Reunion at Sobraon Barracks starting at 7.00pm.
- The Branch will again support the Royal Anglian Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn on Sunday July 10 where they will parade with their Standard.

## Grimsby Branch

THE branch held a most successful reunion luncheon at the Beacholme which was well attended by many members who came from as far afield as Wales and the West Country. The guests of honour were the Association president and Mrs Gerrard-Wright and Capt John Richards. Ninety-four members and guests attended and plaques for long-service were presented to Messrs Carroll, Casswell and Bryan.

The branch reunion next year will be held at the Beacholme on Apr 22.

## Midlands Branch

THE branch held its first luncheon on Jan 30 at which the guest of honour was Wally Hibbard from the Lincoln Branch. It was a great success and next year will either have to be a split sitting or switched to a larger venue.

On Nov 11 1993 the branch turned in force with its standard to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Armistice Day, the end of the First World War. The event, which was well attended, was held at Bedworth, Warwickshire and also commemorated

the 75th anniversaries of the Royal Air Force and Coventry Dioceses.

The branch was present at the dedication of the Scunthorpe Standard on Mar 20.

The branch will be attending in force with the Standard the Royal British Legion D-Day Parade on June 12 and all are welcome to attend.

## Scunthorpe Branch

THE Scunthorpe Branch held a parade, at which the salute was taken by the Association president following the dedication ceremony at which their new standard was consecrated.

There was an excellent turnout and the event was well supported by the other branches and the subsequent social function was a great success for this relatively new branch.

## Stamford Branch

THE Stamford branch was reformed after a break of 22 years and meets at the Stamford RAFA Club. The branch, which has a membership of 27 including a number of 'Ex-Malayans' is seeking new membership from those leaving the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Events for the future include joining other ex-service groups leading the Stamford Mayor's Civic Parade in June, and hopefully sending a contingent to the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn.

## Diary Dates

June 10 1994 – Officers' Luncheon Club Gathering – Grantham

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# Around the Branches

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July 10 1994 - Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn

Sept 11 1994 - Regimental Reunion - Lincoln



## The annual reunion and Service of Remembrance

THE annual reunion and Service of Remembrance for 1993 was held at the TA Centre, Kempston on Nov 21. In most parts of the country the weather in the early part of that day was most inhospitable with widespread snow. Yet in spite of this, the reduction in attendance was hardly noticeable, proof indeed of the determination of our members to pay their respect to their comrades who have passed on, and to meet their friends.

The day began with refreshments in the drill hall and the Officers' Mess, kindly provided by No. 1 Company, 5th Royal Anglians. This was followed by a robust programme of music played by the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment TA, after which the parade, composed of No.1 Company, 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Association members, Bedfordshire ACF and Bedfordshire Police Cadets, marched to a position on the road facing the memorial.

The short service was conducted by the Rev Martin Percy of St. Peter's Church, Bedford, and the Rev Robin Brown of the Church of The Transfiguration, Kempston, and began with the bidding and a prayer of remembrance. Wreaths were then laid by Maj Gen M J D Walker, CBE deputy colonel, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Lt Col Sir Derek Milman, president of the Association, Brig

Angus Robertson, CBE, chairman of the Association and Mr Derek Jones, Mayor of Bedford.

This was followed by the exhortation, read by Lt Col C S E M Bagstaff, after which wreaths were laid on behalf of the Regular Battalions of The 16th Foot, each branch of the Association, Lt Col W A Whittaker, several widows of ex-members and Mrs Milne, the daughter of the late Mr 'Buster' Wells.

After the 'Silence' the Reveille was sounded and the service ended with the Regimental Collects, The Regimental March, Mandolinata and the National Anthem. The parade then returned to the drill square with the Band playing Rule Britannia and marched past the Deputy Colonel.

After a short address, Gen Walker presented the first clasp to the TEM to Mr Adrian Forde, now a member of Bedford Branch of the Association.

Lunch followed in the Keep and the drill hall, during which a detachment of The Royal Anglian Regiment TA played an enjoyable programme of suitable music in each place.

## Our last 'Old Contemptible'

WITH the death of ex-Sgt Chris Magee on Jan 2, two weeks short of his 102nd birthday, we lost our last 'Old Contemptible'. He had joined the 2nd Battalion, The Bedfordshire Regiment, in South Africa and went with it to France as part of a force destined to relieve Antwerp. Arriving too late, the Force was dispersed and the battalion marched to join the rest of the BEF arriving just in time to take part in the First Battle of Ypres, where Mr Magee was wounded and evacuated to the UK. Demobilised in 1919, he joined the Old Contemptible Association and remained a member until its disbandment in 1947. He did not join the 16th Foot Association until a few years ago when the latter became aware of his existence. He joined Bedford Branch.

## Another 1914/18 War veteran is discovered

DURING the assembly of those taking part in the 1993 Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall, four

old soldiers were assisted into the Hall by members of the Army Cadet Force. One of them was ex-Sgt Herbert Walden of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.

Mr Walden has the distinction of having been born on the 11th day of the 11th month, 1899 and is now our oldest member. He joined the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1915 and served with it and The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment until 1936. He is now a resident of the Royal British Legion Home at Broadstairs in Kent.

The late Maj Joe Townsend's sword THE sword of the late Maj Joe Townsend was presented to the 1st Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment, in a simple ceremony held at Colchester on Dec 7 1993. It was handed over to Lt Col R M Blunt MBE by Maj Townsend's son, Derek. Also present was Mr Stan Mansfield, secretary of the Hertford Branch of the Regimental Association, of which Branch Maj Townsend was president from 1950 to 1980.

He enlisted on Jan 1 1923, serving with both Regular Battalions and as a PSI with 1st Herts Regiment. He was granted a commission as Quartermaster in which capacity he served with the 1st Battalion the Hertfordshire Regiment from 1947 to 1957.

## The Silver Train centre-piece

IMMEDIATELY prior to the demise of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, the magnificent Silver Train was allocated to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. For some years before this it had been on loan to Bedford Borough Council for several months each year where it had been on display in the Mayor's Parlour.

Its popularity was such that the Mayor has been under constant pressure to get it back once more and following a request from His Worship, via the area secretary, the Commanding Officer, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, has kindly agreed that the centre-piece may be displayed

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# Around the Branches

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in the Mayor's Parlour from May this year until December. This decision will give much pleasure to those interested, such as former mayors, employees of Bedford Borough, members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association and The Royal British Legion.

## **A possible band concert in Bedford by the Band of 1st Royal Anglians**

THE concert given in the Regimental Chapel at Warley on Feb 23 so impressed the Mayor of Bedford, who was a guest, that he is convinced that a similar concert in Bedford would also be a great success, and would raise a considerable profit which he proposes should be presented to Army Welfare. The Mayor hopes to be able to obtain the Corn Exchange in Bedford for this event.

## **The 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party**

THE annual cocktail party of The 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club was held at The Army and Navy Club on April 15.

Eighty-seven members, their families and guests attended, which is the highest figure recorded since the event began. This is even more gratifying when it is remembered that both Regular Battalions are overseas and reflects the continuing popularity of this event. Among those attending were Gen Sir Peter Leng, Maj Gen Mick Holme and Maj Gen Michael Walker. We were also pleased to see Col Tony Winton, home on leave from Bosnia.

## **The late Brigadier Peter Young honoured**

IN France on June 7 this year, as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the 'D' Day landings, the inhabitants of the village of Pettiville intended to honour Brig Peter Young DSO, MC, by naming a street after him.

On June 8 1944, No. 3 Commando, commanded by Lt Col Peter Young, as part of 6th Airborne Division, took and consolidated a section of the eastern

flank of the British bridgehead and held it for over two months against the might of the German armour and infantry which had been massing in the area of Calais where the invasion was expected. When they realised their mistake, the Germans threw their main strength at the Paras and Commandos in an attempt to break through to the beaches.

The gallant action of the 6th Airborne Division enabled the rest of the divisions in that part of the coast to consolidate the main bridgehead and so begin the advance inland. On Aug 17, 6th Airborne Division began its own advance.



## **The Regimental Secretary**

WE are pleased to be able to announce that our secretary, Maj Colin Albany, has now recovered from the operation he underwent last March and is back at work.

## **Memorial service for HMS Puckeridge**

A SERVICE to commemorate the loss of HMS Puckeridge in the Atlantic in 1943 was held by the Royal Navy Association on Sept 6 at Standon Church. The Association was represented by our president, chairman, vice-chairman and a number of members.

Our interest in this ceremony stems from the time in 1943, when the 1st Hertfordshire Regiment was stationed in Gibraltar, which was also the base of HMS Puckeridge, a submarine named after a village near Hertford. Rather naturally, a firm friendship developed between the crew and the personnel of the battalion.

## **Royal Hospital, Chelsea**

A HASSOCK, made by the wife of a member of the Association and with the Hertfordshire Regiment badge, was presented to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Oct 10 1993. Unfortunately, owing to the fact that the ceremony coincided with the annual visit of the Essex Regiment Association, numbers had to be restricted to a few members of the committee. However, the Essex Regiments Association has kindly suggested that we join the next visit which avoids having to restrict attendance.

## **Reunion lunch 1993**

THIS annual function was held on Nov

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Presentation of the late Maj Joe Townsend's sword to Lt R M Blunt, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment.

# Around the Branches

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7 and was a great success. The attendance of 150 members, their wives and friends, was very much higher than usual, no doubt due to the fact that the committee decided to change to a lunch instead of the customary dinner.

Being able to drive during daylight encouraged members to attend Hitchin, Bedford, Witney, Enfield, Bexley, Shoreham-by-sea, Kessingland and London.

We were especially pleased to be able to welcome Brigadier and Mrs Peters and to see them both looking so fit and well.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the Royal Anglian Regiment Band, TA which gave us such an enjoyable programme of music.



## Peterborough Branch

**Maj R K Hill TD DL, writes:**

MAY I firstly thank readers for their response to my separate branch newsletter last year. I did get the answer to who led the patrol which bagged the Nazi gramophone as reported in the Daily Sketch on April 3rd 1940 – thank you J Hobin of Northampton for your letters.

Additionally my letter prompted several old comrades to 'come in from the cold' and join the annual dinner. I do hope therefore that readers of this newsletter will again respond to my call to join in branch activities and help with the Huntingdonshire Cyclists research.

The Peterborough Branch is now just 40 years old and I am delighted to report still has attendances at and above the level of those who attended the very first meeting long ago on Jan 29 1954.

At that time Lt Col L N Quash MC,

the Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion took over the task of first president of the branch – Maj E W Kitchen MC was vice-president, Mr A N Love the honorary secretary and RSM E S Willmott honorary treasurer. We would like to hear from any other founder members or their friends and relatives as to the early days of the branch.

We held our ever popular annual dinner at the TA Centre, London Road in October 1993. The attendance was good with well over 100 sitting down to an excellent meal of hot roast beef, carved at the table. The standards of both our branch and the Corby Branch were paraded before the dinner, and a most enjoyable programme of music was provided for us by the Band of 5 Royal Anglian.

Comrades came from all over England to be with us and I do hope others will be prompted by these notes to join us this year. Our dinner will be held on Oct 15 at the TA Centre, London Road in Peterborough at 7.30 pm. Please contact myself or my branch secretary David Allen if you would like further information and be included on the branch mailing list.

We shall again hold our reunion at Huntingdon this year. It will be combined, hopefully, with an exhibition to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Huntingdonshire Cyclists in 1914. One of our members has got together a very fine collection of pictures and articles about that former Regiment which is such a vital part of our history. Please can any readers help from their family photo albums, records or belongings. If so please contact me or any other member of the branch.

The branch meets regularly at the Woolpack, Stanground. You can always phone the landlord, Keith, to check the meeting (0733-54417).

## Corby Branch

**K R Fordyce writes:**

OUR meetings are now held in the Royal British Legion, Langdale Grove, Corby, on the last Tuesday of the month at 8pm. We had decided to forego the winter meetings however, so

our next meeting and AGM was held on March 29 this year. Our standard was on parade on Armistice Day, ably carried by a cadet corporal from the local ACF. A small group of us attended the Peterborough dinner; the standard was carried by our chairman W MacNeil, and an excellent meal and social evening was had by all.

Sadly we paraded the standard at the funeral of our highly respected comrade from Oundle, Tommy Sandall – K Fordyce carried the standard. The widows all received gift tokens in the form of meat vouchers at Christmas this year, and from the replies they were all gratefully received. The majority of these widows are on a very low income as the company pensions were practically non-existent in their husband's working life. Best regards to comrades everywhere.

## The Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club

THE annual luncheon party was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London on May 6.

The following were present: Gen Sir John and Lady Akehurst, Col F G Barber, Maj and Mrs M C Benett, Maj and Mrs A P H Bird, Col T A Buchanan, Miss P O Buchanan, Maj and Mrs P Cheston, Mrs P Dyer, Mrs E W M Gardiner, Lt Col and Mrs J A Garnett, Maj and Mrs J P Growse, Maj and Mrs H R Johnston, Capt and Mrs N Jonas, Maj and Mrs P F Keily, Maj and Mrs T C S Knox, Lt Col and Mrs L C J Paul, Maj and Mrs W K Pool, Maj P L C H Rance, Maj and Mrs C H E Randell, Maj and Mrs R F Sykes, Brig C G Y Viner CBE MC TD, Col and Mrs P Worthy.

## 1994 reunion dinner

Arrangements have been made and confirmed for the 1994 reunion dinner to be held at Kettering on Oct 7.

The possibility of visiting the Regimental Museum at Abington Park is also being considered.

## 1993 reunion dinner

The chairman and organising commit-

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# Around the Branches

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tee wish to thank all those members who attended the dinner. The presence of Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE and Lady Akehurst, the Mayor and Mayoress of Kettering, Col J P Wetherall, Curator of the Regimental Museum and Lt Col John Wilson and Mrs Wilson contributed greatly to a wonderful evening.

The raffle (prizes donated by the committee) realised £100. This has enabled the 1993 dinner account to be settled and leave a modest sum to be used to keep in touch with members.

## New Year's Honours List

— Ian Heeley MBE

GEORGE and Lorna Heeley (former Sgt Anti-tank Platoon and medical sergeant with the 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment and 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment respectively) are pleased to announce that their only son Ian has been awarded the MBE for his charity work for the local community.

Ian, born in Taunton, Somerset while the Battalion was stationed in Watchet, remained with the Battalion through amalgamation to go on to Germany, Cyprus and finally returning to Felixstowe.

His first interest in charity work started in Cyprus, helping with the local radio for Guide Dogs for the Blind while still attending school, in Dhékalia.



## Royal Tigers Wood

IN MAY 1992, the president and general committee of the association launched an appeal, within the association, to raise money for a living memorial to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, as part of the new National Forest. The response from members

was positive and enthusiastic.

A steering committee, composed of members of the association, headed by the chairman was formed. The committee worked closely with the Woodland Trust and other interested parties, culminating in the purchase, under the auspices of the National Forest, of 85 acres just outside Bagworth. Part of this site (36.5 acres) is now known as Royal Tigers Wood.

We set out here some aspects of the progress of our Regimental living memorial, Royal Tigers Wood. It is extremely gratifying to report that the ongoing successful progress of the Wood has been achieved, in the main, because of the enthusiastic support, practical help and generosity of the membership of the Association.

## The appeal report

THE appeal was launched in May 1992 and the response from members of the Association and associates has been most generous. This has enabled great progress to be made — the details of which are outlined below. The current financial position regarding the appeal is as follows:

**Income:** Donations, £11,054.

**Expenditure:** Purchase of land and appeal costs, £13,052.

The land cost £44,000, major contributors to the cost were; Royal Tigers Association, £12,000; Hinckley and Bosworth Council, £10,000; Leicestershire County Council, £9,000; and the balance — Woodland Trust and National Forest.

The costs have been kept to an absolute minimum, mainly through a considerable number of individuals and organisations giving their time and practical help with only nominal payment. There will, however, be additional expenditure in the future..

## Progress report

HAVING purchased the land, the next stage was the design and the implementation of design features. The design of Royal Tigers Wood is now complete and has been presented to, and accepted by all concerned.

ARC Central Quarries, Shepshed

donated a large piece of local granite for the commemorative stone. The trustees agreed that the wording on the inscription would be: In Memory of all who had served in The Royal Leicestershire Regiment (17th Foot) 1688 to 1970.

On Jan 29 1944, the initial planting of the Wood took place. Nearly 3,000 whips were planted on the site. This was followed, in March, by the positioning of the commemorative stone on the site. Despite very unfavourable weather conditions in the county during March, this was accomplished most successfully under the direction and expertise of ex C/Sgt Malcolm Cooper.

Throughout the period since May 1992, we have been supported, encouraged and given tangible help by many organisations and individuals. It would be invidious to try to mention them all by name, but special mention must be given to Bagworth Parish Council which has been extremely helpful and enthusiastic in their support.

## The future

IT has been agreed that a stand of commemorative trees be planted, towards the end of this year, to represent the countries in which the Regiment was involved over a period of nearly 300 years. Hopefully, there will be 17 trees, each tree being of a species associated with one or more battle honours that were borne on the colours. The site for these trees within the wood has already been chosen.

In November or December 1994, the initial planting of the Bagworth Wood (adjacent to Royal Tigers Wood) will take place.

It is planned that we will take part and help on the planting day. The projected date for the official 'opening' of Royal Tigers Wood is Sunday June 25 1995. This is provisional at the moment, but plans are already being formulated. Hindoostan Day, falling on a Sunday in 1995, would appear to be wholly appropriate.

## Benevolence 1993

SIXTY-THREE cases for benevolence were considered by the general com-

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# Around the Branches

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mittee of the Association during 1993. A total of £4,495 was given in grants during the year. In addition grants totalling £3,506, given by the Army Benevolent Fund to ex-Tigers and their families, were disbursed by the Association.



CURRENT membership of the Association stands at 725. This is two less than last year but, considering the sad loss of 47 members, this means a net increase of 45. It is encouraging that the Association continues to attract new members, this, to a great extent, through the Royal British Legion and the efforts of our current members.

In June, 42 of us will make the D-Day Pilgrimage to Normandy. We are grateful to Harry Conn for making the arrangements which must have given him a few headaches along the way. We leave on Sunday June 5 and return on Friday 10th after a variety of commemorative services, parades and visits. Most of the party actually landed with the 2nd Battalion The Essex Regiment on D-Day itself so they will be remembering in detail the events of that historic day and, of course, those of their comrades who did not return.

Our lovely Regimental Chapel was the venue for a splendid concert given by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. Packed to the gunwales, with extra seats in the aisles, the Band could not have had a more receptive audience. Bandmaster Parkinson made an excellent compeer and the Band performed to perfection. In the interval the youth band of the Royal British Legion played some excellent selections of marching songs

and won the hearts of all present. Very nostalgic to hear such songs as Tipperary being played in the chapel, with some brave souls actually joining in!

Once again we are looking forward to our annual dinner, this year on Salamanca Day itself, July 22. Last year was a great success and we have every reason to believe that 1994 will be equally as good. Applications for tickets should be sent in to Warley as soon as possible.

Sadly we have lost some outstanding supporters of the Association over the last period. It would be difficult to mention them all but I am sure we would be forgiven for mentioning Col Ralph Littlehales, Col P H A L Franklin DL, Capt C F Harrod, Col Hugh Craig OBE TD DL and Albert Sidney Cross.

## Thurrock Branch:

I closed my December article in the Castle with our trip to Bassingbourn, so I will start this time by returning to the home of The Essex Regiment, Brentwood. In September The Royal Anglian Regiment exercised the Freedom of Brentwood, and several old comrades of The Essex Regiment were present near the saluting base and at the reception that followed. It was a grand sight in Brentwood which recently achieved borough status.

A party of us along with members from the 4th Battalion comrades made a visit to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and attended morning prayer with the In-Pensioners in their chapel. This was followed by a buffet in their club bar. We thank Gordon Wren for making the arrangements.

November saw the branch covering several Remembrance Services. I must comment on the Essex Regiment corner at Chelmsford Cathedral where more and more seem to attend each year. It is a wonderful place to meet old comrades – keep it up!

Our own Borough of Thurrock Remembrance Service was attended by members and their wives. The standard was carried by Bill Brown, and a wreath laid by the secretary. We also

attended and paraded our standard at the Festival of Remembrance at the Civic Hall in Grays Thurrock, where the standard was carried by Mr W Nicholson. Some of us went to the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster, always a place to meet comrades from all the services. I must say though, that the Queen Mum's walk round was very much missed on this occasion.

November also saw our branch dinner and dance and 150 people attended including the Mayor of Thurrock, Pat Rice. Col Morgan, president of our Association, together with Mrs Morgan, were present. Also representatives from The 4th Essex Comrades, The RNA, The NVA, The Burma Star Association and The Royal British Legion. We shall repeat the event on Nov 12 '94. Anyone interested?

The Thurrock Branch hopes to see you all at Bassingbourn.

P G G

## Chelmsford Branch

OUR branch took a new lease of life on Oct 11 when we held our first afternoon meeting of the year. We met at 2.30 pm and members brought along their wives for a 'get together' while the meeting took place in an adjoining office. Tea and light refreshments, served when the meeting closed, were much enjoyed and it was confirmed that we would continue with the afternoon meetings on June 13, Aug 8, Oct 10 and Dec 12, the ladies to provide refreshments. Everyone was delighted with the friendly gathering and we hope that other members and their wives will join us.

The Trigno 1943 gathering early in November each year continues to be well supported. The total attendance was an excellent 50, and many travelled considerable distances. The youngest must be at least 71!

S O

## 4th Battalion Comrades

OVER the past year we have enjoyed many activities and the Association continues to go from strength to strength.

The year started with our own

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# Around the Branches

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memorial service in the Regimental Chapel which about 120 members and wives attended. Refreshments were afterwards served in the RHQ.

Our annual garden party was held on the lawns at RHQ and we were blessed with a glorious day. Some 200 people attended, plenty of refreshments were available and a bar was laid on by our old friend Harry Conn. All the cakes and sandwiches were supplied by the committee members' wives.

In October we held our annual dinner and dance at the TA Hall, Warley. It was full to capacity with 130 people enjoying a really grand night.

This was followed by our Remembrance Day service in November, held in our own battalion church of St. Mary's Ilford. The service was followed by a parade around the town led by the Essex Corps of Drums. Owing to the age and health of some members, the parade had to be shortened, but we still had quite a few.

The march finished at the local drill hall which used to be run by the battalion but is now in the hands of the Royal Signals. We always get a good welcome and for those who wanted it, a meal was available in the Sergeants' Mess.

In addition to these regular events we were well represented at Bassingbourn, The Royal Hospital Chelsea and the two band concerts in the Regimental Chapel.

We have lost six old comrades in the past year, mainly due to age. We always, where possible, attend the funerals of these members and provide a guard of honour, regimental colours on the coffin and a standard bearer to lead the cortege.

One of these members was Reg Cox, an old and much loved member aged 87 years. He was treasurer of the branch for a long time and only gave up when age began to tell. With donations given at his funeral a new standard was purchased to be used on future such occasions. This was dedicated at our memorial service this March.

Another member, even older, was

Stan Farthing. Stan joined the TA in 1992. He served all through the Western Desert, was wounded and captured by the Germans. He spent the rest of the war as a POW. After that he came into the Association and led a very active life with us and was on the committee for many years. His funeral was held at Waltham Abbey church which proved not to be large enough for all the mourners. An unusually large Guard of Honour attended his funeral. He was 92 and active and happy to the end.

We are happy that we have welcomed six new members. Strength continues to be maintained and we look forward to another active year.



ALL branches (Beccles, Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Hemel Hempstead, Ipswich, Leiston, Stowmarket and Sudbury) report a busy and active life. Well attended AGMs, dances, dinners, social evenings and other events have taken place often with participation by other branches.

Remembrance Day was well remembered both locally and elsewhere at Westminster Abbey and the Festival of Remembrance at Felixstowe. Perhaps the most outstanding event was the dedication of the Leiston Branch Standard at St Margaret's Church Leiston with support from local dignitaries and other branches. The Standard had been lovingly made by hand by Mrs Francis Doe. The branch is justifiably proud of its new Standard. The occasion was also marked by the reading of a poem by Mrs Nancy Mayhew, wife of Maj Wally Mayhew, entitled "The Parade of the Ghostly Armies of the 12th The Suffolk Regiment".

The Leiston Branch also reported the very successful outcome of the transfer of the Far East Prisoner of War Flag to the Longshop Museum in Leiston. A full season has passed and the section of the Museum housing the flag has seen over 10,000 visitors, well justifying the decision to move it from the local TA Centre.

Leiston plans to put on a special display in the Museum for the 50th anniversary of VJ Day appealing for any memorabilia of that period from the Far East to be made available.

## Normandy and the Netherlands

Two coaches with over 100 old comrades, wives and relations will be in Normandy in June for the 50th anniversary of the landings and subsequent campaign. Various ceremonies and receptions have been arranged with the local communities involved. The main event will be the unveiling of a Memorial at the Chateau de la Londe which was taken by the 1st Battalion on June 28 1944 after a bloody battle. The Rev Tom Hiney MC will be taking the service, and the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment will be taking part.

A similar pilgrimage is planned for September to Weert, liberated by the 1st Battalion on Sept 21 1944, and Overloon and Venray.

## Chapel

On Apr 23 a window in the Regimental Chapel was dedicated in memory of Brig Ian Wright DSO, OBE by the Rev Tom Hiney MC in the presence of his widow, other members of his family and others from the Regiment who had known him. The window commemorated not only his service with the Regiment but also that with the Nigerian Regiment, the Staff College, Quetta and the West Lancashire TA Association.

## Beccles and District Branch Mal Martin writes:

LAST year ended on a busy note for the branch with Remembrance Day parades at Beccles and Lowestoft and

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# Around the Branches

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a Festival of Remembrance Concert at Beccles organised by our very own branch member Ken Cracknell. We congratulate Ken on once again being selected as Mayor of Beccles for the forthcoming year.

A large contingent from the branch supported Leiston Branch Standard dedication parade and we thank Leiston members for their hospitality afterwards.

The Christmas street party organised by Beccles traders in December gave us another chance to raise funds with our stall and, just as important to 'show the flag' to all and sundry. Unfortunately, we were without stalwarts Dorothy and Frank Finch on this occasion as Dorothy was admitted to Addenbrookes Hospital for a serious operation prior to the event. Thankfully she has made a good recovery and, together with Frank, is once again taking a full part in branch activities.

Our bumper Christmas social, free to all members and wives, was once again a huge success with 80 members and friends enjoying the festive atmosphere at Beccles Caxton Club.

And so we began the new year with, appropriately enough, a talk by a guest speaker on 'Ghosts of Norfolk and Suffolk'. This had several people recounting their experiences with the supernatural, or at least with close encounters with spirits of a sort. Some were glancing over their shoulder on the way home nevertheless! Other speakers have enlightened us with the workings of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and have amazed us with stories of detective work leading to the arrest of organised thieves at Heathrow Airport.

Our AGM has just taken place, with all officers and committee re-elected and with the addition of a welfare officer and three assistants, a reflection of the needs of our widespread branch. Our debt to Mrs Moriarty was marked by making her our first honorary vice-president. Another founder member, Mrs C Aldred, accepted the position of vice-president.

We are now preparing for an exhibi-

tion of local Suffolk Regiment memorabilia to be held at Beccles library as part of Beccles Festival. Our aim is to display photos of as many local ex-Suffolks, past and present, as possible, together with the items of memorabilia that most ex-servicemen tend to have hidden away. The offer of an anti-tank gun has had to be declined – we have only a small room!

As a tribute to our late chairman, Fred Taylor, we are sponsoring a display at Beccles Flower Festival to be held from July 30 to Aug 1 at Beccles Parish Church. Needless to say, red and yellow roses should be in evidence.

And so we look forward to the brighter days of summer and another Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds. We are trying hard to support all the functions of other branches but with our exceptionally widespread catchment area it's no easy task rounding everybody up. Best wishes to all branches.

## The Royal British Legion

**Lt Col Alastair Veitch, now the RBL County Field Officer (Suffolk), writes:**

If we have any complaints about the RBL then some of the faults are because our ex-officers, senior ranks and their wives have not become involved. The steadying influence of a few good branch presidents is immense and I can see great differences between good or even average branches and what some think is just a regular brawl run by drunken ex National Service cops in other branches!

We are looking here for all ranks and their wives from the Regiment but a few officers going in at the top and a number of ex-sergeants or corporals would make an immense difference. Joi your local branch!

## SSAFA

SSAFA has the equivalent of a county staff with the usual appointments, then has a divisional secretary with a few staff at electoral district (eg St Edmundsbury) level. Their divisional secretaries control 5-20 case workers in each division. They are looking for more case workers all the time to reinforce their 80 odd in Suffolk. Excellent training given. I deal frequently with

SSAFA and they have asked me to look out for possible case workers and staff. Ex officers and wives certainly, senior WO/NCOs and wives probably.



## Whittlesey & Peterborough

THE AGM was held on Wednesday Mar 16 at the Woolpack, Stanground and was attended by 20 members.

The annual reports were made by chairman Alf Gray, welfare officer Don Poole and secretary Jess Matthews. In his capacity as treasurer, Jess Matthews presented the financial report which showed the branch has sufficient funds to continue for a few more years, although the only means of raising finance is the monthly branch raffles. All the officers were re-elected to serve for a further year.

Members who have been hospitalised during the year are Anthony (Tant) Laud, Wilf Orton, Chris Edgley, Don Poole and Jimmy Carter, all are now home and making good progress. One of our aims during the year has been to try to amalgamate the three branches in Peterborough of the Burma Star Association, the Far East Prisoners of War Association and the Cambs OCA for meetings and social events. This would mean that we would have larger meetings and social activities, but each branch and association would still keep its identity. Permission to do this has been granted by the Burma Star Association and the FEPOW Association but no permission has yet been received from the Cambs OCA.

Events planned for this year are a regimental barbecue in conjunction with the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Associations and will take

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# Around the Branches

## FUTURE EVENTS

Event	Date	Day	Time	Location
Royal Anglian Reunion	July 10	Sun		Bassingbourn
Minden Day	July 31	Sun	11.15	Bury St Edmunds
3 (Cambs) Coy Open Day	Aug 21	Sun		Coldhams Lane
Cambs Branch AGM	Aug 31	Wed	7.30pm	Coldhams Lane
Sgts' Dinner	Sept 24	Sat	7pm for 7.30pm	Waterbeach
Regimental Council	Sept 25	Sun	10.00	Waterbeach
OCA AGM	Sept 25	Sun	2.30pm	Archer House, Ely
Past & Present Social	Oct 1	Sat		Coldhams Lane
Westminster Reunion	Nov 10			
Officers' Dinner	Apr 8 '95	Sat	7pm for 7.30pm	Waterbeach

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place at the Woolpack, Stanground on July 21 at 7.30pm. The annual church service will be held on Sept 18 at the Salvation Army Citadel, Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough at 6.30pm. The annual branch dinner will be held at the Newark Hotel, Eastfield Road, Peterborough on Oct 7 for 7.30pm, when we are hoping that the Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, James Crowden Esq, will be our guest of honour.

It is my sad duty to report the death of a former branch chairman, Bill Paterson. Bill took hold of the reins of the branch when it was re-constructed in 1983 and guided it through its formative years until he became too ill to carry on. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Audrey and children John & Kate.

When we are asked how long we can carry on as a branch and association, we answer: "When there are no more Cambridgeshires left, then we shall have to call it a day, but the traditions and glories of our great Regiment will live on forever."

To all our sister branches in both the Cambridgeshire and the Suffolk Regiments we send our paternal greetings.

### Cambridgeshire Old Comrades' Association

WITH the Union Jack billowing out on the West Tower on Apr 21 for the Queen's birthday, OCA members met for their Eucharist in the regimental chapel celebrated by the Precentor, The Rev Stephen Shipley.

There was a fair attendance, among them the president Col W F Page, MC, TD, Lt Col E L V Mapey, patron, and Mrs Mapey, Lt Col J R Ennion, TD, Capt J S Cook, TD, and a spattering of faithful members.

After the service all took to the Chapter House for the Regimental Chapel Trustees' meeting, refreshments and the Ely Branch AGM.

Proceedings commenced with unrehearsed 'forum' introduced by the honorary secretary setting out the state of play, as he saw it, pointing out how reliant the OCA was on non 1st and 2nd Battalion former personnel to keep things going, and questioning whether and how a stand-down should be contemplated, or a complete hand-over or a progressive one should be brought about. Not all agreed with what was concluded but it was intended to alert members to the parlous position demanding arrangements for transition before very long.

With the arrival of the stalwart 2/Lt Nancy Slattery, the trustees' meeting began, when those present were distressed to learn that Maj Ken Starling the treasurer was undergoing triple heart by-pass surgery at Papworth, necessitating Capt S Herod being asked to take over at least for the time being.

Formal matters were quickly dealt with, and then the question of improvements to the chapel considered further when it appeared that English Heritage had taken an interest in the medieval wall colourings, attention to which was likely to cost £15,000 for which a £10,000 grant appeared available.

Capt J S Cook made himself

responsible for the cleaning and refurbishment of the altar overlay and frontal which was somewhat overdue, and his action was greatly appreciated. The question of the production of two Glastonbury chairs bearing the regimental badge was still being pursued.

Reverting to the business of the day, the Ely Branch annual general meeting followed under the chairmanship of Lt Col J R Ennion when all officers were re-elected.

The honorary secretary, Roy Hitch, confirmed that the branch was resting on its laurels for the time being and looking forward to giving support to the annual service of remembrance and reunion on June 12.

The honorary treasurer was able to report an increased balance of £70.79, while £60 was held in the administrative reserve account to subsidise postage should the need arise, in the gift of Col P S W Dean - a second gift from him.

Members were made aware of the availability of the two Cambridgeshire histories, the first being priced to cover the cost over and above the donation made by the trustees of Cambridgeshire Silver (£22.50) and the latter for roughly the same sum. The chairman allowed his copy of the latter to be circulated to members with a view to acquisition and the branch copy likewise, as the honorary secretary sought to offload rather than take more items into custody.

Deborah Craig, the fundraising representative of the Marie Curie Cancer Care, would like to visit as many

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branches as possible. She can be contacted at 13/14 Burleigh Street, Cambridge, tel. 0223 60406.

Mrs Mollie Finbow of 30 Capsfield, Stutton, Suffolk IP9 2SP would be grateful for any news of happenings in action or otherwise to Pte A B J White No. 5834834, 2nd Cambs, H W Pioneer Platoon. Missing in action (transferred from the Suffolk Regiment).

C/Sgt H S Taylor would be grateful for support from sergeants for the Suffolk Regiment sergeants' dinner to be held on Sept 17 at Bury St Edmunds. He can be contacted on 0638 663677.

### **Col D H Bristow, Commandant of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, writes:**

I SUSPECT that an informal network of contacts with retired colleagues already exists within the county but I wondered if we could put it on a more formal basis so that information from county headquarters could be spread quickly to all our retired members.

The tragic deaths of Capt Mike Veal and SSI Jeremy Lander, I think, highlighted the need for information to be passed down to retired members as quickly as possible.

There are other occasions when welfare matters are of interest to our retired members and usually when this information is needed it is also a time when county staff are extremely busy dealing with the incident itself or other arrangements.

A retired member in Cambridge, Wisbech, Peterborough and Huntingdon could, if you are prepared to undertake the task, be most helpful.

The idea is that county headquarters would pass that information to yourselves and you would undertake to inform at least two of your colleagues and they in turn would inform two others and so forth down the network or chain.

To do otherwise means that county headquarters would have to contact so many individuals that from time to time I have to admit that some people

have not been contacted and have not been informed of events that they would wish to know about.

I am asking the initial contact to be Col Derek Latchford for the Cambridge area, Maj David Bailey for the Wisbech area, Maj Les English for the Peterborough area and Capt Eric Pallash for the Huntingdon area.

Also for your information I have contacted Col Derek Latchford and Maj Les English, the chairman and secretary respectively of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force League, which I hope we will be able to revitalise.

I must emphasise that the purpose of the league is to keep retired members in touch and it will be a matter entirely for the league what occasions they wish to arrange and how often they meet.

As Commandant I am simply offering my support to the league and underlining the principle that the county headquarters facilities should be considered your 'Depot'.

### **Officers' Dinner**

THE annual dinner was held on Apr 9 at the county cadet headquarters, Waterbeach when 70 members and guests sat down at the tables among the glittering Regimental silver.

Lt Col Pat Macdonald, the Deputy Honorary Colonel, presided in the unfortunate absence of the president. Col W F Page, who was indisposed. Capt Tim Seal officiated as Mr Vice.

The guests of honour were Lt Col & Mrs P G R Horrell, Commanding Officer of the 5th (V) Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment. The colours were also on display completing the scene.

After the loyal toasts, Maj N ffitch the Commanding Officer of 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company, 5th (V) Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment spoke of the sad loss of Maj Mike Veal but stated that the company was now recovering and was actively recruiting with numbers nearly up to strength.

Thanks were given to C/Sgt H S Taylor for the hard work put into preparing the room and silver and generally for his work as Mess Sergeant.

## Vikings orienteers win NI title

THE Battalion orienteering team gathered from all parts of the TAOR on Apr 24 to compete in the 1994 NI orienteering championships. These were held on the sand dunes and hills of the Ballykinler training area. The event was hosted by 15 Signal Regiment and had 11 major units competing in it, a record entry.

After a well run team effort, made all the more impressive considering the obvious lack of training, the Vikings won the overall title from 15 Signal Regiment by six minutes. Notable performances were recorded by the evergreen WO2 (TQMS) Bonnett who was first on the A course, and Capt Hart, the Operations Officer, who was first on the B course. Capt Vincent (Viking in exile) was placed third on the A course while running for 39 Infantry Brigade.

The Battalion has qualified to compete in the Army orienteering championships in late May at Swinerton near Stoke-on-Trent and will be seeking to improve on the eighth place gained in Berlin in 1993.

## Rugby team takes on Dungannon

THE Vikings RFC raised a XV after being challenged to a game by Dungannon RFC. The side was selected from all four companies and travelled from the outstations by CMV to meet at Killymeal House on Tuesday 19 Apr

On arrival at the clubhouse, the team was pleased to find that the opposition was not going to be DGN 1st XV with their international player, Paddy Johns. Nevertheless the prospect of playing the 3rd XV from the top club in Ulster after four months without having seen a rugby ball, was daunting to say the least.

In true Vikings style the side rose to the task, with the forwards giving a fine show, especially in the second half. By the end of the match the backs almost looked like they knew what they were doing as well!

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# Sport

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With the score at 27-3 to the home side at half time, the Vikings XV did tremendously well in the second half to come back to 27-22 by the final whistle. In addition to a penalty try, tries were scored by LCpl Self & 1 Cpl Picton. Dmr Stevenson converted two of these and scored a penalty.

The Vikings were most grateful to Dungannon RFC for a fine evening. It was a real pleasure for everyone involved to have a few hours away from Killymeal and enjoy Dungannon's superb hospitality.

## Regimental golfers brave sleet and hail

THE first meeting of the Regimental Golfing Society took place at Flempton Golf Club on Apr 14. A good turnout braved sleet, hail, rain and a biting wind to turn in some very creditable performances.

The results were as follows: Medal handicap: winner, Mr E Leyland; runner-up, Mr D J Wharton. Stableford: winner, Capt G N Taylor; runner-up, Maj Roy Jenns. Stableford foursomes: winners, Messrs Cox and Taylor; runners-up, Messrs Horton and Wharton.

The following fixtures are arranged for the remainder of this year.

Queens Division triangular meeting at Canterbury May 27.

Annual Regimental meeting, Stowmarket Golf Club June 17.

Autumn meeting, Flempton Golf Club Sept 9.

Match v Flempton Golf Club Sept 10.

# Cricket

## 1994 Fixtures

Sunday April 24	St Joseph's College	2pm	Ipswich
	Lt Col G D Duthoit (match manager)		
Sunday May 1	Uppingham School	2pm	Uppingham
	Capt H Newson		
Sunday May 8	Haileybury Nondescripts	2pm	Bassingbourn
	Capt B A Foster		
Sunday June 5	Harrow School	2pm	Harrow
	Lt Col B H M Davenport		
Sunday June 12	Felsted School	2pm	Felsted
	Capt H Newson		
Sunday June 19	Brentwood School	2pm	Brentwood
	Lt Col B H M Davenport		
Sunday June 26	Bancroft's School	2pm	Woodford Green
	Lt Col G D Duthoit		
Wednesday June 29	Gresham's School	11.30am	Bassingbourn
	Lt Col G D Duthoit		
Monday July 4	Framlingham College	11.30am	Framlingham
	Lt Col B H M Davenport		
Tuesday July 5th	Woodbridge School	2pm	Woodbridge
	Lt Col B H M Davenport		
Sunday July 10	Commander 54 (East Anglia) Brigade XI	2pm	Colchester
	Lt Col B H M Davenport		
Tuesday July 12	Perse Pelicans	2pm	Cambridge
	Lt Col P W Field		

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## Sport

# Poachers ski Olympic course

Lt Ralph Woodisse writes:

IN November a party of ten led by Lts Kelleway and Woodisse departed Celle bound for Lillehammer, Norway, venue for the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. Their purpose was to train for the coming Nordic skiing and battalion season which, in the main, was in France in the New Year.

For those unlucky enough ever to have participated in Nordic skiing, it is a sport with a reputation for difficulty second to none, demanding physical strength, stamina, fitness and plenty of determination. Biathlon requires all these qualities in addition to being able to shoot to a high degree of accuracy.

With a mixture of experience the team was split into groups of comparable ability and with our frustratingly brilliant Norwegian instructors, started to learn the skills which would hopefully propel us around the courses faster than the opposition. As well as technique training, our own regimental instructors, Lt Martin Kelleway and Cpl Martin Gray, 'beasted' the novice skiers up and down hills of increasing steepness and difficulty, tightening muscles and shedding pounds as they went.

After three weeks of intensive training a novice team entered the infantry championships which took place in and around the Olympic complex in Lillehammer. After so little training it was extremely pleasing to win two out of the three races and to win back the title of champion infantry team.

Unfortunately the 4 x 7.5 km biathlon relay had to be cancelled due to the weather, at midday the thermometer read -26°C! A particularly gratifying race to win was the patrol race, a military style event involving a 30 km ski carrying issue equipment and rifles in which our novice team defeated all infantry teams both open and novice through a combination of almost no technique and lots of determination.

All races at Les Saïses take place on the Olympic courses and as such are extremely difficult, demanding a great deal of skill and fitness. Added to this is the problem of altitude - Les Saïses is situated at nearly 5,000 ft. and therefore is especially demanding on an athlete's fitness. We were there to compete as guests in the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery and Army Air Corps championships and only arriving the day before the first race were not optimistic of our chances. It was an unexpected surprise therefore, to finish the competition in 2nd place out of 32 teams that competed. The



Above: Cpl Gray parading his ski! Below: The team attempting the tough patrol race.



only team to beat us were 2 RTR, last year's Army champions.

Bolstered by our success the team moved to Les Contamines for the Divisional Championships where the courses were less demanding but the opposition more so. Our most notable success was again in the Patrol Race where the Poachers produced the fastest time of the day to lose out by the narrowest of margins to 35 Engr.

For our final races we returned to Les Saïses for the combined national, inter-service and Army championships. In almost blistering sunshine and then thick fog and sleet the team completed in a series of races with little chance to recover between. It was therefore a tired team which emerged at the

end in a very impressive 5th place, the Battalion's best performance ever.

On the individual side, Pte Geary won the Army award for champion junior novice and with Pte Robb will be training with Great Britain junior biathlon squad with a view, if selected, to go to the junior world championships next year. Pte Mayall was selected to represent the Great Britain B team on the Europa Cup Circuit with a view to him reaching the A team in time for the 1998 Olympics.

In conclusion, despite the obvious physical discomfort the team enjoyed the season, learning a new sport, a couple of languages(!) and gaining experience far

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## Sport

# Poachers take BOAR boxing title

THE Poachers on Jan 28 became the BAOR novice boxing champions for the second time. Boxers started training in September 1993 following the extremely hard fought inter-company competition which was won by A Company.

The route of the final started on Dec 15 1993 when the team boxed the Queen's Royal Hussars at Fallingbostal, having received a bye in the first round. The Poachers won convincingly seven bouts to two against some very tough opposition.

After continued hard physical training, the finals took place at Trenchard Barracks, Celle on Jan 28 against 7 Transport Regiment RLC in the BAOR novice final. It was tough opposition indeed with the team comprising of many boxers from the formerly well-known boxing unit, 10 Regiment RCT.

The bouts were extremely tight, with the balance swinging first to the Poachers and then to 7 Regiment. However, after eight bouts the score was 4-4 and the atmosphere was electric. Then Pte Fulton of A Company at welterweight, took responsibility for the pride of the Battalion and stepped into the ring. He fought a strong and experienced boxer and most thought the bout could go either way, but not it appeared, Pte Fulton. He knocked his opponent out with a punch that would have floored an elephant and the spectators went wild. Pte Fulton



The BAOR Grade 3 novice champions enjoying their success.

became the most unlikely battalion hero.

Following the contest Poacher hospitality prevailed and 7 Tpt Regiment were entertained in all messes and clubs.

Regrettably, due to the Operation Grapple, and training for the deployment on United Nations duties in Bosnia, the Poachers had to withdraw from the Army competition.

The boxing team were: Bantamweight – Pte McMillian, LCpl Fox and Pte Hardy.

Featherweight – LCpl Ogden and LCpl Creighton. Lightweight – Pte Tracy and Cpl Simpson. Light Welterweight – Pte Allen and Pte George. Welterweight – Pte Fulton and Pte Grant. Light Middleweight – Pte Batty and Pte Grice. Middleweight – Pte Berridge and Pte Pearce. Light heavyweight – Pte Rundle and Pte Ainge. Heavyweight – Pte Johnson, Pte Francis and Pte Donovan. Coach – WO2 Downland BEM. Assistants – Sgt Jones, Cpl Knott and LCpl Aukland.

## Steelback runners in good form

THE Battalion's running team continues to have success both on the cross-country circuit and the road and with new blood being found all the time the future looks promising.

The team became runners-up in the Edist (South) cross-country championships held at the ATR Bassingbourn earlier this year, with Cpl Dean Marshall winning the race overall and WO2 Alan Dent claiming the veterans runners-up title.

The team then became the first in the district home in the TA national championships held at Longmoor, Hants, where Cpl Marshall again had an excellent 10th place against extremely strong opposition.

Recently, Dean has won both the RAF Halton Hills cross-country and the Sandy 10 mile+ road race, and with the Great Eastern half marathon taking place shortly,



5 R Anglian – Edist (South) cross country, runners up 1994

the team are hopeful of more success.

The TA half marathon and 10 km championships will be held in August and

the Steelbacks will be competing strongly for more honours, to complete a very successful season

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# Births marriages and deaths

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## VIKINGS

**BIRTHS:** Soanes — To CSgt and Mrs Soanes a daughter Chloë Anastasia; Oddy — To Pte and Mrs Oddy a son Gavin Lewis; **Johnson** — To L/Cpl and Mrs Johnson a daughter Holly; **Buff** — To Pte and Mrs Buff a daughter Katie Marie; **Norman** — To Cpl and Mrs Norman a daughter Ann Marie; **Milne** — To Dmr and Mrs Milne a daughter Samantha-Jordan; **Greenhalgh** — To L/Cpl and Mrs Greenhalgh a daughter Sophie; **Woods** — L/Cpl and Mrs Woods a daughter Nicole; **Moy** — To L/Cpl and Mrs Moy a daughter Gabrielle Alice; **Taylor** — To Cpl and Mrs Taylor a daughter Rebecca Louise; **Moller** — To Pte and Mrs Moller a son Luke.

**MARRIAGES:** **Baldwin-Lydon** — On Aug 28 Dmr Baldwin to Miss Dawn Elizabeth Lydon; **Brunton-Smith** — On Sept 4 Pte Brunton to Miss Tammie Smith; **O'Dwyer** — On Sept 4 Pte O'Dwyer to Joanne Elizabeth; **Anthony** — On Oct 2 Dmr Anthony to Melanie Jane; **Jones-Copping** — On 4 Dec Pte Jones to Miss Sarah Joan Copping; **Penny-Lesley**

— On Dec 4 Cpl Penny to Jayne Lesley; **Johnson** — On 18 Dec L/Cpl Johnson to Alison Marie; **Smith** — On Dec 18 Pte Smith to Kathryn Anne; **Cuthbert** — On Dec 24 Pte Cuthbert to Kim Jane; **Gardiner** — On Mar 26 Cpl Gardiner to Angela; **Evans** — On May 20 L/Cpl Evans to Melanie-Jane.

## POACHERS

**BIRTHS:** McAllister — To LCpl and Mrs McAllister a son Conner William; **Tate** — To Pte and Mrs Tate a daughter Kerri-Anne-Jayne; **Wiles** — To Capt and Mrs Wiles a daughter Victoria Elizabeth; **Warner** — To Cpl and Mrs Warner a son James Stewart; **O'Dell** — To Sgt and Mrs O'Dell a daughter Lucy Anne; **Jones** — To Sgt and Mrs Jones a son Bryn; **Cotton** — To Cpl and Mrs Cotton a son Jake Alan; **Scourfield** — To Pte and Mrs Scourfield a son Duncan Anthony; **Morson** — To Cpl and Mrs Morson a daughter Courtney Ruth; **Grice** — To Pte and Mrs Grice a daughter Lauren Hayley.

**MARRIAGES:** **Hackney-Oldenburg** — On Dec 17 LCpl Hackney to Miss Michelle

Oldenburg; **Harrison-Hogan** — On Dec 21 Pte Harrison to Miss Sarah Hogan; **Gray-Kolzow** — On Feb 14 Cpl Gray to Miss Kathrin Kolzow; **Potts-Stang-Gjertsen** — On Apr 9 LCpl Potts to Miss Elizabeth Stang-Gjertsen; **Clark-Hone** — On Apr 19 Pte Clarke to Miss Beverley Hone.

## DEATHS

We announce with regret the deaths of the following: Maj H N Stenning 3 East Anglian 11 Jul 93, Maj (QM) R Hutchinson-Brooks R Anglian 8 Sep 93, Lt Col (Hon Col) R W Littlehales OBE ex Essex 26 Mar 93, Maj M R Veal (V) R Anglian 18 Dec 93 in a drowning accident with Sgt J J Lander ACF, Maj A J Nudds ex 3rd East Anglian also in Jan, Maj (Hon Lt Col) J Harrison ex Beds & Herts 8 Aug 93, Maj M D O'Reilly 3rd East Anglian 9 Sep 93. We also record with deep regret the deaths of Major the Rev Edward Simpson RACHd on Jan 5 and William M A Paterson on Apr 14 '94, Lt Col H N Daniels DSO late R Leics on Apr 18 '94, Lt Col K P B Goldschmidt R Anglian on Apr 29 '94.

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# Obituaries

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## Lt Col Oswald Cary-Elwes

OSWALD Cary-Elwes, who died on Jan 2 1994 at the age of 80, was a soldier and military diplomat who will be particularly remembered for his wartime exploits in the SAS and for the great contribution he made throughout his life towards good relations between the French and the British Armies.

Cary-Elwes was educated at Ampleforth College where he excelled at boxing and rugby football. An adventurous and popular figure, he chose a military career, being commissioned into the 2nd Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment in 1933 where he got his first taste of military action in Palestine.

He was sent out to Lagos as Brigade Major, Nigerian Brigade and in 1942, he was posted to the 1st Army in North Africa and was involved in Operation Torch and the liberation of Algeria. In 1943 in Constantine, he eagerly accepted Bill Stirling's invitation to join the newly-formed 2nd SAS Regiment. He took part in SAS raids into Sicily and was in SAS operations in Italy, including the landing at Taranto.

The 4th French SAS Regiment with

Commandant Bourgoin parachuted into Brittany on the night of June 5/6 1944 to arm and train a Maquis army to fight alongside the SAS.

On the night of June 23, Cary-Elwes, accompanied by his batman Cpl Eric Mills who had served with him since 1934, made a blind parachute jump into the area east of Vannes to find Bourgoin who had been involved in heavy fighting. They were to support the rapid arming of the Maquis army and to re-establish contact with Brigade HQ in London.

Cary-Elwes and his team had to find then penetrate the Maquis and at the same time avoid the entire German army (now extra vigilant), the SS, the Gestapo and, most dangerously as they were only too soon to discover, the Milice, the French militia who worked against their own people for the Germans.

In spite of great difficulties and the risk of betrayal and summary execution, Cary-Elwes successfully joined up with Bourgoin and reopened contact with London.

Cary-Elwes and Mills were then returned to London but two weeks later, parachuted back into Brittany and joined up

with Bourgoin once again. Save for another short spell at Ringway training new French SAS recruits to parachute, he spent the rest of the war on operations with the 4th French SAS Regiment across northern France and into Belgium. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre avec palme and Legion d'Honneur and was Mentioned in Despatches.

After various staff and regimental appointments, in 1955, Cary-Elwes was posted to Fontainebleau in France as chief of the Commander-in-Chief's secretariat, SHAPE and from 1958 to 1962, he was head of the British Military Mission to the Commander-in-Chief of the French Army in Germany.

He returned to England and was appointed Commandant, Army school of Civil Defence. After a four-year posting at the Ministry of Defence, where he was involved in the standardisation of NATO military equipment, he retired in 1968.

In 1938, he married Pamela Brendon with whom he had six children. He is survived by his widow and five of his children.

CCE

# Obituaries



## Capt Steven Peter Wormald

Capt Steven Wormald was tragically killed in Gornja Vakuf, Bosnia on Apr 29 1994 after the Landrover in which he was travelling hit a landmine. He had arrived in Bosnia as part of the Poachers advance party in UNPROFR only two days previously.

His death was made the more tragic because he was on a track used safely by UN forces on several occasions beforehand.

Steve was born in Pontefract, West Yorkshire in 1965 and was a Yorkshireman through and through. After Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Regiment and joined the 3rd Battalion in Minden in 1984. While in Germany he went twice to Batus and also to Belfast.

After serving with the Battalion for two years he was posted to the Depot The Queen's Division at Bassingbourn and it was there that he met Jo, whom he later married in October '91. After Bassingbourn he returned to the Pompadours in Colchester.

In 1990 Steve was posted to the Junior Infantry Battalion and based at Crickhowell



Picture: By courtesy of The Yorkshire Post

where he mastered all the pursuits his Wing taught, becoming an expert canoeist and wind surfer. During the winter months he set up and ran a ski lodge for junior soldiers in Bavaria.

In 1992 Steve attended the junior division at the staff college and joined the Poachers in Celle; he became A Company Operations Officer during a six month tour in Dungannon. Subsequently he was involved in the Bosnia work-up in Celle before joining the advance party

A man of great humour and generosity of spirit, Steve made an impression on all those who met him. Dubbed "The Marquis

of Castleford" in the Pompadours, he was regarded by his friends and seniors as a very professional officer with a bright future. Fit and taking great pride in his personal skills, he always looked after his men first, commanding respect and loyalty from those who served with him.

Steve was a devoted husband and friend. It was a reflection of his character that so many members of the Regiment attended his funeral in Castleford; he will be greatly missed by all and our deepest sympathy goes out to Jo and his family.

RNG

## Lt Col A W J Turnbull MC

Lt Col A W J Turnbull MC, who has died aged 71, had a distinguished military career and after retirement was appointed Regimental Secretary of The Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Regiment Association at Britannia Barracks, Norwich.

Col Turnbull was born at Meekatharra Western Australia on July 19 1922 and after attending Duntroon Military College in Canberra joined the 2/8th Australian Infantry Battalion who were on active service in New Guinea against the invading Japanese Army. Alex Turnbull was awarded the Military Cross for his outstanding leadership as a platoon commander.

After the War, as was then the practice with Australian regular officers, he did an attachment to a British Regiment and was posted to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment in India. He was subsequently recommissioned into The Royal

Norfolk Regiment in which he was to serve happily and successfully and its successor regiments for the next 40 years.

Alex Turnbull was not only an outstanding fighting soldier, but an able administrator. He served as Adjutant of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Regiment and also to the 3rd Battalion of the Kings African Rifles. For services in Malaya with the KAR he was Mentioned in Dispatches. Back with his Regiment he served in Cyprus and Aden, including the Radfan Campaign as 2nd in Command. This was followed by a successful time as Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment from 1964-67.

On staff appointments he was highly regarded in the field of military intelligence holding important posts in the Middle East, the War Office, Washington and Rhine Army. He retired in 1977 to take up the post of Regimental Secretary, where he was to become the cornerstone for military affairs

in Norfolk and also in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

He will be remembered particularly for the part he played in the founding of The Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum in Norwich Castle, which is regarded as a model of its kind in The UK. Until his death he also had an important role in the publication of the final volume of the Regimental History.

Lt Col Turnbull was devoted to the Regiment, and many retired members have been helped by the benevolent funds which he wisely controlled. The Regiment has lost a gallant officer and gentleman who will long be remembered for his courtesy to all ranks and his splendid sense of never failing Australian humour.

He married first Angela Hampton who died in 1979, and secondly Mrs Jean Webster in 1981. They lived in Walberswick, Suffolk. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends

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