



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

JUNE 1996





1st Battalion



2nd Battalion



June 1996

Vol. 9 No. 7

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Colonel C. Dale

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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



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers



Training for Tesex. A Company attack with challengers of B Squadron 912L

From the Colonel of the Regiment

THE last six months has seen a considerable amount of relocation and consolidation in the Regiment. The 2nd Battalion moved to Warminster from Celle in February after nine years in West Germany, the longest period in one station of any of our battalions since our founding. The 1st Battalion will move from Colchester to Oakington in the early summer, on return from exercise in the US and will be settled in time to host the Regimental Gathering on Sept 1.

The 5th Battalion re-roled as 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC (Volunteer) at the end of March in a most moving ceremony in Peterborough. The next day the 6th Battalion marked the 25th anniversary of its formation by exercising its right of the Freedom of Bury St Edmunds.

On May 4 the Regimental Colour of the 1st Battalion was laid up in the Regimental chapel of the Royal Anglian and Royal Norfolk Regiment in Norwich Cathedral, following a review by the Lord Mayor and march through the city by a guard from the 1st Battalion and nearly 200 members of the Royal Norfolk Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment Associations. The 7th Battalion will receive the Freedom of Leicester on June 15 and the Queen's Colour of the 1st Battalion will be laid up in St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds in the spring of 1997.

Interspersed amongst these major events are, I know, many other Battalion and Association activities and gatherings marking our historic battle honours and maintaining contact right across the Regimental family.

These are covered in more detail elsewhere in this journal.

In casting my mind back over this period, one cannot help but be struck by just how active and alive the Regiment continues to be throughout our nine counties. The other less obvious factor which I find immensely heartening is the easy and ready interdependence between the three core elements of the Regiment in the staging and arranging of the majority of these events; by which I mean, the Regular Battalions, the Territorial Battalions and our Associations, be they former Regiments or Royal Anglians.

The trauma of the loss of one of our Territorial Battalions is now behind us and



there is no sense in looking over our shoulders any more at the ravages of Options, restructuring or whatever other title Whitehall wished to disguise reduction with. For the next two years we will have both Regular Battalions in the UK, together with two fine Territorial Battalions and a flourishing Association network to underpin the Regimental structure. Our county affiliations and responsibilities are now clearly defined and allocated to our four Battalions. For the first time in a decade we have the whole Regiment in the UK and we must grasp this opportunity to continue to cement our relationships with our counties by all the means available to us. I congratulate everybody on the marvellous start we have made this year; long may it continue.

I am particularly happy to welcome the Poachers back to these shores on behalf of the Regiment. Their reputation and professional ability and standing throughout their time in Celle was second to none; a fact frequently confirmed in the various messages of farewell they received from all levels of command in Germany. I was especially touched by the sentiments of genuine warmth and friendship expressed by the Stadt Director of Celle at the town's farewell reception for the Battalion, where it was quite clear that not only had the Battalion excelled professionally but were also considered model citizens as well. I would also like to congratulate the 1st Battalion on reaching the finals of the Army novices boxing competition, which it hosted at Colchester at the end of April. It was a magnificent evening and despite losing, a

great credit to the Regiment.

The Regimental Museum Trustees have now confirmed that the Regimental Museum will be officially opened by Mr Martin Bell, the BBC War Correspondent and ex-member of the Suffolk Regiment, on June 13 at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Having attended a preliminary viewing, I am confident that all members of the Regiment will be impressed by what they see and by the enormous efforts of a dedicated team lead by Colonel Trevor Veitch, in achieving so much so soon. Details of the opening are being circulated separately.

Two long-serving servants of the Regiment retire this year. Lt Col John Wilson, who has been Assistant Regimental Secretary for Leicestershire and Northamptonshire since 1981, and Col Christopher Dale, Regimental Secretary since 1988. Separate notes on Christopher Dale and John Wilson appear elsewhere in this journal, but I would wish to mark my own and the Regiment's great appreciation for all they have done and achieved for us over the years – they will be sorely missed. Lt Col Trevor Veitch will take over as Regimental Secretary in August. Anthony Swallow has recently taken over from John Wilson in Leicester.

My own five years as Colonel of the Regiment draws to a close at the end of the year, when Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker will take over from me. The exact date has yet to be confirmed and will depend on the situation in Bosnia. Brig Peregrine Rawlins will take over from Brigadier Colin Groves as Deputy Colonel, with special responsibilities for the 2nd and 7th Battalions and the counties of Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire at the end of June. I am deeply grateful to Colin Groves for all he has done for the Regiment and more particularly, his support, friendship and guidance to myself.

May I as usual pass on my gratitude and congratulations for all the Regiment continues to do and achieve and for which there is no space to detail here, and wish you all well until the next edition of the Castle.

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 and 6th (V) Battalions: Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, KCB, CBE
2nd & 7th (V) Battalions: Brigadier C Groves (From June 30 96, Brigadier PP Rawlins MBE)
Colonel D K Harris, OBE, TD, DL

President of the Regimental Association

Major General Sir David Thorne, KBE, CVO

Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk: Colonel P B D Long, OBE
Suffolk: Brigadier A J K Calder, OBE
Cambridgeshire: Colonel P G R Horrell, TD
Lincolnshire: Colonel D K Harris, OBE, TD, DL
Leicestershire: Colonel J C D Heggs
Northamptonshire: Colonel P Worthy
Bedfordshire: Colonel T A Winton, OBE
Hertfordshire: Col N G Halsey, TD
Essex: Colonel R C Tomkins, OBE, TD, DL

Alliances

Australia	The Royal Tasmania Regiment
Barbados	The Barbados Regiment
Belize	Belize Defence Force
Bermuda	The Bermuda Regiment
Canada	Sherbrooke Hussars
	The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
	The Essex and Kent Scottish
	The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment
	The Gibraltar Regiment
Gibraltar	1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment
Malaysia	3rd Battalion (Auckland {Countess of Ranfurly's and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
New Zealand Own}	5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment
Pakistan	First City Regiment
South Africa	Regiment de la Rey

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, Newham, 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: 01284 752394 Fax: 752026 / Colchester Military 5124)

Regimental Secretary: Colonel C J Dale (Lieutenant Colonel T D A Veitch 16 Aug 96)

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major M Jones

Regimental Careers Officer: Major R C Gould

Area Office, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre. (Tel: 01603 400290)

325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD.

Area Secretary: Major W H Reeve

Area Office, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire

Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton NN1 3RE. (Tel: 01604 35412)

Area Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel F A H Swallow OBE

Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln LN1 3PY. (Tel: 01522 525444)

Area Secretary: Captain D J Lee BEM (Lincoln)

Area Office, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Essex CM13 3BN. (Tel: 01277 213051)

Area Secretary: Major D J Thorogood

Regimental Information Team

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn. (Tel: 01763 242271)

Captain R J Allen

BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester.

(Moves to Oakington Aug 96)

Lieutenant Colonel R E Harrold OBE

2nd Battalion, Celle BFPO 23. Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster

Wilts BA12 0AZ to (Cyprus 98)

Lieutenant Colonel D J Clements MBE

6th (V) Battalion

TA Camp, Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds.

Lieutenant Colonel H N D Gill (V)

7th (V) Battalion,

TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

Lieutenant Colonel J B C Prescott

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Major C J Pearce

Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Major J W Rollins MBE

RMA Sandhurst: Captain N F C Nottingham

Mainly about People

Honours, transfers and Army departures

Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following on their honours and awards during the last six months: **Lt Col K Hodgson OBE** (CO 8 RIR); **Lt Col R E Harrod OBE** (HQ Northern Ireland); **Maj T J Smith MBE** (Bosnia Tour with the staff); **Maj J W Rollins MBE** (COS ITC Catterick); **WO2 G L Long MBE** (services in Oman); **LCpl D E Metcalf MBE** (V), (ex CSgt A (Lincoln) Company 7 Royal Anglian, now R.I.C.); **Capt A Jones**, Joint Commanders Commendation (Bosnia).

Transfers

Lt M W Stickland has transferred to the Royal Irish Regiment (HSF) on Dec 21, 1995. We wish him the best of good fortune in his new Regiment.

Appointments

We congratulate **Col J S Houchin OBE** on his appointment as secretary of the East Anglian TAVRA and wish **Col P D L Hopper** whom he replaced, and his wife Gemma, all possible happiness in retirement.

Left the Army

The following have left the Army since the December issue of the Castle: **Col J S Houchin OBE** Jan 16, 1996; **Col M K Goldschmidt** Feb 1, 96; **Capt M J Kelleway** Jan 19, 96; **Brig C Groves** Apr 30, 96. We wish them all the best of good fortune in their retirement and hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions.

Promotions

We congratulate **Maj J W Rollins MBE** and **Maj R J Kemp MBE** on their selection for promotion in this year's 'pink list'

New management of the Royal Anglian Regiment Cricket Club

Lt Col Brian Davenport is to retire as secretary and hand over to **Capt Freddie Grounds**. **Capt Andy Foster** has agreed to be treasurer. Fixtures — see **Page 80**.

Laying up the 1st Battalion colours

THE on May 4 weather was kind if cold as a guard of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, commanded by the second-in-command **Maj Robert Goodin**, paraded before the Lord Mayor of Norwich, councillor **Lila Cooper**. Also drawn up on parade was a large contingent of Royal Anglian and Norfolk Regiment Association members under command of their chairman **Maj Gen Sir David Thorne**.

The new colours of the 1st Battalion were carried by **Lt Patrick Shea-Simonds** and **2Lt David Moss**. After the inspection, the parade marched past the Mayor with the Colonel of the Regiment in attendance. The Mayor addressed the parade and the Colonel of the Regiment replied, stating how important the Regiment considered its ties with the city and county of Norwich and hoped that these would remain and indeed strengthen over the years to come.

After the parade, the colour was laid up in Norwich Cathedral. The Colonel of the Regiment read the lesson and the **Right Rev Michael Mann** gave one of those totally apt and splendid sermons which everybody on such an occasion prays for and which, rather sadly, are seldom delivered (see below). The service over, the soldiers on parade were given refreshments by the City Council and a reception was held for others at **St Andrews Hall**, which everybody greatly enjoyed.

In all, it was a splendid afternoon, greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The old Queen's Colour of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment will be laid up at **St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds** in the spring of 1997 — the date to be confirmed.

The Sermon by the Rt Rev Mann

IN that second Lesson we heard **St Paul** telling the people at **Philippi** that "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."

For me that exhortation summarises all that service and loyalty to a Regiment involves. The laying up of a Regimental colour in this glorious Cathedral church is a symbol of all that is true, honourable and

good report. The old county regiments that go to make up the more modern Royal Anglian Regiment have a combined history over a period of more than 300 years of all that is true and honourable in Christian soldierly service to God and country. So it is more than appropriate that the symbol of that loyalty and service — the Regimental Colour — should be laid up in the mother church, which has itself seen so much of our history, and which over the centuries has stood as a landmark of Christian belief, pointing its spire to all those things that are of above.

It is from these roots that the men of Norfolk and Suffolk have drawn the inspiration and courage of fight for whatsoever things are of good report. And it is this continuity of service and sacrifice, in spite of change, that is so important. **Lord Salisbury** once commented to **Queen Victoria**, "Change, change, who wants change, things are bad enough as they are." But whether it be the 9th or 12th of Foot, the Royal Norfolk or the Suffolk Regiment, or now the Royal Anglian Regiment, as the writer to the Hebrews reminded us, it is — that seeing we are surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses, we have the courage to run the race that is set before us, looking unto **Jesus** as the author of our faith.

For while patriotism has its part to play, in my experience it is the comradeship of a Regiment that much more inspires men to rise above their normal hesitancy, and perform deeds of gallantry and self-sacrifice. This is the strength of a Regiment, no-one wants to let down his comrades — his mates — or the example of those who have gone before.

And what an example it has been, not only in victory, but perhaps even more in adversity, where courage is really tested. The famous **Britannia** badge of the Norfolks, the **Holy Boys**, awarded by **Queen Anne** for your forebears' gallantry at the disastrous **Battle of Almanza**; or the 5th Battalion of the Norfolks, whose **Sandringham** Company disappeared to a man at **Gallipoli**; or the Norfolks who were massacred as prisoners of war by the **SS** during the retreat to **Dunkirk**. And then there were the officers and men of the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions whose experience as

Mainly about People



Picture courtesy of the Eastern Daily Press

prisoners of the Japanese, drew them together in a bond of common suffering. So often it is adversity that binds men together, even more than victory. But Norfolk has always provided soldiers of exceptional character, like Col Sherwood-Kelly, or Mr Fitt, DCM that formidable RSM, or Peter Barclay who won the first Military Cross to be awarded in 1939. They say that you can always tell a Norfolk man, even if you cannot tell him much! But a Regiment that has won 24 VCs and in the Second World War won more VCs than any other Regiment, hardly needs to be told how to soldier.

War is evil, and yet in a strange paradox its very beastliness and horror seems to unite men in this brotherhood of shared experience and danger, that brings forth some of our noblest and finest responses. There is a story told of your 2nd Battalion in Burma of a heavy bout of shelling, which sent everyone flying for their foxholes. When it lifted the Company Commander

was astonished to see a solitary Private standing at the ready with his rifle. "Why didn't you take cover like all the others?" "Sir, Sergeant said you stand there till I tell you to move - that's what I did."

So today, as this symbol of your service is laid up in this Cathedral church, I give thanks for all the Christian values, all those things which are true and honourable and are of good report, that the men of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and their forebears in the Royal Norfolk Regiment have upheld. And I give thanks for the way ordinary men from the fields and towns of Norfolk have discovered, often under the most terrible conditions, the self-discipline, courage, bravery and unselfishness, which the bonds of comradeship and shared experience have brought forth. Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are of good report, we used to think on these things.

New Regimental Secretary

LT COL VEITCH, pictured, will take over as Regimental Secretary at Bury St Edmunds on Aug 16 96. Lt Col Veitch was a Pompadour, served with the 5th Battalion and commanded Belize Defence Force.

He will be known more recently as a persistent and extremely successful project officer and appeals director for the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, which by the time we have gone to print will have been officially opened by Mr Martin Bell.

We welcome him into the chair!



Trevor Veitch

Letter

Gratitude over support for museum

Sir, Now that the Regimental Museum is open and our many serving and retired members will have visited it, may I ask you please to publicise my expression of gratitude to all who supported me over the past three years. Some may not know that we had no museum collection at that time, but the Battalions and the area secretaries responded generously to my many demands for material and information.

Those who come to mind in giving particular help with the collection are Maj David Whitehead, Maj Roland Ladley, Maj Peter Williamson, Maj Nigel Burrell, Maj Bill O'Driscoll and the Quartermaster and Commanding Officers of all Battalions. I must also thank those of the former 5th Battalion who put up with me and provided for my every request over two years.

Having raised the collection of material to display it all had to be prepared, conserved and documented before finally going into the display cases. This work has been in the hands of Mr George Boss and Sergeant Boyd of 158 Regiment RLC. Both have worked long hours, often weekends, to meet some demanding deadlines. Mr Boss is the museum's attendant and is the man to contact if you have material to display or if you need information on the museum.

Sgt Boyd has himself constructed the many display aides, the stands and shelving that we needed, assisted in recent months by Sgt Montagu, Cpl Lange and Dmr Lange of the TA.

There are many more I would like to personally name and thank but cannot do so here. The Regiment should know, however, that the help provided was critical to the project's completion. I am most grateful to them all.

Imperial War Museum
Duxford Airfield
Duxford
Cambs 01223 835000

Mainly about People

Helping to rebuild Bosnia

Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker KCB, CBE Commander Ace Rapid Reaction Corps, Commander IFOR Land Forces, ARRC Main, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, BFPO 543 writes:

IN October of 1994 the commander of the newly formed Ace Rapid Reaction Corps, then Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, stood in front of his staff and gave them the news that they could be in the former Yugoslavia by Christmas. He was right, only the year was wrong.

I assumed command of the ARRC on Dec 8, 1994 in Rheindahlen, and arrived to a flurry of planning activity. Days later I was in Bosnia for the first of over half a dozen visits to Theatre. Almost exactly one year on, I found myself stepping onto the tarmac of Sarajevo airport amidst the world medias as the commander of the ground component of the NATO Peace Implementation Force.

After 120 days of peace in the former Yugoslavia, NATO's mission continues at a thundering pace. Even though the eye of the world's media is now focused on other things, excellent work continues to be done by the multinational force of some 52,000 men and women. Unfortunately, media attention tends only to be drawn to perceived failings in the peace process, and the truly impressive results of the Peace Implementation Force gain only scant coverage. It would be impossible to list all its achievements, but of key importance to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are these simple facts:

- Opposing armies have stopped killing each other and innocent civilians;
- Front line trenches and bunkers lie empty and dismantled as soldiers return to their families;
- Without fear of mortar or artillery attack children again attend school above ground, and mothers purchase fresh food in well stocked shops all over the country;
- Families separated by war are united again in peace.

Faced with this story, one can understand the weight that reports on British beef gain, but under the now calm waters lie the ever present reefs. War criminals, mass grave sites and the stability of the Federation itself are but a few of the problems which continue to demand solutions. But with substantial compliance from the parties within the Military Annex of the Peace Agreement, the current concerns for stability and the contin-



Maj John Raybould, Gen Sir Michael Walker and Capt Richard Lynne

ued success of the Dayton Agreement shifts firmly to the civil and political agenda.

Political will by all sides to build on the foundations of peace which NATO has provided is now crucial but not immediately forthcoming. Provocation and intimidation, dis-information campaigns and new level terrorism by all parties have ensured that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have their minds focused on their differences rather than their political joint strength. This is the new tragedy of the Balkans: a country with so much to offer its people, but lacking in leaders with the courage to give a war-weary nation a chance to succeed.

Military achievement

The mission continues, the Dayton Agreement holds and guns in the Balkans remain silent. The military have kept their side of the bargain, achieving results better than ever expected. Starting now are the complex and difficult tasks of civil reconstruction, political development and humanitarian progress. The international community must address the momentum needed if Bosnia is to have reintegration rather than ethnic separation.

I have enormous admiration for the 34 nations from the NATO and non-NATO countries for their determination and co-operation in this military challenge. IFOR will continue to provide the environment for the international community to inject and manage funds promised at Dayton and do all it can to bring about the peaceful, multi-ethnic society sought in the former Yugoslavia.

Maj John Raybould (formerly OC HQ (Suffolk) and OC A (Norfolk) Companies, 6 Royal Anglian writes from Log Ops, Rear Headquarters, Ace Rapid Reaction Corps, Kiseljak, Bosnia-Herzegovina, BFPO 542:

FOUR inches of snow fell this late April evening in Bosnia where this was being written. I have been working since January 1996 on the Corps Log Ops desk in the ARRC Logistics HQ in Kiseljak, on the far side of Mt Igman from Sarajevo.

Normally serving with 19 Mech Brigade, it has been a rare experience for a TA officer. Granted leave of absence from my school in Thetford, with 500 other TA men and women I was mobilised in December 1995 in Catterick. After passing tests on fitness, nuclear, biological and chemical defence, signals, first aid and shooting we transferred on permanent service to the Regular Army – for six months!

After inoculations, briefings (including a mine awareness demonstration and, even for the 30 or so females, the infamous technicolour VD slide session), Arctic weather kit, body armour and personal weapon issue, 24 of us moved to Bulford for a spot of leave. My wife Janine had not expected to see me until June and had made other arrangements for Christmas lunch. I was offered a seat at the table and we aimed to depart at 3pm for Bulford on Christmas Day to catch the flight. But on the morning of Christmas Day the departure was cancelled until January, so I was here for our 29th wedding anniversary.

Continued Page 9

Mainly about People

From Page 8

sary and had time to go shopping.

The snow covered mountain scenery was majestic. The devastation of war and human misery beats my vocabulary. With an escort vehicle, with loaded weapon, wearing helmet and body armour, I followed a horse and cart, precariously piled with window frames, doors and a few possessions. The Serb family were moving out of Sarajevo to join others of the same ethnic origins.

I heard the Kiwi accent of Lt Col Craig Cocker, then the Commanding Officer ARRC Support Battalion and soon to become SO1 G4 Ops at ARRC rear. An ex-Viking, he kindly provided a list of other Royal Anglians known to be in Theatre:- Lt Col Brian McDonnell, Pompadour/Poacher, Quartermaster, Support Battalion, but soon to retire; Lt Col Simon Porter, Pompadour/Poacher, SO1 G3 Ops; Maj John Ross, Viking, Quartermaster Tech Support Battalion; Capt Richard Latham, once Pompadour, Poacher and now Viking, SO3 G3 Ops/NBC with the British dominated 3 UK Division at HQ MND-SW; Capt Martin Lyne, Poacher, ADC to Commander ARRC, CSgt Elba-Porter, Viking, Sergeants' Mess Manager; CSgt Pearson, Commander ARRC's House Sergeant and Cpl Clarke, House Corporal.

Former Royal Anglians

Lt Col M A P Amberton RAMC was on the ARRC Rear Medical Desk and I spotted his Royal Anglian Stable Belt. After serving with 1 Royal Anglian 1973-78, he was OC C and HQ Companies 3 Royal Anglian and now commands 251 (V) General Hospital in Sunderland. He told me of another Royal Anglian with RAMC - Maj Mike Godkin, currently 2IC 4 Field Ambulance in Aldershot. Another converted Royal Anglian in ARRC Rear was Maj Nick Brehaut RLC, working as SO2 G4 Movements. After basic training at Bassingbourn he joined 2 Royal Anglian in Munster in 1973. Following RMAS he served with 3 Royal Anglian 1975-84 until rebadging to RAOC. Cap Mike Humme International Corps was also in Kiseljak. In 1976/7 he served with then Brigadier David Thorne as International Sergeant in Portadown.

By good fortune a spot of R&R fell in April and I was able to attend the 4th Battalion Officers' dinner in Norwich, the 4th Battalion Old Comrades Association dinner in Gorleston and the Almanza Day service in the Regimental Chapel.

I will be back home by the time you read this, having missed writing school reports but returning in time for school sports day!

DIARY DATES 1996/97

JUNE

- 5 Great Yarmouth Races, Regimental Handicap.
- 7 Royal Norfolk Officers' Dinner Club dinner.
- 8 Royal Norfolk Officers' Dinner Club luncheon.
- 15 2 and 7 Royal Anglian Exercise Freedom of the City @ Leicester.
- 21 Royal Anglian Regiment golf meeting, Stowmarket.
- 22/23 Royal Tigers weekend, Leicester.
- 26 Royal Lincoln Officers' reunion lunch, Hurlingham Club.
- 26/27 Norfolk Show.
- 31 Essex Regiment Association reunion.
- 30 2nd Battalion exercise Freedom of Bedford (tbc)

JULY

- 4 16th Foot Officers' lunch, Chicheley Hall.
- 6/7 Northamptonshire Regiment reunion.
- 18 Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire Association visit to 2nd Battalion.
- 19 Essex Regiment Association annual dinner.

AUGUST

- 1 Minden Day.
- 3 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club dinner.
- 4 Minden Day reunion, Bury St Edmunds.
- 15 Handover Regimental secretaries.
- 27 Opening of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection at IWM

SEPTEMBER

- 1 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Regiment.
- 1 Association gathering, Oakington.
- 5 Royal Anglian Officers' Club cocktail party, RAG (loc tbc).
- 14 Royal Anglian autumn golf meeting, Flempton.
- 21 Royal Norfolk/Royal Anglian Association dinner.
- 22 Royal Norfolk/Royal Anglian Association service.
- 28-29 Royal Lincolns' Regimental reunion, Lincoln.

OCTOBER

- 4 7th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment reunion.
- 5 Royal Lincolns' Malayan reunion, Lincoln.
- 11 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club lunch, Warley.
- 26 Concert at Warley Chapel in aid of ABF.

NOVEMBER

- 1 Regimental Council meeting and dinner, London (tbc).
- 7 Field of Remembrance.
- 10 Remembrance Sunday.
- 16 Warminster Branch Association dinner
- 17 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association reunion.
- 17 Warminster Branch service of dedication.

DECEMBER

- 7 Royal Leicesters Officers' lunch, London.

1997

- APRIL 18 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party, RAG.

Mainly about People

Regiment orders two Books of Remembrance

THE Regiment has ordered two Books of Remembrance, one of which will be placed in the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum and the other in due course in the Royal Anglian and Suffolk Regiment Chapel in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds.

In the Book of Remembrance will be the names of all East Anglian Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment officers and soldiers who were killed while on duty. Their names are listed below. It is obviously important that the list is correct and you are all invited to make any comments to RHQ particularly if someone has been omitted.

The following members of the Royal Anglian Regiment gave their lives while on duty:

1st/2nd/3rd East Anglian Regiments

Pte K Burton, Oct 31, 1959, 3 East Anglian (at sea); **Pte J F Handford**, Jul 11, 1962, 2 East Anglian (Germany); **Pte J R Shopland**, Jun 4, 1964, 1 East Anglian (Radfan); **Pte B T Fox**, Jun 10, 1964, 1 East Anglian (Aden).

The Royal Anglian Regiment

Pte K Atkin, Dec 24, 1964, 2 Royal Anglian (Cyprus); **Pte W F Frazer**, Dec 31, 1964, 1 Royal Anglian (Aden) KIA; **LCpl N R Boothright**, Feb 20, 1965, 2 Royal Anglian (Cyprus); **Cpl C H Jackson**, Feb 20, 1965, 2 Royal Anglian (Cyprus); **Pte H R Shuckford**, Jan 2, 1966, 4 Royal Anglian (Malta); **Cpl A J Ogilvie**, Apr 21, 1966, 3 Royal Anglian (Berlin); **Pte F R Waterfield**, Aug 5, 1966, 1 Royal Anglian (Germany); **J/Dmr I W Skinner**, Oct 20, 1966, Depot Royal Anglian (UK); **Cpl R Watson**, Oct 24, 1966, 3 Royal Anglian (Aden) KIA; **A/Sgt M G Shirley**, Nov 15, 1966, 2 Royal Anglian (UK); **Cpl J E Herbert**, Mar 3, 1967, 3 Royal Anglian (Aden); **Pte C Rodgers**, Mar 4, 1967, 3 Royal Anglian (Radfan); **Pte B J Sheridan**, Nov 20, 1970, 1 Royal Anglian (N Ireland); **Pte R Wilkins**, Oct 10, 1971, 1 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **LCpl I M Curtis**, Nov 9, 1971, 1 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **2Lt N E Hull**, Apr 16, 1972, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **J H Ballard**,

May 11, 1972, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **LCpl M Rooney**, Jul 12, 1972, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Cpl K C Mogg**, Jul 13, 1972, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Cpl M P Boddy**, Aug 17, 1972, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte R Jackson**, Sep 8, 1972, 1 Royal Anglian (Cyprus); **Cpl J M Barry**, Sep 23, 1972, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte I S D Burt**, Sep 29, 1972, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte R M Mason**, Oct 24, 1972, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte A Goodfellow**, Apr 27, 1973, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte N Marwick**, Sep 12, 1973, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland); **LCpl W J Owens**, Sep 15, 1973, 1 Royal Anglian (Kenya); **Pte E W Edwards**, Sep 15, 1973, 1 Royal Anglian (Kenya); **A/Capt M G Shipley**, Mar 8, 1975, 2 Royal Anglian (Oman) KIA; **Pte K B Ross**, Mar 24, 1976, 3 Royal Anglian (Cyprus); **Pte K Stacey**, Apr 26, 1977, 3 Royal Anglian (Cyprus); **Pte S Foster**, Nov 13, 1978, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland); **Pte P A Wright**, Oct 8, 1979, 3 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte A A Cooper**, Mar 20, 1980, 2 Royal Anglian (Germany); **LCpl K H Johnson**, Jul 4, 1980, 1 Royal Anglian (Germany); **Pte T Anderson**, May 24, 1982, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte M R Patten**, Sep 22, 1985, 1 Royal Anglian (N Ireland); **Maj A F French**, May 22, 1986, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte C J Davies**, Jul 9, 1986, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte M R Bertram**, Jul 9, 1986, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **Pte D Back**, Aug 10, 1987, 2 Royal Anglian (Germany); **Pte N Peacock**, Feb 1, 1989, 2 Royal Anglian (N Ireland) KIA; **LCpl S Langridge**, Mar 18, 1990, 2 Royal Anglian (Germany); **Cpl N Collishaw**, May 9, 1990, 2 Royal Anglian (Germany); **LCpl P Faulkner**, May 9, 1990, 2 Royal Anglian (Germany); **Pte M T J Linney**, Apr 5, 1991, 3 Royal Anglian (UK); **J/Ldr J S Windsor**, Sep 4, 1991, Junior Infantry Battalion (UK); **Sgt J B Devaney**, May 25, 1992, 3 Royal Anglian (UK); **Maj M R Veal TD**, Dec 18, 1993, 5 Royal Anglian (UK); **Sgt (ACF) J J Lander**, Dec 18, 1993, Cambridgeshire ACF (UK); **Capt S P Wormald**, Apr 29, 1994, 2 Royal Anglian (Bosnia) KIA.

From the Padre

Fault and sin must be acknowledged

THERE is a lovely story of St Patrick talking to the King of the Scots. He was in the process of converting the King to Christianity. By mistake he leant heavily upon the spear which was in his right hand and the spear went straight through the foot of the King. The King said nothing although he was in desperate pain because he thought this was all part of the conversion experience.

In our way we are far too soft these days. We do not expect anything of this sort. However, advance in the spiritual life, as in anything else, must be accompanied by a certain amount of rigour. This recent Eastertide has reminded us that the fast must come before the feast, that our Lord had to suffer death on a cross before his resurrection. This pattern of life though usually not in such an extreme form, reflects a universal principle.

Recent events in Cyprus remind us that we should not always be congratulating ourselves or finding excuses. When we are in the wrong we should say so. When we sin we should acknowledge it. When we make mistakes we should repent. Our nation is not fooled easily. There is a universal appeal about somebody who openly acknowledges his fault. Hypocrisy and evasion are easily discerned.

Let us in these days, when the Armed Forces of the Crown have as big a challenge as ever, bear these thoughts in mind. None of us, serving or retired, needs to expect such rigours as the King of Scots experienced, but we are all expected to strive for high standards.

Our Regimental history alone points to this. Pray that we be worthy of the sacrifice of God and of our own Regimental soldiers by heeding these matters.



Rev T Hiney

Mainly about People



Paddy Ashdown meeting members of Sc Company. More Vikings pictures Page 22

Appreciation of a key role in traumatic years

MUCH against Christopher Dale's wishes, I am keen that this short appreciation of his efforts on all our behalf over the last eight years is recorded in this journal.

Christopher Dale became Regimental Secretary in 1988. I suspect at that time he anticipated that his life would evolve around the management of the Regiment's domestic affairs in much the same way as his predecessors: recruitment, officers' careers, the benevolent aspects of the Regimental family and acting as a bridge to the regulars, the territorials and the associations. Like the rest of us, he could hardly have forecast the impact on the Regiment of the end of the Cold War and the ongoing changes that this would bring about. Changes that would increase the workload dramatically on his small staff at Bury St Edmunds, and involved him personally in the long-running battles to save the 3rd Battalion and the 5th Battalion.

Nor would I imagine him at that time anticipating providing the back-up to the planning, fund raising, construction and opening of a new Regimental Museum and the enormous amount of work preparing for the presentation of new colours to the First and Second Battalions in April last year.

Christopher started out in the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, was Chief Instructor at Mons OCS, and commanded the Desert Regiment of the Sultan's Armed Forces, before spending many years as Defence Attache in the Philippines and Saudi Arabia; all experiences which clearly equipped him well in the rigours of Bury St Edmunds.

The Regimental Secretary is the Colonel of the Regiment's righthand man and when, as is so frequently the case, the Colonel of the Regiment is deeply involved in either a service or civilian career, plays a key part in the day-to-day life of the Regiment. Christopher has unfailingly provided the most loyal and wise support to both myself and my predecessor.

I am deeply grateful to him for his enormous efforts over this quite extraordinary busy period. His fulfilment of his busy and important role over the last eight years has been invaluable to the ongoing good health of the Regiment and I wish him well on all our behalfs on his retirement.

Maj Gen PPD Stone

New area secretary for Leicester

LT COL. John Wilson has retired as Area Secretary for Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. He was commissioned into the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1951 and retired in 1981 to become area secretary in 1982.

During his service he was a Company Commander and regimental representative at RMAS in 1957 and commanded the Junior Infantry Leaders Battalion from 1972-74. As Area Secretary, in addition to his duties to the Regiment, he was the staff officer to the Chairmen of the Royal Tigers and Northamptonshire Regiment Associations whom he served loyally and

efficiently, earning the respect and affection of all members of the Association. Members of the Royal Anglian Regiment Dinner Club subscribed generously to a leaving present which was presented to him by Brigadier Colin Groves at the Army and Navy Club before a lunch on May 9.

He has been succeeded by Lt Col Anthony Swallow who was commissioned into the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1957. He commanded the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment from 1977 until 1980. He retired in October 92.

We wish John Wilson and his wife Thea all happiness in retirement.

Your Regimental Association

FOR some considerable time now discussions have been underway to form a branch of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association in the Colchester area. Before we can do this we need to know how much interest there is prior to proceeding.

The form that it would probably take several gatherings a year at a venue yet to be decided, so that you can meet old friends — possibly an annual dinner/party and a Regimental get-together, normally decided upon by RHQ. There would have to be an organising body decided upon by yourselves, should you decide that a local branch is a good idea. If you do, will you please complete the tear-off slip below and send it to me.

From: A C Downes MBE
 3 Bentley Road
 Little Bromley
 Nr Manningtree
 Essex
 CO11 2PL

Post Code

I am interested in forming a Colchester Branch of the Regimental Association and would like to receive further information.

Signed:.....

Mainly about People

Your Benevolent Fund

The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund continues to help those who have fallen on hard times. The sole income for the Benevolent Fund is from the Day's Pay Scheme to which all officers and soldiers of the Royal Anglian Regiment subscribe. If by chance you are not a subscriber please see your company office and fill in the necessary piece of paper!

The fund is administered by RHQ. All members of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association are eligible for help if needs be but inevitably those most helped are soldiers who have retired and have succumbed to ill health. We make a particular point of helping children and wives. Some of the cases are very sad but it is a pleasure to help those whom disaster strikes without warning.

The Regiment this year gave £9,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund. This grant, though not necessarily the same amount, is made annually. In return, if a payment from our

funds is beyond our means, the ABF halves the cost with us. They have never yet said no!

You might be interested to read some examples of those whom we have helped:

● *The widow of a Royal Anglian Regiment soldier — £600 (half coming from the Royal British Legion) towards the cost of making her flat habitable.*

● *A retired soldier £250. He had fallen very ill. Help with the cost of carpeting his flat.*

● *An ex-NCO of the Regiment — £300 to pay for his air ticket back from the US where he had become very ill and whose costs for medical treatment in that country had left him destitute.*

There are many, many other cases where your day's pay contribution has helped those in need. You might like to consider in your wills making a contribution to the Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund; of all worthwhile causes this may surely be very high on the list.

THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND at 31st December 1995

	1995		1994	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investments at cost		423,853		367,051
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		423,853		367,051
Current assets				
Debtors	44,107		41,125	
Cash at bank and in hand	52,075		71,104	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	96,182		112,229	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(26,424)		(4,147)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Net current assets		69,758		108,082
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		493,611		475,133
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Represented by: Capital of funds		493,611		475,133
		<hr/>		<hr/>

Rowallan: training the 'not yet' cadets

CSgt C J Wright writes:

History

ROWALLAN Company is the successor to the Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre, established by the War Office in 1943, to provide leadership training for the 'Not Yet's' whom the War Office Selection Board deemed unsuitable for officer training. Lt Col Lord Rowallan was selected to run the new centre, tasked with swelling the number of subalterns available for D-Day. Lord Rowallan joined the Army straight from school at the outbreak of the First World War, serving in Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine and France where he won the Military Cross.

Develop character first and military leadership will follow

Today the ethos of the Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre has been mirrored in Rowallan Company at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This unique Sandhurst Company was formed in 1977 at the time of high wastage at the Regular Commissions Board (RCB). Rowallan Company provides specialist leadership training for those candidates RCB judges would respond to some development training, to bring them up to the standard required of an entrant to the commissioning course (CC).

There are similarities between the Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre and Rowallan Company. Between May 1943 – November 1944 the wartime training centre produced almost 1,000 officers for northern Europe and theatres worldwide. From 59 Rowallan courses, the Army has gained over 2,000 young officers who would otherwise have been lost entirely. The course length of 10 weeks and a pass rate of around 65% are similar to the Highland Centres. More importantly, the course structure and content remain compatible. Both develop a wide interest and background of experience rather than provide pure military training.

Rowallan Company and its forerunner have cadets and directing staff working together, and all completing the same tasks and activities. The theme of punishing failure and rewarding success, alongside total

Mainly about People



Cadets taking part in a rafting competition (a good team building exercise).

From Page 12

uncertainty, creates a tremendous motivating ethos for cadets, and a stimulating and rewarding environment in which the staff train their platoons. Both training organisations have been highly successful in significantly increasing the quality and quantity of young officers. Rowallan enhances self-confidence and self-esteem – building the attributes that allow young men to commence formal military training (soundly).

Our aim

The aim of Rowallan Company is to develop character and the qualities of leadership to the standard of an entrant to the commissioning course.

Our approach

Our approach is to conduct a journey of self-discovery for Rowallan cadets. By sound leadership the cadet is persuaded that he can go further than he has gone ever before – and not just physically. With precise judgement by the directing staff the objective must be attainable, albeit only with application by the cadets, whereas to the cadets it must be perceived to be a near impossibility but worth attempting for the reward that will ensue.

Those that succeed will increase their self-confidence, those that fail will see that was possible after all. The entire course is a matter of enhancing self-confidence and self-esteem – building the attributes that will allow a Rowallan cadet to join the commissioning course successfully. He will begin to develop the aura of command, without which a leader cannot succeed.

These attributes will then be developed further by the commissioning course.

Our principles

1. Present a mental, physical and psychological challenge.
2. Minimise formal teaching. Place emphasis on students learning by doing.
3. Give rewards for success and make individuals pay for failures and mistakes of their leaders.
4. Develop initiative, self-sufficiency and a sense of achievement.
5. Concentrate on individual strengths.
6. Employ self-appraisal and assessment by peers.
7. Change composition within groups regularly to place the onus on the individual.

The Rowallan cadet

The Rowallan Company course is designed to cater for male candidates of sound character and proven intelligence who showed glimpses of leadership potential but for one reason or another, usually immaturity, reticence or lack of confidence, failed to make a significant impression at RCB, and need more time to develop self-confidence and leadership qualities to an acceptable standard for the commissioning course. Where doubt exists about a candidate's suitability to start his officer training straight away, it is better to recommend the Rowallan Company course, which will often result in a subsequent sound performance at RMAS, than run the risk of a candidate being back termed with the possibility of reducing his self-confidence even further. Some Army Scholars and Welbexians are also required



to attend Rowallan Company.

Caveats

Developing leadership through robust practice can be fraught with danger.

There is a time for aggression, equally there is a time for finesse and subtlety; the leader must be physically robust, but he must also be quick witted. He must also appreciate the importance of deference and humility, as well as the more frequently quoted qualities of leadership. In other words, we must achieve balance.

By necessity, the very nature of our training will often be dangerous. Be mindful of the risks, they must be justifiable.

Not all last the pace: some are injured, others may be found to have a deep-rooted character flaw that would be fatal to successful command.

Our approach must be subtle. The cadet must be made aware of his latent abilities and given the knowledge to unearth them. He must then develop the confidence to employ those emerging abilities – this confidence cannot be forced upon him.

Conclusion

The Rowallan course is exciting, progressive and original. It is highly effective in achieving its aim. As a member of Rowallan Company DS and spending two terms in the Company, it is a demanding appointment which calls upon intelligence, fitness and resourcefulness. Ultimately the course and the cadets themselves will achieve nothing without our total commitment. As a reward I find the Rowallan Company environment probably the most stimulating and satisfying ever experienced.

Before you knock the quality

In the Dec 95 issue, Maj Johnny Rollins MBE wrote about the ITC. The second part follows

Major R W Pattison, Royal Anglian, writes:

MOST readers will be aware that recruit training has been reorganised. Some may be aware that something has happened at Catterick. However, there is still considerable ignorance in some quarters of the Infantry as to what precisely has happened.

For too long, and I was perhaps guilty of this, the training of recruits has been seen as someone else's problem.

I arrived with preconceptions and strongly held views of how previous training systems had failed to pass out recruits of an adequate standard. You will no doubt recall, if not have subscribed to, the view that standards have fallen and that "they get away with anything now." We tend to fall in to the trap of judging today's recruit not against yesterday's, ie ourselves, but against our experience gained over the years.

Standards are higher

The truth is that standards are if anything higher than ever before. The single biggest advantage of the ITC over the ITBs is our ability to monitor more effectively and maintain a uniformity of standard across the Infantry: what has been good for NCOs at Brecon will become good for soldiers at Catterick. I am not sure that we are yet a "centre of excellence" but we are a concentration of experience and resources. This has already led to a raising of standards and will continue to do so.

There have been some minor changes to infantry battalions' requirements, for example: the inclusion of GPMG training, which, whilst important in itself, is not fundamental to the significance of Infantry Phase 2 training at ITC (Catterick). However, in general terms, the requirement of Infantry battalions to receive young soldiers ready for life and work in an Infantry battalion remains unchanged.

Much has been written on the youth of today and how a changing society has made military training and service less appalling. I do not intend to reiterate these writings. The fact is that we have to work with the available raw material. Here at a Phase 2 training establishment it is easy to knock the ATRs

but they have the important task of inducting young civilians into the Army and introducing them to the demands of Army life.

There is already considerable instability in the life of the 17-year-old recruit. He is probably away from home for the first time in not one but two strange locations (which are unlikely to be close to home) and is being initiated into a strange new world which makes unfamiliar demands on him.

He needs all the support he can get and it is very much in our interests to give it to him. No-one should doubt the versatility of our NCOs. On the one hand supporting a homesick 17-year-old, who, faced for the first time with having to push himself to achieve something, is on the point of giving up and taking the easy option, DAOR. (For those unfamiliar with the jargon: Discharge As Of Right, DAOR, is the right of a soldier to leave the Army during a specified window in his training. If your potential recruit wants to leave we can only seek to persuade him to stay. This tests the retainers' powers of patience and persuasion to the limit. It calls for a stick and carrot approach. Persuading soldiers not to DAOR and reducing wastage occupies a major part of our effort at all levels of command.)

But the same NCO then has to grip a section in attack and perhaps the same 17-year-old in order to achieve the required standard. Brecon equips them for the latter but only their humanity and common sense allow them to deal with the former. However, it is increasingly the former that demands our time and attention.

At ITC your next generation may not be trained by someone from within your own Division let alone Regiment, although in most cases this does happen. This does not impact on the quality of training, since we all attend the same career courses and all arrive at ITC with the same aim: to train the next generation of infantrymen to a universal standard.

Pivotal skills

Training at ITC Catterick revolves around three pivotal skills: fitness, shooting and fieldcraft. From these skills a number of critical objectives are identified. All recruits must pass these critical objectives before they pass out and are posted to their battalion. Review boards and retraining ensure that every soldier passes the critical training objectives. Whilst these skills may be second nature to you (although sadly I may be more practised in word processing than in shooting), they represent a huge challenge

to both recruit and instructor.

All three skills make a physical demand on the recruit and it is not easy for them. Achieving fitness is always hard work, far harder than staying fit. Not only do most arrive with a very low standard of fitness but they are surprised at the level that they are expected to achieve. The challenge for the trainer is to make them and not break them. Gradually distance and weight is increased until they take the ICFT in week eight. At the time most of them see this as a tremendous achievement.

However, programming and the build up is tight, it only requires a few missed PT periods to make its attainment impossible. For the weaker recruit extra training may be required and for the injured we have physiotherapy and gym facilities for rehabilitation second to none. But both probably require the recruit to be removed from mainstream training.

Remedial training

Shooting is probably regarded by the recruits as the easiest of the three skills; initially it is the least physical. However, about 25% fail the APWT in week four. There then follows intensive remedial training in the evenings, much to the delight of trainee and trainer. The result is that most then pass the APWT in week five.

Fieldcraft is a continual assessment and encompasses a wide range of skills. Nearly five of the 12 weeks are spent in the field. Initially it is personal administration in the field that causes most difficulty, but by the end of the patrols exercise in week five, most recruits are starting to look and act as trained soldiers and by the end of the defence exercise in week six they are ready for confirmation in weeks 10 and 11 on field firing and the final exercise.

Despite the physical demands it is probably the mental side that makes the most call on the recruit and trainer. The greater majority of 17-year-olds simply do not have sufficient self-confidence or mental robustness to achieve the standards without considerable support.

They are, for the first time, faced with the prospect of having to stick at something until they achieve success. The soldier's DAOR option means that considerable effort at all levels must be devoted to retention. Of course we would all like him to arrive in his battalion even better trained but we must be realistic. Whatever your view of the product arriving at your battalion, the training teams deserve congratulating.

Mainly about People

REGIMENTAL GATHERING

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1996

The Regimental Gathering will be held at Oakington Barracks, home of the 1st Battalion, on Sunday September 1st, 1996. The format will be:

1030	Gates Open
1130	Drumhead Service
1215	March Past
1230	Bars Open & Lunch
1330	Static Displays and Small Arms Trainer
1500	Band Display

We hope that even more Association Branches will attend with their standards. Do 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. Admission, as usual, is free.

REGIMENTAL GATHERING

OAKINGTON SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1996

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

- 1. Attendance.** I/We would like ticket(s) for the gathering on September 1st, 1996.
- 2. Food.** Please reserve box lunch(es) at £6.00 each for which I enclose a cheque for £ made out to The Royal Anglian Regiment.*

Name and address (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

.....
.....
.....

..... Post Code

* There will be fast food outlets, bars and a picnic area if you prefer to bring your own food. Wet weather facilities will be available if required. Disabled facilities will be available.

NOTE: OCA Branches please send your consolidated returns through area secretaries.

Mainly about People

The Order of the British Empire

Lt Col Anthony Mather writes:

IN 1993 the officials of the Order of the British Empire decided to commission a history of the Order. Dr Peter Galloway was asked to write 'The Order of the British Empire'. This book was published to coincide with the Service of the Order in St Paul's Cathedral on May 8, 1996.

'The Order of the British Empire' describes in detail the controversy surrounding the establishment of the Order, and examines the many decisions taken before its institution in 1917. The book gives a detailed account of the design of the Order's insignia, the choosing of the colour of its riband and the story of the Chapel of the Order. It has 200 pages, 25 full colour plates of illustrations and contains a complete list of the Grand Masters, Officials, Knights and Dames Grand Cross.

Dr Galloway is an expert in this field, having already written 'The Order of St Patrick' and a book on the Royal Victorian Order to be published in 1996. The price of 'The Order of the British Empire' is £23 including postage and packing. All proceeds from sales will go towards the upkeep of the Chapel of the Order.

Information concerning the book was sent to members and medallists by the end of March 1996 to their last known address. If any of your members who belong to the Order have not heard from me and would wish to know more about this history, would they please write to me at The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BH.

The Army Arts Society

THE pursuits of arms and arts are not incompatible. Membership of the Army Arts Society is open to all serving and retired personnel and their families. There is an annual subscription of £5.

The aim is to encourage and support all artists and craftsmen: It mounts exhibitions each year where members can show and sell their work. In May it publishes a register of members and its magazine contains feature articles and lists of events.

Apply to: Hon Sec, Army Arts Society, Saverlake Cottage, The Green, East Grafton, Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 3DB.



Royal Anglian permanent staff at RMAS – Apr 96. From l. to r: WO2 (RQMS) D Smith, CSgt P Kirk, LCpl J C Dales, Capt N F C Nottingham, Sgt M Simpson, CSgt P J Humphreys, CSgt C J Wright.

Minden Band releases album

SHORTLY to be released is 'Arrival' by the Minden Band of The Queen's Division.

Available in compact disc or cassette form, this premier recording features: Arrival – Meldrum (fanfare); Regimental Marches of the Queen's Division – The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment; The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; The Royal Anglian Regiment; Pride on Parade (POP) Meldrum; Queen's Division – Pryce; Bells – McDougall; Red Square Review – Rycoth (concert march); Bridges over the River Cam – Bourgeois (overture); Prelude to Comedy – Jacob; Solemn Occasion – Meldrum; a Musical Snuff Box – Liadov (Waltz); Grasshoppers' Dance – Bucalossi;

Rondo Grottesco – Bourgeois (tuba solo); The Gypsy Trumpeter – P Smith (trumpet solo); Reverie – Penders (alto saxophone solo); Big Band Swing – arr Lowden (Opus One, Here's That Rainy Day & In The Mood); Tin Pan Alley – arr Barker (selection), (Ain't She Sweet, Carolina In The Morning, I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover, Oh You Beautiful Doll, Baby Face, Shine on Harvey Moon & Happy Days Are Here Again); Symphonic Gershwin – arr Barker (selection), (An American in Paris, Rhapsody in Blue & Cuban Overture); and The Spirit of Pageantry – Fletcher (concert march).

To order, please use the proforma below:

Please supply CDs at £8.25 each and cassettes at £5.50 each to:

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Minden Band, The Queen's Division, Oakington Barracks, Longstanton
CAMBRIDGE CB4 5EJ

Mainly about People

Forming a short-term training team in Swaziland

Capt Marcus Parry writes:

WHILE studying hard on JDSC I received the welcome news that I had been selected to form part of a short-term training team (STTT) that was deploying to the southern African country of Swaziland.

My initial excitement was dampened slightly on discovering that I would be required to instruct on a junior staff course for potential SO3s in the Umbhofoto Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) and not on something more Infantry orientated.

I need not have worried as the course content was modelled on our own JDSC so I was teaching what I had supposedly just learnt myself.

The students were a highly-motivated group who really did want to take in every bit of information that we could give them. The standard of education and English was mixed but the level of enthusiasm shown was impressive. This also meant that our instruction had to be of the highest standard and long hours were spent back in our team house preparing lessons and marking work completed by the students.

The STTT itself consisted of a Major from the RHQ and myself. We supported the permanent commander of the BATT in Swaziland and together we wrote, taught and marked almost the whole course content as covered at Camberley.

As the junior member of the team I had to teach the service writing part of the course. I did not really enjoy much success in this area on my own JDSC and had rather hoped that it would go away and not be very important in the future. It is a well-known fact that the best way to learn a subject is to teach it and this certainly proved to be the case. I did feel a good deal of sympathy for the students as I set about their written work with the inevitable red ink pen. However the eventual standard of written work achieved would have embarrassed many a British JDSC student.

On the operational side we wrote and ran TEWTs and gave lectures on all the phases of war in an area of the world that is unfamiliar to most of us. Other notable achievements that we managed included organising the first Beating the Retreat and formal dinner night held in the USDF and giving a presentation on United Nations operations to the USDF Army commander.

It was not all work and I was made to feel very welcome by the local population both



expatriate and indigenous. Many of them had been friendly with Dave and Liz Goude the previous Poachers to work in Swaziland. They spoke with awe at Dave's many exploits, notably his clay pigeon shooting achievements for Swaziland in the Commonwealth Games. I managed a trip to Durban in South Africa that was combined with an appearance for the Swaziland rugby team against a Durban invitation team. The third half lasted all weekend and included watching Natal play in a Currie cup game. We were able to find time to visit several local game parks and the spectacular Kruger National park over the border in South Africa.

Southern Africa is a spectacular part of the world with Swaziland having some of the most beautiful scenery in the region. The people are generally very friendly and welcoming to visitors. I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to soldier in a place not normally visited by the British Army and to experience the satisfaction of instructing another army. The USDF students were well motivated, proud of their traditions and despite a lack of many of the basics that we take for granted in the British Army, maintained a sense of humour and purpose. This ultimately meant that I learnt a great deal about working with African soldiers and had an enjoyable and successful tour.

A reminder for retired officers

THE Locations List is enclosed with this copy of the Castle magazine. All serving officers are automatically members of the Officers' Club but for retired officers to be shown on the Locations List they have to be members of the club which now costs £7 per annum. Those who wish to attend the Regimental dinner must be members of the Officers' Club. Guests for the annual Regimental dinner can be invited only by the Colonel of the Regiment; private guests are not allowed, although names can of course be submitted to RHQ for consideration.

Pakistan Army anniversary

AS our readers will know, we are allied with the 5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment of Pakistan.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Pakistan Army and although the editor has heard no details of what might be planned, Mar 23 is Pakistan Day, Aug 14 is Independence Day and Sept 6-8 are Armed Forces days. RHQ is in touch with the Defence and Military Adviser in Pakistan but anyone planning a trip to that part of the world next year might like to make a note in their diaries.

Previous visitors to Pakistan have always been very well looked after by the 5th Battalion when they have called.

Citations for medals

COPIES of the citations for medals awarded can be obtained from Mrs Whatmore of MS1b whose address is MOD Room E11, London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4PZ.

Have you news about?

MR D C FUTCHER of 42 Middleton Road, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 6BT is trying to find information about his half-brother, the late Peter William Gale.

Should anyone know anything about Peter Gale, would they please contact Mr Fletcher.

Cornwall School reunion

SHARON Selman (nee Stephenson) on telephone 01622 743100 (home) or 01622 773260 (office) is seeking ex-pupils and teachers of Cornwall School, Dortmund, Germany for a reunion on July 27, 1996. Anyone interested should contact her direct. Address is 58 Northlea Close, Loose, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9RT.

Mainly about People

Gallipoli memorial unveiled

DAVID Gillingham, who is standard bearer of the Ipswich Branch of The Suffolk Regiment OCA, is also a founder member of the Association for Military Remembrance 1900-1960. This group consists of a number of military uniform collectors from all over the country who put their uniforms to good use by wearing them for special occasions and in so doing raise money for the Royal British Legion and other ex-servicemen's charities. For example, they took part in the 50th anniversary ceremonies of the Normandy Invasion at Colleville-Montgomery and Château de la Londe. David Gillingham was asked to provide a six-man Guard of Honour in the appropriate uniform for the unveiling and dedication of the Gallipoli Memorial in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on Nov 28, 1995 in the presence of the HRH Prince Philip, patron of the Gallipoli Association. Here is David Gillingham's report of the occasion:

UNTIL now, no national memorial existed in the UK to honour the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-16. This omission has now been put right by the efforts of the Gallipoli Association, which raised the necessary money to have the plaque designed and erected.



Lt F Wheatcroft, formerly 3/5th Suffolks, with Dave Gillingham, standard bearer, Suffolk Regiment OCA, after the unveiling of the Gallipoli Memorial

I was asked to provide a six-man guard of honour in period uniforms of the whole campaign. These included myself in the uniform of the 1/5th Suffolk, alongside a sailor of HMT River Clyde, the transport which landed troops onto the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1915, a soldier of the Royal Norfolks in summer issue khaki drill, complete with Wolseley helmet. This was portrayed by Allen Prior whose grandfather had fought at Gallipoli with the Royal Norfolks, a Lancashire Fusilier (six VCs before breakfast), a soldier of the Hampshires in a combination of KD and service dress, and finally an Australian to represent the Anzac forces present.

Prince Philip unveiled the memorial and Mr Jack Gearing, a 101-year-old navy veteran of HMS Theseus spoke the exhortation.

In total, there were six veterans present at the service, most of them over 100 years old.

After the service, there was a reception at Stationers' Hall, where there was a very interesting display of artefacts. I spent a very enjoyable 15 minutes talking to Prince Philip about uniforms and equipment of the Great War, and my interest in The Suffolk Regiment. I was then fortunate enough to meet all of the veterans present, including Lt Frank Wheatcroft of 5 Suffolk.

Lt Wheatcroft's grandson informed me that he was born in Watford on Apr 20, 1897, the eldest of five brothers and two sisters. His mother was a headmistress, and his father was editor of the Hertfordshire Mercury newspaper. He worked for Hertfordshire County Council before enlisting at the age of 17.

Gazetted to 5 Suffolk, 54 Division, his first military action was at Gallipoli at the age of 18, before joining the Egyptian Expeditionary Force for the remainder of the Great War, during which time he met Lawrence of Arabia. Following the Armistice, he remained in Egypt for a further two years, containing the Egyptian uprising along the Nile. He was demobbed in 1920, having reached the rank of 'Acting Captain'.

Lt Wheatcroft returned to work for the council. He married Lilian and lived in Hertfordshire until he retired, when he moved to the south coast to be near his son who lives in Southampton, and his daughter who lives on the Isle of Wight.

I am sure I speak for all of us in wishing Lt Wheatcroft our best wishes and good health.

FALKLANDS REUNION

Did you serve in the Falklands? If so, you may be interested in a reunion on June 14, 1997, 15 years after the Surrender Documents were signed on June 14, 1982. It is to be held at the Polo Fields - HMS Sultan. Please respond early as numbers are critical for the planning of this event.

When replying please state your name, rank, service number and in which ship or unit you served, plus a stamped addressed envelope to ensure you receive further information on this event. Volunteers are required to act as liaison officers for individual ships and units. If you are interested, please mention this in your reply.

In the bottom left hand corner of the envelope, please put your ship or unit's name.

Please reply to: The Falklands Reunion, c/o The Post Office, HMS Sultan, Military Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 3BY.

Mainly about People

Legionline aims to provide expert advice

THE Royal British Legion is launching a new national helpline called 'Legionline' supported by Gary Rhodes, the celebrity chef. Sponsored by Tate & Lyle, Legionline will provide advice and information to over 16 million people. Rhodes, star of the BBC series 'Rhodes around Britain', will cut a telephone cake featuring a poppy and the Legionline telephone number 0345 725 725.

Aimed at the 16 million men and women who form the serving and ex-service community, Legionline offers authoritative and expert advice on a range of issues from pensions and benefits to small business advice and training schemes.

Legionline was established in order to respond effectively to the growing number of inquiries received by both The Royal British Legion and other services organisations. It aims to be the first point of contact for all serving and ex-service men and women with queries or concerns ranging from qualifying for a pension, purchasing equipment for a disabled family member or obtaining financial assistance. Although many requests are from war widows, ex-service men and women and their dependants, some calls also come from the current serving community and their families.

John Aston, Legionline co-ordinator, said: "People phone us from all over the world, many desperate for help and practical support. One lady needed to trace down the family of a British pilot shot down in France, another man currently serving in the forces was having trouble funding a vital piece of equipment he needed to buy for his disabled son. We were able to provide both with the information and contacts they needed."

Legionline has been sponsored by Tate & Lyle. Both Tate & Lyle and The Royal British Legion celebrate their 75th anniversaries this year and the company's donation funded the establishment of Legionline and met the first year's administrative costs.

HEAD STEWARD REQUIRED. To be responsible for the management, control of bar, and catering at the Royal Air Force Association Club, Bedford. Suitable for husband and wife. Salary negotiable. Applications asap to the secretary, RAF Association Club, 93 Ashburnham Road, Bedford, Beds.



Capt Baker in Viking helmet after winning the Port Stanley New Year's Day raft race

Fond Falklands memories

Capt Nicholas Baker writes:

A POSTING to the Falkland Islands when temperatures in the UK are 90 deg+ was not that appealing. However the post of SO3 J3 (Army) Ops/O&D filled me with some hope and much enthusiasm. Two years as the Adjutant of the Northern Ireland training wing, since its creation, was a valuable and extremely busy experience, training approximately 14-17% of the Army per year, but it had left me ready for change.

My journey southwards was marked by being diverted via Brazil, Rio and a five-star hotel on the Cocacabhana for 48 hours. I accounted for this as a sort of acclimatisation exercise as the temp was a chilly 82 deg+. I eventually arrived at the Mount Pleasant Complex only to be met by 5ft of snow, howling winds and a temperature of 19 deg.

The job now in a Tri-Service

Headquarters is everything an SO3 could wish for; heavy and constant liaison with both Navy and Airforce, planning of all Land Ops for the Theatre plus a healthy dollop of O&D matters to keep you chained to the desk. Couple this with a social life of quite awesome proportions and the 8,500 miles back to the UK does not seem quite so bad.

Highlights apart from the desk job? To name only a handful. Running the South Georgia desk for an SO2 for five weeks which involved a trip to SG on HMS Westminster, a Type 23 Frigate. Overall the trip lasted for three weeks as a reduction and a roulement of the garrison was implemented concurrently, but what really stuck in the mind was the amazing architecture of the coastlines intermixed with the aquamarine-coloured glaciers, topped off by the stunning wildlife ranging from killer whales to elephant seals and albatrosses to reindeer.

The cross-pollination of activities with the other services became an essential ingredient for a number of us and I again chanced on good fortune by getting a trip in the back seat of an F3 Tornado.

Thus, couple these events and many others with Tri-service teams for local events at Christmas and New Year, many of which we won, and my six months were a heady blend of hard work, little rest and some very serious play. Above all though, it was the creation of some outstanding friendships which led to my very graphic memories. If you ever get the chance to go don't pass it up, it can be seriously brilliant.



Mainly about People



2Lt Dominic Biddick receives the Queen's Medal on the Sovereign's parade, Apr 11, at RMAS, from the inspecting officer, Lt Gen Sir William Rous

The agony of a rowing triumph

Rowing season Mar-Aug 1995: Neil Jervis (bow) Tom Wilkinson (stroke). Coastal coxless pairs

Tom Wilkinson a sponsored Potential Officer due to go to RMAS in September and now at Portsmouth University writes:

THE most important training had begun in the autumn of 1994 with the rigorous land training and water work aimed at building up stamina, which was to continue unforgettingly throughout the cold winter months.

By the time our first competitions arrived in March of 1995 in the form of Head Races at Christchurch, Southampton and Shoreham, we had built up a level of stamina which by the end of April enabled us to win the title of coastal head champions throughout the south of England.

The events had usually been over a distance of about 4.5 miles. Speed work was our next point of focus with the onset of more intensive, short races ranging from courses of 500m to 3km. After being disqualified in the first race for taking a bad course we rose to the challenge, winning a series of seven major regattas throughout the south of England beating all opposition and claiming the titles of Hampshire and Dorset and South Coast Senior III champions.

The climax came on July 16, 1995 with the national rowing championships of Great Britain at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham, where in the Open Coastal Coxless Pairs competition, we managed to win the bronze medal and earn a photograph in the Guardian with the accurately descriptive words: "Oh the Agony" written below.

A very enjoyable season which we will never forget and were grateful for the support shown to us by the Regiment.

Winter sports celebrations

PAST and present members of the Army Winter Sports Association (AWSA) are invited to help celebrate their 50th anniversary championships in late January 1997, at St Moritz/Pontresina, the original home of the Army championships, and of the Cresta Run.

AWSA50 race dates are from Tuesday Jan 28 to Friday Feb 7. Races include alpine, biathlon, cross-country, cresta, bobsleigh, luge, skeleton, ski bike and snowboard, as well as the inter-services alpine championships. Some races will also be British national events. Additional entertainment and evening events are planned.

Several members of the Royal Family, who are patrons or who have competed in an Army winter sport, are expected, and the AWSA is looking forward to welcoming former Army Olympians.

AWSA50 is able to offer excellent, individual or group, travel and accommodation arrangements through Skiworld, its travel agent.

The AWSA50 Skiworld travel brochure, including race dates, is available from Lt Col Mark Goodson, director AWSA50, PO Box 50, Brecon, LD3 0WD or fax 01874 711 629.



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 peace.

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.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

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.

Vikings



Lt Col Brunt being towed out of the camp on a replica of the tented camp at Ploce.

Return from Croatia

THE final elements of the Vikings returned from Croatia on Dec 21, 1995 with all our vehicles and equipment arriving back in Colchester soon after Christmas. Now that we had our feet firmly on the ground, the Battalion's emphasis turned to specialist and individual cadres with particular importance being placed on shooting.

Prior to going on Christmas leave we said a fond farewell to the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lt Col Roger Brunt, who was towed out of camp on an 8-tonner which had been decked out as a replica of the tented camp at Ploce.

The Battalion give a hearty Viking welcome to Lt Col Richard Harrold who has succeeded in the post. He arrived just in time to see the Officers' Mess beat the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess at football for the first time ever, although it did take 310 years to do it. Capt Browne, the Officers'

Mess team captain, further rubbed the RSM's nose in the dirt by having the result broadcast on Anglia News.

Training

After returning from an undisturbed period of leave the Battalion got stuck into an extremely busy cadre period in order to catch up on courses that had to be cancelled last year. Potential NCOs, tactics, Milan and Regimental signallers cadres have taken place in Colchester whilst the Assault Pioneer Cadre moved down to Wyke Regis to carry out their training.

Furthermore, the Vikings have terrorised the streets of Colchester with plenty of learner truck drivers and motorcyclists attempting to negotiate the ring road.

Our internal cadres drew to a close towards the end of March. Of particular note was the passing out of the NCOs cadre

which was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen P P D Stone C'B, CBE. He presented the Tomlinson Trophy for top student to Pte, now LCpl, Ielden of B Company.

Meanwhile the rifle companies all deployed up to Stanford Training Area in order to carry out fire team and section level live firing exercises in conjunction with the Light Infantry.

Despite the freezing conditions this proved to be extremely useful training as the Battalion had had little chance to practise its basic Infantry skills over the last six months. B and C Company deployed down to Warminster on Exercise Red Shank in March, a RAAT task to support the TA Company Commander's course.

The whole thing turned into something of a Royal Anglian affair as we met up with

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News from the Vikings



Above: Lt Col Harrold presents crossed flags to members of the RS Cadre. Left: Pte Gates learning how to ride a motorbike cross-country. Below: Cpl McHenry instructing on the assault pioneer cadre at Wyke Regis.



News from the Vikings



Top: Sniper training on Colchester Ranges. Above: Maj Gen Stone meets the instructors on the PNCO cadre. Below: Cpl Ward and LCpl Turney prepare demolition charges down at Fingringhoe Ranges.



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two companies from 2 Royal Anglian, fresh in its new role as the CATC Battle Group. In addition the Milan Platoon deployed to STANTA to provide enemy for Exercise Gryphons Lift and the Mortar Platoon was able to carry out some live firing on Salisbury Plain.

Spearhead

The Battalion unexpectedly and at very short notice, picked up responsibility for the Spearhead role in February. This was as a result of the Canary Wharf bombing and the IRA's announcement of the end of the ceasefire.

With only four days' notice the Battalion was able to pack, attend the mandatory Northern Ireland and Rest of the World briefings, and take part in Exercise Fastball which tested our recall procedures. We assumed Spearhead on Feb 15 and were relieved of the duty on Mar 28.

Despite much speculation and excitement about the possibility of a deployment, with destinations ranging from Northern Ireland to the Cayman Islands, we remained firmly in Colchester and continued with our training programme.

Skill-at-Arms meeting

The Vikings held a battalion skill-at-arms meeting on Colchester ranges from Mar 4-7. The standard of shooting was quite good and it made a refreshing change for all firers from the APWT.

The WO's and Sgts' Mess beat the officers in the traditional falling plate competition, but only by restoring to nefarious tactics (i.e. substituting one of the officer's plates for a piece of white foam which could not be knocked down).

Pte Pinchen of B Company was the champion shot, whilst Pte Lyons, also of B Company, was the best young soldier. Lt Elphee of C Company was the best young officer and the Milan Platoon was the champion team.

Personalities

The Battalion was pleased to hear of the promotion to acting WO2 of CSgts Atkins, O'Nions and Bolton. Furthermore, WO2s Knights, Martin and Hughes were also confirmed as substantive in their rank. In addition, the Colonel of the Regiment presented LS and GCs to WO2 Knights, WO2 (AQMS) Phillips, Sgt Gridley, Sgt Carter, Cpl Marsh and Cpl Taylor, who have all managed 15 years or more of undetected crime.

Finally we have now had a changeover of
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News from the Vikings



Above: Pte Evans, one of seven soldiers to receive his first stripe from the CO in March. Right: Pte Ielden receiving the top student award on the PNCO cadre. Below: The Colonel of the Regiment presents the LS and GC to WO2 Knights.



News from the Vikings



Above: Ptes Bee and Thurston during a PT session on the cadre. Below: Cpl Golubovic and his team wait for the appearance of targets in the Battalion SAAM.



From Page 24

RSMs; WO1 Hoyles leaves the Battalion and is due to assume the appointment of RSM ITC Catterick.

The new incumbent is WO1 Webb, who moves across the RQMS Maint.

Visits

The Battalion were pleased to host a visit from Mr Paddy Ashdown who was keen to hear of our experiences in Croatia and the effect it had had on our families left back in England. We also hosted a visit from the Armed Forces Select Committee, which was on a fact finding mission to discover the feelings at grass roots level on a number of issues.

Sport

The Vikings sporting record for the last six months is recorded elsewhere in the magazine although it would be pertinent here to cover a couple of key events.

The Battalion's boxing squad had a particularly successful season competing in the army grade three novices boxing championship. We beat the Light Infantry, the Scots Guards and 1 Staffords to reach the final against the Duke of Wellingtons. We were unfortunately beaten in the finals, but it was a great credit to all involved that we made it so far through the competition.

At the end of a successful cross-country season C Sgt Blanchfield and Pte Dack were selected to represent the army in a triangular match between the army, the TA, and Wales. Pte Dack and C Sgt Blanchfield finished 9th and 29th respectively from a field of some 250 competitors.

Their performances helped the army to finish second overall.

On the rugby side of life, Sgt Anema is to be congratulated for winning his Infantry colours after a successful season with the Infantry team.

Conclusion

The Vikings are now looking forward to the forthcoming deployment on Exercise Purple Star, a combined joint task force exercise centred on North Carolina. C Company group will deploy as reinforcement to 3 RGR and will partake as exercising troops. Meanwhile the vast majority of officers, SNCOs and signallers will deploy as umpires to 5 Airborne Brigade.

Back at home B Company will take on the responsibility of laying up one of our old colours in Norwich Cathedral on May 4. Furthermore, the Battalion is now preparing for our impending arms plot move to Oakington and our assumption of a new role with 49 Brigade

News from the Vikings



Above: Pte Rix receives his boxing colours from the CO.
Right: Negotiating the confidence course at STANTA.
Below: WO1 (RSM) Hoyles hands over as RSM of the Vikings to WO1 (RSM) Webb.



News from the Vikings

Surviving the LRRP school

Lt Philip Birch writes:

AT the end of 1995 the Battalion was offered vacancies at the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School at Weingarten, southern Germany. The school runs courses for the special forces of all NATO countries and seven Vikings were fortunate to attend.

Cpl Berry and I volunteered for the three-week Combat Survival course in February 1996. After an unusual pre-course training – a weight gain diet of Guinness and chips – we travelled to Germany. The first week was classroom lessons on all aspects of survival, evasion and resistance to interrogation (RTI). This was interspersed with navigation exercises using hand drawn sketch maps and improvised compasses that we made on the first evening using a magnetised razor blade, a biro and a plastic cup. We were supposed to be doing a river crossing as well, but to everyone's relief the river was frozen over.

We also made improvised clothing from scrounged blankets and hessian, which we were allowed to take with us on the exercise. This was to simulate preparations to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp. The nightly temperature was -10°C which was a good incentive to get sewing.

In week two we were strip-searched for contraband before going into the field on the exercise. This began with four days of survival training, including making shelters,

fire, traps etc. We were given 'fresh rations' (still alive) consisting of a rabbit, a chicken and a fish, between two men. Some of this we smoked to take with us 'on the run' as the lessons on edible plants and fungi were not much use for the winter (pine needle tea and pine tree inner bark were about all that was available).

Next came the six-day evasion phase when we were on the run in pairs hunted by German paras, helicopters and dogs. We moved at night and spent the day laid up. Each dusk we met up with a friendly agent at an RV for new instructions and a small amount of food, just enough to keep us going. Opsec is taken very seriously at ILR-RPS and we were not allowed to write anything down, mark our maps, or even keep any empty food wrappers in case we were captured.

The last RV was a set-up and everyone was 'captured' for the RTI phase. None of the Royal Anglians on the two courses had been captured on the evasion phase. By this time we were all weak from lack of food (some more than others, Cpl Berry and LCpl Summerson both had very fortunate chance encounters with the locals). Suffice to say the RTI was unpleasant enough even though our interrogators stuck to the Geneva Convention. It certainly puts you off being captured for real. At last I had what I had been dreaming of all week – the 'eat-as-much-as-you-like' breakfast on the return ferry.

Sgt Garvie writes:

MYSELF and Cpl Attwood attended the Winter Patrol Commanders Course in January 1996. So what is a LRRP soldier? Everyone by now must have read 'Bravo Two Zero' and basically that's what it is all about. Planning and conducting recon patrols 200 or so kilometres behind enemy lines. Patrol preparation in an isolation room, insertion by helicopter, a long night infiltration to an observation post from which observation of the target was carried out. Exfiltration and then again extraction by helicopter.

We learnt how to operate in a winter environment including moving tactically with skis and snowshoes. If you have not experienced four-man contact drills in

snowshoes then you just have not lived. And if you have not sat through a set of orders issued by a German LRRP soldier then you are just letting the best years of your life slip by!

The course was not all tactics and green work. One week was spent mastering skiing at a civilian resort. Fortunately our instructor was more keen on downhill skiing than cross-country!

Instructors for the course were from UK, US, Germany, Holland and Norway, so this provided a unique opportunity to experience how other armies operate. We thoroughly enjoyed the course and learnt a lot so if you are a budding Andy McNabb or could do with going on the LRRP-plan diet then get down to the ILRRP school now.

A long look around New Zealand

Capt Freddie Grounds writes:

IN April last year, I was summoned into the CO's office to be informed that he was looking for a rugby playing young officer (not usually the obvious choice as an ambassador for the Battalion!) to go and spend a little over four months in New Zealand. Even when the Battalion was put on standby to go out to Croatia at the end of May, he assured me that I would be better off going on Exercise Long-Look, and with the benefit of hindsight I am extremely thankful of his judgement, despite being the envy of the rest of the Battalion.

So on Sunday July 16, as the Battalion prepared to go off to Croatia, and after a four-day flight via Bahrain, Kuala Lumpur and Sydney, I landed at Ohakea Air Force Base on the north island of New Zealand.

The New Zealand army has two regular Infantry battalions, one being based on the north island and the second on the south island, just outside Christchurch. My attachment was with 1 Platoon, A Company, 1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (IRNZIR) at Linton Military Camp, about an hour north of the capital, Wellington. My opposite number back home, Pete Smith (who is in the process of transferring from the New Zealand army back to the Regiment) found himself almost immediately being sent out to Croatia as a Platoon Commander. For the first month I was doing the job of Platoon Commander, after which I doubled up as Company 2IC.

Exercise Red Shank

Within three days of arriving I found myself out on Exercise Red Shank (the equivalent of our Company Commanders' exercise) on Wiaorou training area. It was only at this stage that the realities of working with a small foreign army started to become apparent. As we deployed I reminded my radio operator to do a radio check to the sections, only to be told that a platoon only had one radio, and that was through to the OC. Nearly all of the New Zealand army's equipment is at least a generation behind our own. However their tactics have kept pace with change and very much follow the line of our own tactical doctrine.

Footnote: Lt Birch is now the successful author of the book 'The Two That Got Away'. He is now starting to get the feeling back into his toes. Sgt Garvie has taken to wearing non-regulation headgear on exercise and Cpl Attwood has binned his webbing in favour of an SAS-style assault vest.

News from the Vikings



In August the Long-Look contingent took part in the country's VJ Day celebrations, which included a huge parade through the streets of Wellington, followed by a reception at the High Commission and then a military pageant outside the parliament buildings. It was at the pageant that I bumped into a marvellous old boy of 84 years, who had served with the Royal Norfolk's, had then become a Chelsea Pensioner, until two years ago when he decided to move to New Zealand to marry his long-term and very long-distant penpal.

Exercise Red Shank

I had thought that being on the other side of the world would have been enough to get away from battlegroup trainers for a while, but how wrong could I be! At the beginning of September I travelled down to Christchurch, on the south island, to take part in a battlegroup trainer exercise, which I have to admit was quite interesting as they use a different system to ourselves, the

American JAINUS System.

New Zealand does not have a recognised terrorist threat and as a result their forces do very little training in this area. On return to Linton in the middle of September, I was asked to run a three-week counter-terrorist training package for the company, at the end of which there was to be a 10-day exercise. The training package was based around our own Northern Ireland training, although there were some necessary modifications, and it was carried out at a very low level given their inexperience. The exercise took place at Ohakea Air Force Base, and proved to be a huge success even though we used it only as a teaching exercise. It also provided an opportunity for the various agencies on the base itself to test their procedures.

With a month of Exercise Long-Look still to go, I and an officer from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who had been working with another company, were given the chance to travel around the country. After managing to get our hands on a car we

set off, and what followed were four weeks of fun-filled, action-packed, near-death experiences as can only be achieved in a country like New Zealand.

We spent 10 days travelling around the north island, much of which we had already seen on previous weekends, before heading down to the south island to try our hand at sea-kayaking, glacier climbing, skiing, bungee-jumping, white-water kayaking and trekking. Not forgetting of course the obligatory trip to the old brewery and distillery or two.

Exercise Red Shank

Exercise Long-Look provides an ideal opportunity to spend time and train with another army, and although I am struggling to make my friends back at the Battalion believe that I was having anything other than an extended holiday, it was a great experience to be involved with and contribute something towards the New Zealand army

Poachers



Captain Grinonneau interviewed by regional television at Thruxton race circuit.

A record tour completed

AFTER nine years in Germany the Poachers have returned to England following the longest tour by any Infantry battalion in the British Army in one place since the Second World War. The move has dominated activities in the past six months, although the pace of life has slackened little with a plethora of military commitments both in Germany and in our new role as the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group in Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Battalion undertook two major exercises prior to Christmas. The first, Exercise Poachers Sting, took place in early November in Sennelager in near-Arctic conditions. The exercise consisted of a week of platoon live firing exercises organised by companies, during which platoons were tested in all phases of war and a variety of

individual, section and platoon level skills. The second week consisted of the Commanding Officer's test exercise which centred on company live firing exercises, including a reserve demolition and withdrawal in contact, and a company/squadron group attack.

An ambitious battalion live firing night attack was unfortunately cancelled due to thick fog. With a generous ammunition allocation and some imaginatively run exercises the companies were able to build on their already impressive array of live firing skills and expertise honed some months earlier in BATUS.

Over the two week period the Battalion played host to a number of important guests, the highlight being a visit by the GOC, Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, and a group of

15 politicians from Westminster. All were impressed by the firepower and impact of Armoured Infantry and the value of realistic live firing exercises.

In addition to the live firing exercises an inter-platoon march and shoot competition was held in the Sennelager area. The competition tested basic Infantry skills, fitness, cohesion and leadership and was enjoyed by all who watched. 3 Platoon, led by CSgt Brown, emerged as narrow winners.

In early December the Battalion deployed to Hohne for the last time as Armoured Infantry on Exercise Trial Canter, a Brigade level FTX designed to show the lesser experienced units within the Brigade the capabilities and combat power of an Armoured Brigade and to prove the serviceability of

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News from the Poachers



Left:
Northamptonshire Cricket Club and Poachers pose on a Warrior.

Below:
Exercise Poachers Sting – Cpl Farrell and section in a rare moment of calm.



News from the Poachers



Top: The Corps of Drums perform at Grimsby Football Club prior to the match.
Above: A member of the all-party Parliamentary Defence Study Group and CSM A Company in raptures on Exercise Poachers Sting.
Below: An A Company Warrior brakes hard.



From Page 30

Brigade equipment. The exercise was the largest deployment of armoured vehicles by the British Army since the Gulf War. A Company provided a demonstration of an Armoured Infantry company in the attack which was well received.

Immediately after Christmas block leave, a composite company with a B Company headquarters deployed to Denmark to exercise with a Danish unit in preparation for its deployment to Bosnia as part of IFOR. With recent Bosnia experience the Poachers were able to offer good advice and provided a realistic and highly effective Opfor for the Danes.

The Battalion has continued to train soldiers in a variety of skills in preparation for the Battalion move to Warminster and as part of the normal training cycle. The training wing conducted a PNCO's cadre in extreme cold either side of the Christmas break. The award for top PNCO went to LCpl Kennedy of B Company. Our gunnery skills were tested in the Infantry-wide platoon gunnery competition, The Warrior Shield. Each rifle platoon entered and the Poachers were rewarded with the top three and seven out of the top 10 places. A Company was the overall winner and its reward was to retain Warrior in Warminster.

The preparation of buildings and equipment for handover to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers dominated events in the New Year. The Battalion had been working towards handover, when commitments allowed, since early in 1995. A series of inspections by the Commanding Officer ensured that a high standard of serviceability and maintenance was achieved by the Battalion and that an extremely successful handover was achieved with mini-

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News from the Poachers



Above: Cpts Grinonneau, Martin, Bear and Lt Vincent, the winning team in the Officers' v Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess clay pigeon shooting competition. Right: The Colonel of the Regiment visits the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. Below: LCpl Forman on Exercise Poachers Sting.



News from the Poachers



Above: Warrior and Aston Martin neck and neck.
Below: 2 RRF formally take over Trenchard Barracks.



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mal complication in late February. The Battalion formally handed over on Feb 29, 1996. Some 40 Poachers stayed in Celle as part of the Armoured Infantry Manning Increment, helping 2 RRF adapt to its new role and rejoining the Poachers in two years' time.

With no break in commitments in Warminster for handover, the Battalion had little time to take stock before being tasked in its new role. In the first week, most elements of the Battle Group were involved in Exercise Iron Fist which involved a series of demonstrations by most BG sub-units of their capabilities and role to 300 officer cadets from Sandhurst.

More recently A Company deployed with B and C Companies of the Vikings on Exercise Red Shank, the final exercise on the TA Company Commander's Course. The exercise was conducted in appalling conditions but proved that our soldiers had not forgotten their foot soldiering skills after a long spell as Armoured Infantry. The Battalion has undergone significant changes

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News from the Poachers



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in structure in order to satisfy the requirements of our new role. A Company is equipped with Warrior and C Company with AFV 432. B Company is equipped with AFV 430 in a smart pink and green colour scheme to reflect its role as enemy on most exercises. To complete the Battle Group, B Squadron 9/12 Lancers and a close support troop of the Royal Engineers are permanently attached to the Poachers, providing a level of integration unique in the British Army.

As well as the 'set piece' exercises conducted by the Combined Arms School, the Battalion also serves as the Opor for the Tesex exercises which are regularly conducted on Salisbury Plain. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers arrived on Salisbury Plain in late April and fought an A Company Group, a C Company Group and finally the entire Battle Group. A high standard of training was achieved by all and many lessons learned, particularly by LRWF.

In spite of a busy programme the
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Above: Poachers with players of the Grimsby Town Football Club. Below: Commander 7 Armoured Brigade talks to Maj Gregory, CSM De Lara and Sgts Thompson and Wolfe of B Company prior to leaving Germany.



News from the Poachers



Above: GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division has lunch with A Company, Exercise Poachers Sting. Below: Pte Wells recovers at the end of Nordic race.



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Battalion has continued to compete with success in a variety of sports. The inter-company boxing finals took place in December and a high level of commitment and spirit was demonstrated by all who took part. A Company emerged as winners and the boxing officer was able to identify a good deal of individual talent from which a Poachers boxing team can be formed later in 1996. With the Vikings' success in boxing this year, the possibility of a Poachers v Vikings Army UK novice boxing final is very real.

The Battalion Nordic skiing and biathlon team again achieved excellent results after two years away from competition due to operational commitments. A full report of their exploits can be found elsewhere in this edition of Castle. The Officers' Mess defeated the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in a clay pigeon shooting competition organised in Trenchard Barracks in place of the traditional football match cancelled due to frozen pitches and an alarming sequence of losses for the Officers' Mess in recent inter-mess sport! LCpl Singleton of B Company has been selected to play football for the Infantry, although with our busy schedule has yet to attend a match.

The farewell to Celle was marked by a number of social events. Maj Gen Patrick Stone visited the Battalion in Celle for the

last time in February. His visit coincided with a cocktail party hosted by the Stadt in the Celle Schloss for the battalion officers and wives. The event was preceded by a band concert and an impressive display by the Corps of Drums. The evening provided an opportunity for the Stadt to thank the Battalion for their operational endeavours since 1987 and for the good relations which the Poachers have maintained with the Celle community. The Commanding Officer replied on behalf of the Battalion in 'accent-free German'! (Celle Kurier Feb 11, 1996).

The GOC visited the Battalion in late January to pass on his thanks for what the Poachers have achieved during our long spell in Germany and wish us well in the future. During his visit he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to CSgt Brown and Sgt Glover in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and afterwards visited the Officers' Mess for lunch. In his last visit to Celle in his capacity as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Colin Groves presented the prizes at the inter-company boxing finals and afterwards attended the Austin dinner at the Officers' Mess.

Capt Adrian Grinnoneau is to lead a KAPE tour to our recruiting areas in early June. As a prelude the Corps of Drums visited Grimsby Town Football Club in mid-April where they performed for the crowd prior to the match and were extremely well

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News from the Poachers



From Page 36

received. On a more unusual note Captain Grinnoneau was given the opportunity of racing a Warrior around the Thruxton Motor Racing Circuit against an Aston Martin sports car which attracted a good deal of press interest.

The 2nd Battalion is now settled in Warminster and is enjoying the new and var-

ied challenges of life as the CATCBG. As the British Army's only permanently formed Battle Group, the next two years will offer opportunity to improve on our already formidable reputation. In addition the stable nature of commitments will ensure a more settled life for families and single soldiers alike. A full report on the unique role will appear in the next edition of the Castle.

A Company at the inter-company boxing championships.

Preparing Danish soldiers for Bosnia

EXERCISE Odin Jaguar took place on the west coast of Denmark in early January 1996. The Poachers were asked by the Danish Army to provide an enemy company to help prepare the Danish forces about to deploy to Bosnia. A composite company based on B Company was able to draw on its first hand experience of the volatile nature of the Bosnia conflict from the Battalion's tour in 1994.

Before deploying to Denmark wild rumours of extreme temperatures were flying around the Company. If anything, the weather proved a bit of a let-down - largely damp and misty. More like Brecon than the Baltic, and the Arctic smocks were replaced by more conventional camouflage.

The Danish army is a conscript Army

with 10 months' national service compulsory to all men over 18. But what the Danes were lacking in knowledge and experience, they amply made up for in terms of spirit and enthusiasm.

At times the Danish exercising troops seemed totally unable to fathom how to deal with their British adversary, particularly when we were in the role of an unruly mob . . . which some members of the company took to more easily than others!

Much of the work done on exercise was based at section level, with ambush, search and destroy and recce patrols playing a large part in our taskings. The Danish exercise controllers found it especially amusing that their squadron commander and his headquarters staff were captured and left scantily clad by one

such patrol. It is doubtful whether the squadron commander saw the funny side.

Exercise Odin Jaguar was not all work. The Company had time off to enjoy the sights and sounds of the local towns, with the nightlife of the town of Herning and Denmark's largest discotheque proving a social focal point.

It is hoped that our two weeks in Denmark were of real value in helping to prepare the Danes for Bosnia. We felt that by the time we left they had learned some valuable lessons that we hope stood them in good stead for the uncertain situation that remains in Bosnia.

As for the Company, the exercise was a resounding success and our own skills improved dramatically over the two weeks; it provided valuable practice for the Battalion's new role in Warminster.

Steelbacks



"For the last time": trooping the colours in Peterborough Cathedral Square

Farewell to the Regiment

THE last six months have been dominated by preparations for re-rolling to the Royal Logistic Corps, laying up the colours in the Cathedral in Peterborough, and carrying forward a highly effective recruiting campaign. This period also saw the arrival of some of the new unit's vehicles and equipment, such as DROPS vehicles, motorcycles and the latest PLCE.

Training has been organised on a modular basis with the aim of ensuring that the members of the unit acquire the basic skills upon which an effective DROPS equipped transport regiment can be built. Acquisition of C+E licences has been gathering pace and this will continue during the 1996/97 training year. Annual camp is now within sight and will be organised as three squadron camps with the first week of each being given over to trade training and the second to a field exercise. All three of the squadron camps will be based on Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, and they will stretch over the period May to June.

A heavy emphasis on training for the new

role did not prevent the unit taking part in the Brigade Military skills competition at Stanford Training Area, Thetford, in March. However, as a recognition of the training burden on the unit it was agreed that only one team should enter. Also the RSM ran a modular PNCO's cadre over a number of weekends and at its conclusion 48 new Lance Corporals were promoted just prior to our converting to RLC.

The unit was involved in a series of rehearsals for the laying up of the colours on Mar 30. RAF Wittering was particularly helpful, providing the unit with space to drill and overnight accommodation on Mar 29 for those taking part in the parade. Peterborough City Council was also particularly helpful, going so far as to make part of central Peterborough available for the parade. To allow us to use part of the shopping centre on a busy Saturday is not something all local authorities would do.

Trooping the Colour took place in the square in front of the Cathedral and was watched by a number of VIPs, including the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Maj

Gen Stone, Gen Sir John Akehurst, Maj Gen White, the Mayor of Peterborough and Lady Victoria Leatham (the new Honorary Colonel of 158 (R Anglian) Regiment RLC (V) from April 1996). It was also watched by several hundred invited guests and a large number of the people of Peterborough. The parade was led by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Baylis, and the officers commanding No.1 and No.2 Guards were, respectively, Maj Dormer and Maj Goulding. Maj Dormer is now Officer Commanding 200 (Peterborough) Squadron while Maj Goulding is Officer Commanding 201 (Bedford) Squadron.

Once the parade had been inspected and the trooping was complete there was a march past and then the colours were laid up in the Cathedral. After a moving service the parade reformed outside the Cathedral for a re-badging ceremony. Once this was complete the parade marched off and the Lord Lieutenant took the salute.

There was a lunch at the Town Hall for official guests and officers and their wives

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News from the Steelbacks



Above: "For the first time": a DROPS vehicle passes through the 11th century Norman arch of the Cathedral as the new regiment marches past.



Right: Past and future – the Mayor walks past the colours and a DROPS vehicle on his way into the Cathedral.

News from the Steelbacks

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at which the Mayor marked the re-rolling by presenting 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC (V) with a crystal decanter and glasses suitably engraved. At the same time, approximately 500 people were entertained at Peterborough TA Centre.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a dinner on the evening of Mar 30 to which all officers were invited. This was held at the Peterborough Moat House and proved to be an enjoyable and successful event. Indeed one or two members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are reported to have been still at the bar shortly before breakfast was served on Sunday.

Recruiting has been extremely successful and the level of interest generated by the new role has been heartening. Each sub-unit has now had three open nights, with major displays in town centres and a high level of advertising. This has resulted in the new regiment starting out well up to strength although we still need to recruit more REME personnel.

There have been a number of arrivals and departures. Maj Paul Brook, Training Major, and Capt James Woodham will shortly be leaving, one for Bosnia and the other for Northern Ireland, and all ranks wish them good luck with their new postings. Sgt Dade, the Signals PSI, is also departing after a highly successful tour of duty with the unit. The new Training Major, Maj Cross, is due to arrive on May 6 and the new Adjutant, Capt Tinning will join at approximately the same time.

Other new arrivals at Peterborough are WO2 (AQMS) Kerr, REME, WO2 Steele (TQMS), WO2 Freeborough (Training Warrant Officer), WO2 Mitchell (RSWO/SPSI), Sgt Laird (Armourer) and Corporals Warriner, Chambers and Carroll. Throughout the Regiment there is a sea of new faces from the Regular Army with 5 PSIs in each TA Centre where before there was only one. To a man they are all impressed with the Royal Anglian soldier that they are now training and could not wish for better raw material.

Congratulations are in order for WO2 Smith and his wife Shirley on their marriage on Mar 9 and for Capt and Mrs Akinkunmi on the birth of their daughter Folukemi, Cpl and Mrs Conder on the birth of their son Alex, and to Cpl Warriner and his wife Vicky on the birth of their son James.

Pte Maynard of 201 (Bedford) Squadron is also to be congratulated on achieving 'Best Recruit' on his recruit course which took place between Feb 17 and Mar 1 this year.

Maj Nick Goulding successfully com-



Above: Recapbadging — Maj Roger Eden, who has served continuously with 5 Royal Anglian since its formation, receives his new RLC No.1 Dress Hat from Lady Victoria Leatham, the new Honorary Colonel.
Below: The parade forms up, awaiting the arrival of VIPs.



pleted the Squadron Commander's course at Deepcut during March and Capts Simon Messervy and Jim Dowle recently attended the RLC Regular Troop Commander's course for a week's exercise in the snow just before Christmas. Last but not least, the Band and Drums remain at Peterborough but have not re-badged Royal Logistic Corps. The Drums are now part of D Company, 6 Royal Anglian and the Band is now administered by 6 Royal Anglian. The Band and Drums will continue to receive every encouragement from the new 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC.

Thus the last six months has been a time of change and adjustment. It has been marked sadly by the laying up of the colours but also by all ranks vigorously grasping the new opportunities offered to us as part of

the Royal Logistic Corps and as the newest regiment in the British Army. 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC (V) has a unique role in the nation's order of battle as we are permanently assigned to the ARRC, and are Commander ARRC's only Combat Service Support Regiment. We have until 1997 to become operational in a difficult task and one which will require all our Royal Anglian attributes and heritage to ensure success.

This will be the last time that the Steelbacks appear in the Castle magazine. The first Royal Anglian TA Battalion to be formed has now left the Regiment. We take with us our brown berets and our Minden flashes, our memories and our traditions. We will never be just an RLC regiment — but always the Royal Anglian RLC Regiment.

6th Battalion

An exchange of companies



3 Platoon visit the Belgian Minesweeper Crocus at Lowestoft.

SINCE the last edition the Battalion has had a very challenging but highly successful past six months. Although we thought 1995 was diverse, variety has continued to add spice to our lives.

The first event since the last Castle notes was the historic return on Nov 1, 1995 of D (Cambridgeshire) Company. Sadly, we also said goodbye to B (Ipswich) Company. However, we all agree that it was a fair swap, with one high class company being exchanged for another.

After the post camp lull, November proved a very bush month. Remembrance Sunday was commemorated throughout the Battalion at the various company locations. Curry lunches held after parades in Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Chelmsford and Cambridge allowed present members of

the Battalion to meet up with old comrades and friends. Also Lt Phil Taylor led a group from 3 Platoon on a visit to the Belgian minesweeper Crocus which had docked at the harbour in Lowestoft. An interesting couple of hours were spent aboard the warship, whose recent activities included blowing up a fridge off the coast of Suffolk which they had mistaken for a mine!

The military highlight of the month was BBGT, conducted over the weekend of Nov 17-19 at frosty Catterick. After an arduous journey through blizzards, the Battalion's command posts joined representatives from 3 PWO Fire Support Battalion (Mortars, Milan and SF), 202 Battery RA, 101 (AD) Regiment RA and 118 Squadron RE. To complete the

team, we had the assistance of Capt Simon Masservy and the 5 Royal Anglian Int Cell. The procedures for the weekend were based on a battle group defence of the River Swale. Under the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Thomas, the battle group held the Orange hordes at bay and achieved a very favourable report from the BBGT staff, who commended the Battalion on its battle procedure and improvements since our last visit in 1994.

Company level training throughout November saw A Company being terrorised by the Dog Section from RAF Marham. 2 Lt McCullough organised a realistic escape and liaison weekend, with the canine element of the hunter force providing a certain

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News from the 6th Battalion



Lt Harrison (right) presents Lt Wawn of the Gibraltar Regiment with a Shield.

On joint exercise with the Gibraltar Regiment

Maj Davidson writes:

COMBINED elements of the Gibraltar Regiment's and 6 Royal Anglian's signals platoons took part in a joint HF signals exercise around East Anglia in November 1995. Capt Chris Wawn, RSO of the Gibraltar Regiment, had approached the Signals Platoon of 6 Royal Anglian with a request for a loan of vehicles and radio equipment for their annual camp, which was being held on STANTA.

Sgt George Shand, Signals PSI for 6 Royal Anglian, reorganised a good opportunity for a combined signals exercise, that would practise team work, integration with another unit and allow the Gibraltar Regiment to operate over distances that it would never experience at home. On the drill night prior to the exercise weekend, the Gibraltar Regiment Signals Platoon visited Headquarter Company at Bury St Edmunds. Here it was introduced to the vehicles and radio equipment that would be used on the exercise. As the Gibraltar Regiment has just one Landrover, it was quite an eye opener for them to see the equipment issued to 6 Royal Anglian.

The main exercise lasted for 48 hours, and began on the Friday night. Both units met at a rendezvous on STANTA where there was an opportunity to meet opposite numbers on a more informal footing, and time for a lesson on Mould. From here, signals detachments were dispatched to locations in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and

Cambridgeshire. Crews were mixed which further allowed a lasting comradeship to develop in a very short time.

Many of the Gibraltar Regiment ladies found themselves under canvass for the first time away from the Rock. To the amusement of Cpl Scordis and Pte Chapman, W/Pte Perera was convinced that she heard a fox stalking her and refused to venture far from the CP locations. Cpl Stammer's Essex sense of humour proved a source of fascination for LCpl Ainsworth and W/Pte Phillips of the Gibraltar Regiment, who had never heard the likes of it before.

WO2 Brian Welton, RSWO of 6 Royal Anglian did a first class job of organising the weekend which allowed things to get off to a good start. Sgt Shand supplied a great deal of paperwork to bring the Gibraltar Regiment right up to date on signals matters, and in addition supplied many good ideas which were taken back to the Rock.

Following the success of the weekend it is hoped that future combined exercises will be possible. The Gibraltar Regiment Signals Platoon invited 6 Royal Anglian's Signals Platoon over to the Rock for a combined exercise on their home ground. It is hoped that this will also include a rear link to the UK. The Gibraltar Regiment also has its annual camp in Folkestone in 1997, when it is hoped that another combined exercise can take place.

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sense of urgency. D Company enjoyed two weekends at STANTA revising flotation packs, river crossing and recce drills.

Using a Gazelle helicopter from Netheravon, D Company's subalterns conducted an air recce of the enemy position on Dec 9. This was followed by a cold and misty dawn crossing of the River Wissey and an attack onto Bridge Carr and Buckenham Tofts Park.

The seasonal celebrations started in earnest with the battalion Christmas weekend at STANTA. Firstly, the Training Major, Maj Shelmerdine-Hare, ran an energetic mass infiltration exercise, where the Recce Platoon attempted to capture the Battalion as it moved across the whole of the training area in small teams. At dusk, all returned to Bodney Camp where Christmas dinner was served traditionally by the officers, warrant officers and sergeants. No Christmas party is complete without the inevitable smoker and the RQMS, WO2 Hitchings (resplendent in dinner jacket) compered some hilarious sketches, while the Battalion consumed a large quantity of beer. The next morning, notwithstanding the sore heads, saw all ranks conducting an attack TEWT to mark the end of a fun but worthwhile weekend.

After a good Christmas holiday, the main battalion weekend in January, Exercise Viking Cull saw the Battalion pitched against a Bosnian style enemy. The exercise began with A Company, in a very thin disguise, refusing to allow Headquarter Company through its checkpoint. Negotiations inevitably broke down resulting in a 6 Royal Anglian Implementation Force carrying out a dawn raid to re-open the route. With all companies and the Recce Platoon carrying out extensive CTRs throughout the previous day, the whole Battalion came away from the weekend feeling it had learnt a valuable lesson in recce techniques and line of departure selection. Although the weather was extremely cold, with a windchill factor of -5 degrees, Headquarter Company's provision of hot food kept the Battalion morale high.

February saw the Battalion instigate its biggest recruiting campaign for a number of years. All key members of the Battalion Headquarters, Company Commanders and their PSAOs ventured north to Nottingham for an interesting Brigade recruiting study day. Controlled at grass roots level, all companies forced themselves into the public eye with various activities. A Company blitzed Norfolk and Suffolk with leaflet drops concentrating on Norwich, Lowestoft, Bungay

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News from the 6th Battalion



Above: A Company bath time. Right: Maj Mark Baker attempts his own version of the Indian Rope Trick.
Below: LCpl Palmer adjusts the defences during OBUA training, January 1996.



Regimental Museum

The Museum opens

BY the time this edition of *Castle* is published the Regimental Museum at Duxford will be ready for its opening by Mr Martin Bell, BBC Foreign Correspondent, on June 13. The past few months have been extremely busy for the project team, whose work has involved conservation, the construction of aids to display, captioning, the completion of films and photography and a lot of cleaning.

The project team comprised:

Lt Col T D A Veitch, project officer, Mr George Boss, the attendant, Sgt Boyd, 5th Battalion, Cpl Lange, 5th Battalion, Sgt Montagu, 7th Battalion, and Dmr Lange, 5th Battalion, together with three museum professionals from IWM, as well as the designer and numerous contractors.

The project team has responded to directions from the museum's trustees, who are: Col K Woodrow, chairman, Brig C Groves, Col C J Dale, Col N H Kelsey, Lt Col J P Macdonald, Maj M Jones, Maj W H Reeve, Maj D J Thorogood, and Maj W K Pool.

Appeal

Since the last *Castle* the appeal has successfully reached its target of £250,000. However, increased costs and a wish by the trustees to be able to add to or adapt the displays in future years led to a new target of £300,000. To date £275,000 has been raised. Anyone still wishing to contribute, par-

ticularly those who visit the museum and are sufficiently impressed by what has been achieved, should contact RHQ.

A full list of sponsors is shown opposite. The Regiment is deeply grateful to these and to all who donated for making the project possible.

The raffle for the Astra car, generously donated by Vauxhall Motors, will be drawn during the opening ceremony on June 13.

earliest NI flak jacket (pre-71, without button supports), FLOSY terrorist flag (Aden), East Anglian Brigade Association lapel pin-badge, 1 East Anglian hose tops and flash, 2 East Anglian hose tops, 1 Royal Anglian hose tops flash, 2 Royal Anglian hose tops flash, 4 Royal Anglian green hose tops.

The trustees thank the following for recent contributions to the museum collection: WO1 Duncan, AMF (L) Norway dress and equipment; WO2 Carter, assistance with Bosnia exhibit; Mr Golds, NI documents; Brig Groves, engraved sword and gloves; Mrs Dinnin, Marie Therese Tholer (dollar); Mr Boss, Yemeni coin, badges; Maj Lumby, NI newspaper; Col Brunt, photographs, capbadge; Lt Col Ellis,

RNZIR, stable belt; LCpl

Tucker, band documents; Sgt Urand, documents;

Lt Col Holloway,

gold sword

(ruler of Bahrain);

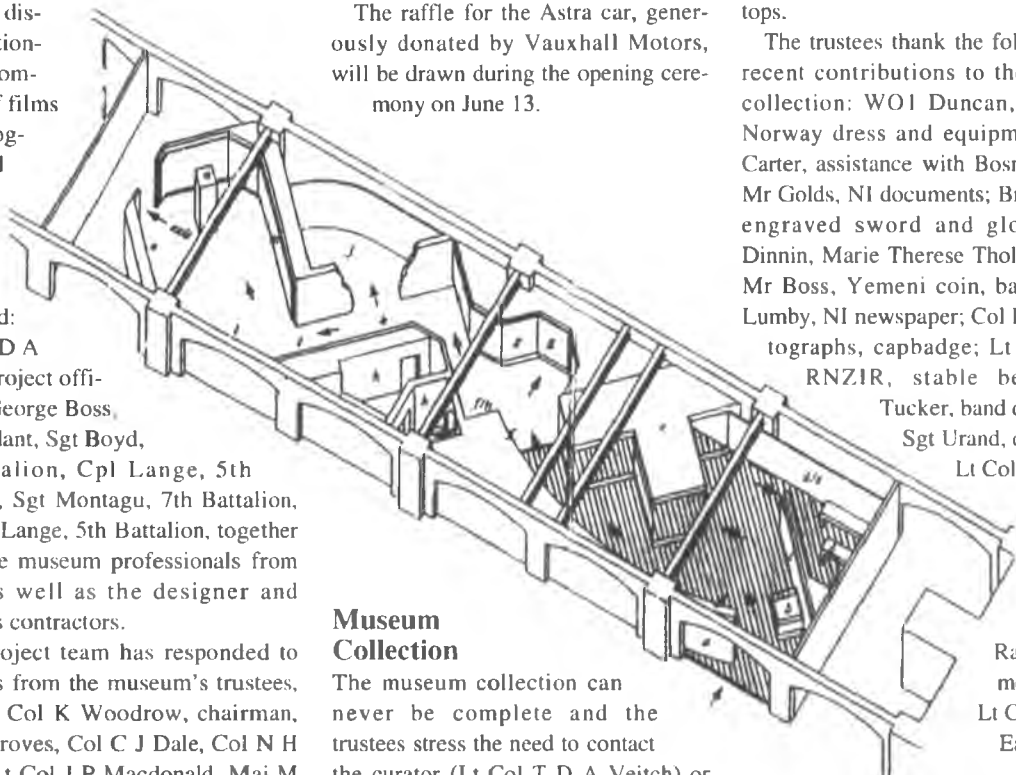
Brig Deller,

Radfan documents, maps;

Lt Col Yates, 2

East Anglian flag; Brig

Robertson, IRSP flag from Long Kesli; Maj Halewood, badges; Mr Carter, helmet badge; Maj Gen Burch, photographs; Lt Col Harrold, photographs; Col Mackain, Bremner photographs, Mr Germany, medals; Maj Hutchings, TOS uniforms; Maj Harrington-Spa MBE, medals; Maj Jenns, flat; WO2 Milgate, record; Sgt Starling, documents; Mr I Hook, research; Lt Col Prescott of 7th Battalion, assistance with TA exhibit.



Museum Collection

The museum collection can never be complete and the trustees stress the need to contact the curator (Lt Col T D A Veitch) or attendant (Mr George Boss) if anyone has historical or up-to-date material of importance to the museum.

The following items are still sought: Large 3rd Battalion badge for Assault Pioneer Sergeant's apron, sniper scope and sling (no.4 rifle), Arctic SLR sling, UN cravat (Cyprus), 1 East Anglian flag, grey cap cold-weather and engineer/pioneer knife (AMF(L)), Commonwealth Monitoring Force Rhodesia plaque, early NI leg guards,

Regimental Museum

THE MUSEUM APPEAL

The trustees of The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum acknowledge with grateful thanks the contributions made by members of the public, the business community and The Regiment, both past and present, without which the museum could not have been built. In particular they wish to make special mention of the following:

Brentwood Borough Council, *conservation of Silver Drums*
The Charles S French Charitable Trust, *replica Salamanca Eagle*
The Chetwode Samworth Charitable Trust, *uniformed figures;*
The Ford of Britain Trust, *history wall*
The Simon Gibson and the GC Gibson Charitable Trust, *statuettes*
Vauxhall Motors Ltd, *Astra car as raffle prize*

Barclays Bank plc, *museum brochure*
British Aerospace Defence Ltd, Dynamics Division, *Milan anti-tank system*
British Gas Home Energy
Calor Gas Ltd, *sales*
Charles Wells Ltd, *Battalion diorama*
City of Ely Council; Clarksteel Ltd, *musical instruments*
Col R G Wilkes CBE, TD, DL, *honours and awards*
Dunstable Town Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Essex and Suffolk Water plc, *Aden tableau*
GKN Defence Ltd, *Warrior diorama*
Greene King plc, *mess table display*
Guardian Insurance plc, *films*
Heckler and Koch (UK) Ltd, *SA80 weapons*
Holt's Branch, Farnborough, The Royal Bank of Scotland, *The Regiment Today*
J A Sharwood and Co Ltd, *deployments worldwide*
Lord Belstead, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk
Munton and Fison plc, *medals*
Normenton Knitwear Ltd, *accoutrements*
Pedigree Petfoods, *cold war*
RCI United Kingdom and Ireland, *holiday as raffle prize*
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Spicers Ltd, Regimental Associations and Cadets
TeleAdapt Ltd, *radios and communications*
The Alliance and Leicester Building Society
The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation;
The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust
The Everard Foundation, *The Royal Leicestershire Regiment exhibits*
The Great Northern Railway Hotel, Peterborough, *sports and adventure training*
The Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust
The Lord Barnby's Foundation
The Lord De Ramsey Family Charitable Trust, *Book of Remembrance*
The Major Simon Whitbread Charitable Trust, *Colonels-in-Chief display*
The Pye Foundation, *sound recordings*
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association, *conservation of colours*
The Sandra Charitable Trust
The Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for East Anglia and the East Midlands, *TA exhibit*
The Worshipful Company of Poulterers
Varity Perkins, *Warrior diorama*
Whitbread in the Community, *Colonels-in-Chief display*
Whiting and Partners, Chartered Accountants, *graphic panels*
Wilsons Hogg Robinson, *insurance*

News from the 6th Battalion



Above: C Company plus ladder prepares to attack Eastmere Village. Below: CSgt Denyer to Pte Wilson – "I don't know what you're laughing at, you've got to eat it!"



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and Beccles. Also 1D (Cambridge) Company held a successful open day (with 20 potential recruits signing up to the Company). All companies continue with their publicity campaigns, with the added attraction for recruits of an overseas camp in Belgium in September this year.

The other major project was preparation for the 49 (East) Brigade military skills competition. This annual event was preceded by our own contest, with composite teams from all the companies passing through a series of testing stands. These ranged from minefield breaching to anti-ambush skills and house clearing, to tactical river crossings and case-vac drills, after a road accident. Deteriorating weather conditions applied added stresses to all competitors. However, spirit overcame adversity, especially in the Headquarter Company performance on the assault course. Capt Simon Watson led the team in a highly determined performance where a significantly smaller number of soldiers carried a higher ratio of wet sand weighted ammunition boxes across the obstacles. Former Commanding Officer, Col Chissel, also visited the competition, in his capacity as Deputy Brigade Commander.

After a Saturday night NAVEX, the weekend culminated with the CO's challenge. This event was composed of a cross-country run in full CEFO including a crossing of the River Wissey. Col Horrell, the Battalion's Deputy Honorary Colonel for Cambridge, started the race, where again the stamina of Headquarter Company (and

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News from the 6th Battalion



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some superior map reading) was evident. Headquarter Company finished a clear 200 m in front of all other teams. Prizegiving was conducted at the PVCP, with Brig Calder, the Battalion's Deputy Honorary Colonel for Suffolk, presenting the Gaza Cup to the winning C Company team, commanded by Lt Gothard. The Essex Company had proved its military prowess, sustaining a high standard of achievement throughout the exercise. It is rumoured that the party continued long into the night once the Company returned to its Chelmsford base!

The Brigade military skills competition gave cause for the Battalion to continue its celebrations. Fielding three teams from A, C and D Companies, the battalion soldiers joined 12 other teams from all over the East Midlands and East Anglia to do battle for the Polar Bear Trophy. The Quartermaster's department was also deployed to Wretham Camp to administer the whole brigade.

Similar to the Battalion competition, the contest composed of a series of stands, testing all ranks in their endurance and ability. These included an assault river crossing with boats and casualties, cross-country driving, platoon attacks and reaction to ambush drills.

Although facing extremely stiff opposition, D Company won not only the competition but also the Veal Trophy for the best performance on the forced march. 2Lt Paul Lincoln collected both trophies for the triumphant 'Cambridgeshires', while Maj Stephen Fradley, OC A Company, was awarded a prize for the best stand. This

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Above: C (Essex) Company loads magazines and camouflages white socks before the assault. Left: Relaxing on the sidelines. Below: Negotiating the 6ft wall.



News from the 6th Battalion



Top: The Cambridgeshires – winners of 49 (East) Brigade military skills competition and the Veal Trophy, 1996. Above: Recruits camming up. Below: Recruits stand to, at the mention of the RSM visiting.



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activity had comprised of an ammunition re-supply to a beleaguered unit, through hostile territory and over obstacles. C and A Company teams finished a respectable 7th and 10th place, while the QM's staff were also commended for the smooth running of the weekend.

Exercise Viking Rage held on Mar 16-17, gave the Battalion its chance to test its OBUA skills. C Company, based in the Eastmere Village, ensured that the combined forces of D and Headquarter Companies were kept very busy, in a fast moving continuous battle. The final attack, which included CS gas, even left the RSM, Chico Duncan's, eyes watering! A brief but poignant Service of Remembrance was also held for the dead of Dunblane, early on the Sunday morning. March also saw A Company assisting the Norfolk County Council Emergency Planning Committee on Exercise Steam Heat. In summary, a train disaster was simulated with over 100 casualties. Along with the St John's Ambulance and other services, A Company evacuated the train and provided the stretcher bearers, promoting our relations within the local community.

The Battalion's 25th anniversary, covered in detail elsewhere, marked the end of an extremely successful five months and a spectacular finale to March. April has seen the handover of Commanding Officers. Lt Col Charles Thomas, after two-and-a-half

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News from the 6th Battalion



years in the chair, said goodbye to the Battalion on his final parade at the 25th anniversary. As he moves onto Command Essex ACF, it is hoped that our links with this strong source of recruits will be strengthened now the Battalion has one of its past members in control. We wish both him and Sue all the best for the future. The Battalion welcomes the return of ex OC A Company, Lt Col Howard Gill, who after a year on the staff of 49 (E) Brigade has come back to the fold. The Battalion wishes both him and Anna a happy and successful time at the helm!

The Battalion has enjoyed a number of social events with the Officers' Dinner Club meeting at the end of January. Despite appalling weather, past and present fought their way against the elements to meet old friends in the Mess at Bury St Edmunds for a very good evening. Prior preparations was truly the order of the day when both the CO and QM, Maj Stan Bullock, were dined out early in February.

As the forecast of events was so busy, this was the only conceivable date. The Mess was also entertained with tales of "the CO as a young man" from the Battalion 2IC, Maj Chris Vince, delivered with his customary dry sense of humour. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dined the CO out at the TA Centre at Norwich and also said farewell to the QM.

The last six months has also seen Capt Matthew Ellis leave the Battalion for CUOTC to be replaced as Operations

Officer by Capt Tim Jenkins. In January, CSgt Atkins returned to the Vikings to be replaced by CSgt Langley-Stevens as PSI A Company. WO2 Boulton, on promotion, also returned to the 1st Battalion to be replaced by CSgt Garner. It is hoped that they enjoy their time with the Battalion as much as their predecessors.

With the re-role of 5 Royal Anglian, the Battalion was extremely honoured to inherit their Band and Corps of Drums which will thankfully remain a Royal Anglian Regiment asset. It is a great pleasure to have our own music makers and we welcome both Capt Byrne and the Band and Drum Major Bradshaw and the Drums.

April has also seen Maj John Davidson and Capt Pete Chilvers called up to serve with the IFOR in Bosnia. They leave to being training at Catterick on May 1, 1996, to deploy in the middle of the month to reinforce the regular Army operation in the FRY. The Battalion wishes them good luck and a safe return. To stand in for Maj Davidson as OC D Company, we have enlisted Capt Cook, an ex Fusilier, who has volunteered for a commission from the RARO.

Finally the Battalion now looks forward to the challenges of annual camp in Belgium. As these notes are being written, movement tables are being adjusted, ammunition and stores are being indented for, and training programmes prepared for what promises to be a really worthwhile and enjoyable exercise.

Above left: Lt Col Thomas TD (right) hands over to Lt Col Gill (left). Above right: After winning the inter-platoon competition, Lt Gothard begins the bidding as he attempts to sell the Gaza Cup. Below: 'Stan the Man' Bullock outside RHQ Royal Anglian Regiment, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, retiring after 42 years in the Army at the same place he started in 1954.



News from the 6th Battalion

Celebrating the 25th anniversary



Left: Maj 'Stan the Man' Bullock keeps a watchful eye on the colours during his last parade in the Army.

OVER the last weekend of March, the 6th Battalion celebrated its 25th anniversary. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, an officers' and warrant officers' dinner was held in the TA Centre drill hall at Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds on Saturday Mar 30. This was a particularly fitting venue, as it was where the Battalion was born. With the hall illuminated by candlelight and decorated with the silver of our TA predecessors, all assembled were called to dinner by two buglers from the 1st Battalion.

A large number of personnel, including the Brigade Commander, Brig H R G Wilson, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the High Sheriff of Suffolk and the Mayor of St Edmundsbury were guests, cementing our friendship with those who have helped us in the past and we are sure, in the future too. Brig Wilson also presented Maj Stan Bullock, the QM, with a GOC's Commendation for his valuable services to 6 Royal Anglian.

Finally the Battalion's officers, warrant officers and many guests all toasted the memory of the past 25 years and the next 25 years to come.

On Sunday Mar 31, all companies of the Battalion converged on its heart at Blenheim Camp, to exercise its Freedom of the Borough of St Edmundsbury. After sword drill rehearsals for the officers, under the Adjutant, Capt Paul Bailey, and a vigorous warming up session by WO2 "Cal" Callaghan, the officers rejoined the soldiers for a final rehearsal around Blenheim Camp.

After a brief lunch and company photos, the Battalion was transported by coach into the centre of the town. Capt Rod Allen, OC RIT, had established a joint recruiting stand with the Battalion Headquarter Company and the weather was still looking good. An extensive police cordon and search operation had ensured that all the critical points on the parade were clear of any nasty surprises.

The parade kicked off at 2.30pm sharp. The Normandy Band of the Queen's Division led the Battalion, with bayonets fixed and colours unfurled, from the form up point in the Abbey Gardens through the Abbey Gate and into the Angel Hill. Watched by civic dignitaries, family and friends, ex-members of the 6th Battalion and the general public, the Battalion wound its way through the narrow streets of the town.

With the CO, Adjutant and Battalion 2IC heading the parade, A and D Company Guards followed on in working dress, while the colour party, QM, RQMS, RSM and the C Company Guard wore No.2 Dress. Headquarter Company brought up the rear in combats and field uniform, including two

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News from the 6th Battalion



Picture courtesy of EMMP Argyle Newspapers

Above: D Company Guard. Right: The Normandy Band of the Queen's Division, followed by the CO and A Company, march out of the Abbey Gates, Bury St Edmunds



News from the 6th Battalion



LCpl Head and Pte Cobbold.

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snipers, carrying radios and LAW 94. Finally two camouflaged and GPMG armed recon landrovers marked the end of a parade, which represented the Battalion in all forms of dress, reflecting its many activities.

To the Regimental March, Rule Britannia, the Battalion marched past. The Salute was taken by the Mayor, the Colonel of the Regiment, and the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, while other honoured guests such as the Deputy Honorary Colonel for Essex, Col Tomkins and the Deputy Honorary Colonel for Norfolk, Col Long was also present.

The parade culminated outside St Mary's Church, long associated both with the Regiment and the Suffolk Regiment too. A short service of thanksgiving followed, with the Colonel of the Regiment and the CO reading lessons, and the padre, the Rev David Lowe, addressing the congregation. After the service the Battalion was again moved by coach to a civic reception hosted by the Mayor in the Corn Exchange.

This generous gesture was a fitting end to the day.

The Mayor, councillor Jones, in a short speech, praised the 6th Battalion for its excellent parade, with the Colonel of the Regiment thanking the Mayor on behalf of the Battalion and the Regiment.

Training in Glencoe on Exercise Highland Spring

Maj Davidson writes:

AT 0500 hours on a dark, misty morning, the skirl of bagpipes sounds reveille. After only three hours of sleep the soldiers of D (Cambridgeshire) Company, 6 Royal Anglian, stir, dragging their weary limbs out of their sleeping bags to stand on the cold stone floor contemplating another arduous day in the mountains.

Exercise Highland Spring was a military training exercise in Glencoe, given as a reward to the Company for winning the 49 Brigade military skills competition a month previously. Based at the Pathfinder Hut – a 5 Airborne Brigade asset – the aim of the exercise was to meet the challenges of war in peacetime by promoting existing qualities of self-reliance, endurance, initiative and self-discipline, in order to enhance the qualities of leadership.

To complete the aim, various tasks had to be achieved – long distance canoeing, map reading and navigation, rock climbing and abseiling and an arduous traverse of the Aonach Eagach Ridge; the narrowest and highest ridge on the mainland.

The main body arrived in Glencoe at 0600 hrs on Friday Apr 5, after a long overnight journey from Cambridge. Splitting into two groups, the first group was literally launched into the cold waters of the Caledonian Canal with the second group heading off onto the lower slopes of Ben Nevis to tackle some difficult climbs and abseils (graded up to severe) under the experience tuition of Major Ffitch, on loan from the newly formed 158 Regiment.

Meanwhile, the Cockleshell Heroes, with their instructor Sgt Ritchie from 3 BW, commenced their long journey down Loch Linnhe into Loch Leven. The weather could not have been better; clear blue skies and warm breeze. The snow capped peaks of the Mamores jutting above the pine forests of Glenrigh, gave an altogether alpine setting to the exercise. After numerous attempts at Eskimo rolls and practising T rescues, the canoeists arrived in Glencoe at 1700 hrs at a strategically placed hotel. Here they swapped the cold waters of Loch Level for the hot springs of the hotel's Jacuzzi.

The rock climbers on the other hand,

after a hot day climbing, received a dip of another kind – by plunging into the freezing pools of the River Nevis. The numerous hill walkers and sightseers who were in the vicinity marvelled at the climbers as they traversed a rope bridge and then splashed about in the icy water. It led one bright wag to comment "No wonder the TA have a problem recruiting when the public see us doing this!"

Saturday dawned, with clear skies promising another splendid day. The two groups rotated, albeit with one slight change. Group one practised rope management and climbing with crampons and ice axes, as a rehearsal for Sunday! After dinner on Saturday, the party split into four groups, each led by an officer or JNCO and received orders for the night phase. This involved a move across difficult, unrecce terrain to RV with an agent for further tasking. The task was a night abseil down a 200 ft quarry face carrying full bergens. All the party completed this move, although the safety measures employed meant that time was against us and we did not get back to our accommodation until 0200 hrs Sunday.

Reveille Sunday at 0500 hrs was difficult. Stiff, sore limbs together with anticipation of the difficult ridge traverse gave an altogether operational scenario to the situation. SSgt Ken Hewitt of the JSMTC arrived at 0600 hrs ready to lead group one onto the ridge with group two setting off on an expedition through the Lairig Gartain – the Lost Glen. The ridge climbers were dropped off at the bottom of Am Bodach, which although only 1km away was 940m above. Some of The Fen Tigers, more used to the gentle undulations of STANTA, found the climb punishing with each man carrying over 25lbs of kit in addition to ropes, crampons, ice axes etc. After two hours the snow bound summit was reached. It was here that they saw the route – 5kms of spine-backed snow-covered ridge interspersed with 50m pinnacles and chimneys leading onto the white, glistening summit of Sgor nam Fiannaich. At 967m above sea level, it is the highest summit on the Aonach Eagach ridge. To the north, the summit of Ben Nevis was only 400m above, with the clear blue waters of Loch Linnhe far

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News from the 6th Battalion



Above: The Fen Tigers conquer Am Bodach Below: Pte Powell on the rope bridge.



below pointing south west to the Island of Mull and the Atlantic Ocean. The traverse and descent took almost nine hours, culminating in a few glissades down the icy slopes of nam Fiannaídh. A race ensued between the Training Major and Sgt Ritchie to be the first back to the accommodation and Sgt Ritchie won by a whisker. The second group meanwhile, had completed its expedition, confirming that the Lairig Gartain is not lost.

As forecasted, the weather turned for Monday, the final day, with a rain squall and overcast skies lending a typical highland scene to the dark gullies of Glencoe. Nevertheless, the two groups completed a

morning's training, with a few hardy individuals furthering their watermanship in the canoes and the remainder rock climbing on the indoor climbing wall in Fort William. The Q vehicle departed at lunch time, whilst we enjoyed an afternoon's R & R in Fort William in preparation for the homeward journey at 1800 hrs. Arriving in Cambridge at 0500 hrs Tuesday, the prospect of a day's work ahead of them did not diminish the enjoyment and satisfaction which the exercise gave. All agreed that it was a marvellous start to the new training year and we look forward to repeating a similar exercise next year.

A brief history of the Battalion

THE 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, was formed on April 1, 1971, at the end of a decade which saw many changes within the Regular and Territorial Army. After the amalgamation of the nine county regiments to finally form The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964, the TA Regiments were also reorganised. As a result, the 6th Battalion emerged from the East Anglian Territorial Army Battalions which had fought in the First and Second World Wars, retaining their heritage and intimate links with the community.

While the 5th Battalion was given a NATO role, the 6th and 7th Battalions, The Royal Anglian Regiment, were originally formed as Home Defence.

In 1971, the 6th Battalion was raised as follows: Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company - Bury St Edmunds; A (Royal Norfolk) Company - Dereham; B (Bedfordshire) Company - Bedford; C (Essex) Company - Braintree; D (Cambridgeshire) Company - Cambridge.

In 1985, the 5th and 6th Battalions each exchanged a Company, rationalising the geographical layout of their areas. As a result, No.1 (Suffolk) Company of the 5th Battalion eventually became B (Suffolk) Company of the 6th Battalion and was based in Ipswich. However, C (Essex) Company was absorbed by the 5th Battalion.

Further revisions in 1991, under the title Options for Change, also affected the 6th Battalion. As a result of this directive, in October 1992 the 6th Battalion changed its role from Home Defence to National Defence and its structure yet again. With the loss of the Bedford and Cambridge Companies to the 5th Battalion, the 6th Battalion welcomed the return of C (Essex) Company which was now based in Chelmsford, Warley and Vange. Nevertheless, more reorganisation in 1995, resulting from the Territorial Army Review, saw the 5th Battalion roled as an RLC Transport Regiment. This caused repercussions within the 6th Battalion with B (Suffolk and Essex) Company changing from infantry soldiers to HGV drivers, with the new title of 202 (Ipswich) Squadron Royal Logistic Corps. However, this was tempered by the reinstatement of D (Cambridge) Company to the Battalion.

Tigers

Into the ARRC – fully recruited

NEVER mind two by two – the Tigers have been packing them in. Switching on to recruiting with single-minded purpose, the Battalion has led the way. No man (or woman) has been left uninvolved. A brand new exclusive battalion recruiting caravan, sponsored by the NEXT group, has spurred the counties forward. Every corner of the Battalion – now stretching from Hertford to Humber – has shown a remarkable upturn. As a result the will to gain and retain recruits has doubled at all levels. Ex-regulars are joining at previously unseen rates.

Strong recruiting in the Territorial Infantry is essential while roles and organisations change. Our former B (Leicestershire) Company has now sadly gone its separate way to become part of the RLC. The Company Commander, the indefatigable Maj Trevor Terheege, will no doubt ensure that his new company is not just bigger but better as a result.

When our new B Company joined us late last year, a few new accents had to be coped with, but fortunately no change to attitude. In a regiment so used to reorganisation they joined us with excellent good grace and humour and proceeded to give us a stout lesson in competitive spirit and a very good run for our money.

Remembrance Day was marked by each company in its own county, with services held not just in county towns but also in all platoon locations. Observance was particularly poignant in view of the 50th anniversary of peace and the outstanding co-operation between companies and the comrades in their various branches. Another, shorter peace allowed the soldiers to appear on the streets in uniform to support the Royal British Legion and boost collection efforts.

Later in November the Battalion gathered at Strensall to shoot. The weekend included an introduction to the new APWT and to using ranges which are within walking distance of camp. No doubt we will get used to the second more quickly than the first and it did leave more energy for the obligatory BFT.

December in the Battalion was traditionally centred on Beckingham where there was an opportunity to pick up on ATD testing as a qualification for the all important

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Riforce P1 during the assault course on Ex Polar Challenge

News from the Tigers



Above: Winning section from C Company for the Parachute Cup at Battalion SAAM. Right: Capt Alex Wong being interviewed by Central TV during Ex Polar Challenge. Below: Competitors in Ex Tasteful Tiger, WLCpl Lock and Sgt Simpson



News from the Tigers



Above: Sgt Askew of Wellingborough Detachment at a recruiting drive.
Below: Leicester Tiger having replacement tooth fitted by 49 Brigade dentist.



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bounty, now a stunning £900 for a three-year soldier. Another crack at the APWT preceded the soldiers' annual Christmas dinner as the officers and senior NCOs stayed hungry in order to play waiter and washer-up. Come the morning, any dull heads were dispelled by order of a platoon march and shoot competition.

Other activities in December included a first foray by the Int Cell, led by OCdt Catherine Hughes, into the 2 Division competition and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw held at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln. Both provided a lot of lessons but the Sergeants' Mess would argue that its event was the more successful.

January began with a bid for stardom by Capt Mike Cunningham, PSAO Headquarters Company in Leicester. Inspired by the Commanding Officer's recruiting team efforts around local schools and colleges he appeared on local radio, regional television and SSVc. We feared the worst for public morale but recruiting numbers have since shown this to be unfounded.

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News from the Tigers



Picture courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo

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A blizzard of paperwork and planning by the 'Trainer' Maj Rodney Harward came to a snowy end as Exercise Demanding Tiger, planned for Salisbury Plain, skidded to a halt during deployment amongst the worst weather of the winter. A rapid replanning produced a highly productive weekend's training for all ranks, including more than 100 new recruits.

A long-standing member of the Battalion was recognised in the New Year Birthday Honours List with an MBE. Cpl Metcalfe from A (Lincolnshire) Company has served in the TA for 25 years, becoming at one time Colour Sergeant as the Officers' Mess manager. On reaching the age of 45 he transferred to the RLC and transferred to the Parachute Regiment to stay serving. He was able to rejoin the Battalion three years ago at Sobraon Barracks in Lincoln where he is also the caretaker.

In February we concentrated on skill-at-arms and team training as BNSAAM and the brigade inter-platoon competition drew close. The competition season was none-the-less well and truly started. Our GPMG

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Above: Territorial Efficiency Medals being presented by Col Geoffrey Newmarch to Cpl David Metcalfe (2nd bar), Sgt Shane Redhead and Sgt Paul Hudson.
Below: FIBUA assault during Ex Polar Challenge



News from the Tigers



Above: Brigadier Groves presenting Sgt Smalley with the Battalion champion shot trophy. Below: SF Platoon



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(SF) team came an excellent second place in the 2 Division Match 83 competition, which was a re-run of the original event, planned for November but abandoned due to snow.

Within the Battalion our Headquarters Company won Exercise Mechanical Tiger, an MT competition, whilst A (Lincolnshire) Company led by Cpl Metcalfe MBE won Exercise Tasteful Tiger, the annual catering competition.

Stories of the driest winter this century were dismissed by a soggy Battalion found training on Stanta for the Brigade Platoon competition. There was nothing wet about the attitude, however, as the soldiers went about a robust package including Fibua, platoon attack, night navigation, river crossing and a host of other skills. Whilst not exactly what you would call a 'dry run' the standard was notably high.

Unable to face the British weather, OC C (Northamptonshire) Company, Maj Peter Starcevic, his SPSI WO1 Ibrahim and the Quartermaster headed for Gibraltar saying that they were going to carry out a recce for Exercise Marble. For so that a composite company from the Battalion could enjoy two weeks training there in May.

March being the end of the training year also saw an increase in activity as the last remaining competitions took place to decide merit in the Battalion and the Brigade. The 49 Brigade competition provided many surprising new elements and our C Company acquitted itself very well with a good third place. Being asked to provide an up-to-scratch brew in a plastic mug to end the final stand threw them a bit - normally OC C will accept his Darjeeling from nothing less than a China cup and saucer. We were the only battalion to enter four fully manned platoons with three of them coming in the first seven out of 15.

A Central Television crew tailed our Headquarters Company team throughout the exercise to make the second part of a documentary on 'A Day in the Life of a TA Soldier'.

The Battalion skill-at arms meeting was a resounding success at Strensall once the various companies had found their way north through thick fog to arrive in the small hours. A clear day on the Saturday yielded a good crop of scores in the Association Cup, The Parachute Cup and the APWT. Sunday morning saw the traditional falling plate competition and prize giving. Sgt Kretay aided by megaphone provided a 'and they think it's all over' commentary whilst the Sergeants' Mess somehow once again managed to rig the game to beat the officers. In

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News from the Tigers



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the first competition of its type a battalion girls team thrashed the young soldiers team out of sight.

Brigadier Colin Groves, in his last official appearance with the Battalion, was present to award the prizes, in particular those of champion company skill-at-arms to Headquarters Company, commended by Maj Robert Beech and for overall champion company to A (Lincolnshire) Company commanded by Maj Rob Burns. Brigadier Groves had many kind words for us and his encouragement will be remembered by those who have come to know him as a friend of the Battalion.

The middle two weekends of April saw the Battalion combine training and recruiting with several different exercises going on throughout our area. Headquarters Company conducted its weekend training in Leicester City Centre and held an orienteering competition in Bradgate Park. Other companies held open days in their detachment locations and leafleted town centre shoppers. The recruiting caravan was also out and about with B and Headquarters Companies.

The BNSAAM saw the publication of the new battalion newsletter 'Tiger Tales'. The aim of Tiger Tales is to promote battalion events and activities. It will also keep people informed of what everyone else is up to in a light hearted manner. Naturally the job of editor has fallen to the IO. OCdt Hughes has done a good job putting the first edition together and it has been well received.

On the social side of our life the Officers' Mess held their ladies guest night at Garrats

Hey in November and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess enjoyed theirs at Sobraon Barracks. A (Lincolnshire) Company also celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Sobraon in the company of His Worship the Mayor of Lincoln and numerous guests. The second Officers' Mess Past and Present dinner was held at Leicester with four previous commanding officers in attendance and numerous other social events were held around the companies including a Valentine's Day party at C (Northamptonshire) Company.

The Officers' Mess held a black tie dinner at Strensall in March and took the opportunity to dine out Brigadier Colin Groves, Maj Richard Cole, Maj Colin West and Capt Roger Wiltshire.

Maj Richard Cole leaves the Battalion to take up an MS post at Headquarters 49 Brigade. Maj Rod Burns leaves OC A (Lincolnshire) Company to take up post as Battalion 2IC, having handed over to Maj Frank de Planta, formerly Operations Officer. Maj Colin West leaves the Battalion having handed over his post as MO to Maj Isobel Frain. Capt Robert Blades returns home to the Vikings to be succeeded by Capt James York as Adjutant. It is with great sadness that we record the death of Colin Albany on Dec 15, 1995 after a long illness. His memorial service in March was held in Hertford. It was very well attended as was the reception afterwards in the Hertford TA Centre. His replacements as PSAO B (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company, Capt John Lynch, takes over at the end of April.

Following in the footsteps of 1 Suffolk

Lt Col J B C Prescott, 7th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, writes:

A BUCKET and spade family holiday in Normandy this summer gave me the opportunity to visit the many battlefields in the area. In particular I chose to follow in the footsteps of the 1st Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment, the unit which my late father served with as a Company Commander in the initial stages of their campaign.

The Suffolks' experience was typical to that of so many other units involved in one of the biggest military operations ever mounted. Great courage was displayed against an enemy that man for man some would argue was better trained and that most would agree was certainly better equipped than the allies. Perhaps the most important quality shown was their resilience, particularly in respect of the high rate of casualties that were sustained and the uncertainties that lay ahead.

Their journey in fact took them from the beaches of Normandy on June 6 to the centre of Hannover on May 8, 1945. Of the 36 officers that landed on D-Day, only 5 managed to escape death or wounding during the subsequent campaign.

Armed with the Regimental History and Serie Bleu 1.25000 maps of the area, I set off to follow the first part of the Battalion's journey; in particular to look at three separate actions that they were involved in during the first three months following June 6: the assault on the Hillman Bunker, the attack on the Chateau De La Londe and finally their part in the breakout battle.

Hillman Bunker June 6 1944

The Battalion, which was commanded by Lt Col Dick Goodwin, left Southampton on June 5 and landed on Queen Beach to the east of Lion Sur Mer at 0720 hours the next day. The smooth passage of the Battalion from the landing craft into the assembly area inland is testimony to the meticulous planning and organisation at all levels during D-Day. Casualties at this stage were very light – only three wounded.

Some 3 km inland just to the south of
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News from the Tigers

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Colleville-sur-Orne lay the main objectives of the Battalion; Morris and Hillman Bunkers which were two key German strongpoints.

Morris's 65-strong garrison surrendered to B Company with little opposition shortly after 1300 hrs but it was Hillman, the objective of A Company commanded by Capt Ryley, that caused serious delays in the advance. A lack of heavy artillery support and the inability of the armour in the early stages to effectively link in with the assaulting infantry proved to be a limiting factor.

Whilst there has been some criticism of the apparent sluggishness of the attack, and it was 2015 hrs before the position was occupied, it has generally been accepted now that it was more the fault of the planners, rather than the infantry, who failed to assess the seriousness of the threat Hillman represented. This was not the only miscalculation, for Caen, which was meant to have fallen on D-Day, remained in German hands for another six weeks.

Whilst the casualties at Hillman were again relatively light, only seven dead and 25 wounded, the Company Commander was one of those to be killed. The gains for the Suffolks on the first day of their journey were 270 prisoners and all objectives taken.

Minden Day 1995

The approach to Hillman from the assembly area still offers evidence of the difficulties that the Battalion experienced. Rolling open cornfields offered excellent going for the attacker with the right force ratio, but in the Suffolks' case the balance swung very much in favour of the defender.

The village has since been renamed Colleville-Montgomery and the road that leads south from the village to Hillman is now called Rue du Suffolk Regiment. The site of Hillman has been bequeathed to the Regiment by Madame Lенаud as a permanent memorial and a plaque commemorating the action is positioned on the side of the bunker. The villagers continue to look after the site and on the day that I visited, the Suffolk flag was proudly flying to mark Minden Day.

Chateau de la Londe June 28 1944

After a period of consolidation in the bridgehead, the Battalion, now under the command of Lt Col Gough, who had replaced the severely wounded Lt Col Goodwin, were poised on June 27 to take part in a brigade attack on the garrison centred around Chateau de la Londe which lay some 5 km to the south of Hillman. My



Chateau De La Londe, in July 1944, above, and today, left

father had by now rejoined the Battalion and had taken over the command of A Company. Their objectives consisted of three companies of tanks (30-40), with a company of infantry and a platoon of sappers. The approach to the Chateau was over open cornfields and after crossing the Start Line at dawn on the 28th a ferocious attack took place over the short distance to the Chateau. It was not until the evening that the objective was finally secured.

The casualties in this day's fighting were seven officers and 154 other ranks killed, wounded or missing. The dead which included OC D Company, Maj Philip Papillon, were buried in a temporary cemetery marked by a cross erected by their Assault Pioneer Platoon at the end of the avenue to the south of the Chateau.

August 1995

The chateau now stands just a few kilometres away from the outskirts of the rapidly expanding city of Caen. The building has returned to being an impressive family home with the laughter of young children now replacing the horror of the battle that was fought there. At the entrance to the chateau near the main road is a headstone with the Suffolks' insignia commemorating the battle and the fallen.

There is now no evidence of where the temporary cemetery was except perhaps for a small part of the garden that is fenced in, which could mark the spot. Those that fell in the attacks on Hillman and the chateau are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery just to the east of the village of Hermanville-sur-Mer which lies close to Queen Beach.

The Road to Tinchebray Aug 2-14 1944

The battle for Normandy had reached the

breakout phase and the advance had moved southwest to Caen. The Battalion was now involved in a brigade advance down the axis of the road between Vire and Tinchebray.

On Aug 13, orders were given for a brigade attack towards Tinchebray. After the CO's orders B Company Headquarters was caught by an artillery barrage which killed all 3 Platoon Commanders, CSM and one Platoon Sergeant.

My father's company was involved in several successful and hard fought actions but battle stress and fatigue were becoming increasingly evident.

On Aug 28, Lt Col Craddock replaced Lt Col Gough who was wounded. The Battalion had now been commanded by three different COs in as many months.

August 1995

I arrived in the vicinity of one of my father's company objectives and introduced myself to a farmer working in his yard who then quickly and with great excitement introduced me to the rest of his family.

He disappeared into an outhouse and produced a dusty bottle of home brew cider and also a German helmet. We then adjourned to his house for an impromptu lunch which was quickly prepared and despite the language barrier talked of the battle that took place on his land some 51 years ago. The fallen from this particular part of the campaign now rest in the War Graves Cemetery just to the east of le Beny-Bocage.

Their generosity to a total stranger encapsulates the very real feeling of gratitude that the people have for anyone remotely connected to their liberation. Few now have any recollection of the war but there remains amongst many, of all generations, a lasting recognition of the sacrifice that so many made to secure the freedom they now enjoy.

News from the Tigers

My life as a TA SPSI

WO2 A Cousins, B Company, 7 Royal Anglian writes:

AS I write, I am coming to the end of my second tour of duty at Loughborough TA Centre with the 7th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. My first tour was as a Sergeant Permanent Staff Instructor (PSI) between 1989-1991 and the latter as a Senior Permanent Staff Instructor (SPSI) from 1993-1995.

The time spent has been extremely enjoyable but at times frustrating. However, anyone with a good sense of humour, open mind and the right attitude will do well from serving with the TA as an instructor.

The myth of going on a nice cushy little number could not be further from the truth as the work is demanding, varied and gives you good experience in a number of different skills. For example, during my present tour, I have planned and conducted live firing by day and by night, been involved with the planning and running of a Potential JNCO Cadre, organised my companies' participation in the presentation of new colours to the regiment and taken a composite platoon to the Ascension Islands – just to name a few.

Backgrounds

The main difference between Regular Army and TA work is that most of the time you are on your own. You will have to make decisions and act upon them. I estimate that a large amount of my time is spent solving or preventing problems.

The soldiers parade one night per week and normally there are two working weekends per month, sometimes more. I ensure mainly that the training is running as it should and give advice where required. Time off in lieu is given after working weekends and when we have a free weekend we usually take the Friday off, which gives us two long weekends a month. Wednesday afternoons are also free to enable the Permanent Staff to take part in a sport of their choice or do some other constructive recreational activity. The main advantage for the family is that you are able to plan ahead.

The TA soldiers come from many different backgrounds, from managers to manual labourers and of course some are unemployed. All work a full day and then don uniform and become TA soldiers. To their credit, most are extremely enthusiastic and

loyal. To some it is much more than just a hobby and as a Regular soldier serving with the TA you must come to terms with the fact that the TA are civilians with perhaps a different approach to soldiering than us Regulars. It does take a lot of patience at times and frustration is part and parcel of the job.

The training night for B Company at Loughborough is held on Wednesdays, 1930 – 2130 hrs. The training programme is written by the Company 2IC, or should be, with advice from the SPSI, and this should cover a three-month period to give the necessary notice to the soldiers. What usually happens (but fortunately not at B Company) is that many SPSIs end up producing the training programme. This is a trap that PSIs get themselves into – you must get the TA to do the job. If you do their job for them then they will continue to sit back and let you. This is an area which concerns many PSIs, when do you step in and for how long do you let things go? You may well have heard ex-PSIs say: "If I didn't do it then no-one would have." This is normally because they have not instructed the TA soldier in such things and are too quick to jump in to do the job.

There is a lot to be done on a training night with very little time to do it in; OCs interviews, recruit briefings, kit issues, weapon training, course bids, preparation for weekend training etc. Drill nights make a long day for PSIs and in most cases you do not get home before 2330 hours and sometimes not at all when the social side of TA life comes into play.

Attendance problems

TA attendance is something that fluctuates all year round. There is a minimal attendance required in order for soldiers to qualify for a tax free bounty (ranging from £250 to £900). Bounty is not a privilege and TA soldiers are made to earn it, which most of them do. You will get very involved in the struggle for attendance and this is at times the worst part of the job for me. Even if half the number of soldiers expected turn up for training you owe it to them to ensure that they have a good time and benefit from whatever is laid on. Flexibility is the name of the game and the bottom line is that no soldiers means no training and therefore, the push for recruiting and retention goes on relentlessly.

The TA are restricted on the amount of

training they can carry out – as with most things these days the cheque book rules. As for the most part, you are working on your own and mid week if you want something done, nine times out of ten you will have to do it yourself. I would advise anyone likely to be posted to a TA Battalion to brush up on military writing and office skills as the amount of paperwork is horrendous.

Communication skills

It is important that you are able to communicate well, both on paper and verbally, as the passage of information is vital to soldiers you may only see a couple of times a month. If negotiators are required in Bosnia then they should send an SPSI as at times you are the man stuck in the middle between a number of differing factions i.e. the Commanding Officer, the Training Major (Regular Officer), the PSAO and of course, your TA Company Commander. You must find the right balance in order to show support for all of them. Most of the time things are work out and peace prevails.

In 7 Royal Anglian all the permanent staff work closely with each other, even though geographically we are split between three counties. We have regular monthly training conferences covering future events and any aspect of training.

A long with most other battalions, 7 Royal Anglian has been affected by Options for Change. One of the effects of this is that B (Leicestershire) Company at Loughborough is re-rolling to the RLC under command of 5 Royal Anglian. This is a difficult time for the Company and everything is being done to ensure that a smooth as possible transfer takes place.

Overall, life as a PSI with the TA for me has been a combination of new learning experiences and adopting new attitudes and methods of solving problems. I came to the TA as a Sgt, left as a CSgt and now on my second tour I have been promoted to WO2, so life with the TA has done my career nothing but good. My family enjoyed the stability and we have used the time well by buying our own house.

My advice to anyone offered a chance to serve with the TA is to take it. There are frustrations but the enthusiasm of the TA soldier more than compensates for this. You will return to your battalion with a wider experience, not only of the Army but life in general, which can only benefit you in the long term.

ATR Bassingbourn

Divisional focus transferred

WITH the redeployment of HQ Queen's Division to Warminster on Apr 1, 1996 the divisional focus at Bassingbourn has transferred to C (Queen's Division) Company.

The outline organisation of the Company is shown below, and is

structured to meet the requirement to train 1072 Queen's Division recruits annually. Badging and allocation of recruits is conducted in accordance with divisional policy and reflects current manning priorities as defined by the divi-

sional lieutenant colonel.

The Company would be delighted to receive visitors from battalions and welcomes Regimental publications, posters and broadsheets for display purposes.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

OC C (Queen's Division) COMPANY

Maj R F Johnstone RRF
Colchester Mil (765) 4267

CSM

WO2 McAuley PWRR
Colchester Mil (765) 4247

CQMS

CSgt Griggs PWRR

TRAINING TEAMS

Albumeria Platoon

Pl Cmd:

Vacant

Pl Sgt:

Sgt Williams PWRR

Anzio Platoon

Pl Cmd:

Lt Chambers PWRR

Pl Sgt:

Sgt Mathurin RRF

Burma Platoon

Pl Cmd:

Lt Griffin RRF

Pl Sgt:

Sgt Don PWRR

Minden Platoon

Pl Cmd:

Lt Hughes R Anglian

Pl Sgt:

Sgt Walker R Anglian

Quebec Platoon

Pl Cmd:

Lt Newall PWRR

Pl Sgt:

Sgt Styles RRF

Youth Team in demand

IN the current climate of shortfalls in recruiting targets, 160 Army Youth Team has, along with many other organisations under the Director Army Recruiting (DAR) umbrella, become very much busier. Whilst not directly a recruiting organisation, the various activities run by the team have proved popular in promoting the Army and latterly the Regiment. The Team is now almost exclusively Royal Anglian and covers a majority of the Regimental area apart from the northern extremities.

The main activity of the Team remains the 24-hour Look at Life visit. This overnight

exercise introduces young people, aged 13-21, to a cross-section of Army activities culminating in a visit to 1 Royal Anglian and being sent across the assault course.

Our residential week-long adventure training trips continue and there are 10 planned over the summer months. These also allow the staff to build up vast adventure training log books and LCpls Townly, Sibley and Johnson of the Vikings and Cpl Pearson of the Poachers have taken advantage of under-subscribed courses to become qualified in every conceivable adventure training pursuit. In fact LCpl Townly has

become but a distant memory to the Team, spending every available moment away on courses. Wherever you are, there is some work back here for you!

The Team has been involved in many local events. Most of these involve abseiling off a tall building in order to raise money for charity. Recently this involved abseiling from the tenth floor of Addenbrookes Hospital for Cancer Research. Whilst not working directly with schools this kind of event does advertise the Army and with this latter event the Team appeared on regional television.

The calendar is now full with over 140 commitments to over 2,000 school children and college students over the next six months. Hopefully a few new recruits will be guided to the Regiment as a result.

RIT and Cadets



RIT busy again with field and county visits

OVER the last six months the RIT has been busy firstly in station in Bassingbourn, with field visits by ACF/CCF. Secondly we have also been out and about with visits to 90% of our Royal Anglian badged ACF detachments in the county areas. Look at Lifes have played a part also, with the RIT operating from Chilwell Camp, running Look at Life programmes for schools in the county areas.

The RIT has seen some changes in its personnel over the last six months. Capt Jeff Wilcox, 1st Battalion, who has now retired, handed over to Capt Rod Allen, 1st Battalion. Sgt Davies, 1st Battalion, ends his 22 years and has been replaced by Sgt Toates, 1st Battalion. We also said farewell to Cpl Fay (returned to 1st Battalion), Cpl Parker, 2nd Battalion, LCpl Williams, 2nd Battalion, LCpl Sweet, 1st Battalion, LCpl Hayes, 2nd Battalion, all of whom have left the Army and we wish them well for the future.

Members of the RIT have been flying the flag for the Regiment by representing the ATR on the sports field with WO2 Mini Minns in athletics, Sgt Charles at rugby, and LCpl Hayes at hockey.

The RIT now looks forward to the next six months advertising the Regiment in the county areas.



Woodbridge School CCF receiving their prizes at Combat Cadet.

Woodbridge win Combat honours

AFTER being beaten by a single point last year, the determined effort by the boys team to turn the result around paid off this year when they won the CCF trophy at Combat Cadet beating ten other CCFs. Overall out of 20 teams of ACF and CCF they came fourth. This year's competition was much harder with more emphasis on day one on military knowledge and leadership, followed on the final day by physical prowess. They had an impressive series of results and were rewarded for their efforts by each being presented with a superb statuette.

This year we also entered a girls team and they too went about their task with enthusiasm and determination. Again this paid off when they finished third in the CCF

competition narrowly missing out on second place, seventh overall and along the way certainly putting other male teams to shame. We look forward to defending the title!

Other news in brief is that Sgt Anna Edgar successfully completed the land command leadership course and at the end received a prize for the most improved cadet. Sgt Lee Hibbert has replaced CSM Karen Dorward as the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk's Cadet. CSgt Sally Nicholson, the shooting team captain, has been leading by example and winning prizes in competitions and is training the team hard for Bisley.

At the time of writing we are preparing for our biennial review and Cadsaam, both of which we will report on in the next issue. But for now as you can see the Woodbridge CCF is a thriving and successful organisation.

Cadets

Wellingborough Army Cadets visit Bassingbourn

WELLINGBOROUGH School Army cadets' visit to Bassingbourn in March promised to be an exciting day, and we were not disappointed.

After being met and addressed by the OIC of the RIT, Capt Allan, we quickly moved to the SAT range.

This was an extremely good activity and completely new option for most of the cadets. All were impressed, and agreed that had they been given the opportunity, they would have liked to have spent longer trying to improve their skill. As it was, Tom Patterson, one of our corporals, gained a very high score on one of the activities and this did much for his morale and the honour of the school.

Later we moved on to platoon tactics and battle skills. Both pupils and the regulars who trained them, worked hard, and the final attack was noisy and impressive. It resulted however, in one of the cadets, Jessica Shine, twisting her ankle and having to be carried from the scene by a 'knight in shining armour'. Such chivalry is rare nowadays, but Bassingbourn did us proud.

The medical centre was first class. However, the young lady concerned was so distraught at seeing her badly swollen ankle, that she was not aware that the prompt attention received, meant that five days later she was able to dance, with her ankle strapped, the lead dancing part in the school production of 'Cabaret' at the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough.

Jessica did not manage to take part in the finale Bassingbourn RIT had arranged for us, but as irony would have it, she could have done! Our last activity was a steeple-chase carrying a stretcher! Nevertheless, we managed without her and Wellingborough pressed forward, through mud and high water, to arrive triumphant at the finishing line.

It was a good day which promised to be exciting, and every expectation was fulfilled. Thank you Bassingbourn.



Kimbolton annual camp

EXERCISE Young Viking, an exercise for our senior cadets, was run during our annual camp at Crowborough Training Camp, Sussex. We were joined this year by several RAF cadets who had come to sample 'life on the other side' and the priority for the first three days at camp for all those taking part was to brush up on the various military skills required.

The CSM's lecture on the 349 was not strictly according to the manual: "You put the thingy in the thingy and then press the thingy." However, we managed perfectly well. He later tried out a new battle tactic, shouting "Go away, we're having lunch" to the enemy during one ill-timed attack. Our OC has assured us that he really has passed his Advanced Proficiency test!

The Ashi Vakuf journal, published daily, provided much background information and amusement.

After three days' training, 11 replica Armies' embussed on the back of a TCV driven (immaculately) by the OC. One cadet declined to join us, having thoughtlessly broken his arm doing PT the previous morning.

We arrived on the training area (Pippingskya) and, before we had gathered our thoughts, were attacked by the enemy. Chaos reigned but with help from our military advisers (2 RIT) we began to get our act together and make a fighting exit to our harbour area.

Patrols were sent out, one taking on some well camouflaged deer, to try to build up information on enemy activity on the area.

One of our tasks was to suppress the enemy and keep open vital supply routes. This we attempted to do but, like all enemy, they did not stick to the rules and kept ambushing our patrols and forcing us to move harbour sites.

Various mishaps did occur - Maj Wylie's landrover was accidentally attacked, as were some perfectly innocent junior cadets on a navigation exercise - and why on earth does it always have to rain from the start of the exercise until 30 minutes before the end at which time the sun comes out?

Maj Wylie and Capt Browne, both 1st Battalion and both Old Kimboltonians, joined us for the first two days of the exercise but we were never quite certain which side they were on. Capt Browne had sustained a rib injury playing football, but still managed to leap in and out of bushes with great abandon - we hope no lasting damage occurred. Cadet Anna Kirkin went for a taste of the wild life and swapped sides for a couple of hours which we did not think was very sporting. Cpl Tabitha Hammond managed to get more sleep than anyone else, thus qualifying for the Golden Maggot award and Cdt Tim Goodge, although asthmatic, adopted the Lintford Christie approach when challenged by the enemy - what a lovely mover!

The Basic Platoon carried out a successful ambush on us (even though the game was slightly given away by 24 rifles being cocked) forcing us to run up a hill carrying

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Cadets

Lincolnshire produces top swimmer

1 Company (Royal Anglian badged)

Army Cadet swimming champion

LINCOLNSHIRE Army Cadet Michael Parkin (16) of Vernon Street, Lincoln, was in top form when he represented the county and the Army Cadet Force in the cadet inter-services swimming championships. He had previously competed in county, regional and national events to qualify for selection for this annual competition.

Swimming in the senior boys, over 16 years, in 4 x 2 lengths medley relay and 4 x 2 lengths freestyle, he qualified for his national inter-services swimming colours.

This was a great achievement and displayed his dedication to the sport and to the Army Cadet Force. Joining the ACF at Washingborough detachment just after his 13th birthday in 1992, he has progressed through the training syllabus to achieve his 2-star certificate and is now in training to qualify for 3-star.

Meanwhile, on Jan 12 to 14, 1 Company was in Beccingham undertaking testing and training in the APC with emphasis on fieldcraft and the different types of patrols.

One star first aid was also conducted at which 22 students were presented for the course and 16 were successful in qualifying in casualty code.

A junior NCO course took place and the attending cadets were updated on their knowledge and learned new skills.

On Feb 4, 31 cadets, one officer and the required instructors led the company contingent on the amalgamated parade of all three cadet services to Bailgate Methodist Church.

This was to mark the anniversary of the formation of the Air Training Corps and the joint commemoration of Cadet Sunday. After the service the salute was taken by the Mayor of Lincoln councillor Geoff Ellis, accompanied by Maj A D McIntyre, Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, on behalf of the Commandant.

4 Company (Royal Anglian badged)

THE Company has not been totally idle over the last three months and some form of training has been taking place at various levels. The weekend of Dec 2 and 3 was devoted to the training and updating of the company officers and instructors and was held at the Cadet Centre at

Gainsborough. Seventeen members of the fraternity attended and were subjected to extensive training and revision of the APC and coaching skills.

In the evening, for a little light relief, a Christmas dinner, prepared by the stalwart of the frying pan Mr Ged Clarvis, was enjoyed with all the table embellishments and decoration of a mess function.

The guest of honour for the evening was the Deputy Commandant Lt Col G W Newmarch.

On Jan 16 Cherry Willingham detachment was the guest of the Lincolnshire Police when it visited the Police Headquarters at Neggleham.

An interesting programme had been arranged which enhanced the cadet's knowledge of the force and for some gave greater realisation of the duties and role of a policeman/policewoman.

A company weekend was held at Beccingham from Feb 9 to 11 at which testing in the various subjects and different star levels was the priority and was well received by the cadets. For many this was the completion for the award of the respective certificate at their higher level.

Casualty Code first aid was included in the programme and at the end of the course 33 students were qualified in the subject.

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full bergans. However, it was not all one-sided as we managed to capture two of the enemy (kindly supplied by 5 (V) Battalion Royal Anglian) on day two of the exercise.

The RIT assured us that total immersion of the captives in a very cold pond was a perfectly valid thing to do, but we took pity on them after a while and made them a hot brew. The final assault on the enemy took place on the final morning, culminating in the capture of Wally Gumlac, the rebel leader.

After a complimentary debrief by Sgt Charles and the post-ex photograph, we returned to Crowborough Camp to finish off the camp with a march and shoot competition and a very enjoyable smoker.

Our grateful thanks must go to all who helped to make the exercise so realistic: Capt Camp OC, RSM Watson, Maj Wylie and Capt Browne (1st Battalion), the RIT (2nd Battalion) and the enemy (5th (V) Battalion). We feel very fortunate to have had so much help and support from the Regiment.



Stamford College CCF firing the SA80, with LCpl Frith of 1 Royal Anglian

Around the Branches



Dinners

Seventy-five years after the first dinner was held in February 1921, the 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club met in the Officers' Mess at Aylsham Road on Friday Apr 19. Maj Tom Eaton took the chair. Thanks as always must go to Maj Fred Ayers for his masterminding of the event with the excellent fare in the capable hands of Maj Gilly Banthorpe and WO2 Pat Cole. It was good to see that A Company keeps it in such good shape and we thank the caretaker, Mrs Nancy Barnard, for her efforts.

The 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Old Comrades Association annual dinner was held in Gorleston the following evening. Many of the FEPOWs met once again. A contingent of ex-Thetford Platoon, A (Norfolk) Company, 6 Royal Anglian was welcomed by the President, Maj Tom Eaton. As usual, the first three former CSMs from A Company since it was formed in 1972 were present – WO2s Alec Barr, John Housego and Colin Sadd. Sadly, our venue for many a year, the St Edmonds Hotel, is converting to an old people's home but we were very satisfied with the fine fare and opportunity to meet old friends at the nearby Cliff Hotel. The annual accounts were presented by the treasurer, 'The Master', Maj Fred Ayers. Association Officers elected were: president – T C Eaton OBE; vice-presidents – M Ashton, J A L Barratt and W P Hall; chairman – Ray Pillar; vice-chairman – Colin A Sadd; secretary

– John H Housego; treasurer – Fred Ayers; committee – A E Pleasance, W Barber, G G Peacock, P Budds, J Bilyard and CSM A Debenham (A Company).

Chapel

Conducted by The Rev William Sayer, Chaplain The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, the Almanza Day commemoration service was held in the Regimental Chapel on Sunday Apr 28. The address was given by The Rev Douglas Nudds. Thanks are due to Gilly Banthorpe for the refreshments and his expert team of washers up, Pat Cole, Alec Barr and Maurice Eke. Note the earlier time of 0930 hrs for Regimental Chapel Services, the next being on Sunday Sept 22, 1996.

Mrs Rosemary Barclay has provided floral arrangements in the Chapel for our Regimental services for many years in memory of her son Robin Barclay who died while on active service in Aden. She has now relinquished this voluntary activity and we wish to express our appreciation for her magnificent floral displays that have graced the chapel. Mrs Janine Raybould has taken over responsibility for the flowers at Regimental services in the chapel.

Garden Party

Capt and Mrs Barratt again graciously open their lovely garden at Ugate House, Sannington for our annual garden party on Jul 7, 1996 at 1500 hrs.

London Branch

Bill Seymour writes:

I am pleased to say that our membership remains about the same as it has been for quite some time.

It is good to learn from correspondence and messages received, how many old service comrades of over 50 years ago are still interested and are being kept in touch with each other, although living many miles apart. It is one of the things of which the London

Branch is proud.

There is not much news this time but a report of the annual wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph at the end of April will follow in the next issue.

What Bill has not said is that he wrote the article within a week of being discharged from hospital after undergoing major surgery and radium treatment to correct a 1994 hip replacement which left him with insufficient mobility. We wish Bill a speedy and successful recovery, especially as he and Adeline celebrate their golden wedding on Dec 14, 1996.

The London Branch meets on the first Monday of the month at The One Tun, Saffron Hill, EC1 and would welcome any ex-members of the Regiment or members of other branches visiting the area.

Bill Seymour can be contacted on 0181 669 6632.

Norwich and District Branch Gilly Banthorpe writes:

Our treasurer Maj John Raybould left his school for six months to pursue his Army career in Bosnia.

Pre-Christmas drinks were enjoyed by a number of members and their ladies at the Norman Centre.

A superb Sunday lunch for branch members, ladies and guests was held in the Aylsham Road TA Centre on Feb 25, 1996. (Gilly modestly did not mention he was the organiser of this splendid function.) This was a great success and so good that another has been arranged in the Officers' Mess on Sunday Nov 24, 1996, 1230 for 1300 hrs.

At the Royal Norfolk Show Jun 26–27, the Regimental Tent will be open to all ranks. Thursday is less busy and gives a better chance to meet former friends and members of the Regiment, enjoy a sit down and relate old memories over a cup of tea or a glass of beer. A Regimental tie is your password!

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Around the Branches



The Burrell brothers at the laying up of colours in Norwich.
Picture courtesy of the Eastern Daily Press

Our chairman, Paul Boxall, has taken on more work, working with the Combined Services Organisation and helping City Hall staff to arrange the format for parades in the city.

Our visiting officers, Mr A C Storey and Mr F Baker, have visited several members both at home and in hospital. If you require assistance call Paul Boxall on 01603 744136.

Mr A Baker, our youngest member, deserves a mention for his sterling work at extracting one per member at each meeting for the raffle.

At the time of writing, Dot Tunaley has been admitted to the Priscilla Bacon Hospital for further treatment. This is his third admission in the past six months.

All members offer their best wishes and remind ex-members of the Regiment, both Regular and TA, they would be most welcome to visit us at 11am at the Norman Centre on the

fourth Sunday of the month.

Gorleston and Great Yarmouth District Branch **Ray Pillar writes:**

The year since our last report has been a busy one, and started with our attendance at the presentation of colours at Duxford. This was an excellent parade, well organised, and a good time was had by all who went. Members also attended VE, VJ and Armistice Day parades in Great Yarmouth. Several members also attended the service at the Memorial Cottages in Norwich for the first time (the coffee and biscuits afterwards were most welcome). Two minibuses for members and their families went to the Minden Day celebrations in Bury St Edmunds – our numbers for this very pleasant event increase each year.

Branch members have suffered bouts of illness of late. Ben Turner had three

months off work, two months back at work and is now off work again. Terry 'Wally' Waters spent two months in hospital on return from holiday in Cyprus. Six months down the line he is recovering slowly but is unable to return to work. We wish them both a speedy recovery. Jim Culley, one of our oldest members, also had a spell in hospital but is now fully recovered.

Our Christmas dinner and draw at the St Edmonds Hotel was attended by over 50 members and guests. The meal was enjoyable and over 60 prizes were equally shared out amongst those attending. An excellent evening and one of our best yet. Unfortunately, though we did not know it at the time, this was to be our last meal ever at the St Edmonds. Tony Barfield is changing the hotel to an old people's home and we wish Tony well in his new venture.

Our venue for the annual dinner this year will be the Pier Hotel, Gorleston on Saturday Nov 30. Regular attenders will receive details later. Anyone who wishes to attend should call Ray Pillar on 01493 601131 nearer to date.

The branch meets on the last Wednesday of the month at The White Lion Hotel, Cliff Hill, Gorleston at 8 pm. If any ex-members of the Regiment or members of other branches are in the area they would be made most welcome. Contact numbers: Ray Pillar (chairman) 01493 601131; Stan King (secretary) 01493 667328; Derek Sharpe (treasurer) 01493 733118.

Destroyer Platoon Association

On Saturday Jul 6, 1996 the annual reunion of Thetford 'Destroyer' Platoon will be held at the Thomas Paine Hotel in Thetford.

Formed in March 1973, Thetford Platoon met in the Croxton Road RMP Detachment huts adjacent to the former Ordnance Supply Depot. It was the second platoon formed by what was then A (Royal Norfolk) Company, 6 (V) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Those wishing to attend are invited to contact Vic Turner at 112 Fairfields.

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Around the Branches

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Thetford; tel 01842 753859.

Parade time is 1930 hrs. Dress, as usual, is scruff order.

JLR.

Regimental Dinner – September 1996

We hope to see many Old Comrades at the reunion dinner on Saturday Sept 21, 1996 at the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich 6.30pm for 7pm. Seating is limited to 200, so to be sure of your ticket ensure you book early via RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment, Britannia House, TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR3 2AD. Tel: 01603 400290.

Tickets are £10.50, payment in advance only as none will be taken on the night.



It has been a quiet start to the New Year with very few exciting events having taken place during the first six months, mainly due to the cold weather we have had to endure. However the Lincolnshire Regimental Association continues to attract new membership, in particular and most importantly with new faces of Royal Anglians who are regular attenders at our meetings and clearly enjoy the Regimental comradeship we have to offer.

Scunthorpe and District Branch

The branch last year celebrated its second anniversary since its formation in June 93. A dinner and dance held in the Wortley House Hotel proved to be a resounding success and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

December saw the branch hold its annual Christmas dinner, once again held at the Wortley House Hotel, with over 80 members and their guests

DIARY DATES

Fri Jun 7th '96

Sun Nov 10th '96

Fri Dec 20th '96

Third anniversary of the Branch's formation, Wortley House Hotel.

Remembrance Day Parade.

Annual Christmas dinner.

Wortley House Hotel.

attending. The standard was marched in to the sound of the Lincolnshire Poacher by Mr T Whitelock and escorts Mr M Mills and Mr D Holt. Unfortunately a full retrace of the route had not been completed and the standard was caught in the overhead lighting to the displeasure of the hotel manager. Naturally the Royal Lincolns rallied around their standard and the manager soon saw the funnier side to it, although he did not feel it was worthy of their claim to a new battle honour 'Chandelier'.

The branch chaplain, the Rev Mike Cooney, said prayers and the toasts to the Queen and the Regiment were given by Mr B English and Mr D Holt. A message was received from Her Majesty the Queen and was read by Mr T Whitelock. Mr C Bromby (branch chairman) acted as the MC for the evening and although he denies it, he really does enjoy the part.

As a token of thanks, two bunches of flowers and a box of chocolates were presented to Mrs Rita Jollands (wife of our secretary) by Mr Cassell in recognition for the tremendous work she does for the branch, not only at special functions but also for her involvement throughout the year.

Grimsby and District Branch

A very successful branch reunion was

held at the Beacholme Holiday Centre, Humberstone with 161 members and guests attending. The Regimental secretary, Capt John Lee BEM, was our principal guest along with 27 of our Polish friends from the Carpathian Lancers, members of the RAMC and other branch members.

Our thanks to the catering staff of the Beacholme Centre for once again providing a marvellous dinner.

During the Remembrance Day parades wreaths were laid on behalf of the Association at the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Cenotaph by Mr A Stephenson and the branch standard was paraded by Mr G Ives. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the recruiting office by Sgt M Hope, 2nd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment.

Our Christmas social held at Westward Ho Barracks was also very well attended and we were delighted to welcome the president of the NVA, Mr R Jefferson BEM and thank him for his attendance.

Midland and District Branch

Although the branch has had a very successful year attending many organised trips and social events, membership still remains at 40. New members are always very welcome, especially those from the Royal Anglian

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Members of the Scunthorpe Branch enjoying the birthday social

Around the Branches



Above: Presentation of the Regimental Shield to the Mayor of Stamford Town Council. Right: Sgt Hope on the left along with the late Ted Collins (parade marshal) a founder member of the Normandy Veterans Association who died recently.



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Regiment who may live in the area (there are already one or two members from the Regiment) who would enjoy meeting old friends and once again be part of that true service spirit.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Royal British Legion, Ivy Leaf Club, Coventry Road, Sheldon on the very edge of Birmingham and are very convenient for all the major routes leading into the city situated just off the M6, M42 and A45.

Stamford and District Branch

The Branch was formed initially on Dec 9th 1937 and continued until 1971 and then reformed on the Jan 11th 1994. Although we do not have a regular meeting date, but meet as and when events are planned, the Branch continues to be well supported.

The Lincolnite Newsletter tries to keep everyone informed, becoming a very intricate part of the Branch with news on forthcoming events within the branch and the town as well as many interesting reports on exploits of the Second World War and the history of the 10th Foot. Our thanks to Bill Simpson and his team for their relentless endeavour to ensure that the

Lincolnite not only continues to provide a vital link between the committee and its members, but also publishes useful information and some very interesting articles.

A most prestigious event was the presentation of a Regimental Shield mounted on a special plaque, remembering the Battle of Sobraon, to the Stamford Town Council, which is to be hung in the council room. Thanks to Dusty and Dennis for providing the shield and plaque. Afterwards the Mayor, councillors and ex-service friends were invited to a light buffet provided by the branch and everyone enjoyed a most jovial evening in pleasant surroundings.

Spalding and District Branch

Members of the Spalding and District Branch are spread over a wide area of the county and have great difficulty in attending the branch meetings each month. Despite this the branch continues to maintain a full calendar which included the dedication of a peace garden, garden parties and Remembrance Day parades.

During the early part of March we were delighted the Regimental secretary, Capt John Lee BEM, was able to visit the Branch and a full day's pro-

gramme was arranged. The South Holland and District Council was also very helpful, organising a tour of the peace gardens by the director of the environment and later afternoon tea with the chairman of the council in the town hall. Finally, after dinner with members of the Branch, Capt Lee attended the branch meeting before returning to Lincoln.



**BEDFORDSHIRE &
HERTFORDSHIRE**

Mr Jimmy Dix BEM has been appointed to the Association management committee and one of his tasks is to take responsibility for advertising the Association's existence and aims whenever and wherever possible. These are important times for the Association. As we lose old members, younger ones must be found to replace them in running the Association's affairs and managing our Museum and Cottage Homes Trusts. The Association membership is 662, which

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is down 24 since October 1994.

Twenty-two evergreens have been bought to provide ground cover for our Regimental Memorial Garden at Kempston, and in spite of the drought conditions during 1995, they are doing well. It has since been proposed that more evergreens be planted.

2nd Battalion war-time officers' reunion lunch

Fifteen of those who fought with the 2nd Battalion during the war turned up at the Victory Services Club in London on Saturday Nov 4th, 1995 for the 48th gathering. Numbers were down as we had lost two of our comrades during the year.

By popular vote the chair was taken by Col Graham Martin. After discussion it was decided to continue the lunches at the same venue and on the first Saturday of November, until we achieve our 50th anniversary. In spite of the falling numbers the lunch went well and our thanks go to Glyn Lloyd, who makes all arrangements, for continuing to take on this task.

Annual reunion and remembrance parade, Kempston – November 1995

Once again the weather was on our side, a very nice day although bitterly cold. Here again we had another excellent turnout with members travelling from all over the country to meet old friends of years ago. Some attended for the first time in many years and among these was Capt Stewart West who now lives in Malaysia, and was over here on family business. He served in the 1st Battalion in the Canal Zone in the 1950s and the TA. He met members of his old TA company for the first time in 26 years.

At 1150 hrs the nine branch standards under the command of Mr 'Becky' Sharpe and the wreath laying party under Mr Barry Sutcliffe BEM, paraded with the Corps of Drums of the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment (TA). The advance was sounded and with the drums leading this party marched to its positions on

and in front of the Regimental Memorial.

The Chaplain, Rev Robin Brown said the Act of Remembrance after which Lt Col Michael Bagstaff read the exhortation. Then came the solemn laying of individual wreaths by comrades on behalf of the 1st, 2nd and 5th Battalions 16th Foot, OC Bedford Company 5th Battalion, the Territorial Band, association branches, the Hertfordshire Regiment, cadets, police and many private wreaths from the widows of old comrades and others.

The Band played the Regimental marches as the contingents marched off, the salute being taken by the Association president and chairman who afterwards thanked the members for their smartness on parade.

Members then dispersed with their wives to the 'Keep' or to the Drill Hall for lunch and more reunions with long lost friends, before bidding them farewell for another year.

The reunion parade was the last for two of the Association's standards. The Union Standard, which was presented to the London Branch in 1942 and handed for safe keeping to the Bedford Branch in 1982, is in very poor condition and although it has been repaired again and again it just could not do another parade. The Watford & Hemel Hempstead's Hertfordshire standard is in the same state. New ones are now being made.

The re-dedication of the War Memorial Chapel – St Albans Cathedral

This took place on the morning of Sunday Nov 25th 1995 and was organised by the St Albans Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Standards and members of the Association were part of this parade which consisted of over 200 standards of the Royal British Legion and ex-Service organisations from the counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

During the 50th anniversary year of the ending of the Second World War, the Memorial Chapel at St Albans Abbey had been redecorated and refurbished. The Guidon of the

Hertfordshire Yeomanry, the Sovereign's and Regimental Colours of the 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment 1887–1924 and the Sovereign's and Regimental Colour of the 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) 1963–1969 are now better displayed and illuminated, as are the standards of the Royal British Legion and other ex-service associations.

The re-opening of the Regimental Gallery at Luton Museum

On Jan 31st 1996 a new permanent exhibition of The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment was opened in the recently refurbished gallery at Luton Museum, by the Mayor of Luton in the presence of the chairman of the Association, Brigadier Angus Robertson and other Regiment Museum Trustees. Part of the exhibition includes a new display of Luton during the war years. This is the second of nine galleries to be newly presented in a three-year programme to upgrade the permanent displays at Luton Museum and Art Gallery.

The exhibition begins with a figure of a soldier of the time of the Battle of Blenheim and ends with a figure of a Chindit. There are also displays of weapons, equipment, memorabilia and 600 medals associated with the Regiment. Included in the medal display are six of the nine Victoria Crosses awarded during the First World War to members of the Regiment. Information on the background to the campaigns in which the Regiment has been involved, and details of a soldier's life during the different campaigns are also displayed. Agreement has also been reached with the NAM for Brigadier Peter Young's medals to be loaned to Luton Museum for a year.

A preview was organised for members of the Association on Tuesday Feb 6th 1996. Many braved the snow to see the new gallery. There are still more exhibits and labels to be added, and a CD-ROM computer facility for storing

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Members of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Museum Trust at the Regimental Gallery re-opening ceremony at Luton Museum on Wednesday Jan 31st 1996. L. to r: John Seabrook, Maj David Thorogood, Brigadier Angus Robertson, Jack Leech, Lt Col Michael Bagstaff and Jimmy Dix.

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and accessing approximately 500 photographs (which will feature the Regiment in the post-Second World War era) to be installed. Sadly there is insufficient room for everything we have to be on display.

Association annual dinner and dance

The Regimental Association's annual dinner and dance was held at Sele School, Hertford on Saturday Apr 20th 1996. The Band of the Essex Yeomanry once again played during the dinner. We were pleased to welcome as our guests The Mayoress of Bedford and Hertford and Lt Col David Clements of The 2nd Battalion. Members of all the Association branches were present as were 16 members of the Essex Association. After the dinner, dancing continued until midnight on a very enjoyable evening.

Cap Badge

The sales of Maj Robin Medley's book 'Cap Badge' are proceeding well, but Maj Medley is anxious that the Regimental Association should not find itself holding large stocks of this story of our Regiment. He wishes to

encourage all members of the Association to help promote sales. The reviews of the book have been good. Here are two:- Soldier Magazine, Sept 4th 1995 - "The accounts of the battalions at war will excite all who like a good read about the war years, especially the foot-sloggers of rival regiments who are bound to draw comparisons." Legion, Nov/Dec 1995 - "A regimental history with a difference."

News from the branches

1995 was certainly a busy year for all of the **Bedford Branch** and what a long hot summer.

The VJ parade on Aug 20th formed up in the High Street and marched past HM Lord Lieutenant at the saluting base by the memorial on the embankment. The branch stand in the park was set up the previous afternoon and was by far the best.

Our branch dinner was held in the 'Keep' at Kempston on Sept 15th 1995 with 44 attending. Branch standards and members attended the three events in November: Remembrance Sunday at the memorial on the embankment, wreath laying and reunion parade at Kempston, and the re-dedication of the Memorial Chapel in St Albans Abbey. Members attended the excellent

Association dinner and dance at Hertford.

The **Hertford Branch** arranged a band concert by the Minden Band on Nov 16th 1995 which was a great success and a substantial cheque from the proceeds was sent to the Army Benevolent Fund. Over 50 members and their families attended the Regimental Day at Kempston which was as usual a most enjoyable day and a time to meet old friends. A supper dance was held on Dec 9 1995 and another on Mar 2nd 1996.

The Branch organised and attended the Association dinner and dance at Sele School on Apr 20th 1996.

On Aug 20th 1995, several members of the **Watford & Hemel Hempstead Branch** were at Berkhamsted Castle, which was the venue for the Berkhamsted Royal British Legion's celebration of the 50th anniversary of VJ Day. The standard was paraded on Aug 27th 1995 at the South Bedfordshire 50th anniversary VJ Day parade and dance. The parade started from the Priory Gardens in Dunstable, passing along the High Street to the Queensway Hall on a lovely sunny day. The evening started with a display from the Brentwood Youth Band of the Royal British Legion and ended with a Drum Head service.

On Oct 14th the Branch held a Sixties dance and social evening.

November was a busy month; on the 12th we paraded for the annual remembrance service at Hemel Hempstead, on the 19th at Kempston for the Regimental reunion and the following Sunday at St Albans. The branch held their annual dinner on Dec 9th, 1995.

Members attended the Association's dinner and dance at Hertford. The Branch is now in the position to start thinking about the purchase of a new Hertfordshire Standard as the fund has got off to a flying start with the raising of £173 from a car boot sale, as well as the proceeds of the Sixties night, and we have also received two donations from branch members which were greatly appreciated.

The **Hitchin Branch's** busy year

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ended with a trip to Thursford carol concert and a meal stop at Kings Lynn. This has now become an annual event so popular that each year we get more names than allotted seats. so an application has been made for extra tickets for 1996. The Branch Christmas dinner was held at the Firs Hotel on Dec 23rd and proved to be an enjoyable evening. A number of members attended the re-opening of the Regimental Museum on Tuesday Feb 6th and the Association dinner and dance on Apr 20th. The Branch outing this year will be a visit to Sandringham on a Sunday in June.

Since the last edition Luton & Dunstable Branch members have had a busy schedule, the first event being a coffee morning at the Dunstable Methodist Church Hall on Nov 4th which was a great success, making £95 profit for branch funds. On the Remembrance Sunday members paraded at Luton and the following Sunday a coach took members and their wives to the reunion and wreath laying ceremony at Kempston. The following Sunday the 26th, some members plus the branch standard travelled to St Albans to attend the rededication of the Military Chapel in the Abbey. Instead of a meeting in December the Branch held its annual dinner on the 14th, which was excellent and enjoyed by all who attended. Despite the snow, members attended the re-opening of the Regimental Museum on Feb 6th 1996. Our welfare officer took Christmas cards and small gifts to those members of the Branch who are unfortunately not in the best of health.

Obituaries

Maj Colin Albany TD late 1st Hertfordshire TA, 1st Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire TA, 5th Royal Anglian TA, secretary of the Hertfordshire Regiment Association, on Dec 16th 1995. **Mr Reginald Cox** on Nov 29th 1995, served pre-war with 1st Battalion in India and with the 2nd Battalion in France, being wounded at Dunkirk. **Mr H Goldleman** 9th Battalion on Sept 20th 1995. **Mr**

Thomas Holt in January 1996, served with 1st Battalion during the Chindit campaign. **Captain C Stark** on Oct 19th 1995, Sergeant 2nd Battalion North Africa & Italy, commissioned ACF. **Mr George Tridini** on Christmas eve 1995, served 28 years with the Regiment from China to North Africa, ex-RSM 1st Suffolks 1944-47. **Lt Col William (Bill) Whittaker** died Christmas eve 1995, served 2nd Battalion, CO of the Battalion in Italy, Cassino, late president of Association. **Mr Ted Wills** died Sept 20th 1995, served with 1st Battalion in China, Malta and India as Band Sergeant.



Hertfordshire

OWING to the sad death of their secretary, Maj Colin Albany TD, notes for this issue are unfortunately very short. The association held its reunion lunch and band concert on Sunday Nov 5th, 1995 at 12.30. Once again we were fortunate to have the Royal Anglian (Territorial) Band to play for this most enjoyable afternoon.

Members attended during November the Remembrance Day parade at Hertford on the 12th, the Band concert by the Minden Band at the Castle Hall, Hertford on the 16th, and with the standard at the reunion and wreath laying ceremony at Kempston on Sunday the 19th and lastly the re-dedication service at St Albans Abbey on the 26th.

Members also attended the Christmas buffet and dance on Dec 6, which was organised by the Hertford Branch Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association. The annual general meeting took place at the Hertford TA Centre on Apr 13th 1996 after which a spring supper was held.



TIGERS

Association appointments

a. Col J C D Higgs DL will succeed Col W G Dawson TD, DL as chairman of the Association, with effect from Jul 1, 1996.

b. Lt Col F A H Swallow OBE will succeed Lt Col J L Wilson DL as secretary of the Association with effect from May 27, 1996.

Royal Tigers Wood

We are delighted to report that the Wood has wintered well after the long and very dry summer of '95. The majority of the trees are in bud and certainly growing. We have lost a few of the 17 trees representing Battle Honours of the Regiment that were planted early in 1995, but replacements are not a problem and during the next planting season the replacement trees will be put in place. Both the Mercers oaks look extremely well. The gates (that were stolen) near the pond have been replaced and the relevant security measures taken. Three culverts have been put in to bridge the ditches and create access through the whole site. The two seats (to represent Malaya and Burma) will be placed in position once the trees are fully established.

As regards finances, the appeal fund now balances, thanks largely to the continuing generosity of Association members. However, there will be a continuing need for maintenance, replacement trees and ongoing improvements which will require limited financial support. Any donations would be more than welcome.

The Wood is now well on its way and is a major feature of the National Forest in Leicestershire. The success of the enterprise reflects the work of Col Bill Dawson, Col John Higgs and the

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secretary and members of the general committee who have driven the progress of the Wood since its conception in May 1992.

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum

The Regimental Museum at the magazine has been granted a Heritage Lottery award of £64,500 for refurbishment. The plans for the refurbishment have been seen by the trustees, who gave their strong support to the lottery bid. Below is the Press Release issued by the Leicestershire Museums Service. Work will commence shortly.

Press Release

The Magazine Gateway Museum in Leicester has been granted the largest Heritage Lottery award in the county to date, recognising its importance as the museum of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. Leicestershire museums, arts and records service has been successful in gaining 75% of the cost of refurbishing and re-displaying the museum, the maximum level of support which can be awarded by trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The service staff intend to broaden the appeal of the current displays to include the social and military history of both conflict and peace time, and the lives of soldiers from the Regiment and their families. The service has artefacts relating to all the major campaigns involving the Regiment including the American War of Independence, the First and Second Afghan Wars, Crimean War, Boer War, First World War and Second World War and the Korean War.

We are delighted that the first Heritage Lottery grant in the city of Leicester has been awarded to such a worthwhile project. The trustees of the Regiment and English Heritage are very supportive of the refurbishment scheme and we hope everyone will look forward to the museum re-opening, much improved, as soon as possible.

The museum, Leicestershire's principal museum of military history, is

housed in the Magazine, a medieval gateway in the Newark precinct. Many people have responded to a call for comments on what they would like to see in the 'new look' museum and these ideas will be incorporated into the plans for the new displays. Work on the re-display will start in the near future and it is hoped that visitors will be welcomed to the museum before the end of the year.

Benevolence 1995

A total of 67 cases for benevolence were considered by the general committee of the Association during 1995. A total of £5,058 was given in grants during the year. In addition, grants totalling £5,728 given by the Army Benevolent Fund to ex-Tigers and their families, were disbursed by the Association.

Benevolence continues to remain the most important part of the work of the Association. Both the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund give considerable financial help to the Association, and we are most grateful to both organisations.



Whittlesey & Peterborough

THE Branch met for the first time for three months for the annual general meeting which was attended by 14 members.

Branch activities for 1996/7 were finalised including the annual Remembrance service and reunion at Ely on Jun 9th, Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds on Sunday, July 28th, and the annual barbecue with the Northampton Regiment and Royal Anglian Association on July 25th at the Woolpack, North Street, Stanground. The branch annual church

service will be held on the 1st or 2nd Sept at the United Reform Church, Whittlesey and the branch Regimental dinner on Oct 4th at the Newark Hotel, Eastfield Road, Peterborough. A social evening is planned for December, details to be announced.

At the branch annual general meeting the officers for 1996/7 were re-elected en-bloc: chairman, Mr Alf Gray; vice-chairman, Mr Eddie Davis; secretary and treasurer, Mr Jess Matthews; welfare officer, Maj Les English; branch chaplain, Canon Arthur Ludlow. The president is Mr Tom Miles and vice-presidents are Maj William Grogan, Maj Les English, Canon Arthur Ludlow and Maj John Watson.

After the annual general meeting a buffet was enjoyed which was provided by Maj and Mrs Watson and 2Lt Dedman.

The attendance at branch meetings during 1995 has caused concern and it looks as if the trend will continue. We realise that we are all getting older and that is why we must all stick together. We were comrades during the War and relied on each other, and we must do the same again.

The Branch sends its sister branches in the Association best wishes and looks forward to seeing you sometime during 1996.

Officers' dinner

The annual officers' dinner was held on Saturday Apr 13th at the Cadet Headquarters, Denny End, Waterbeach and was well attended. The guest of honour was the Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden who complimented the officers on a good turnout and who was particularly pleased to see Lt Col Victor Mapey and Lt Mark Bradford at the dinner.

Unfortunately the president, Col W F Page, was unable to be present but his place as president was ably taken by Capt John Cook. 2/Lt Crockford of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet force was Mr Vice and the report on the activities of 'D' Cambridgeshire Company was ably done by 2/Lt

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Moran in the unavoidable absence of the Company Commander Maj Davidson.

The date for next year's dinner has been set at Saturday Apr 12th, 1997 when it is hoped to see all past and present members again. Thanks must be expressed to the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force for allowing the use of the excellent facilities at Waterbeach.

The Regimental Council

This council was formed in 1984 at the request of Lt Col Victor Mapey to co-ordinate the various branches and activities of the Regiment so that clashes of dates could be avoided and support and encouragement could be given to the various organisations and to encourage recruiting.

It has no direct powers over any Regimental organisation but is prepared to advise and offer support if requested. It meets twice a year and Lt Col Victor Mapey is the patron with Maj DS Haslam as chairman. The secretary is Lt Nancy Slattery. The council has representatives on it from the following Regimental associations and organisations: The Old Comrades, the Officers' and Sergeants' Dinner Clubs, D (Cambridgeshire) Company, the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, the Chapel Trust, the Past & Present Club, the museums including the Cambridgeshire Collection at Duxford, the Regimental Archivist, 18th Division, representatives from north and south of the county, the Regimental Silver Trust and the Britannia & Castle and Castle Regimental editor. It is planned to also invite OCA branch chairmen to attend future meetings.

This council is not to be confused with the Regimental Council of the Old Comrades Association as it can be seen that it covers a very wide range of everything at all connected with the Regiment.

It has, by historical fact, the same patron and chairman as the OCA which helps to keep all the associations and organisations connected to the Regiment in touch with each other and

FUTURE EVENTS

EVENT LOCATION	DATE	DAY	TIME
Regimental Gathering Oakington Barracks	Sept 1st	Sun	am
Sgts' Dinner Waterbeach	Sept 21st	Sat	7pm for 7.30pm
Regimental Council Waterbeach	Sept 22nd	Sun	10am
OCA AGM Masonic Club, Ely	Sept 22nd	Sun	2pm
Officers' Dinner Waterbeach	April 12th 1997	Sat	7pm for 7.30pm

to assist the Regiment to go forward into the next century.

Snippets from the Regimental Council

The Ely Museum is to move to the Gaol House and the authorities are keen that Ely rather than county artefacts are displayed. Museum items are not replaceable and therefore cannot be realistically insured.

A large scale Regimental badge is to be purchased for museum purposes. Mr Grounds is producing an inventory of the items at Ely. Mr Martin Boswell (the archivist), together with Col Macdonald, are sifting through all material held.

Regimental history

The chairman reported that the books were still at the binders. D Company purchased a copy of Col Badcock's history and is planning to send it to Sandhurst.

Plaque, Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge

Col Latchford has requested that the Diocesan Advisory Committee grant a faculty to enable the necessary plaque to be placed in the church. However some opposition has been met from the vicar and PCC although the property committee has approved it. The engravers fee would be £250-£300 and Capt Cook

agreed that this could legitimately be met out of the Chapel Trust Fund.

Singapore Drums

Col Shervington is keen that the true history of the drums be identified and details of the history of burial etc, be officially recorded.

An item in the Cambridge Evening News 'Looking Back' on Jan 16th 1996 is headed 'News of January 1946'.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment is in receipt of some astounding news. The Regimental drums which were lost at Singapore are reported safe. The news is contained in a letter from Miss C Mary Taylor, welfare officer, SEAC Red Cross, in which she says: "Quite by chance I have found eight Cambridgeshire Regimental drums and have permission to ship them home."

The Mike Veal Memorial Fund

Col Shervington reports that the fund now stands at £2,000.

1 Royal Anglian Regiment

The Regiment is being posted to Oakington and there are plans to re-name the Screen Company D (Cambridgeshire) Company and to twin it with D (Cambridgeshire) Company TA. The Minden Band will also be at Oakington.

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Can anyone give Col Macdonald news of the whereabouts of the Challenge Trophy won by The Cambridgeshire Regiment Lewis Gunners at Bisley in 1930?

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

Patron: J G P Crowden K.St.J., JP, Lord Lieutenant

President: Col W F Page MC, TD

Chairman: Col J P Macdonald, 15 Wimpole Road, Great Eversden, Cambridge CB3 7HR. Tel: 01223 263293

Bury St Edmunds

The Suffolk Regiment Museum will move to Moyses Hall in the town centre over the next three years. Space there will be less than at the Keep, so our share will be less, but our presence remains as important as ever. This move gives us an opportunity to review our display and will surely release some items for re-deployment within the county.

Ely

Similarly, the move in Ely to smaller premises gives us a chance to review what is on view here. A new curator started work on Apr 1 and it is hoped to contact her shortly. The Ely move will take place in the next 18 months. An offer to assist with the Ely display has been received from Mr Martin Fuller, a local military enthusiast, and is being considered. The Ely Museum trustees wish to concentrate their new display in the Gaol House in the town of Ely and the Isle rather than county-wide.

Duxford

It has been agreed that the Second World War display will include a copy of each of the books written by members of the Regiment, i.e. 'Line of Lost Lives', 'Kept - The Other Side of Tenko', 'With the Cambridgeshire at Singapore', and 'Battalion at War'. The guardians will be glad to hear of any others. Other items for display include the five Singapore drums, the

Drum Major's mace and sash, the colour belts and some framed freedom certificates as well as selected pieces of Regimental silver (on loan from the trustees), photographs and other documents. There will eventually be a display area set aside for the Far East after the fall of Singapore.

The Cambridge Regiment Museum

Our funds stand at £15.5K, from all sources, giving a surplus of £3K over our appeal target. The IWM original estimate of cost still stands unchanged. However there still remains a need to provide funds for the continuing support which will be required in the future and further donations will be gratefully received.

These funds can only support the display at Duxford. Others must either be cost-free to the Regiment or self-supporting. Arrangements have been made with the Royal Anglian Regiment's curator to look after our Duxford display as part of his routine duties.

Some 50,000 people visit Duxford each year to learn about our Regiment and the opinions they take away will depend on the quality of what all of us can put before them. As part of our displays, a moulding and casting has been commissioned of an enlarged cap badge. Building will start after the Royal Anglian Museum is completed, possibly in June 96.

Archives

Mr Martin Boswell has started reviewing and cataloguing archives from the Hutt collection and those brought from Bury St Edmunds.

Lt Mark Bradford is claiming that he is the oldest Rotarian in Rotary District 1080 being 90 years old. Paul Harris Fellow Mark joined the Cambridge Rotary Club in 1938 and was president in 1949/50. His war service started in March 1940 when he joined the ranks of the Suffolk Regiment. After training he was commissioned in the Second Battalion of The Cambridgeshire Regiment in December 1940 and arrived in Singapore on Jan 13th 1942

and was a prisoner of war from February 1942 until August 1945.

He is enjoying a busy retirement with his wife Sam and is a regular attender at Regimental functions and was at the officer's dinner held recently.

St George's Day Service, Regimental Chapel Apr 23 1996

A congregation of 30-40 members of the Regiment, their families and friends, led by our patron Lt Col E L V Mapey and our president Col W F Page, attended the annual St George's Day service in the Regimental Chapel at Ely Cathedral. The service was conducted with great feeling, as ever, by the Dean, the Very Revd Michael Higgins.

The special additional feature of this year's service was the dedication of the two Glastonbury chairs given to the chapel in memory of Lt Col G G Carpenter DSO, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment 1941-46 and Lt Col G C Thorne DSO, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment 1941-42.

Lynn Finch of Green End, The Green, Datchet, Berks SL3 9JH is anxious for information about the life and death of her uncle Pte Albert Lesley Jordon, No. 6020922, who served with the Regiment, possibly in the 1st Battalion. He was a FEPOW and died of cholera between the 1st and 13th June 1943 and is buried at Kanchanabun Military Cemetery in Thailand.

His will was witnessed by Pte Holliday whose address is given as 35 Henniker Gardens, East Sheen, London E6 who also visited Albert's widow after the war.

Lynn's mother, Albert's widow would be most grateful for any information. Her telephone number is 01753 546346.

INFORMATION has come to light about a grave at St John The Evangelist Church, Ryhal in the Diocese of

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Peterborough. The inscription on the headstone reads: "*In Memory of Thomas Bradley who died on Jan 20, 1878 aged 90 years. Formerly of the 2nd Battalion 30th Regiment and at Waterloo*"

As the 30th were assigned to Cambridgeshire from 1751 to 1881 it looks as if we were represented at Waterloo. Perhaps someone would like to visit the grave.

Obituaries

We are sorry to have to report the following deaths and express our deepest sympathy with the families.

Pte Albert Bateman 5933053, enlisted from 1 Lacey's Lane, Exning, Newmarket into D Company, 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment. He died on Jan 13, 1996. **Cpl Fred Towler** died in December 1995 aged 77 years. Enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Fred worked on the Burma-Siam Railway and was a FEPOW for 3.5 years. He was a member of the Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch of the Association and branch members attended his funeral.

Rest in peace.



FOLLOWING a very successful dinner and dance at the County Hotel in Chelmsford last year it was decided to hold another in July '96.

Members of the Association turned out in strength for the county drum-head service and march past in Hylands Park, Chelmsford, in August last year. This was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War. The salute was

taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Braybrooke, and a moving tribute was paid to all the veterans by the clapping crowds.

The annual wreath laying took place in Chelmsford Cathedral on Nov 7 and this was followed two days later by the ceremony at Westminster Abbey. One of the oldest comrades, 'Chippy' Carpenter attended and the Duke of York spent some time talking to him at the Essex Regiment plot. Chippy served with the Pompadours and must be one of the last surviving holders of the North West Frontier medal.

In December, Harry Conn, who served with the 2nd Battalion The Essex Regiment throughout the Northern Europe campaign, was honoured with a GOC's Certificate of Commendation for the outstanding work he has done for the Association over many years and for his efforts in forming the Polar Bear Association more recently. As mentioned by our president at the time: "Harry Conn is a devoted and enthusiastic member of the Essex Regiment Association and an excellent ambassador for the British Army."

The reunion this year will be held on Sunday June 30 at Warley. The address will be given by the Rev Tom Hiney MC and the salute taken by Maj Gen D A Beckett CB, DSO, OBE. We again hope that we will be blessed with fine weather.

The Association has a strong membership of 723 and new members continue to come in, including National Servicemen who served with 1 Essex in Korea and Hong Kong. Sadly we have very few ex Royal Anglian members.

The Association welcomes the move for companies of 1 Royal Anglian to be affiliated to counties and certainly looks forward to a fruitful relationship with C Company of that Battalion.

A move is afoot to organise a pilgrimage to Italy towards the end of this year for members of the 5th Battalion. The intention would be to re-visit the scenes of their battles on the Trigno, the Sangro and Villa Grande. Members will be kept informed.

4th Battalion Comrades

The 4th Battalion has had a very active year as usual attending a variety of commemoration services and parades.

Our annual service and garden party drew many comrades and we were very fortunate to have some lovely weather. In October we held our own dinner and dance, which again was well attended, and in November we had our usual Remembrance service at St Mary's Ilford, followed by a march back to our old Drill Hall in Gordon Road. Here we were welcomed by the present occupiers, the Royal Corps of Signals.

We have welcomed several new members but sadly have lost 11 old comrades. All funerals were attended together with our branch standard. The Association remains in good heart with a membership of 201.

Thurrock Branch

Looking back through the last issue of the Castle reminded me of Duxford, and the presentation of colours to the Regiment. What a day – pity there was such a cold wind.

Thurrock Borough Council did all the local service associations well in May for the VE celebrations. Several of our branch members attended, while others travelled to Holland for their liberation celebrations.

In May we held our branch buffet dance with all the proceeds going to SSAFA. A sum of £600 was handed over to their representative, Mr Partridge, in our Mayor's Parlour.

Regimental reunion in June was again a great success thanks to the efforts of Maj Thorogood and his helpers. Many of us enjoyed the day at Hylands Park. Numbers were a bit down for our visit to the Royal Hospital but we were able to spend a couple of hours with the In-Pensioners.

November is always a busy month with members attending Chelmsford Cathedral, The Garden of Remembrance, Westminster, Thurrock Festival of Remembrance and the Thurrock memorial service and parade. Our dinner and dance this year will be held on Nov 16. Everyone is welcome to attend, also those from other associations.

Around the Branches



Branches: Beccles, Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Hemel Hempstead, Ipswich, Leiston, Sudbury

THE Suffolk contribution missed the deadline for the last issue so this contribution covers the whole year. It has been a busy year for all branches, particularly last summer. The parades and commemorative services for VE and VJ Days have been well supported. VJ Day was of special significance with so many memories of those who served with the 4th and 5th Battalions in Malaya (and the Burma-Siam railway) and the 2nd Battalion in Burma.

As always the Minden weekend at Gibraltar Barracks was a highlight of the year's events with special praise for the work put in by the Bury branch to ensure the usual high standard was maintained – to some the best yet. In addition the usual social events have been arranged and well attended. Other branch meetings have been fully supported and welcome increases in membership have been reported.

In Beccles a combined ex-service VJ anniversary dinner was organised at which the guest speaker was Martin Bell, BBC War Correspondent, ex-Suffolk Regiment and former resident of Beccles. He gave a most interesting and informative talk on the war in Bosnia. He also accepted an invitation to become an honorary vice-president of the Beccles and District Branch. The Beccles Branch takes pride in its continuing support of local pre-service units which include the Sea Cadets, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps. It commends what is being achieved by dedicated instructors to those who may be disillusioned by reports of the youth of today. At their

annual general meeting this support took a very positive form in the presentation to the Beccles Platoon of the Suffolk Army Cadet Force of a trophy.

Their local involvement is exemplified in their participation in the revived Beccles Christmas street party where the branch ran two stalls. Their branch newsletter has done much to keep contact with those in their wide catchment area, especially those who have no transport.

Felixstowe reported a busy and hectic year with a full programme of parades and other events and their highest membership ever. For Armistice Day there were two wreaths laid – one for The Suffolk Regiment and one for the Royal Anglian.

Ipswich is in a very healthy state with new members gained. On Armistice Day they were at St Matthew's Church, Ipswich for the dedication of the roll of honour with over 500 names on it, of which 200 are from the Suffolk Regiment. The roll of honour came about to commemorate those who came from Ipswich but whose names are not recorded on the memorial in Christchurch park as was done for those who fell in the First World War. A Book of Remembrance is to be placed in St Stephen's Church, Dial Lane, Ipswich which is always open as it is used these days as a tourist centre. The service was a very impressive and memorable one to finalise the programme for the 50th anniversary of the end of the War.

For Leiston, Minden Day turned out to be wonderful. The rest of August and September was full with parades and services at Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Holbrook, Westleton and Beccles, not forgetting their own special occasion in Leiston with the salute being taken by two of their FEPOW members. Their own display, with a model of the infamous Burma-Siam railway at the Longshop Museum, continued to attract great attention and words of praise. On the museum's open day the display was manned by the chairman and Ray Saxby; almost 700 visitors were recorded.

Many thousands passed through the display, coming not only from all parts of Suffolk but from all over the British Isles and from overseas – Holland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Bahamas, Switzerland and Turkey. Many moving tributes were made in the visitor's book. The display is going to remain in the Longshop Museum for another year in the balcony of the main building.

Hemel Hempstead has continued to have a lively programme and is especially effective in its money raising efforts for the Poppy Appeal and the Not Forgotten Association. They are very proud of the Silver Medal award from the Royal British Legion given to their members Ron Wingfield and wife Joyce for all the work done for the Poppy Appeal for the last few years.

The Bury St Edmunds and District Branch made sure that they honoured Remembrance Day by attending the Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Nov 9, the RBL Festival of Remembrance on Nov 11 at the Spa Pavilion at Felixstowe, and on Nov 12 taking part in the Remembrance Parade in the Abbey Gardens in Bury followed by wreath laying on Angel Hill at the Memorial and the service at St Mary's Church.

Throughout the winter branches continued to be active with their usual range of events but a common theme was the long and bitter winter which in some cases had an effect on attendances. Branches are in a healthy state but welcome new members, especially from ex Royal Anglians who live in their areas. A warm welcome awaits them.

The Museum and archives

The Regimental Museum has had to be closed as there is no longer an attendant but plans to accommodate it in Moyses Hall, in the centre of Bury St Edmunds, have been approved by St Edmundsbury Council. An extensive programme of refurbishment at Moyses Hall, a listed building, will be necessary and it will be late in 1998 before

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Around the Branches

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the museum can be reopened in its new home. An appeal for funds for setting up the contents of the museum will be launched later in the year when it is clearer what will be required. The council will be responsible for the costs of refurbishment of the building.

The archives were transferred into the care of the Suffolk Record Office, 77 Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds last year. A detailed catalogue has been published, available from the archivist. All the items are accessible to the public who will be welcomed. It is one of the largest collections in the Record Office and has already attracted a very large number of inquiries.

Obituary Ex-RSM George Tridini

George Tridini died suddenly on Sept 15, 1995 aged 89. He enlisted in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in 1925 and served in Malta, China, India, Palestine and Egypt. During the war he transferred to The Suffolk Regiment joining the 1st Battalion in France and served subsequently with the battalion to the end of the war and thereafter in Palestine and Egypt. He was RSM of the battalion in 1946 and 1947. Until 1953 he was Captain and Adjutant of the 5th Cadet Battalion The Suffolk Regiment. He is remembered as a keen dancer, a good conversationalist and a good friend to all who knew him.



Reunion 1995 – an omission

WHEN writing up the report for the reunion church service we inadvertently omitted to mention the dedica-

tion of the memorial plaque to the late Brigadier D E Taunton CB, DSO, DL. Very belatedly and with apologies to all concerned we now put the record straight.

Immediately after the act of penitence a small group of comrades filed into the St George's Chapel to witness the dedication of the memorial plaque. The group consisted of the president of the Association, Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB, CBE, the vicar, the Rev Keith Anderson MA, Maj the Rev Tom Hiney MC, CF, and Capt the Rev John Hopkins (who fought in Burma with the 48th and who dedicated the plaque). Present also were Mrs Mary Taunton, Maj T R Molloy MC, Maj P F Kelly MC and Major E P Kelly DCM. The plaque, which is affixed to the cabinet containing the 48th Regimental colour, is engraved: "In Memory of Brigadier D E Taunton CB, DSO, DL."

For many years the layed-up colours of our Regiment have hung in the chancel of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Tattered, virtually threadbare, they were removed when the chancel lighting was renovated in 1992. It was then suggested that the 48th colours, the last to be layed up in the Church in July 1962, be encased in wooden display cabinets and displayed on the wall of St George's Chapel. This was done, the encased colours being affixed to the south wall of the chapel. For several years due to repairs to the church roof, the south aisle pews have been screened off and access to St George's Chapel was by way of the high altar – very inconvenient for those wishing to visit the chapel as the congregation on July 2 discovered when, at the end of the service they were invited to view the plaque and colours.

We are happy to report that the south aisle of the church is now open again and access to St George's Chapel is unrestricted.

It was very fitting that the memorial plaque for Brigadier Taunton be affixed to the Regimental colour of the 48th. The Brigadier had the honour of commanding the 48th throughout most of its time in Burma: he was the last

commanding officer of the 48th and at Talavera Camp, Northampton on Apr 17 1947, he gave the final order – "48th dismiss," when the Battalion was placed in 'suspended animation'.

The 48th colours displayed in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were presented to the Battalion at the Tower of London on Jul 23 1889 by Edward, Prince of Wales, later to become HM King Edward VII.

On Dec 17 1918, at the end of the Great War, the 48th – which had sustained horrendous casualties during the war – carried these colours, flying and in triumph, as they crossed the German border between St Vith and Neidingen en route for the Rhineland.

70th Northampton's 4th annual reunion dinner

The 4th annual reunion dinner took place on Friday Oct 6 1995 at the Conservative & Unionist Club, Montagu Street, Kettering.

Sixty-seven persons sat down to an excellent meal and a very pleasant evening ensued. The Battalion was pleased and honoured to entertain as its principal guests the Mayor of Kettering, Councillor Mrs Mary Malin & Mr Malin, and Maj Peter Scopes, president of the 4th Battalion Association.

On Saturday Oct 7, the Mayor of Kettering very kindly entertained members to a buffet in her parlour at the municipal offices. To the delight and surprise of the Mayor a raffle was hastily organised in support of her sponsored charity. Through the great generosity of our members £108 was raised. During the buffet Lt Col W W Holland, on behalf of the 70th Battalion, thanked the Mayor for her kindness and generosity and presented her with an inscribed regimental plaque, recalling the formation of the Battalion in the borough of Kettering in 1940.

The chairman, Mr Jeffery Brown, and the dinner organising committee thanked members for their continuing enthusiastic support of the dinner; the

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Around the Branches

From Page 78

Regimental Secretary, Lt Col John Wilson DL for his ever willing help and encouragement; and the Conservative & Unionist Club for making our reunion so memorable and successful.

The 5th annual reunion dinner of the 70th Battalion will be held at the Conservative & Unionist Club, Kettering on Friday Oct 4, 1996.

Mr Bill McGurk has recently been in hospital with artery trouble but we are pleased to report that he is now out of hospital and recovering well. He occasionally sees John (DOT) Spencer, who is not at all well. We wish them both a speedy return to fitness.

2Lt Simon Worthy, son of Col Peter Worthy, chairman of the Association, has passed out from The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst on Friday Apr 12th, 1996. He has been posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Capt the Rev John Hopkins, who served with the 48th in Burma, visited Japan in November 1995. Whilst there he suffered a heart attack. Happily he received excellent medical treatment in Japan and is now continuing his recovery at home.

The Association has received a most generous legacy from the estate of the late Capt E A (Ned) Reynolds who died in March 1995. The monies have been placed in the benevolent fund of the Association.

A gathering at Felixstowe Oct 28, 1995

On Saturday Oct 28, 1995 the 10th annual gathering of the ex-2nd Royal Anglian Regiment (The Poachers) was held as in previous years at the Marlborough Hotel in Felixstowe.

This year was attended in record numbers and was, as always, wonderfully arranged by Amanda and Henry King, David and Pat's daughter and son-in-law.

The number attending this year was 290 ex-Poachers and their ladies who came from all corners of the country and Germany. This number actually

exceeded the maximum numbers laid down by the Hotel! It is regretted that we are unable to invite people outside of the Poachers and indeed Poachers' families. However Mr Knight in his speech pointed out that the annual Regiment reunion, to be held at Oakington, is an ideal opportunity for a meeting of families and comrades from all regiments.

The evening commenced at 8pm when all former Poachers and their ladies were greeted by David and Pat in the reception suite of the Marlborough Hotel, and as ever in a very short time, the evening simply "came alive" with the greetings and meetings of old friends.

In his opening remarks Mr Knight reminded us of those who had passed away since our last meeting and a silent tribute was paid to them. He named: Sgt Tom Baker; Ross, son of Band Sergeant Major David and Yvonne Adams; Lawrence, son of Cpl and Mrs Sadler; and with further great sadness, Capt Ned Reynolds, much loved by all who knew him and a great personal friend.

He also said that it was nice to see so many Poachers now attending reunions in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. This is very encouraging as old soldiers are getting a bit thin on the ground.

The guest of honour was Lt Col Ron Bayliss MBE and his good lady Daphne. In his speech Mr Knight outlined Ron's wonderful career that covered 34½ years, from the time he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1945 until leaving the Army in 1982. The Regimental family traditions carry on, as the previous week, Mr Knight was present at the 4th/5th Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Regiment reunion at Peterborough, where the guest speaker was Ron and Daphne's son, Lt Col David Bayliss, CO of 5th Royal Anglian Regiment.

Daphne Bayliss was presented with a bouquet by Mr Knight, who was then in turn presented with a framed picture commemorating the 10th anniversary of 'the gathering', that had been painstakingly designed and painted by

Sgt 'Danny' Donaldson, which now holds pride of place amongst other Army memorabilia.

Many thanks must also go to the hotel owner, Suresh Mohindra and his good lady and staff for the excellent buffet supper which was served later in the evening, and also for the drinks which were still being served with breakfast!

The weather for the 'gathering' weekend was glorious and most Poachers made an early start on Sunday morning with a brisk walk along the beach and a visit to the Sunday market, prior to heading off in various directions for home.

This year's gathering will be Oct 26, 1996. We look forward to the BN returning to the UK this year and wish them all the best in their new task in Warminster.



THE Warminster Branch of the Royal Anglian Association will be holding its annual dinner on Sat Nov 16 at Warminster (venue to be confirmed). The dinner will be followed the next day by a church service, conducted by the Rev Hiney to dedicate the branch standard.

All Association members who wish to attend either the dinner or the church service are requested to write with details of names and accommodation requirements to Mr Tompkins c/o Diamond Mill, 10 Morley Fields, Warminster BA12 0BU.

Estimated cost will be approx £10-£15 for the dinner and accommodation will be either a local hotel or bed and breakfast, costs to be confirmed.

Sport

Cricket Club's season under way

Secretaries: Lt Col B H M Davenport and Capt F J R Grounds.

Treasurer: Maj B A Foster

Match managers:

Lt Col D J W (David) Baylis, 158 (Royal Anglian) Tpt Regiment RLC (V), TA Centre, London Road, Peterborough PE2 9BY — (O) Peterborough Mil 01733-54581 ext 106, Fax 01733-555007, Mob 0860-340210, (H) 01733-345952.

Lt Col B H M (Brian) Davenport, HQ 24 Airmobile Brigade and Colchester Garrison, 3/4 Napier Road, Colchester CO2 7SW — (O) Colchester Mil 01206-78 ext 2020, Fax ext 2137, (H) 01206-564919.

Maj B A (Andy) Foster, HQ Director of Infantry, Imber Road, Warminster BA12 0DJ — (O) Warminster Mil 01985-214000 ext 2334 Fax ext 2374, (H) 01985-840446.

Capt F J R (Freddie) Grounds, 1 Royal Anglian, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester

1996 CRICKET FIXTURES

Friday	Jun 14	The Light Infantry	1400 hrs	Colchester
Sunday	Jun 16	Brentwood School	1400 hrs	Colchester
Sunday	Jun 23	Harrow School	1400 hrs	Harrow
Wednesday	Jun 26	Gresham's School	1130 hrs	Colchester
Friday	Jun 28	St Edmunds School Ware	1400 hrs	Ware
Monday	Jul 1	Framlingham College	1130 hrs	Colchester
Tuesday	Jul 2	Woodbridge School	1400 hrs	Woodbridge
Wednesday	Jul 3	Royal Hospital School Holbrook	1100 hrs	Ipswich
Tuesday	Jul 23	Perse Pelicans	1400 hrs	Cambridge

CO2 7TB — (O) Colchester Mil 01206-78 ext 3225, Fax 3203, (H) Colchester Mil 01206-78 ext 3232.

Matches at Colchester will be played on the Garrison 'A' Ground, on Napier Road and opposite Hyderabad and Meanee Barracks. Follow 'Garrison Traffic' road

signs (or B1025 to West Mersea) if travelling from outside the town.

Club ties, sweaters and caps may be purchased from RHQ Royal Anglian (01284 752394) or from the secretary at matches. If players have not completed their availability proformas, they should contact match managers direct if they wish to play in any match.

International soccer debut for Vikings

THE start of the season saw the Battalion football team on international duty, with a couple of games against local Croatian professional sides during our deployment there. In two good matches the Battalion lost one and drew one, and the performances augured well for a good season when we got back. On our return, the priority was to rescue what we could of the season. A series of friendly games against Garrison sides saw

us undefeated all season and included a memorable 9-0 thrashing of 24 Brigade CSS Battalion. Our only losses were against the current Infantry Hyderabs 1 Cheshires who were run close in two extremely competitive games.

We were unable to enter the Army cup so the Infantry and 4 Division cups became our priorities. In the Infantry cup we got to the quarter finals by beating our neighbours ILJ 2-1 and 2 Para 3-1. We were knocked out by 1 WFR in a game we really should have won. In the end only a spectacular own goal separated the sides.

Our best performances were saved for the 4 Division cup where we beat, amongst others, a strong Sandhurst Permanent Staff side on the way to the semi-finals. The semi-final was against SEME Bordon who still remain one of the strongest sides in the Army. The

game was a classic with the side showing that it is the strongest the Battalion has produced for several years. After coming from behind twice and hitting the bar in extra time, we went out on penalties, a sad end to a season that at times had promised so much.

Results

Ploce (Croatia) (A) Drew 2-2
Makarska (Croatia) (A) Lost 4-3

Friendlies

24 Brigade CSS Battalion (H) Won 9-0
3 Regiment AAC (A) Won 4-1
1 Cheshires (A) Lost 3-0
3 Regiment AAC (H) Won 3-1
24 Brigade CSS Battalion (A) Won 1-0
3 Regiment AAC (H) Drew 1-1
1 Cheshires (H) Lost 2-0
24 Brigade CSS Battalion (A) Drew 1-1

Infantry Cup

1 LI (H) Won 2-1
2 Para (H) Won 3-1
1 WFR (A) Lost 1-0

4 Division Cup

PSV Sandhurst (A) Won 2-0
SEAME (H) Won 2-0
SEME Bordon (A) Drew 3-3
(lost on penalties)

P	W	D	L	F	A
14	8	2	4	32	13

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Sport

A short season for Vikings rugby

Capt Freddie Grounds, rugby officer, writes:

AS a result of the Battalion's deployment to Croatia at the tail end of last year, the Rugby Club sadly missed the first half of the season, and unfortunately due to the hectic pace of life since the new year, the side has only managed a limited number of fixtures.

The start of the season, late though it was, got off to a thunderous start with a hard fought win over our great local rivals, 39 Regiment RE, who had beaten us at the end of the last season in the final of the Eastern District League. The forwards took the honours on the day by scoring four of the five tries, with Pte Crowe scoring a hat-trick. The final result was a very satisfying 27-20 victory.

After narrowly losing out to a mixed Colchester side by 17-23, the side came up against our neighbours, 1 LI, just prior to going on Christmas leave. I am pleased to report that despite a considerable amount of psychological warfare between the two sides prior to the game, the Battalion completely out-played the opposition, beating them 45-0. It was an outstanding all-round performance, although particular mention should be made of the awesome display by



The Vikings rugby team.

our young prop, Pte Dodd. Our thanks go to the whole Battalion for the huge support they gave the team, and also to our opponents for the spirit in which the battle was fought!

Since the new year the team has experienced mixed fortunes. The side lost 10-20 in a closely contested game against RAF Honington, which was followed by a resounding victory by 25-0, over 210 Sigs Regiment. At the end of the season a second string, 15 were out-played 7-35 by 39 Regiment RE.

At representative level, Sgt Anema has

been our only success of the season, being a regular part of a successful Infantry side, and has at last been awarded his Infantry colours - well done Animal!

Sadly we have to say farewell to four stalwart members of the Rugby Club this year. Maj Wenham has been posted to Sandhurst, and Sgt Anema, Cpl Ward and Pte Crowe all leave the Army in the summer. Our thanks go to the four of them for all the hard work and commitment they have given to the club over the years. We wish you luck in the future, and hope that you will keep in touch.



SSgt Sage (AGC Attd) in action for the Battalion hockey side.



Boxers in outstanding form

WO2 P S Newman writes:

THE Vikings boxing team surprised everyone except themselves and their coaches with their outstanding performances in what was technically our first year in this level of competition.

The seed was sown some 18 months ago during our first shot at an inter-company

competition. This was followed by what was an inspirational piece of insistence by the Commanding Officer that Ploce would be a first class location to hold the 95 inter-companies. The standard displayed was very encouraging and although our expectations were low, it was thought we were good enough to have a go, if only for the experience, at the army novices.

The first round back in December last year was something of a local derby against our fellow airmobile infanteer neighbours 1 LI. They proved to be tough and creditable opponents and although we had sealed the victory after the seventh bout, the 5-4 result made it closer than we would have liked.

The second round against the Scots Guards was something of a disappointment. They could not find boxers at the two lightest weights and had problems getting cards for two more. The 9-1 result may have appeared something of a hollow victory but we still had five out of six convincing wins on the night.

The semi-finals, even with home advantage, were to be a different story. The Staffords have a long and distinguished record in the army boxing, so if we were to progress to the finals we would have to be at our very best. Those who had the honour of being in the Garrison Gymnasium on Mar 5 could only have been impressed by the standard of fitness and technical skill displayed by all nine Viking boxers that night. The subsequent 6-3 victory just goes to prove how far the team has progressed in recent weeks - even the Staffords team were complimentary and magnanimous in defeat.

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Sport



Above left: The Viking boxing squad. Above: Cpl Dufosse dressed as the Viking mascot. Below left: Pte Walker receiving encouragement from Cpl Riley



Above: The Vikings cross-country squad



Left: Vikings runners lead the field in one of the Garrison League races.

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Although no one member of the team would expect special mention, LCpl (Bomber) Brown, after stopping his opponent in the second round, discovered he had broken his hand in the process and was unavailable for the final. LCpl Brown has been a rock around which the team has been based, his enthusiasm and determined contribution throughout weeks of intense training and competition being inspirational.

The final was something of a disappointment if you were a Viking spectator. Our opponents, 1 DWR, arrived in Colchester well prepared and very confident. The 7-2 defeat was perhaps not a true reflection of how close some of the bouts were as on two occasions we lost by majority decisions. At the end of the night the best team won, but all Viking boxers can hold their heads high, it was a magnificent achievement reaching the finals in our first serious attempt at inter-unit novice boxing. It is now hoped that operational commitments permitting, novice boxing will continue to prosper and more young soldiers, inspired by the team's performance, will come forward and display those same standards of self-discipline, determination, courage and fitness that the current boxing squad has shown.

Runners finish strongly

Captain Tony Jones writes:

WHEN the Vikings deployed to Croatia for what at the outset was thought to be a six-month tour, the rear party took on the responsibility for competing in the 24 Airmobile Brigade and Colchester Garrison league, and competed in four of the nine races before the Battalion returned to the UK.

On return, a hastily but competitive inter-company cross country took place over a testing course set by SSgt Carey, with B Company finishing first, and the top individual five places being as follows: 1st Cpl Ramm, 2nd Cpl Willecox, 3rd CSgt Blanchfield, 4th Pte Wiltshire and 5th Pte Hugget.

After the inter-companies the QM(T) set about selecting a squad to compete in the 4 Division championships. Unfortunately the 4 Division championships came too early after our return and the squad failed to qualify for the Army championships, finishing fifth, just outside the qualifying places.

Having put the disappointment of the 4 Division championships behind it, the team set about building on the good start that the rear party had given it.

At this stage of the league the Vikings were lying second, six points behind 4 Regiment AAC, and gradually race by race the Vikings caught 4 Regiment.

In fact it could not have been closer, with the result not being decided until the final race with the Vikings beating 4 Regiment by three points. CSgt Blanchfield finished as runner up in the individual competition and Pte Lewis finished as runner-up in the junior competition.

Individually both CSgt Blanchfield and Pte Dack have been selected to represent the Army in the triangular match versus Wales and the TA. Also, as these notes are being written, WO2 Morris (RAOWO) and CSgt Blanchfield (CQMS B) are well into their training programme in preparation for the London Marathon.

Poachers gain Nordic skills

A GROUP of 11 Poachers departed Celle in November 1995 bound for Lillehammer in central Norway on Exercise Anzio Diamond. The aim of the exercise was to train soldiers in the techniques of Nordic skiing and biathlon with a view to competing in future competitions. A majority of the soldiers selected to go had never skied before and much of the first few weeks was spent in trees, ditches and pain! The instruction was provided by the Battalion's more experienced skiers, Capt Kelleway and LCpl Robert Mayall, who spent many hours trying not to laugh and failing dismally.

All Infantry teams train and compete in the Lillehammer area of Norway due to the usually excellent snow conditions and high standard of training facilities at the nearby biathlon centre which played host to the 1994 Olympic Games. With teams from 15 Infantry battalions and Regimental teams from many other arms, the tracks and pistes are awash with British soldiers in varying degrees of exhaustion and technical brilliance. The training period lasts three weeks and culminates in the Infantry championships.

This season the Poachers entered the novice competition and won three out of the four races, thereby winning the overall competition by an emphatic margin. After a month in Norway the team returned to Celle for the Christmas break considerably stronger, fitter and thinner after 30 days of continual physical exercise and fresh air.

In early January the team reassembled in Celle and after a few days of intensive fitness training departed for the French Alps and the divisional championships. After the extreme cold of Norway, France offered new challenges with bright sunshine and high temperatures which, although aesthetically pleasing, made skiing difficult with soft, slushy snow and protruding patches of earth and rock. The divisional championships last 10 days and serve as a qualifying meeting for the Army finals. With only 12 places available at the Army finals and over 30 teams at the divisional championships, competition is fierce and with a predominantly novice team we had to work extremely hard to qualify. The team finished a creditable 8th in the championships, beating teams with far more experienced skiers, and therefore qualified for the Army championships.

The Army, inter-service and national finals are held simultaneously in the French resort of Les Saisies, the venue for the 1990



Above: LCpl Mayall at the Army biathlon championships.



Left: 2Lt Mellar prepares for a fall on the Olympic Circuit at Lillehammer, Norway.

Olympic Nordic and Biathlon competition. With steep hills, sharp corners and demanding snow conditions, Les Saisies is considered one of the most challenging Nordic skiing centres in Europe. With races every day for the duration of the competition, the programme was exacting for all competitors and it was with a sense of relief that we finished the championships in an extremely pleasing 13th place out of the 28 teams who qualified, once again beating teams with far more experience.

Of the individuals within the team, Pte Ashley Wells of B Company deserves special mention in achieving second place in

the Army junior novice competition. In only his first year of skiing he was considered for selection for training with the Great Britain junior biathlon team, but in his last year as a junior was deemed too old.

In early February the team returned to Celle in time for final preparations for the move to Warminster. The team had achieved some excellent results and had reached a high level of expertise and fitness in what is considered to be the most challenging of sports. There is now an excellent base for the Poachers' Nordic skiing team to achieve great success in the future, CATC BG commitments permitting.

Sport

Golf Society competition keen despite fewer entries

A SLIGHTLY smaller than normal field did not detract from the keenly competitive yet friendly meeting held at Flempton Golf Club on Friday Apr 12, 1996.

Results were: Medal Handicap – winner Mr S Horton, runner-up Mr L Greenway; Stableford – winner Mr P Fox, runner-up Mr S McAnally; Greensome – winners Messrs Horton and Woodcock, runners-up Messrs Fox and Greenaway.

The Queen's Division Triangular Golf Meeting will have been held at Canterbury Golf Club on Friday May 24. The Regiment, the current trophy holder, expected to be successful again.

The following fixtures are arranged for the remainder of the year: annual Regimental meeting, Stowmarket Golf Club, Friday Jun 21, 1996; autumn meeting, Flempton Golf Club, Friday Sept 13. Regrettably Flempton is unable to field a team for Sept 14th against the Regiment and the event is cancelled for this year.

Marathon success



Sgt Skelton, pictured, of the 6th Battalion, completed a personal best of 3 hrs 2 mins in the London Marathon on Sunday Apr 21, 1996, raising £300 for the Starlight Foundation children's charity.

Births, marriages and deaths

VIKINGS

Births

Tuner — To Pte and Marion Tuner (RLC) twin sons Callum and Nathan; **Buckman** — To Pte and Susan Buckman a daughter Ashleigh; **Evans** — To LCpl and Melanie-Jane Evans (AGC) a daughter Leigh-Ann; **Wright** — To Cpl and Mandy Wright a daughter Megan; **Horn** — To Pte and Ahnnette Horne a daughter Stacie; **Buckles** — To Pte and Sarah Buckles a son Jack; **Chamberlain** — To Cpl and Karen Chamberlain a son Ryan; **Merry** — To LCpl and Samantha Merry a son George; **Huggins** — To Cpl and Hester Huggins a son Jack; **Hammond** — To Pte and Catherine Hammond a son Andrew; **Greasley** — To LCpl and Lisa Greasley (AGC) a daughter Reanne; **McKenna** — To Pte and Jan McKenna a son Luke; **Thumwood** — To CSgt and Alison Thumwood a son Jack; **Shea-Simmons** — To Capt and Louise Shea-Simmons a son Alexander; **Waterhouse** — To Pte and Lisa Waterhouse a son Scott; **Penny** — To Cpl and Jayne Penny a daughter Lauren; **Stefanetti** — To WO2 and Sandie Stefanetti a son Christian; **Edwards** — To Cpl and Rhonda Edwards a daughter Coral; **Wilson** — To Pte and Sarah Wilson a daughter Nicole; **Gillbanks** — To LCpl and Janice Gillbanks a daughter Jasmin; **Traves** — To Sgt and Samantha Traves a son Darius; **Neal** — To Cpl and Sadie Neal a son Edward; **Simmons** — To WO2 and Sarah Simmons a daughter Georgina; **Cation** — To LCpl and Helen Cation (REME) a son Daniel; **Morris** — To LCpl and Samantha Morris a son Ryan; **Robinson** — To Cpl and Debbie Robinson a daughter Mollie; **Ward** — To Pte and Tracy Ward a daughter Georgina; **Bloss** — To Cpl and Louise Bloss a son Perry; **Ball** — To LCpl and Christine Ball a son Joshua; **Wilkins** — To Sgt and Susan Wilkins a daughter Sarah Jane; **Lomas** — To Pte and Paula Lomas a daughter Sophie; **Gomer** — To Pte and Julie Gomer a son Ryan; **Riley** — To Pte and Paula Riley a son Harry; **Wenham** — To Major and Penny Wenham a son; **England** — To Capt and Liz England a daughter Katie Evelyn.

Marriages

Freeman — On Mar 9 Cpl Freeman to Alison; **Richardson** — On May 20 LCpl Richardson to Nicola; **Cave** — On Jun 25 Cpl Cave to Marion; **Keating** — On Jun 10 Cpl Keating to Samantha; **Wiltshire** — On Jun 17 Pte Wiltshire to Donna; **Robinson** — On Jul 2 Cpl Robinson to Amanda; **Atherton** — On Jul 8 Cpl Atherton to

Sinead; **Rayfield** — On Jul 15 Dmr Rayfield to Tina; **Kitson** — On Jul 22 Cpl Kitson to Kate; **Branch** — On Jul 24 Pte Branch to Vicky; **Marshall** — On Oct 14 LCpl Marshall to Meryl; **Calder** — On Aug 5 Capt Calder to Claire; **Sinclair** — On Aug 5 Pte Sinclair to Charlotte; **Plant** — On Dec 9 LCpl Plant to Tina; **Brown** — On Dec 30 Pte Brown to Claire; **Dennis** — On Feb 3 1 Cpl Dennis to Toni; **Milgate** — On Feb 24 Sgt and Mrs Milgate; **O'Hanlon** — On Apr 22 LCpl O'Hanlon to Yvonne; **Ward** — On Jun 3 Cpl Ward to Stephanie; **Coe** — On Jun 10 Pte and Mrs Coe; **Brown** — On Jun 13 LCpl Brown to Hannah; **Bark** — On Jun 24 Pte Bark to Beverley; **Robinson** — On Jul 7 LCpl Robinson to Sharon; **Rice** — On Jul 8 Pte Rice to Maxine; **Richardson** — On Jul 19 Pte Richardson to Kelly; **Marsden** — On Jul 22 Pte and Mrs Marsden; **Main** — On Jul 27 Cpl Main to Atanya; **Gomer** — On Oct 28 Pte Gomer to Julie; **Patrick** — On Aug 5 Cpl Patrick to Joanne; **Milton** — On Dec 9 LCpl Milton to Jenette; **Norman** — On Dec 20 Pte Norman to Joanne; **Creak** — On Dec 23 LCpl Creak to Andrea; **Turner** — On Feb 10 Pte Turner to Sharon.

POACHERS

Births

Eaton — To LCpl and Mrs Eaton a daughter Isabell; **Foster** — To Cpl and Mrs Foster a daughter Rachel; **Gale** — To Pte and Mrs Gale a son Lewis; **Heap** — To Capt and Mrs Heap a daughter Megan Eloise; **Hewson** — To LCpl and Mrs Hewson a son Anthony; **Macpherson** — To Pte and Mrs Macpherson a daughter Brodie; **Potts** — To LCpl and Mrs Potts a daughter Amy; **Poundall** — To Pte and Mrs Poundall a daughter Laura; **Rimmer** — To LCpl and Mrs Rimmer a daughter Emmy.

DEATHS

In addition to the obituaries on Page 86, we regret to record the deaths of the following: **Capt P W Spurgin** Suffolk on Oct 2, 95; **Capt G W R Terry** Northhamptons on Aug 8, 95; **Maj (QM) C P Culbert** Royal Anglian on Oct 19, 95; **Maj T C Burch** Suffolk on Nov 1, 95. We extend our condolences and sympathy to their families and friends.

Obituaries



Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard KBE, CB, DL

BORN of a well known Lincolnshire family at Gosberton in the depths of the Fens, General Sir Christopher was educated at Charterhouse and Corpus Christi College, Oxford whence he was commissioned into the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1932.

He took over the 2nd Battalion of the Lincolns prior to the Normandy invasion and led it into Hermanville on D Day, commanding it with distinction during the major battle for Caen and until badly wounded soon afterwards.

In 1949, he commanded again the (by now Royal) 1st Battalion in the Canal Zone of Egypt during the difficult days following Col Nasser's abrogation of the Canal Treaty and in 1956 commanded 264 Scottish Beach Brigade and 157 (L) Infantry Brigade (TA) in Glasgow. After a BGS staff appointment, he was promoted to Major General and posted as chief of staff to C in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo in 1959. It was from there that he officially retired and went to Nigeria in 1952 as the last British General to command the Nigerian Army from 1962-65. He was awarded the OBE in 1945, made CB in 1961 and then KBE.

Maj Gen Welby-Everard was respected and well liked both within his Regiment and among those with whom he served on the staff. At his best in command of troops, he had a natural and easily carried authority. He was bold and imaginative, very firm but always scrupulously fair. He had a great sense of humour and was excellent company. He knew his soldiers well and placed the care of them (and their families) above all else.

On retirement to Lincolnshire in 1965, his main energies were devoted to a wide range of charitable and welfare activities which included for 23 years being the untiring president of the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association. His forceful character came much to the fore when the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment amalgamated with

the Northamptonshire Regiment to form the 2nd East Anglian Regiment and indeed his positive and constructive 'behind the scenes' work and support helped enormously to make the amalgamation the success it was.

He was appointed a DL of the county in 1966 and was High Sheriff in 1974. An accomplished all round sportsman, Maj Gen Welby-Everard was a gifted cricketer who played for Lincolnshire in the 1930s. He was also a keen and excellent shot - only reluctantly giving it up last season. In 1938 he married Peggy (Shorrocks) who died in 1994, a shock from which he never really recovered.

His memorial service is to be in Lincoln Cathedral at 3pm on July 19. We extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to his family and friends. REJG-W



Maj Geoffrey Taylor TD

MAJ Geoffrey Taylor died on Mar 6, 1996. He enlisted in 1949 into the then East Anglian Brigade. During his time in the Army he served in the Middle East, the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment, the Far East, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the 1st East Anglian Regiment, the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in Aden and in BAOR until finally leaving the Army after serving in 5 Royal Anglian. He then served a full TA career with 7 Royal Anglian.

Geoffrey Taylor was a Regimental character, small of stature and a wonderful raconteur of stories. He was a first class shot and gave his all to the battalion shooting teams wherever he was stationed. Geoffrey was always a dedicated Army man and in his last years he joined 7 Royal Anglian as a Mortar Warrant Officer and was subsequently commissioned to become Maj (QM), a rank and appointment he cherished.

In civilian life Geoffrey drove a vehicle for a commercial firm and covered most of

the Midlands and southern area. His favourite pastime was to spend days trekking the various hill walks around the counties with his son David. He was a very keen wild-fowler and enjoyed the open air life.

The Regiment has lost a stalwart and we have lost a friend; we extend our condolences and sympathy to his wife Audrey, his family and friends. Geoffrey was buried in Leicester on Mar 13th '96; the large number of those present from the Regiment and his family showed how much he was held in their regard and affection. HSB



WO2 M R Boulton

MARK Boulton was killed tragically on Sunday Mar 5th in a road traffic accident while on training in the US. He enlisted in his home town of Luton in May 1979. After completing his training he joined the 3rd Battalion based at Palace Barracks in Belfast. During his service he served on a number of operational tours including three tours of Northern Ireland, Belize, the Falkland Islands as a Platoon Commander and a six-month UN tour in Cyprus. Other postings included Kenya, five years in Germany, Canada and the US. Outside the Battalion he completed a two-year tour as Platoon Sergeant at the Junior Leaders Depot in Shorncliffe where he became widely respected by all who knew him as a thorough professional with a keen sense of humour.

On merger Mark joined the 1st Battalion in the role of Milan Platoon Second in Command and later as CQMS C Company where he remained until his posting to 6th Battalion in Mar 95. Mark had only recently rejoined 1st Battalion on promotion to WO2 and CSM of A Company and it was while on exercise in America that he was killed.

His memorial service took place at Colchester Garrison Church on June 20.

We extend the sympathy of the Regiment to his wife Sabine, his children Steven and Michelle and all his friends.

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