



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT





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.

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



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

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



December 1996

Vol. 10 No. 1



1st Battalion



2nd Battalion

Editor : Lt Col T D A Veitch

Editorial

I thought an Editorial was necessary in this first volume of the New Castle, if only to reassure readers that it is indeed Castle that they have begun to read.

A decision to change to a larger format was taken by the Regimental Council on 1 November, with the aim of updating the appearance of the journal, increasing its size, introducing colour pages and, not least, reducing its cost through advertising revenue. All of that has been achieved but now the Regiment will judge as to whether or not it is an improvement to the journal's recognised look and quality. One sadness is that we have lost a familiar document where you could easily find articles in their traditional place. Also sad is that we have had to leave our designer Nick Blaxill of Pulse Communications and Lever Press of Ipswich, who have served the Regiment well and loyally over many years.

The new format and a new publisher gives us an opportunity to produce more articles and to include many areas of interest not traditionally covered by Castle. I particularly seek lively correspondence, historical research related to the Museum or to Former Regiments, professional papers and articles by junior ranks. Your contributions are needed now to ensure the June issue is even better.

I am sure I shall be told if this version of Castle fails to live up to the reputation of its predecessors. Even so, I would genuinely appreciate constructive comment on any aspect of its design or content.

Trevor Veitch

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Front Cover: Drums of the 2nd Battalion exercising the Regiment's Freedom of Leicester, 15 June 1996.

Rear Cover: The 6th Battalion training on Stanford Training Area.

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Elizabeth R
1995

*The Colonel - in - Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother*

From the Colonel of the Regiment



*Major General PPD Stone CB CBE
Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment*

This is my last foreword to the Castle before handing over to General Sir Michael Walker at the end of January. I will not bore you with a rambling reminiscence of the switchback of emotions that the last five years have produced for me. These range from the low of watching the 3rd Battalion marching off the square and out of our order of battle for the last time; to the high of the presentation of new Colours, with the Regiment gathered together at its proud best. From the quiet but sad appreciation of the sheer professionalism that allowed the 5th Battalion to move imperceptibly into the RLC, inevitably taking with it a large part of our history; to the realisation of our own museum at Duxford, laying out for all the thousands who visit that wonderful site the history and circumstances that have brought us together, and which will no doubt continue to bind us together come what may.

My overwhelming memory of the last five years is not the 'great events' good or bad. Instead, it is the wonderful brotherhood and cohesion that exists in our Regiment. Wherever I have visited, be it regular battalions on operations, territorial battalions on training, association gatherings, freedom parades, and from time to time the funerals and memorial services of comrades of all ranks and backgrounds - one returns to the welcoming, supportive arms of a great family; full of warmth, good humour and the common purpose of sustaining the professional values that make us what we are - the best Infantry Regiment in the Army.

This is what I know I will miss most after the most wonderful and privileged five years at your head. It really has been a privilege to play a part in guiding and sustaining the Regiment during this time. I could not have asked for more genuine support and enthusiasm from you all. I am in no doubt that thanks to all our efforts we are in wonderful shape as a Regiment, with an establishment that we can sustain and motivated, talented people at all levels to ensure our future. My sincere thanks to every one of you serving and retired. I shall of course continue to keep as close as I can to the Regiment and hope to see my many old friends at regular intervals for years to come.

Finally, should any of you be passing our home, just South of Norwich, please do come in, for you will pass through a fine new oak gate, kindly presented to me by the Regiment in recognition of my time as Colonel. Once inside we will serve the first drinks on a silver salver, part of the same wonderfully generous gift. I cannot possibly thank you all individually for these precious mementos of my five years as Colonel, but can assure you that both Christine and I are overwhelmed by your generosity. Again, many thanks.



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

From 30 January 1997
General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Reverend T B F Hiney MC

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

1st and 6th(V) Battalions:

General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE

From 29 January 1997
Brigadier J C B Sutherland CBE

2nd & 7th(V) Battalions:

Brigadier P P 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 DL
Northamptonshire	Colonel P Worthy
Bedfordshire	Colonel M Adkin
Hertfordshire	Colonel N G Halsey TD
Essex	Colonel R C Tomkins OBE TD DL

Alliances

Australia	The Royal Tasmania Regiment
Barbados	The Barbados Regiment
Belize	The 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 Own) and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
New Zealand	5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment
	First City Regiment
Pakistan	Regiment de la Rey
South Africa	

Civic Honours

THE REGIMENT HAS BEEN GRANTED THE HONOUR OF THE FREEDOM OF:

Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge,
Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham,
Hertford, Hinkley, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn,
Leicester, 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: Lieutenant Colonel T D A Veitch

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major M Jones

Regimental Careers Officer: Major R C Gould

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,
325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
(Tel: 01603 400290)

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

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 A.E. Todd Apr 97

BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion,
Oakington Barracks,
Longstanton, Cambridge CB4 SEJ
(Belfast BFP0 801 to May 97)

Lieutenant Colonel R E Harrold OBE

2nd Battalion,
Battlesbury Barracks,
Warminster, Wilts BA12 OAZ (to Cyprus 98)

Lieutenant Colonel S L Porter

6th (V) Battalion,
TA Centre, Blenheim Camp, Newmarket Road,
Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lieutenant Colonel H N D Gill (V)

7th (V) Battalion,
TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY

Lieutenant Colonel J B C Prescott

Lieutenant Colonel P M Holme Apr 97

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Major C J Pearce

Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Major J W Rollins MBE

RMA Sandhurst: Captain R L Gerrard-Wright

Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following on their awards during the past six months:

Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker KCB CBE	CMG (New Year's Honours), 1 Jan 97.
Lt Col P R C Dixon	OBE (BMATT Namibia), Jun 96.
Lt Col C A Cocker	OBE (Former Yugoslavia), Nov 96.
Lt Col B McDonnell	OBE (New Year's Honours), 1 Jan 97.
Maj M McGowan	MBE (NI), Nov 96.
Lt SJ Nye	MBE (New Year's Honours), 1 Jan 97.

Senior Officers' Appointments

The following have assumed senior appointments:

- Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE as Commander - in - Chief Land Command in the rank of General on 27 Jan 97.
- Brig P P Rawlins MBE as Deputy Commandant, RMCS Shrivenham.
- Brig J C McColl OBE as Commander HQ 1 Mech Bde on promotion.
- Col R M Brunt OBE to Higher Command and Staff Course, 97.
- Col A P Deed OBE as Commander HQ 15(NE) Bde on promotion to Brig, 97 .
- Col D J Clements MBE as Commander CMSC(G) on promotion.
- Col D S B Phipps as Commander CAFTG(G) on promotion.
- Lt Col S L Porter as CO 2nd Bn.
- Lt Col P M Holme as CO 7th Bn, Apr 97.
- Maj J W Rollins MBE as CO 4th/5th Rangers, on promotion to Lt Col, Sep 97.

Postings

RHQ has been told of the following postings:

Maj D McCrum MBE from the 2nd Bn to ITC Catterick.	Capt S C Russell from ITC Catterick to 2nd Bn.
Lt C T D M McLay from ITC Catterick to 1st Bn.	Maj A E Eaton from 1st Bn to MOD.
Capt J N D Bowes from RMCS Shrivenham to 2nd Bn.	Lt P A Bolton from 2nd Bn to ATR Bassingbourn.
Maj R W T Pattison from ITC Catterick to RMCS Dagger Course.	Capt R I. Gerrard-Wright from 2nd Bn to RMAS.
Capt A B Beart from 2nd Bn to ITC Wales.	Maj R J Latham from 3 (UK) Div to RCB.
Maj A M Wylie from 1st Bn to RMCS Shrivenham Dagger Course.	Lt M B Walker from 1st Bn to 2nd Bn.
Maj J J W Hart from ITC Catterick to HQ 20 Armd Bde.	Maj E E C Thorne from Staff Coll to MOD.
Capt K R Copland from ITC Catterick to 2nd Bn.	Maj P H Gaskin from 2nd Bn to PM Int Wpn Systems.
Maj W J Saunders from ITC Warminster to 1 RRF.	Maj S D Etherington from HQ 3 Int Bde to 2nd Bn.
Maj A J Wadman from CATC to Trg Maj 7th Bn.	Lt I E Moran(V) from 6th Bn to 2nd Bn.
Maj R H C Lucas from Sch of Eqpt Sp to Trg Maj 6th Bn.	Lt P M Lincoln(V) from 6th Bn to 2 RRF.
2Lt D J Moss from 1st Bn to ITC Catterick.	Maj R J Shelmerdine-Hare from 6th Bn to HQ Strike Command.
Maj A W Price from HQ NI to ITC Catterick.	Capt M A I. Lyne from 2nd Bn to 1st Bn.
Capt P S Leslie from Svc Attache Madrid to 2nd Bn.	Lt M D Gothard(V) from 6th Bn to 9 R Irish.
Lt G Toyn from 2nd Bn to ITC Catterick.	Maj S P M Blyth from Rhine Area Support Unit to S02 Queen's
Maj S T H Andrews from DRA to 1st Bn.	Div Inf MCM Div (old PB2).
Capt C S Calder from Royal Sch of Sigs to Adjut 1st Bn.	Capt J P Trigg from 1st Bn to LSP Abu Dhabi UAE.
Capt A D Martin from 2nd Bn to BMM Kuwait.	Lt S R Smith from 2nd Bn to ATR Bassingbourn.
Lt J D Hughes from ATR Bassingbourn to ITC Catterick.	Lt P M Birch from 1st Bn to ITC Catterick.
Lt T B Mellar from 2nd Bn to ATR Bassingbourn.	Maj J M Davidson(V) from 6th Bn to HQ ARRC IFOR.
Maj R J Ladley from HQ 1(UK) Armd Div to 2nd Bn.	Capt P Chilvers(V) from 6th Bn to COMMZ(Fwd) IFOR.

Promotions

Maj A Powell MBE.	To Lt Col.	Lt A H C Borgnis.	To Capt.
Maj J G G Ross.	To Lt Col.	Lt R P Grenfell.	To Capt
Capt R L Arnold(V).	To Maj.	Lt S C Russell.	To Capt
Capt A E Eaton.	To Maj.	2Lt P R Burrows(V).	To Lt.
Capt A Gosling.	To Maj.	2Lt T D Mellar.	To Lt.
Capt A Jones.	To Maj.	2Lt D J Moss.	To Lt.
Capt J J W Hart.	To Maj.	2Lt A J D Hennessy(V)	To Lt.
Capt R J Latham.	To Maj.	2Lt G H Wickett(V).	To Lt.
Capt N F C Nottingham.	To Maj.	2Lt R G C Potter(V).	To Lt.
Capt A W Price.	To Maj.		

Honours and Awards

Selected for Promotion

Maj R J Kemp MBE
Maj J W Rollins MBE
Capt A Jones

Selected for Staff Training

Maj A Eaton RMCS Shrivenham, Sep 97, and
Joint Service Command and Staff College, Sep 98.

Maj N F C Nottingham
French Army Staff Course and
Joint Service Defence College, Sep 97

Capt S D Etherington
Defence Technology MSC Course.

Maj T J Smith MBE
RMCS Shrivenham, Sep 97.

Commissioned

The Regiment welcomes the following newly commissioned officers:

2Lt P Whitehouse(V), 30 Jun 96.
2Lt B M Allen, 1st Bn, 9 Aug 96.
2Lt I M Chance, 1st Bn, 9 Aug 96.
2Lt N D B Charlwood, 2nd Bn, 9 Aug 96.
2Lt M A Dingle, 2nd Bn, 9 Aug 96.
2Lt N J Haden, 2nd Bn, 9 Aug 86.
2Lt W J G Nicholls, 2nd Bn, 13 Oct 96.
2Lt J J Adams, 2nd Bn, 13 Oct 96.
Lt G A Hitchings(V), 6th Bn, 3 Dec 96.
2Lt NS Faint, 2nd Bn, 14 Dec 96

Selected for Commission

Congratulations also go to the following, who have been selected for Commission:

WOI(RSM) G I Hoyles
WOI(RSM) S N Pallant

Transfers

We wish all the best of good fortune to the following who have transferred from the Regiment:

Capt P J Shea-Simonds to RAF Regiment, Aug 96.
Maj J A B Borthwick to RAMC, 14 Oct 96.

Left the Army

The following have left, or are leaving, the active service list in the Army:

Maj M J Menage MBE, 15 Jul 96
Capt C Pook, 1 Oct 96
Capt B A Runciman, 30 Oct 96
Maj D C Coe MBE, 9 Nov 96 (appointed PSAO 6th Bn)
Maj D Whitehead, leaving 31 Jan 97
Maj BA Foster, 1 May 97
Maj T J Smith MBE, leaving 2 May 97.

We wish them well for their future careers and hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions.

The Colonel of the Regiment and his successor

As Castle goes to print Major General AP D Stone CB CBE is preparing to hand over as Colonel of The Regiment to General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE on 30 January 1997.

At the Regimental Dinner on 1 November General Walker summarised General Stone's major contribution and commitment to the direction and welfare of the Regiment over the past 5 years. It had been a period of great activity, including a campaign to avoid cuts through Options for Change, the Presentation of Colours to the regular Battalions and the construction of the Museum. Throughout General Stone had shown a close interest in, and influence on, all aspects of Regimental life. A silver salver was presented to General Stone on behalf of members of the Officers' Dinner Club.

These sentiments are echoed by all members of the Regiment who wish General Patrick, and Christine, their very best wishes on retirement from the front line of Regimental affairs.

The Regiment welcomes General Sir Michael Walker as its new Colonel.

General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE was born in 1944. Having attend-



General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE

ed RMA Sandhurst from 1964-66 he was commissioned into the 1st Battalion. He attended Division II of the Army Staff Course in 1977 and after various Regimental and Staff appointments was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and filled the appointment of MA to CGS from 1982-85. In 1985 he assumed command

of the 1st Battalion which served for 2 years as Resident Battalion in Londonderry before moving to Gibraltar. He commanded 20 Armoured Brigade from 1987 and following this he took up the appointment as Chief of Staff 1st (British) Corps in Germany in 1989. He was awarded the OBE, and subsequently CBE, in 1991.

General Walker was appointed GOC NE District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division in York in September 1991 and assumed the appointment of ACGS in 1992. In 1994 he assumed command of the AFCENT Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of Lieutenant General and was appointed KCB on 17 June 1995. He deployed with HQ ARRC to Former Yugoslavia between December 1995 and November 1996. He was appointed CMG in the New Year's Honours List 1997.

He is currently Colonel Commandant The Queen's Division and the Army Air Corps. He took over as Deputy Colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment on 1 April 1992. He assumes the appointment of Commander - in- Chief Land on 27 Jan 97.

General Walker is married to Victoria (Tor), Lady Walker. They have three children.

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

The Regiment welcomes Brigadier J C B Sutherell CBE as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment with responsibility for the 1st and 6th(V) Battalions in place of General Walker. Brigadier Sutherell was born on 23 October 1947 and was commissioned into the Regiment in 1967. He was DS at Staff College from 1984-87, commanded the 1st Battalion from 1987-90 and 8 Infantry Brigade from 1990-92. He was awarded OBE in 1991 and CBE in 1992. He was Deputy Military Secretary from 1994 and is currently at MOD.

On 1 July 1996 Brigadier P P Rawlins MBE replaced Brigadier C Groves as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment with responsibility for the 2nd and 7th(V) Battalions. Brigadier Rawlins was born on 3 March 1946 and was commissioned into the Regiment on 29 July 1966. He was awarded the MBE in 1983. He commanded the 2nd Battalion from 1985-87, was Chief of Staff Director of Infantry from 1990-92 and Defence and Military Attache Bonn from 1992-96. He is at present Deputy Commandant RMCS Shrivenham.

"Regiment" Magazine

The Regiment is featured in the December issue of "REGIMENT" magazine. Copies can be bought at most good newsagents or book shops, however RHQ and the Battalions have copies on sale. Do not miss an important reference on the Regiment's uniforms, organisation, history and customs. Price £2.75

Modern Uniform Postcards of The Regiment

The Regiment has commissioned Alix Baker to paint 9 pictures of modern Regimental uniforms for sale as postcards. These will be ready over the coming weeks, priced at £4.50 per set, and available from RHQ.

Silver Disposal

There is a quantity of Regimental silver being considered for sale during the year once all other options for its use have been looked at. It largely comprises vegetable dishes, some cutlery and broken pieces beyond economical repair. This is early notification only for those interested.

Colchester Branch of the Regimental Association

In the last Castle details of a proposed Regimental Association Branch in Colchester were published. To date there has been little response to the proposal, although there are clearly many retired members of the Regiment living in the area. Anyone interested should please contact:

A C Downs Esq MBE
3 Bentley Road
Little Bromley
Nr Manningtree
Essex CO11 2PL

Regimental Reunion 1 September

The Regimental Reunion took place at Oakington on 1 September 1996 and was attended by large numbers of the Regiment and Former Regiments, some of whom had driven long distances, and their families. With the sad exception of the tragic death of Tom Bullock, reported elsewhere, the event was a special day, enjoyed by all, and superbly run by the 1st Battalion.

The shooting competition created the usual keen rivalry between Association Branches. Results were:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1st | Royal Norfolk Regiment,
Great Yarmouth Branch |
| 2nd | Suffolk Regiment, Bury St
Edmunds Branch |
| 3rd | Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
Regiment, Hemel Hempstead
Branch |
| 4th | Suffolk Regiment,
Stowmarket Branch |

Next year's Reunion will be on Sunday 20 July, again at Oakington. Local newspapers will publicize the event nearer the date - in the meantime please widely advertise the date so that attendance is even greater.

REGIMENTAL REUNION,
OAKINGTON, 20TH JULY 1997

Regimental Cocktail Party - 5 September

The Regimental Cocktail Party took place at the Army and Navy Club on 5 September 1996. The following attended:

Maj Gen and Mrs P P D Stone,
Brig & Mrs C Groves,
Brig & Mrs J A C Cowan,
Brig J C B Sutherell,
Col & Mrs P Worthy,
Col & Mrs N H Kelsey,
Col & Mrs J Hall-Tipping,
Col R M Brunt,
Col R J Abbott,
Col M K Goldschmidt,
Lt Col T D A Veitch,
Lt Col R M Chisnall,
Lt Col B H M Davenport,
Maj P H Williamson,
Maj & Mrs M H Wenham,

The Colonel of the Regiment presided at the Regimental Officers' Dinner Club Dinner at the Army and Navy Club on 1 November 1996. Mr M Savory, Master, and Mr R Gilpin and Mr R Link, The Worshipful Company of Poulters, were guests; also, from His Majesty's 10th Foot in America, Mr G Ames, Mr J Coull, Mr D Lee, Mr L Lynch and Mr D Mahoney.

Officers attending were:

Generals: Sir John Akehurst.

Lieutenant Generals: Sir Michael Walker.

Major Generals: K Burch, JB Dye, AJG Pollard, PPD Stone. Sir David Thorne.

Brigadiers: A Behagg, DJW Browne, AJK Calder, WT Dodd, C Groves, PP Rawlins, JCB Sutherell.

Colonels: RJ Abbott, RM Brunt, CJ Dale, AP Deed, MK Goldschmidt, JS Houchin, JC McColl, CAF Thomas, JR Wooddisse, K Woodrow.

Lieutenant Colonels: DJ Clements, CA Cocker, BHM Davenport, PW Field, HND Gill, RE Harrold, SL Porter, JBC Prescott, KM Ryan, AD Slater, TDA Veitch.

Majors: STH Andrews, MJ Beard, NG Burrell, RJ Clements, BR Cornish, PH Gaskin, DMF Goodale, RC Gould, JE Harris, GWM Hipkin, DGH Hunter, M Jones, ACE Marinos, PAE Nanson, NFC

Maj & Mrs G Walton,
Maj & Mrs R H C Lucas,
Capt & Mrs D K Marsden,
Capt S R Watson,
Capt & Mrs C R Webster,
Mr J W E Lewis,
Mr P C T Dean
Mr J T Bill

**Guests from The Worshipful
Company of Poulters:**

Mr & Mrs M Savory, Master,
Mr & Mrs B Gilbert-Smith,
Mr & Mrs D Jackson.

Regimental Dinner - 1 November

Nottingham, WJ O'Connor, WH Reeve, RJ Shelmerdine- Hare, TJ Smith, JW Steele, DG Vincent, MH Wenham, AJC Wild, PH Williamson.

Captains: PRD Aplin, PD Bailey, AHC Borgnis, JND Bowes, GR Brown, GT Corkery, ML Elphee, RL Gerrard-Wright, AG Grinonneau, NA Johnson, MAL Lyne, RFL Lyne, RJ O'Dwyer, EC Reynolds, SC Russell, CA Skidmore, SM Vincent, DJ Ward, CR Webster, PRE Welby- Everard, RW Wooddisse, JA York.

Lieutenants: PM Birch, APR Bowman, J Farrar, JM Gladwyn, PM Gotobed, IKS Bowden, CTDM McLay, TB Mellar, MDH Meredith, SJ Nye, CL Prior, MB Walker.

2nd Lieutenants: DJS Biddick, NDB Charlwood, CD Davies, DJ Howson, EJM Osborne, EL Paden, AL Robbins, SW Romilly, SR Smith, G Toyn.

Officer Cadets: CBK Barry, NF Faint, R Lescott, DR White.

The Reverend TBH Hiney

The Worshipful Company of Poulters Luncheon - 11 November

The Association between the Poulters and the Regiment began on 14 October 1986 following arrangements made between the Company and General Sir John Akehurst. The major feature of the association is the award of a £500 Travelling Bursary annually to a Battalion in rotation for adventurous training. A luncheon to celebrate this important association, at which the Regiment presented a silver cup and received in return two magnificent prints, was held at the Fishmongers' Hall in London on 11 November 1996. Attendance by the Regiment was:

The Colonel of the Regiment,
General Sir John Akehurst,
Brigadier P P Rawlins,
Colonels T B Thomas and C J Dale,
Lieutenant Colonel T D A Veitch,
Majors S T H Andrews and W A Wilmott
and Captain S M Vincent.

Benevolence and the Day's Pay Scheme

Many members of the Regiment are not clear about the system of benevolence, particularly the Day's Pay Scheme, and how it might benefit them in times of hardship.

The Regiment works hand in glove with the Army Benevolent Fund, which does much to help serving and ex-soldiers who fall on hard times. We give them some £9,000 per year as an annual grant. The Regiment gets quite a bit of this back because they help us to pay the more expensive bills which frequently crop up.

But where does this money come from? It comes from serving officers and soldiers of the Royal Anglian Regiment who pay one day's pay per year into the Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund. The fund presently is worth over £500,000, which sounds an enormous amount of money, but it is invested and the income from the investment goes to help those in need.

The Regiment pays out about £32,000 each year, which is round about 50% of our total income. Such money as is left over is reinvested because the cost of living is constantly going up and inevitably grants that we make increase in the same proportion. Thus the average payout to those in need is £ 275, but it is quite often £1,000 or more.

So what's in it for you? The short answer is that, while you are serving in the army, one hopes very much there will be no need for you to be helped out, but one never knows when disaster can strike. For such disasters, you can insure under the PAX scheme while serving. All officers and soldiers additionally pay into the Benevolent Fund during their service, but, once they leave, they remain members of the Association and qualify for assistance from the Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund.

So look at it this way - you are paying for an insurance policy during your service in the Regiment (when you can afford it!) so that if you fall on hard times after you have left the Regiment, it is there to help you. In addition, all paying members of the Association are automatically insured against serious accident (for

instance up to £1,000 for the loss of a limb) or death.

So anybody not paying up now should see their superior officer and sign up!

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Invalidated Members of the Regiment

RHQ is keen to maintain or regain contact with members of the Regiment who were invalidated out, particularly those whose injuries resulted from active service. Such contact might take the form of assistance to get to the Regimental Reunion or other functions and keeping them informed through Castle. However, contact is lost with many once they leave the Regiment, often because they chose to make their own way when starting in civilian life. Information on any former soldiers wounded on active service, particularly in the Regiment's early years, should please be passed to RHQ.

THE BRIGADIER WILKINSON BEQUEST

Under the Brigadier Wilkinson Bequest free membership for one year of the Army and Navy Club is offered to up to 4 officers. This generous arrangement is again available from March 1997. Applicants, who must qualify under guidelines listed in Regimental Standing Instructions, should request the necessary forms from RHQ.

New book tells the Naafi story.

A new book - **Naafi Up! More than just a char and wad** - has been published by Naafi to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

The lavishly illustrated book tells the story of Naafi's progression from an amalgamation of canteen boards into the large, multi-million pound organisation it is today.

It charts its humble beginnings, the active service during the Second World War, and its role in modern times, including the Falklands War, Gulf, and today in Bosnia.

Alongside all of this are stories and anecdotes from former service personnel, Naafi staff, and celebrities who have used Naafi facilities. Among the more famous names appearing are Sir Harry Secombe (who remembers the ornate Naafi in

Naples), Michael Bentine, and Max Bygraves. Max actually met his wife, Blossom, in a Naafi club during the war, and they are still together after 50 years.

Naafi Up! More than just a char and wad is available from the Naafi shops. It costs £7.95 for Service customers, and £9.95 for those in Civvy Street. It is also available by mail order (+ £1.00 to cover postage & packaging) from: The Naafi Shop, Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire, SP9 7NR. Cheques made payable to: Naafi

Naafinews

From the Padre

A Pilgrimage to India

Many battalions of the Former Regiments of The Royal Anglian Regiment served in India. It was therefore with especial interest that I visited India in October. There are many reminders of the East India Company, the former British Raj, the titanic efforts of our engineers in building up the railway system and of course of the long service of our Regiment in the British Army. Having worn the Hindoostan Tiger as a capbadge in much of my infantry service, it was all most nostalgic ... almost as if, like most In Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, I had served there myself.

But what was most noticeable in India were not these things, not was it the deprived areas of which we hear so often. It was the spiritual dimension of the lives of so many. The temples, the churches, the streets and the people reflected happy, un-selfconscious worship of God. The colour, the brightness and the rich fertility of the land all remind the religious mind of the Psalmist's refrain: "The heavens declare the glory of God". You really do feel as if you are on a pilgrimage not just a journey.

As we go to press, the moral high ground is being fought over in this country by the political parties in the lead up to the General Election. Cynics may sneer, but it is no bad thing that these issues are being raised so prominently. And when it comes to faith in God, the Indians have much to teach us. If we were humble enough to accept the idea, they could well send their missionaries to us. That would put our Millennium celebrations into the right perspective.

Rev Tom Hiney Royal Hospital, Chelsea.



All Quiet on the Western Front

Capt John Wright writes from Londonderry:

Those readers who keep abreast of events in Northern Ireland will be aware that Londonderry has this summer been the focus of international media attention. It is perhaps fitting therefore that it also features in The Castle, albeit on a much lower key. The Regiment is still well represented on the staff of various Headquarters here. With few travellers venturing to Londonderry, on the extreme western limits of Europe and the most westerly European military outpost, Minden Day seemed the perfect excuse to change things. Maj Adrian Gosling and Capt John Wright decided to host a Royal Anglian Bar-B-Q. Having identified a surprising number of Royal Anglians or Ex Royal Anglians the operation order went out.

Various excuses were given to avoid the treacherous trek across the Sperrins and some fell by the wayside. One Royal Anglian even preferred watching golf to drinking beer. A brave band did,

however, venture forth led by Maj Richard Clements who had his slippers surgically removed for the weekend. Maj Andy Price, Capts James Woodham, Phil Cross, Jim Jackson, Mac McGowan and Howard Newson also managed to complete the arduous journey. It was good to see some friendly faces currently serving with the R IRISH and PWO. In all just over 20 people turned up and much food and drink was consumed. Many thanks to Beverley Gosling for permitting the Gosling home to be the venue and her efforts on the catering front where she was ably supported by Louise Wright. Captain Phil Cross still does not know how all his beer turned into lager, though Mac McGowan's smile may hold some answers.

Life still goes on in Northern Ireland and if any Royal Anglians are passing through please call round. Finally we look forward to next year's gathering at Chateau Clements (SRANI).

On Secondment to the Bermuda Regiment

Capt Henry Simpson writes:

In August 1993 I was seconded to the Bermuda Regiment as the Adjutant. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and the faint hope that PB2 might have mislaid my records was dashed by the inevitable posting order. In February of this year I was posted to Northern Ireland and I have now had a chance to reflect on my experiences on secondment.

A quick summary of Bermuda: a cluster of islands stretching for 20 miles, 700 miles off the coast of North Carolina and 1500 miles north of the Caribbean; 60,000 inhabitants with an ethnic mix of black, white and Portuguese and an ex-patriot community of

about 5,000; a British colony since 1609 with red letter boxes, an elected parliament and a governor; one of the highest per capita incomes in the world with foreign earnings coming from international finance and tourism; beautiful pink beaches, nine golf courses and a 25mph speed limit.

The Bermuda Regiment itself is a part time conscript force with a small permanent staff including currently three Royal Anglians: the Staff Officer and two PSI Warrant Officers. When I arrived I was the first non-Bermudian Adjutant for 9 years.

Mainly about People

The Regiment's structure is based on that of an infantry battalion with three rifle companies and a large support company. The Regiment's role is to support the small police force in the event of civil disturbance or a natural disaster, and carry out ceremonial duties and parades.

Royalty and Reggae

1994 began with the annual two week "Boot Camp" for the often reluctant conscripts. All Bermudian males between the ages of 18 and 27 are eligible for conscription and with the current demographic trough over 90% are called up. Recruits serve for 3 years and two months, and have to complete at least 40 drills and a 15 day annual camp to qualify for bounty. Although not popular with the majority of recruits, conscription is very popular with the politicians and the general public. The transformation that takes place is impressive and only six weeks later the same conscripts formed the Guard of Honour to welcome Her Majesty the Queen to Bermuda. The expected visit of the Chief of the Defence Staff was called off four days before he was due to arrive but an unexpected visit from Malcolm Rifkind MP, the then Secretary of State for Defence, meant the briefing pack was not wasted.

One of the tasks I was given by the Commanding Officer on arrival was to run a local commissioning course. The aim was to boost the number of young officers and to save the huge expense of sending them to Sandhurst. The course ran for six months with nine officer cadets, culminating in a two week final exercise in Jamaica as part of the Regiment's annual overseas exercise. The poverty and crime we encountered were shocking but the people welcomed us with open arms and the enterprising ones followed us everywhere - even miles from the nearest village, people would turn up selling jerk chicken and cold sodas. Running the

course was enormously rewarding both as an escape from the office and for making me evaluate exactly what it is that makes a good officer. It also meant I had to go back over all the lessons I was taught at Sandhurst and pay attention this time! Four of the officer cadets received Governor's Commissions from Lord Waddington.

In June 1994 I organised a six strong delegation from the Regiment to Fleetweek in New York City. This is an event hosted by the City for a US Navy fleet and delegations from around the world. As Bermuda does not have a navy we felt very fortunate to be invited and be provided with our own boat (a 50 ft cruiser once having belonged to General MacArthur and renamed "Bermuda Shorts" specially for the occasion) to take part in the parade of ships around Manhattan. In our blazers and yellow Bermuda shorts we were only upstaged by the Mexican ship which managed to crash into the dockside and scatter the awaiting VIPs!

Hurricanes and Farewells

1995 was an interesting year for Bermuda with the departure of the Royal Navy and the United States Navy; a referendum on independence (4:1 against) and the visit of hurricanes Marilyn and Felix. For the latter event all the British personnel and their families moved into our house as, being the old armoury, it was the only building on the camp likely to remain standing. Fortunately for us, Frances and I were away at the time and in the event the hurricane dropped from a force 4 to a force 2 (force 5 being total devastation) before passing by the islands. For the British families it was an extremely frightening experience and on my return I was given strict instructions to ensure in future that my drinks cabinet was properly stocked with emergency supplies.



1995 was the Regiment's 30th anniversary and celebrations included a military Tattoo and an all ranks ball. The annual overseas camp took place at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina as guests of the Marine Corps. The rifle companies made the most of the excellent ranges and urban training facilities and the camp also served as the final exercise for my second local commissioning course; the crocodile warning signs made the river crossing phase rather quicker than I had planned! Four more officer cadets received commissions making the number of young officers in the Mess much healthier.

My replacement as Adjutant is a local officer who has managed to take time off from his civilian career to serve in the Regiment full-time. I certainly hope other officers do get a chance to serve in Bermuda in the future as it was a fascinating and highly enjoyable secondment.

Sandhurst

Maj Nick Nottingham, The Regimental Representative at RMAS, writes:

Since the last issue of Castle there have been several changes to the Regimental permanent staff at RMAS.

The list is currently as follows:

Maj M H Wenham	SO2 G3 O&D, Academy Headquarters
Maj N F C Nottingham	Coy Instr, New College
WO2(RQMS) D Smith	RQMS Old College
CSgt P Kirk	Pl CSgt Dettingen Coy (Short Courses)
CSgt C Tate	Instr Skill at Arms Wing
Sgt M Simpson	Instr Signals Wing
LCpl J C Dales	RP Staff

Mainly about People

Earlier in the year we said goodbye to CSgts Wright and Humphreys who returned to the VIKINGS and POACHERS respectively. Both spent their postings in the Skill at Arms Wing, with CSgt Wright also spending time in Rowallan Coy, as described in his article in the last edition. CSgt Tate has joined us from the 1st Bn after successfully completing the Sandhurst Cadre in January/February this year.

On the Officer Cadet front, recruiting is buoyant with the Regiment filling its 95/96 quota with 3 Reg C, 7 SSC and 1 SRC cadets passing out. It was heartening to see many more approach the Regiment for interview than there were vacancies. This recruiting year the situation looks even better; at the time of writing there are double the number of candidates for the places available.

The following Officer Cadets have passed out in 1996:

Apr.	OCdt Dominic Biddick* (Ypres Coy)	to 1st Bn	Aug.	OCdt Bevis Allen (Normandy Coy)	to 1st Bn
	OCdt Ed Paden (Ypres Coy)	to 1st Bn		OCdt Ian Chance (Normandy Coy)	to 1st Bn
	OCdt Mark Powell (Marne Coy)	to 1st Bn		OCdt Nick Charlwood (Normandy Coy)	to 2nd Bn
	OCdt Stephen Romilly (Marne Coy)	to 2nd Bn		OCdt Mark Dingle (Alamein Coy)	to 2nd Bn
	OCdt Simon Worthy (Marne Coy)	to 2nd Bn		OCdt Nathaniel Haden (Normandy Coy)	to 2nd Bn
			Dec:	OCdt Nick Faint (Gaza Coy)	to 2nd Bn

* *Queen's Medalist*

The Colonel of the Regiment, accompanied by his wife Christine, attended the April Sovereign's Parade and saw OCdt Dominic Biddick receive the Queen's Medal. The previous evening, at the Regimental Cocktail Party, we welcomed as the Colonel of the Regiment's Representative Col M E Romilly OBE and his wife Rena, who saw their son Stephen commissioned the next day. In August the Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Col T B Thomas OBE and his wife Judith.

Life at Sandhurst continues at its usual hectic pace. Many of the changes to the Commissioning Course initiated in the last couple of years are now set and it is a more physically demanding course, closely following the tactical doctrine promulgated by Upavon and the Arms School. Final exercises currently take place in France, Germany and Cyprus depending on the time of

year and all Officer Cadets now leave Sandhurst with both an adventure training qualification and the experience of having planned, organised and participated in an expedition. Subtle changes are afoot on the permanent staff with three of the CSMs in New College now from non-Household Division infantry regiments. On the buildings and facilities front, an extensive restoration programme to Old College, Government and Le Marchant Houses has taken place and the facades are now back to their original colour, a sandy yellow. Three new squash courts have been built with glass back walls and a viewing balcony, situated adjacent to the Library which itself is undergoing extensive restoration.

The Regimental Representative leaves Sandhurst in April 1997 and is due to hand over responsibilities to Capt R L Gerrard-Wright, who arrives as a coy instructor in January.

Royal Anglians at ATR Bassingbourn

Capt Mike Dicker writes:

Pictured are 14 of the 28 Royal Anglians on the permanent staff at ATR Bassingbourn. We are headed by Maj Pearce as Regimental 2IC, a job he has filled for nearly a year. The C (Queen's Division) Company Staff have Capt Dicker as the Company 2IC and Lts Halton and Mellar, who replaced Lts Hughes and Walker. The Regiment is well represented in the Sgts' Mess with Sgt Osborne filling the post of Provost Sergeant having replaced Sgt Urand. It is also hoped he will stand in for Father Christmas this year as well. Sgt Shaw has recently departed to be replaced by Sgt Philpott. Sgt Williams continues in his job as a Platoon Sergeant. There is also good representation in the Cpls' Mess, the most recent arrival being Cpl Wilcox from the Vikings.

Revolutionary Changes to Basic Training

The work load at the ATR has increased with the implementation of a new initiative into the way basic training is conducted. The Army Foundation Course



(AFC) aims to prepare recruits for the Common Military Syllabus (Recruits) (CMS) (R) and thereby reduce the need for costly remedial training and reduce the levels of back squadding. It is partly based on lessons learnt from the Physical Development Course (PDC) Trial which

has been running at ATR Glencorse since Jan 96.

The aim of the Army Foundation Scheme is to give progressive physical training and psychological support to recruits to enable them to pass CMS(R) first time.

All Recruits will be graded on physical ability at Recruit Selection Centres (RSCs) into A, B and C grades. A grade recruits equate to those who should currently pass CMS(R) first time. Having been re-assessed on arrival, these recruits are expected to remain in AFS for an induction week prior to starting their new 11 week CMS(R). B grade recruits are those who presently are unlikely to pass CMS(R) first time and they will spend a minimum of 3 weeks in AFS developing their physical ability prior to their starting induction week and then 11 weeks training. C grade recruits are risk candidates who require 3 weeks or more at the discretion of the AFS commander. No recruit will start CMS(R) until they have reached the A grade standard and are ready to start their training.

AFS will allow the recruit the time to adjust to the Army and will assist in getting him to the fitness level required to start training. The ultimate aim is to produce more trained soldiers who can then

go forward to their Phase 2 at Catterick better prepared and motivated.

C Company

C Company continues to be the link between the training organization and the Divisional Headquarters. The 2IC is responsible for the badging of all recruits and the eventual allocation to Battalions. Wherever possible Royal Anglians are allocated to their county affiliated Battalions but occasionally this is not possible due to manning and future tour plots. The Company has a total of 5 Training Platoons all operating on different programmes. The pace of life is generally fast and furious but the Regimental permanent staff are all giving a good account of themselves and working hard. The recruits who are successful seem to appreciate the work that is put in by the staff. The 2IC continues to discourage recruits from leaving the Army as do all staff at the ATR and it is hoped all play a part in trying to retain soldiers.

Regimental photographs, posters, calendars and other materials are appreciated to help build teamwork and encouragement which helps keep recruits in the Army. Visits from the Battalions are also welcome to help encourage those recruits not so sure of their decision to join the Army.

Sport & Leisure

Time in a busy training programme is made available to take part in a variety of sports and activities. All Regimental activities are well represented from fishing to hockey. A recent run for charity saw members of all cap badges of the Queen's Division running from Bassingbourn to the three RHQs to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis, Royal British Legion and BLESMA. Recruits have made visits to the Regimental Museum at Duxford and RHQ at Bury St. Edmunds. The use of the Regimental Museum will continue with the implementation of AFS.

The Physical Development Course (PDC) Trial

The Physical Development Course Trial (PDC) (T) is the high profile job you need to do. "4 Months in ATR Glencorse should see you getting an excellent report which will set you in train for your future". This is a slightly abridged version of the conversation over lunch in the Mess at ATR Bassingbourn I had with Brig Colin Groves in December of last year. Brimming with confidence I set forth to Scotland and set up the trial which ran for 9 months instead of 4. The immortal words of "I know it will be a success" still ring in my ears.

What then did we do? Well, as we are all aware manning Battalions is increasingly difficult and there is only a finite number of recruits coming forward to join the Army. Of those potential recruits arriving at Recruit Selection Centres in 1995 some 1500 failed the initial physical entry test both male and female. Against this background I was tasked with taking a number of these recruits from all cap badges for a 3 week programme of remedial training to get them to the stage where they could achieve the required entry standards to start Phase One training. Having set up the course, finalised the programme and had the signs made, the recruits came into view along with scores of visitors from CGS down. The trial was successful in achieving a 98% pass rate of potential recruits to Phase One training. Subsequently the concept will be devel-

oped until all ATRs will adopt the son of PDC(T), the Army Foundation Scheme (AFS). This started at ATR Bassingbourn in December. Recruits will be graded and will then be given the required physical training and mental robustness to enable them to attend CMS(R) with the best chance of passing. The recruits themselves were excellent on the PDC Trial. After their exploits in Scotland they were well motivated and prepared to carry out their training at their relevant ATRs. Of the recruits who went through PDC roughly 50% are making it through training. That amounts essentially to another 250 Recruits per quarter who would otherwise be rejected at the initial stages. The sceptics are still to be won round but it was a great sense of achievement when the work we carried out at PDC resulted in a radical change to Phase One training at the ATR with the introduction of the Army Foundation Course.

The Recruits had a three week training programme designed to make training enjoyable whilst still working on improving their fitness and stamina. Along with a great deal of running, PT, games and sport, the recruits took part in low level adventurous training activities. They also undertook projects to help the local community such as landscaping and gardening work at a Scottish Veterans' home, decorating and renovating a local commu-

nity day centre and other varied activities. Presentations were given on Army careers and job prospects. The location proved ideal, particularly the delights of Edinburgh, seats at Murrayfield when Scotland lost the Grand Slam to England and the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Whilst running the course we also carried out scientific testing on 25% of the recruits. Initially one was sceptical as to the value or validity of this but views soon changed. By using a heart rate monitor and watch and testing the recruits on motorised treadmills every week we could record the vast improvement in their fitness and motivation. In fact, we believe that we proved that there is a direct correlation between maximum heart rate and motivation, using the technology to see if recruits really were working hard or not on their fitness training. The full statistical data is too detailed to repeat here but it has been reported in a document being examined by Farnborough and the School of PT.

The trial continued at ATR Glencorse until the end of November when AFS took its place. At the end of July last, of 471 recruits who had attended PDC, 31 were destined to join the Queen's Division. This new training scheme will have supplied a few more and better trained recruits as a result of the trial.

ITC Catterick

WO1 (RSM) G I Hoyles writes:

During the last six months the Royal Anglian permanent staff have changed almost as much as the weather in North Yorkshire. Those who left us were:

Maj R W T Pattison
Lt C T D M McLay
CSgt Sykes
Cpl Newton

Posted in to represent the Vikings and Poachers at ITC were:

Maj A W Price
Lt D J Moss
Lt J D Hughes
CSgt Munroe
Sgt Doctor
Cpls Goodman, Jackson and Huggins
LCpl Ellis



Royal Anglian members of the Staff, ITC Catterick.

Despite being away from parent units and the rapid pace of the courses, the traditions and battle honours of the Regiment are still upheld. The most recent and obvious was the Viking celebration of Minden Day on which Maj J W Rollins led the parade and the Order of the Day was announced. This was the first parade of its kind at ITC and was recognised by all other units that fought in the battle.

Regimental Information Team

WO2 M Minns, RIT, writes:

Having been in the RIT now for nearly three years I thought it was time I put pen to paper to relay some information to readers about the RIT.

The RIT was first set up in 1978 to promote and advertise the Regiment in and around the county recruitment areas. The RIT started its life in the Queen's Division Depot at Bassingbourn, where it still is today in what is now known as the Army Training Regiment (ATR). This is an ideal home base for the RIT, not only because it is set in the middle of the recruiting area but it also gives us the amenities, administration and training support an organisation such as ours requires.

Over the years the manning of the RIT has reduced from what was in 1978 five, five man teams, to today's current orbit of:

HQ TEAM
OC - Captain
2IC - WO2
Clerk - Cpl/Lcpl

1 Team

Team leader - Sgt
Team member - JNCO
Team member - JNCO
Team member - JNCO

2 Team

Team leader - Sgt
Team member - JNCO
Team member - JNCO
Team member - JNCO

The RIT is made up of soldiers from the 1st and 2nd Battalions which supply 1 and 2 teams respectively; however, they are still part of the Battalion's actual manning strength, which means that we are not an Army sponsored organisation but a regimentally sponsored team not only for manning but for finance and equipment.

The OC is ideally a LE officer who brings with him a wealth of experience, knowledge of all G matters and useful contacts. The WO is someone who can communicate well, relate to civilians and the younger generation and who ideally has experience of working with a Cadet Training Team, Army Youth Team or the TA; basically to have dealt with civilians and the younger generation. He should also have worked in the Q world and most of all be a good acquirer (scrounger), wheeler and dealer. Again, he will bring his contacts with him. The team leader will ideally have been a platoon sergeant or a good section commander with sound administration skills. He needs to be a strong character, able to communicate with superiors, civilians and the younger generation and a LGV driver. The team member should be either a Junior NCO or a potential NCO with instructional experience, a good communicator, able to work unsupervised and within a team, have a good temperament with youngsters and the gift of the gab. He must be a LGV driver.

For the OC, WO and Sgts the ideal tour is of two years for continuity and stability. With the NCOs we look on the attachment as an extension of the satisfied soldier role. He is attached for six months minimum to a one year maximum.

The year's work is divided into the Summer and Winter season. The Summer season runs from May to August with September as a leave period, the Winter season from October to March with April as a leave period.

In the Summer season the RIT attends shows in the county catchment areas. The teams sometimes move from one show to another and when shows are a day or two apart time off in lieu is given for the weekends worked.

Careers "Look at Life" for schools, assistance to the ACFs at

Mainly about People

their annual camps, coordination of The Salamanca Shield, a military skills competition, support to Royal Anglian badged ACF units, running the Combat Army Stand at the Army Exhibition for Schools and regimental assistance for the Regimental Gathering and Minden Day are other major tasks for the RIT.

In the Winter season the RIT visits ACF detachments, hosts visits by the ACF and CCF and organises "Look at Life" visits at Bassingbourn or at other locations.

An attachment to the RIT will be busy and can at times be unso- cial, but time off in lieu is given. If you like to meet and talk to people, and to work often independently in all parts of the regi- mental area, this is a most rewarding job. The RIT seeks keen, self-reliant soldiers to help find our soldiers of the future.

Our Man in Moscow

Col Robin Greenham is now Military Attache in Moscow and also has Non-Residential Accreditation as Defence Attache in Georgia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and has been promoting the UK's developing bilateral agreements with these countries. Recently he met Lt Col Robin Chisnell, who visited Moscow to have discussions with the Interior Ministry, before flying down to North Ossetia near Russia's southern border with Georgia to lecture to the local authori- ties and security forces there about conflict resolution and peace-building.

Diary Dates

February

10 Sobraon Day, 2nd Battalion.

March

- 2 Essex Regiment Association to Royal Hospital Chapel
- 15 4th / 5th Essex Regiment Officers' Dinner, Colchester
- 17 St Patrick's Day, 1st Battalion

April

- 12 Cambridgeshire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Dinner, Waterbeach
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Dinner.
- 18 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Cocktail Party, Army and Navy Club.
- 25 Almanza Day, 1st Battalion.
- 27 Almanza Day Commemoration Service, Norwich.
- 30 Northamptonshire Regiment Association visits 2nd Battalion.

May

- 1 4th/5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Dinner, Millbank.
- 2 Northamptonshire Regiment Dinner, Millbank.
- 18 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Dinner.
- 22 Regimental Cocktail Party, Army and Navy Club.

June

- 5 2nd/5th Essex Regimental Officers' Luncheon, Warley.
- 6 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner, Norwich.
- 7 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Luncheon, Norwich.
- 7-8 Regimental Tennis Tournament for sponsored schools, Kimbolton.
- 8 Cambridgeshire Regiment Annual Service of Remembrance and Reunion, Ely.
- 21-22 Royal Tigers Weekend.
- 25 Hindoostan Day, 2nd Battalion.
- 25-26 Royal Norfolk Show.
- 27 Dettingen Day, 1st Battalion.
- 28 Summer Ball, 1st Battalion.
- 29 Essex Regiment Reunion.

July

- 2 Freedom of Lincoln.
- 5 Freedom of Bury St. Edmunds.
- 5-6 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Northampton.
- 11 Freedom of Cambridge.
- 16 Freedom of King's Lynn.
- 18 Freedom of Chelmsford.
- 19 Essex Regiment Association Annual Dinner & Dance.
- 20 Regimental Reunion, Oakington.
- 22 Salamanca Day, 1st Battalion.
Salamanca Dinner.
- 27 Talavera Day, 2nd Battalion.

August

- 1 Minden Day, 1st Battalion.
- 2 Summer Ball, 2nd Battalion.
- 3 Suffolk Regiment Minden Day Reunion, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 13 Blenheim Day, 2nd Battalion.
- 17 16th Foot Officers' Goslar Reunion.

September

- 1 Royal Anglian Regiment Foundation Day.
- 21 Cambridgeshire Regiment Association AGM, Ely.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Dinner, Norwich.
1st Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment Reunion, Leicester.
- 28 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Commemoration Service, Norwich.
Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association Reunion, Lincoln.

October

- 3 3rd Battalion Dinner Club Luncheon (tbc).
- 3-4 70th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Kettering.
- 18 Peterborough Branch Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion.
- 25 Poachers Reunion, Felixstowe.

November

- 7 Regimental Dinner, Army and Navy Club.

December

- 6 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon, Army & Navy Club.

Letters

From: Col C J Dale

Sir,

RETIREMENT OF REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

On 16 August, age dictated that I retire as Regimental Secretary and hand over one of the most pleasant jobs imaginable to Lt Col Trevor Veitch. I greatly enjoyed my seven years at Regimental HQ, supported as I was at The Keep by an excellent staff (both present and retired) to whom I shall always remain deeply grateful.

My gratitude extends also to the many members of the Regiment with whom I did business in the normal course of events and also during the more hectic organisational hurdles such as the Presentation of Colours. I genuinely have to search hard to recall anyone who was unhelpful or indeed did what was asked of them other than with cooperative good humour.

On 23 August the Colonel of the Regiment presented to me a gift from the Regiment to which many generous friends of the Officers' Club had subscribed. I hope they will excuse my idleness in not writing to so many and that they will accept this open letter of thanks in the Castle. I am most touched by their collective kindness.

And, finally, may I thank all readers whose generosity of spirit made the whole seven years marvellous.

Yours faithfully

Christopher Dale

From: Mr Martin Boswell
IWM Duxford

Sir,

CAN YOU HELP? CAMBRIDGESHIRE REGIMENT

Could I ask for space to make an enquiry relating to The Cambridgeshire Regiment. On behalf of the relatives of Pte Leslie Chambers, killed in action in Malaya on 24 Jan 42, and Pte Ronald Knoll, killed in action on 27 Jan 42, I seek anyone serving in the 2nd Battalion The Cambridgeshire Regiment in the Far East 1942-45. The families of the soldiers want details of the events leading to the soldiers' deaths. Anyone able to help should please contact me at IWM Duxford on 01233 835000, Extn 271.

Yours faithfully

Martin Boswell

From: Lt Col E T Lummis

Sir,

I SUFFOLK IN NORMANDY 1944 - A POSTSCRIPT

Lt Col Jeremy Prescott's excellent account of his tour of I Suffolk's battlefields in Normandy in 1944 will have pleased those who were there. He omitted, however, one item of some significance (perhaps through family modesty) which deserves mention. His father, Maj Jack Prescott, who took over A Company before the Chateau de la Londe battle as he mentioned, led that Company with great dash and distinction in the three day battle down the Vire-Tinchebray Road against German parachute troops from 12-15 August 1944 (Operation Grouse). Maj Prescott was awarded the MC for "his fearless and skilful leadership; he was an inspiration to his company" according to the citation. The Battalion received high praise from the Brigade and Divisional Commander for their efforts. Some three hundred or more prisoners had been taken in addition to the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy who had been driven back some 3000 yards. The Battalion had suffered 169 casualties in the period including Capt John Calder, the father of Brig Tony Calder.

Yours faithfully

Eric Lummis

From: Lt Col A A A Beattie PWRR
Queen's Division

Sir,

EMBLAZONED SIDE DRUMS

I am writing to thank the Regiment very much indeed for its generous agreement to fund the emblazoning of one side drum for each of our two Divisional Bands. The difference they make presentationally is incredible and I am so pleased that both Bands will now be able to carry the battle honours and badges of the Regiments they are supporting or in whose area they are working.

The Minden Band had its first Kneller Hall Inspection last month and achieved a commendable 'EXCELLENT' grading. Inter alia, the Inspecting Officer remarked upon the drums and thought that we were the only Division to have arranged such a way of representing our Regiments. It was good of the Regiment to fund what may have been seen as an embellishment - I do know it has given both Bands an even stronger sense of belonging and is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Beattie

The Vikings

During the past 6 months the 1st Battalion has been involved in a number of major exercises including Exercise Purple Star in the US and Exercise Gryphon's Clasp, a major multi-national exercise on Stanford Training Area. Perhaps, however, the most significant event for us has been our arms plot move to Oakington and the end of our 8 year association with Colchester. After successfully settling into Oakington the Vikings started training in earnest for the forthcoming deployment to Belfast in mid November.

EX PURPLE STAR

The Vikings' support to Ex Purple Star included the responsibility for providing umpire teams to 5 Airborne Brigade and to deploy C Coy as reinforcement to 3 RGR. The umpires deployed on 21 Apr under the CO who was chief umpire to 5 AB Bde. On arrival in the US they deployed to the relatively luxurious surroundings of Camp Lejeune, an enormous US Marine Corps base on the North Carolina coast, where they attended umpire school under the US exercise directors. It soon became clear that the US military have a far more structured system for umpiring engagements and allocating Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) than we would perhaps use in the UK. Following that the umpires went out on ground reces of the training areas and attended a further umpire school at Fort Bragg.

Meanwhile C Coy, commanded by Maj Alan Wylie, deployed on 28 Apr to Fort Bragg and married up with 3 RGR. Despite initial worries from some quarters about the possibility of having to eat Gurkha food the coy was made to feel extremely welcome and all ranks got on surprisingly well. The first part of the exercise for C Coy involved them in cross training with members of 82nd Airborne which comprised low level training building up to a live firing company attack in the searing heat of the Carolina midday sun.

Cpl Simpson's Milan Section deployed on Ex Purple Star.



Cpl Neal tries out a TOW Launcher for size

The main exercise phase began at Camp Lejeune with a simultaneous beach landing operation by 3 Cdo Bde and 8th US Marines, and a Tactical Air Landing Operation (TALO) by 5 AB Bde. Given that there were some 55000 troops deployed on the exercise it was unfortunate but not entirely surprising that within 2 hours of the exercise starting a helicopter crash resulted in the death of 15 US marines. The exercise continued with an expansion of the lodgement area and the first phase ended with a number of Battalion attacks including one led by C Coy on FIBUA complexes in the area.

Phase 2 of the exercise took place at Fort

Bragg with 3 RGR retasked to provide OPFOR. Meanwhile 5 AB Bde took part in the largest parachute drop since WW2 with 4500 personnel jumping.

Needless to say the umpires spent most of the night rescuing parachutists who had got caught up in the trees. In conclusion, the exercise was of great value to C Coy who were not only able to see how a Gurkha Battalion operates but also to take part in what must have been the biggest exercise they will ever be involved in. For the umpires it was a challenge to control such a large number of troops and to ensure that serials happened as planned.

Vikings



The view over the Carolina forest from a Puma



Cpl Curtis behind a Minimi Machine Gun.



Capt McGrath and Lt Bowman pose in front of a Puma helicopter in N Carolina



Cpl Curtis being shown US weaponry

Preparation for Handover

Back in Colchester the remainder had been kept busy with B Company taking on the responsibility for laying up the old Regimental Colour in Norwich Cathedral on 4 May. Meanwhile A Company had taken part in Exercise Pilgrim's Progress as Hunter Force for an escape and evasion exercise in Wales.

However it soon became clear that our impending handover to the Royal Scots and move to Oakington loomed large. Ever flexible, however, the Battalion had to respond to a proposed strike by the Essex Fire Service. C Coy were put on standby and immediately started training. Subsequently the strike was called off, but everyone had a great deal of amusement as the dust was blown off the antique 'Green Goddesses'.

Meanwhile A Coy under Maj Nigel Burrell were tasked to provide a training support group to assist with the training of some 190 reservists prior to their deployment to Bosnia with IFOR. Running live firing ranges proved to be somewhat hazardous as few of the reservists had seen an SA80 let alone fired one, and when a medic was called to deal with an individual with heat stroke at least half the course came running to help! Back in Colchester A Coy put together a KAPE team which visited Pleasure Wood Hills and the Army Exhibition for Schools as well as a number of other venues in our recruiting area.

C Coy were also able to get away for some adventure training down at Penhale Camp in Cornwall. Activities included the conventional pursuits of rock climbing, hill walking and canoeing. Also on offer though were surfing, clay pigeon shooting and fencing, not to mention the odd recce patrol into Newquay.

Vikings



Sgt Kerton hill walking with his platoon in Cornwall.



Cpl Gardner briefs reservists deploying to Bosnia



Sgt Kerton and Pte Marsh try surfing at Penhale, Cornwall



Pte Stewart abseiling



Pte Mielke tries clay pigeon shooting at Penhale



Pte Collison abseils down a cliff face



Ptes Rowley and Clark fire training



The Vikings version of Blue Watch commanded by Cpl Atwood

Ex GRYPHON'S CLASP

Immediately prior to our arms plot move 24 Airmobile Bde decided to play their trump card and deploy the Battalion on a major MND(C) FTX on STANTA involving British, German, Belgian and Dutch troops. As usual we turned to the right and got on with the job. We were tasked with hosting the Belgian Para Commandos at Wretham Camp. In the first week we set up and ran three Infantry stands concentrating on advance to contact, air assault and FIBUA skills. It was interesting for all to see the varying tactics and methods used by nations as well as the variety in standards of weapons and equipment.

For Week 2 the Vikings provided OPFOR for a multi-national grouping under command of 24 Bde. The exercise involved deployment to a Forward Operating Base (FOB), followed by offensive operations onto Sculthorpe and West Raynham Airfields in North Norfolk and a final attack on Eastmere Village. Naturally the exercise attracted a great deal of interest and the Battalion hosted visits from the CGSs of all the participating nations, the DCin C Land and GOC 4 Div.



LCpl Thorn tests the new LAW



Cpl Grice shows off his mortar bombs



B Coy soldiers discuss the finer points of machine guns with a German Para



Maj Alan Wyle briefs the Belgian CGS

The Move to Oakington

Running concurrently with the exercise the remainder of the Battalion were preparing our equipment for handover to 1 RS. Under the watchful eye of the QM, Maj Bob Potter, the move went well and the Battalion was up and running in Oakington for Minden Day. The move proved to be a fairly major upheaval for many who had got used to 8 years of relative stability. Oakington also provided a shock for our younger soldiers used to living on the edge of a large town who have found the local night-life less than enthralling.



The CO welcomes attached personnel to the Battalion on arrival in Oakington



The Commanding Officer congratulates Dmr Gater on being nominated his bugler

Minden Day



The Drum Major leads the Corps of Drums for the last time.



Mrs Harrold presents Minden Roses on Minden Day.



The Minden Day Colour Party

The Battalion celebrated Minden Day in the traditional manner on 1 Aug. The CO and Mrs Harrold were woken up at their quarter by members of the Corps of Drums in fancy dress; the CO provided Bucks Fizz to all. The Vikings then endured Battalion PT as organized by those well-known aerobics instructors WO2 Cooper and Capt Grounds.

A parade was held on the airfield where the CO and Mrs Harrold issued Minden Roses to members of the Battalion. Subsequently the Battalion marched around camp led by the Minden Band and the Corps of Drums. WO2 Carey the AIPT then organized a potted sports competition which turned into a fiercely competitive event with both the Officers' and SNCOs' teams being disqualified.

In the afternoon Maj Dennis Vincent who had organized the day laid on an excellent fete and barbecue lunch which was enjoyed by all. The day finished with a Beating of Retreat where the drums were led for the last time by the Drum Major, Sgt Fleming.

Preparation for Belfast

As early as July the Battalion had started training for Northern Ireland. However, it was only after the Summer block leave that we assumed our Belfast ORBAT and focused our attention entirely on the tour. Firstly, however, B Company organized the Regimental Gathering which took place on 1 Sep at Oakington.

The first major event was the NITW Commanders' Cadre held at St Martin's Plain Camp where we met up with an old Viking, Capt David England. During the week the command group were updated on the current situation in NI and the latest tactics. We also received an initial visit from Comd 39 Inf Bde, Brig JHT Short OBE.

Thereafter followed our 'In Barracks' training period where multiple comman-



The Vikings Old Comrades lead the march past at the Regimental Gathering

Vikings

ders were able to practice what they had been taught down at St Martin's Plain. At the same time all the specialist cadres took place as well as the centralized presentations to the Battalion. Furthermore the Officers' Mess held a cocktail party for the great and good of Cambridgeshire to let them know that we were back on home territory. The Minden Band and Corps of Drums put on a fine Beating of Retreat and the whole event, which was organized by Maj Tony Marinos, was a great success.

The command group deployed to Belfast for the main recce in mid September. At the time the Scots Guards were maintaining a relatively low patrolling presence. However since the Thiepval bomb patrolling activity has increased and clearly the situation may escalate or de-escalate. Only time will tell!

Towards the back end of September the Battalion started to receive some extra reinforcements with TA soldiers enlisting on S Type engagements from 6 and 7 R ANGLIAN. In addition the Vikings received some welcome additions in the form of a multiple from the Poachers and 7 men from 1 KORBR.

The last part of our pre-deployment training was the CPTA package which took place at Hythe and Lydd from 13-31 Oct. During this excellent package, which was coordinated by the 2IC, Maj Robert Goodin, the companies were really put through their paces. Even HQ Coy formed a rifle company ORBAT and took part in a two day exercise in Rype village. Meanwhile the rifle companies followed a rotation of two range packages, an urban exercise, a rural package and a final urban exercise run by the Commanding Officer. Simultaneously the Surveillance Platoon carried out their pre-deployment training in preparation for manning the series of OPs in West Belfast.



Pte Jones of B Coy on Patrol in Rype Village.



The combined Viking/Poacher Platoon pose for a photo under their Platoon Commander, Lt Howson, and Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Gray.



Capt Borgnis meets Comd 49(E) Bde, Brig HRG Wilson.



B Coy's base line for the riot at Rype Village

Conclusion

Not for the first time in the last 18 months we will be deploying into a situation which is far from clear. However the Battalion has trained hard and will arrive in a positive frame of mind ready to deal with any situation we are presented with. Belfast presents us with new challenges as it is unfamiliar territory to most Vikings and the partial return to patrolling will ensure the Battalion is kept busy. The Battalion is looking forward to the forthcoming tour and the exciting programme being lined up for the rest of 1997 and into 1998.

Vikings Shooting Team

Capt Charles Calder writes:

For the second year running the Battalion fielded a major unit team to compete in the 4 Div Skill at Arms Competition. After a convincing victory last year we were keen to continue our winning streak, consequently the team formed up for training approximately a month before the competition. Two weeks spent on Colchester Ranges were followed by a further fortnight at Bulford Ranges, conducted under the watchful eye of Sgt Athroll, the Battalion shooting coach.

The competition was held on Bulford ranges over the period 15-19 Apr. Our main opposition was the Black Watch who fielded an 8 man team which included 4 excellent shots. However the Vikings' strength in depth showed through, as the only team prize we conceded to them was the rifle team match.

In all the team won the following prizes:

The Parachute Regiment Cup

The Gun Team Match

The Combat Snap

Falling Plate

Best Young Officer - *Capt Elphee*

Best Class B Shot - *Pte Lidlow*

Winner Gun Match - *Cpl Chamberlain*

Overall Major Unit Winners

Overall this was an excellent result and meant that we returned home with a sack load of silver and medals. Perhaps, however, our sweetest victory was in the Falling Plate where we knocked out our old rivals the Gurkha Demonstration Company in the semi finals and went on to beat the Black Watch in a very close final. On returning to the start point the team were greeted with a rousing chorus of 'Look at those Anglians' much to the bemusement of GOC 4 Div.

Capt Elphee, Cpl Watts and Pte Lidlow were selected to represent 4 Div at the Queen's Medal Competition at Bisley. Cpl Watts finished 29th in the Army whilst Capt Elphee was placed 75th.

This was a great year for the Battalion team with some excellent young soldiers emerging as very competent shots. Next year the Battalion will be entering the less competitive 2 Div SAAM where we hope to get a greater number of shots through to Bisley.



The successful Vikings shooting team



Cpl Chamberlain receives the prize for the Gun Match.



GOC 4 Div presents the prize for the Parachute Regiment Cup

Vikings Cricket Inter Company Winners, HQ Company



Vikings in Nepal

Lt Birch, Lt Bowman, LCpl Ives, Ptes Baxter, Dack, Lewis and Voigts from C Company 1 Royal Anglian spent five weeks this Summer trekking in the Himalayas with 26 members of Cambridge University Officers Training Corps. The aim was to walk from the roadhead at Jiri to Mt. Everest Base Camp and back, a total distance of 250 km.

One of the problems envisaged in travelling to a third world country was the risk of illness due to the unhygienic conditions. LCpl Ives and Pte Voigts chose to have a prawn cocktail starter in Kathmandu on the night before the trek. Despite (a) they were in a landlocked country, (b) nobody had seen a refrigeration truck and (c) on first tasting it they remarked "it tastes a bit funny", they finished it and for the next two weeks were to be found squatting over a hole in the floor several times a day.

We departed Kathmandu early on 1 August after the traditional Minden Day 'gunfire' had been served by the officers. There then followed a hair-raising bus journey on a twisting mountain road before we started the trek. The Vikings were split up amongst the five groups of students. For the next sixteen days we walked up and down the trail, ascending around 1000 metres daily only to drop down again and repeat the process the next day. This was quite a test of physical and mental stamina, coping with everything from monsoon rainstorms, leeches, blisters and 'Indiana Jones' style suspension bridges.

We eventually reached our destination and most people also made it up Kalar Pattar which was a nearby peak of 5545 metres (18000 feet). At this altitude there



(L to R) LCpl Ives, Lt Bowman and Pte Voigts shrouded by Himalayan foothills

is only half the usual concentration of oxygen in the air and everyone was suffering from headaches and shortness of breath. However the view of Everest was as magnificent as the air was thin. Some people find it harder to acclimatise than others and one female student in particular became seriously ill during the night. Lt Bowman probably saved her life by alerting the rest of the group in time.

For the return journey the Royal Anglians reorganised into a single group with a few others as we had to go back a week before the remainder. After completing the first three days at a breakneck pace five of the party decided they were missing the airmobile role and paid to fly the remainder of the distance to Kathmandu in an ex-Soviet 'Hip' helicopter from Lukla, one of the world's

highest airstrips. The rest of us did what could have been a fifty minute flight in five days but felt much better for it. After 28 days in the field we were glad to get back to the 'civilisation' of Kathmandu for a shave (Lt Birch being the winner of the beard-growing contest, Lt Bowman came last)

Overall the soldiers had a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a totally different culture. Also the joint expedition was a great mind-broadening experience for both soldiers and students leading to a better understanding of each other. Some problems had been anticipated but the two groups integrated better than had been expected. This was also a chance to establish links with our local OTC now that the Battalion has moved to Cambridgeshire.

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Vikings Kape Tour 96

The Vikings launched this year's KAPE tour in and around Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The KAPE team, based on A (Norfolk) Company with attachments from Screen Company, visited a wide variety of locations from cadet groups to theme parks.

The tour started at Pleasure Wood Hills Theme Park with the normal static displays as well as a display by the Corps of Drums under the Drum Major, Sgt Fleming. After visiting schools in the local area the KAPE tour moved to Southend-on-Sea to carry out a number of engagements. The highlight of this was the day spent at Cecil Jones High School which began with LCpl Wood, the KAPE 'drill instructor', putting the students through their paces.

After the initial drill period the students moved round a series of stands which were designed to be a competition for the students. In addition the school watched a demonstration of helicopter abseiling under the direction of Sgt Hale. This caused some problems with traffic as cars



Members of the KAPE team introduce a potential Viking to a plastic SA80

on the dual carriageway stopped to watch. Overall this visit generated some good local media attention with representatives from local radio stations and newspapers in attendance. In the evening the tour visited the Southend ACF Detachment and gave a First Aid demonstration using CASSIM.

The second week was spent at Bassingbourn at the Army Exhibition for Schools. Over 1500 school children visited each day, many of whom were put through a series of command tasks organized by Cpl Riley and Pte Collier. Meanwhile Capt Borgnis and Cpl Neal ran a 'Firepower' demonstration as a finale to each day's activities.

Overall the tour was a great success judging by the response received from the general public. The team even managed to dispel the rumour that soldiers do not get paid as we were informed by one group of school leavers. The Vikings are now better known in the recruiting area and hopefully this should encourage more people to come forward to join the Regiment.

LCpl Thom cams up a likely recruit on the KAPE tour



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The Poachers

The Poachers have enjoyed a hectic 6 months and are now firmly established in their role as the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group. The variety and frequency of commitments have ensured that all departments have been kept extremely busy. In addition members of the 2nd Battalion have taken part in a number of ventures far removed from Warminster.

The Poachers' training year is divided into three cycles and in any one cycle the Battalion will complete up to 100 exercises. We provide assets for over 10 training organisations and are often tasked with additional work for a variety of organisations including the Infantry Trials and Development Unit and the Procurement Executive. As a measure of our workload the Battalion's track mileage since our arrival in Warminster is nearly half that of the whole of 1 (UK) Armoured Division over the same period!

The Battalion has now deployed on all the major exercises held on Salisbury Plain, of which Phantom Bugle is the largest, involving an Armoured Battle Group of two company/squadron groups and the full array of supporting arms. Phantom Bugle is the largest armoured exercise held in the United Kingdom and attracts a good deal of interest, from home and abroad. The exercise takes place three times a year and as well as providing an essential training exercise for the students on the Company Commanders Course allows the Poachers Battle Group the rare opportunity to work in an all arms environment.

The Poachers are fast building a reputation as OPFOR in the many TESEX exercises which are held on Salisbury Plain throughout the year. The exercises generally consist of two Company sized defensive battles and one Battle Group sized deployment culminating in an OPFOR attack. For the uninitiated TESEX is the Army's latest laser



The Drums Platoon on a recent trial of Stormer.

engagement simulator system and as such offers a level of reality previously impossible to achieve. As a permanent enemy the Poachers have been able to perfect skills learnt on our first encounter with TESEX on Exercise Medicine Man in Canada in 1995. The level of skills at every level required to achieve success at TESEX is extremely high and the Poachers have provided an effective enemy for all the infantry battalions who have taken part in TESEX since our arrival.

In addition to the large exercises which are essentially Battle Group or Company level deployments the Poachers have participated in a multitude of different tasks

for a variety of different masters. The latest Army recruiting TV advertisement was made by Saatchi and Saatchi and involved members of the Battalion who learnt the trials and tribulations of the acting profession over a series of wet nights in May.

The Poachers have now hosted two Weapons Effects Demonstrations which are extremely high profile and offer the Battalion the opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of the weapons systems available to the Armoured Battle Group Commander. The demonstrations also enable the Poachers to do a good deal of live-firing both on the day and over the preceding rehearsals. Over

A Company fight through during a Company demonstration.



Poachers



Ptes Wells and Atkins of B Company prepare defences during Exercise Globe Trot.

10,000 spectators have attended the last two Weapons Effects Demonstrations. The spectators are drawn from all three services and there is often a large contingent of foreign guests. Coupled with the WED, the Poachers also provide a static display of all the elements of an Armoured Battle Group for the benefit of officers attending the Junior Command Staff Course.

In addition to our external commitments the Poachers have completed a busy internal training programme. The Training Wing executed a pre-SCBC cadre for candidates from throughout the Queen's Division at nearby New Zealand Farm in September and ran a 5 day 2-1 upgrading cadre in October. The MT Platoon have organised a succession of driving cadres on different forms of transport including Warrior, AFV 432, CVR(T), motorbikes and buses.

A Company spent a two week period in Lulworth perfecting already sound gunnery skills in preparation for the 1996 Warrior Shield Competition. Their results were again excellent and were a

A Company light in woods Ex Phantom Bugle



Cpl West briefs Officers of the Junior Command Staff Course on the 94mm LAW.

considerable improvement on their own winning scores for the 1995 competition. At present the company is preparing for their first live firing camp since leaving Germany in Castlemartin.

The Battalion's enemy Company, B Company, have organised adventure training in the nearby Cheddar Gorge and at Poole in Dorset involving both climbing and canoeing. In July the Company held an inter-section march and shoot competition in which Cpl Coupe's Section were victorious. At present the Company is in glorious Sennybridge on a Company organised dismounted live firing exercise.

C Company ran the inaugural Strang Trophy in May, a competition designed to identify the Company's champion soldier. The trophy commemorates the death of Pte Marcus Strang who was tragically killed in a road accident in 1995. The Strang family presented the trophy to Pte (now LCpl) Nicholls who achieved the best results when tested on a variety of military skills. In July, C Company spent a week on Exercise Castle Chase in

Northamptonshire, a Company level exercise designed to revise and improve foot soldiering skills. In addition the Company were able to host a number of ACFs from throughout Northamptonshire providing realistic and enjoyable training for the cadets and establishing links with C Company's affiliated county.

D(Sp) Company have had a similarly busy schedule with all platoons carrying out specialist training and activities. The Mortar Platoon spent a two week period in South Wales where they conducted a live firing dismounted exercise over difficult terrain and a three day canoeing expedition. At the end of October the platoon held an inter detachment competition for the Collishaw Trophy. The competition tested the platoon's military skills and culminated in a 12km march with mortars. Pte Heeley's detachment emerged as winners. The Recce Platoon ran their own exercise in the local area perfecting recce tactics and are at present preparing for a live firing camp at Castlemartin. The Milan Platoon sent a section, led by Cpl Smith, to BATUS where they acted as OPFOR on Exercise

Drummer Mellay of the Drums Pl demonstrates the SA 80 during the Weapons Effects Demonstration



Poachers



LCpl Tams, B Company, demonstrates the crucifix method of scaling a 12ft wall



Ptes Heeley, Jones and Picket- winners of the Collishaw Trophy.



LCpl David instructs members of Northamptonshire ACF on Milan during Exercise Castle Chase



The 2IC and OC C Company discuss tactics with Sgt Penn during Exercise Castle Chase.



The Commanding Officer presents the Wooden Spoon during B Company's inter section March and Shoot competition



Drummer Richardson of the Drums Platoon and girlfriend at Whipsnade Zoo on the KAPE Tour



General Sir Roger Wheeler presents the Warrior Shield to 3 Platoon A Company



C Coy march through Leicester

Poachers



The Commanding Officer and visiting Mayors.



Members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Association visit B Squadron 9/12L.

Medicine Man 3. The Drums Platoon have run an internal SF cadre in September and have performed in a variety of venues both in our recruiting areas on the KAPE tour and the Warminster area. OC D(Sp) Company visited a number of ACF detachments in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire area as part of their annual inspection programme.

Taking advantage of our first home posting for nine years the Poachers have been extremely busy on the recruiting front. Captain Grinonneau led a KAPE tour to our affiliated counties in which the team, supported by the Minden Band, visited a number of schools, ACF detachments, town centres and zoos! The tour was well received throughout the recruiting areas, attracting large numbers of people and a good deal of attention in the local press. In late June, Guards from A and C Company visited Leicester to represent the Battalion at the Regimental Freedom Parade. The event was a great success and all ranks were extremely well hosted by the City and a generous local brewery! The Poachers have hosted CCF and ACF visits from schools both in Wiltshire and our affiliated counties and there have been a steady stream of Potential Officers visiting the Battalion throughout the year.

The Poachers have hosted a number of visits over the past six months. In June the Commander-in-Chief Land, General Sir Roger Wheeler, visited the Battalion and presented 3 Platoon A Company with the Warrior Shield, awarded to the Platoon for winning the Army wide inter-platoon gunnery competition 1995. The September Weapons Effects Demonstration gave us a splendid opportunity to host a mayoral visit for many of the Mayors and Lord Mayors of our recruiting areas. They were also given the opportunity to drive and command A Company Warriors which they appeared to relish. The



LCpl Franklin instructs the Mayoress of Lincoln on Warrior driving

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Royal Tigers Regimental Associations were given a similar chance to drive Warriors, an experience they approached with characteristic vigour and style. Brigadiers Michael Strudwick and Iain Johnston visited Battlesbury Barracks in September in their capacity as Director of Infantry and Commander Warminster Training Centre respectively. Brigadier

Colin Groves visited the Battalion in May for the last time as Deputy Colonel of the Poachers. He was driven out of Battlesbury Barracks in a Warrior as the Battalion lined the route.

The highlight of the Poachers' sporting calendar was the inter company boxing competition in which C Company emerged as convincing winners wrestling



Brigadier Colin Groves is driven out of Battlesbury Barracks.

Poachers

the trophy from A Company who have dominated the competition for the last few years. The Battalion team has now been selected and will start full time training in the near future, the first round being against 3(UK) Division Signal Regiment in Bulford in early December. The inter company orienteering competition was held in Perham Down in September and was narrowly won by A Company with D(Sp) Company finishing runners up. The Battalion cricket team competed in local leagues and the Army Cup where they demonstrated fair play and fortitude in adversity and established a sound base from which a more successful team can be launched in 1997. The Poachers Rugby team have had an good start to their season recording a number of victories against good opposition.

The Bn Fishing Club have not had time to enter the Army League since arriving in Warminster due to commitments, but they hope to do so in the New Year. The Club have however been active in other ways, such as organising the annual Childrens' Fishing Match, which was held at the Hunters Moon Lakes in Warminster on 28 July. The event was well supported by both boys and girls from within Warminster Garrison. The Match lasted for 3 hours, with all children catching at least one fish. The top 3 places went to:

- 1st with 2.110 kgs
Ben Doherty, aged 9
- 2nd with 1.960 kgs
Mark Witham, aged 9
- 3rd with 1.540 kgs
Scott Ralph, aged 11

All other participants received a Poachers Medallion from the Families Officer, Capt Smith, prior to the Families BBQ which was held beside the lake.

In recent months Poachers have organised a number of adventure training expeditions of varied complexity and scope. In July Lt Peter Holton led a div-

Prizewinners at the Poachers' Childrens' fishing match.



C Coy - winners of the inter-company boxing competition.



The CO presents prizes to LCpl Harris and LCpl David of C Company after the heavy weight bout of the inter-company boxing competition.

ing expedition to the Philippines which was primarily science based and offered comparatively inexperienced divers the opportunity to dive in one of the finest areas in the world. Major Duncan Gregory led a party of 12 to Albania to climb the highest peak and canoe on one of the wilder rivers in this seldom visited country. A report on both these expeditions appears elsewhere in this edition of Castle. Many other smaller scale adven-

ture training expeditions have been organised in the South West of England as Battle Group commitments allow.

In conclusion the Poachers have had a busy six months in which we have settled into all aspects of Warminster life. The busy commitment schedule has ensured that the Battalion has had little chance to relax and we have taken maximum advantage of the windows that do occur to par-

CSgt Heycock looks on as 2Lt Davis and LCpl Cutts of C Company begin training for the inter-company boxing competition during Exercise Castle Chase.



EX CORAL POACHER

At the end of June 1996 a team of divers from the Poachers set out on a five week adventure training exercise to Danjugan Island in the Philippines. Here they teamed up with Coral Cay Conservation (a London based marine research charity) to assist the Filipino government in the survey work needed to help form a marine protection programme for the island.

Exercise Coral Poacher was different from the normal military diving expedition, not only in the length of time the team was in the field but also in the work they were undertaking and the conditions in which they were living. The overall aim of the diving we were doing was to help build up a picture of what species of fish and coral were present, and in what concentrations. In order to give these surveys scientific weight, the team spent the first week being taught how to identify the many species of fish, corals and other marine life they were likely to encounter.

For many in the team this was the first time they had encountered scientific names and the myriad of species that inhabit the coral reefs in the Philippines, but all acquitted themselves well and within a week were deemed competent enough to begin the survey diving.

The survey dives were carried out in teams of four divers, each tasked to look for, identify and judge the abundance of a different type of marine life (i.e. fish, corals, invertebrates), with one of the team tasked to navigate and to measure the depth and type of substrata over which the survey was carried out. These surveys were started at a depth of thirty meters; they then worked their way inshore to the shallows. For all but one of the team this was their first taste of



*The Coral Poacher Team
L to R Lt Cdr Nortcliffe, Cpl H Cross, Tpr D Williams, Cpl S Hugill, Pte J Gray, Lt P Holton, SSgt M Gray*

underwater work, not only having to concentrate on safe diving practices but also on navigation, the use of ropes as well as undertaking the survey work. It was a credit to those involved in the training of the Coral Poacher team that they all coped admirably with the new challenges the survey dives presented.

Once this "base-line data" had been collected the divers' findings were transferred onto special report forms which were sent back to London for analysis by Coral Cay's science teams.

Life on the island was basic but enjoyable. The team lived in tents pitched around a central administration area. Food was purchased from the local markets and prepared by a chef from the local village. The food he prepared was typically traditional Filipino fare, invariably accompanied by rice or noodles. Fresh water was brought across from the

mainland every day and hence the washing of clothes, equipment and oneself was kept to a minimum.

The interior of the island was covered in a largely intact forest canopy. The forest was home to numerous rare species of birds and animals, in particular large colonies of bats. All the team members took time to explore the interior of the island, with "Jimmy", our cook, acting as a guide.

Over the month the team experienced a great range in weather conditions, from scorchingly hot sunshine to the tail end of Typhoon Gloria. Rain, when it came, did so very heavily, but thankfully mainly at night. Despite the sometimes unpredictable weather, there were only a few days when diving proved impossible. On these days, the team turned their attention to essential kit maintenance and admin around camp.

Cpl Cross emerges from the deep-Ex Coral Poacher



Cpl Cross and Hugill receive underwater instruction



Poachers

Despite the heavy work-load of the science, it was not all work. There was time to do recreational dives and revisiting favourite sites around the island without the constraints involved with survey diving. Because of the water and food resupply route used, the team spent a great deal of time working with the locals and were always welcomed warmly into their homes on the mainland to share a meal. We rapidly discovered that the locals were avid basketball players and one sultry Monday afternoon the Coral Poacher team was soundly thrashed by the Bulatta Tigers. The whole village turned out to watch the match and, from their cheers and laughs, they seemed to be enjoying the spectacle immensely.

On one of the weekends, the team decided to travel to another marine reserve on the other side of the mainland. The island of Apo was set up as a marine reserve some ten years ago and hence the marine life has flourished in the protected waters. The diving around Apo was far more

spectacular than anything any of the team had ever seen before. The seabed was awash with colour, a myriad of brightly coloured fish and corals, sea snakes, large rays and barracuda. The whole team agreed that this was the best diving they had ever experienced. It is hoped that over time the reef ecosystem around Danjugan will, with proper protection and management, flourish to resemble that of Apo.



Lt Holton at 'Anemone Rock', Apo.

For everyone involved in Exercise Coral Poacher, it proved to be a great success. Each member of the team logged some thirty five or so dives with the standard of diving of the whole team improving tremendously. The diving off the island was very different to that which most of the team had seen before. The water was

much warmer, typically 28°C, the visibility significantly greater and the marine life much more diverse. The excellent diving, real team spirit and, in particular, the overwhelming hospitality of the local people all helped to make Exercise Coral Poacher one of the most successful expeditions the Battalion has launched.

Scrapes and Scrambles in the Land of Eagles

Maj Duncan Gregory writes:

Albania, the so called "Land of Eagles", is perhaps an unlikely choice of country for an expedition. The idea for it stemmed from a visit to this forgotten corner of Europe made by the author in late 1994, a report on which appeared in *Castle*. Whilst travelling around the Northern "Highlands" it occurred to me that an expedition might prove interesting and challenging. And so it turned out to be.

The first of the many hurdles that had to be cleared was to gain agreement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the expedition to go ahead. Agreement given, the next step was to explain the concept of adventure training to the Albanians. This proved a difficult task and, in fact, it is debatable whether they ever fully grasped the rationale behind soldiers climbing mountains and canoeing rivers. Fortunately the MOD got wind of the expedition and, as luck would have it, were re-examining the whole question of gifting equipment to Albania. It became clear that the delivery of equipment for a newly formed peace-keeping company could be dovetailed into the expedition. After much discussion and enough faxes to wallpaper the Albert Hall, a convoy of three heavily laden new Bedfords and two civilianised

expedition Land Rovers left Warminster on 7 September for the 1500 mile journey across Europe to Bari, on the Italian Adriatic coast, and from there a ferry-crossing to Durres in Albania.

As might have been predicted, it was not all plain sailing. The Swiss refused to let the lorries enter their country as lorries are banned from using roads on Sundays. This necessitated a several hundred mile detour to the west in order to enter Italy via the French Alps. Having finally reached the port of Bari we were stung with a customs tax of £200. However, payment of this and the customs official's kindly disposition towards Albania saw us stowed aboard the ferry and bound for the Albanian coast.

Durres was just as chaotic as on my previous visit, the bow of a partly sunk ship in the harbour just a little rustier than I remembered it and the bureaucracy as utterly inefficient as ever. Customs formalities eventually completed, the convoy, joined by a number of police and Army escort vehicles, set off for the capital, Tirana. Eventually the convoy reach a run-down barracks on the outskirts of Tirana, the main logistics depot, and the vehicles were handed over unofficially, the official ceremony taking place a few hours later at the Albanian MOD.

The gifting of equipment completed, we set about the expedition. The party split into two: a canoeing group resolved to canoe much of Northern Albania's main



Sgt Gray leads the canoeists through the murky waters of the Drini River.

Poachers

ivers, the other group intent on climbing some of the highest peaks, again in the North of the country. I and the mountaineering group set off North for a mountainous area on the border with Montenegro, a two day journey from Tirana. On arrival at the village of Valbone, which nestles at the head of a very steep valley, we located Azim, the local teacher who was to be our guide for the next three days. Camping did not appear to be a problem as there was plenty of flat ground and a river nearby. After much debate between our Albanian Army interpreter and Azim we were advised that due to previous "problems" with tourists in the area we should site our tents next to the Police post. The "problems" we later learnt involved the hacking to death of a Swedish climber the previous year.

To reach our camp site required us to cross a dry river bed. Not much of a problem at the time although the folly of this course of action was apparent some twelve hours after the first tent peg entered the ground and simultaneously the skies opened. A torrential storm lasting thirty six hours ensued. Despite being clad from head to toe in Gortex the rain still found its way in and the previously dry river bed became a fast flowing torrent of water, leading us to speculate how we would proceed with the expedition. Wet through, we reached the summit of Grykat-e-Hapata in one day and, the following day, the rain finally having stopped, we began a two day climb of the formidable Mount Jezerce (2693 M). We spent the night in a cave usually frequented by goat herders and, to judge by the several inches of dung on the floor, their sizeable flocks. Squeezed onto a couple of ledges free of goat excrement we spent a cold night sleeping as best we could. The next morning, with a light

dusting of snow on the ground, we began the final climb to the summit in beautiful weather. As with all mountains the summit is never as close as you think and Jezerce was no exception; however, at around midday we scrambled along a narrow ridge to reach the clear but bitterly cold summit. Obligatory mountain top photos taken and "Poachers 1996" carved into a wooden cross marking the top, we began the descent through snow fields that filled the valleys running away to the North of the mountain. As darkness gathered we reached our camp site and were relieved to note that during our absence the river level had dropped to a fordable level. The following morning, with rain falling once again, we set off for the town of Kukes and a meeting with the canoeing group.

Arriving in Kukes after dark we fortunately bumped into a rather harassed looking Sgt Gray. Our problems with poor weather paled into insignificance when told of the dangers they had faced in a very full and narrow stretch of the Black Drini river on Friday the 13th. All canoeists had capsized, one canoe had filled with water and sunk and six very cold soldiers had drifted down river for five hours until the backup Land Rover had reached them. On top of this the Land Rover had been mobbed by locals whilst pulling a broken down vehicle off a bridge and rucksacks and vehicle spares stolen. The final insult occurred when they had established a campsite in Kukes only to be stoned by locals and forced to retreat. As if further proof of the lawlessness of Northern Albania were required, whilst eating lunch in the town the following day, a very irate local pulled out a pistol and started shooting wildly. It is at this point that I take issue with "The Times" travel correspondent who, in a recent article, described Albania in glow-



Maj Gregory and team cross one of the better bridges in Albania

ing terms and the locals as "warm and friendly".

By contrast with the first half of the expedition the remainder was relatively uneventful. The canoeists completed their paddle of the Black Drini River whilst the mountaineers travelled further South to climb Mount Korabit, the highest mountain in Albania and indeed the whole of the Balkans.

In the final analysis Albania is an interesting country. The landscape makes for some excellent mountaineering and canoeing, but, at the moment, the newly democratic entrepreneurial spirit manifests itself, in Northern Albania at least, in a criminal free-for-all. So it was with mixed feelings that we drove towards Durres for the ferry back to Italy, only to discover as we boarded the boat that our trailer number plate and bulbs had been stolen the previous night!



Major Mike Beard looks decidedly queezy after a good lunch, Whale Island, Portsmouth, July



LCpl Mayall receives the keys to his new Vauxhall Astra car after winning first prize in the Regimental Museum raffle

6th Battalion

Since the last edition, the 6th Battalion has been extremely busy preparing for its first overseas camp in its 25 year history and recruiting hard to try and reach our goal of 110%. In both aspects, the Battalion has been very successful.

TO BELGIUM AND BEYOND!

Preparation for Belgium began in earnest at the end of April with a CO's exercise at STANTA. All Coys practiced the quick attack (both by day and night), defence and the advance to contact. With beautiful weather, the Battalion was lifted forward by Wessex helicopter to attack Bridge Carr. During the following period of hasty defence the Battalion was probed by a vehicle borne enemy. However, after successful attempts to pinpoint the enemy harbours by the Recce Platoon, the Coys moved forward by helicopter in the dark to conduct separate night attacks. After a hasty reorg, and little time for sleep, the Battalion advanced to contact at dawn to destroy a number of positions around Tottington Village. This proved an exciting climax to a strenuous weekend, with the Battalion enjoying a hearty breakfast before returning to their base locations.

In May the emphasis of training switched from the field action to the range. In preparation for the Bn SAAM, a coaching course was held at Middlewick Ranges by WO2 Conopo, the Weapon Training Warrant officer, for all Sect Comds. The Battalion was also represented at the 2 Div SAAM by a well rehearsed shooting team. Cpl Rolph of A Coy was awarded Champion Shot while LCpl Feaks came a creditable 15th. Cpl Rolph went on to represent the TA in America in October in the International Reserve Forces Shooting Competition hosted by the National Guard. The 6th

Sgt Rushmere



MG Platoon

Battalion, after a well fought competition, came 6th in 2 Div.

May also saw the Battalion step up its campaign to raise its profile within East Anglia. Sgt Skelton, PSI of the Recce Platoon, organised an extremely successful NSPCC Open Day for 40 children in Bury St Edmunds. A (Norfolk) Coy kept the Battalion in the public eye at the Aylsham Agricultural Show where SSgt Bisset displayed her culinary talents to the full. As part of the Festival of Norfolk Food and Drink, the Coy provided a field kitchen display next door to the recruiting stand. C (Essex) Coy opened the doors of its Chelmsford HQ to the National Employers Liaison Committee and members of the Institute of Personnel and Development. As part of the Battalion's recruiting campaign, Coys are not only seeking to sign on soldiers but to gain the support of their employers; an all important factor in both recruiting and retention. The theme of shooting continued through June and July with the Coys deploying onto the ranges to polish their skills. Nevertheless, the Battalion attempted a variety of other challenges too. HQ (Suffolk) Coy entered a team in the Welsh 1000 event under the command of Capt Simon Watson, OC Recce Platoon. Not daunted by this challenge, the next weekend saw a Recce team crossing the channel to compete in the French

Commando Raid Competition. Participating in events such as shotgun shooting, mountain biking, speed marches and assault courses, the Recce Platoon came first in the British contingent and 13th overall. In May and June A and C Coys both conducted successful patrol exercises at STANTA. A Coy capitalised on the fact that their fitter, LCpl. Hindle, owns a Ferret and Scorpion armoured vehicle and introduced them into an exercise to create some realistic stalking training while C Coy patrolled against the Machine Gun Platoon.

16 soldiers from C Coy visited Normandy alongside 60 veterans from the Essex Regiment who had fought at D Day and the battles that followed. Capt Phil Taylor and WO 2 Andy Cullen commanded the escort to 4,000 veterans at Bayeaux and visited a number of Essex Regiment battlefields including Essex Wood and Merville Battery (captured by 9 PARA, who were originally 10th Battalion The Essex Regiment). The soldiers were also treated to an impromptu party, thrown by the Mayor of the village they were passing through on the return journey, showing the degrees of gratitude still shown by the French people. Our links with the past were also reaffirmed at the opening of the Regimental Museum at Duxford which officers and soldiers of the Battalion attended.

July was dominated by the Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting held at Colchester. Good weather ensured good results with many soldiers also passing their APWT. Individual winners in the various competitions were: Sgt MacLoughlin (APWT Rifle Champion), Pte Littlechild (APWT LSW Champion, LSW Match and Champion LSW), Maj Fradley (RouPELL Match), SSgt Hopper (Champion Rifle) and Pte Wade (Best Female Rifle Shot). Overall winners were C(Essex) Coy. The long Summer Saturday nights allowed the Battalion a chance to hold a barbecue and "smoker", entertained by skits and jokes from all the Coys. The Recce Platoon also assisted in 3 AAC's Escape and Evasion Exercise "PANTHERS PATROL" as the hunter force (see separate article).

August saw the preparation for camp step up a pace with European Driving Training, a CPX and the start of many cadres to be held in Belgium. On the weekend of 10-11 August, all the Battalion's drivers and commanders travelled to Chilwell, Nottingham, to practice the European Driving Circuit. This was essential in order to rehearse the movement of our fleet of vehicles across Belgium and Holland (as many of our soldiers had not driven on the Continent before). The training Major, Major Roger Shelmerdine-Hare, devised a CPX to thoroughly test the Battalion's Command Control and Communications system, to iron out the creases before the forthcom-

Maj Fradley, OC A Coy "I'm a little teapot short and stout, here's my handle".....



ing FTX in Belgium. With all Command Posts deployed, a series of testing scenarios ensured that all commanders completed mental gymnastics to overcome them. Nevertheless, after 36 hours of "battle" it was felt that valuable lessons had been learnt and the necessary operational cohesion established.

CSgt Tilley, the D Coy PSI, led the "Cambridgeshires" in a demanding patrolling exercise where the Coys' potential JNCOs were practiced in minor tactics and orders in preparation for their cadre to be run at camp. A combination of the hot weather and the punishing programme ensured that all ranks were exhausted, but filled with a sense of achievement by the end of the weekend.

The main event of September was annual camp which is covered elsewhere. On the Battalion's return to East Anglia the responsibility for training fell firmly on the shoulders of the Platoon Commanders. October was filled with expeditions to Wales and the other wild parts of Britain to allow some adventure training organised by the subalterns. HQ Coy ventured South of the M25 to Pippingford Park for a weekend of training in the Ashdown Forest. After the Ardennes experience of Belgium the Recce and Sigs Platoons of the Battalion reinforced the valuable lessons learnt on camp in a skills based weekend.

Recruiting over the past six months has been the Battalion's main effort. All Coys have worked hard to increase their profile within their communities and have been rewarded with a constant stream of recruits through their doors. Tried and tested tactics such as open days and evenings at the various TA Centres have been augmented by special events. Abseiling down buildings in busy town centres, presentations to schools and charity functions have led to 150 soldiers being enrolled in the Battalion since April this year. As a result, the Battalion now stands at 90% of its establishment.



Training Major, Maj Shelmerdine-Hare

The Training Platoon, under the command of Maj David Winn, has ensured the standard of recruits has remained high, too. TA Recruit Training is normally run centrally at Catterick but the Battalion received special dispensation to hold a Combat Infantryman's Course over Annual Camp. The efficiency of the Training Platoon surpassed itself in Belgium with over 90 recruits attending the course after the preparatory weekends in England. Their programme put the recruits through their paces with a course which was reputed to have been harder and better than Catterick has to offer.

Lt McCullough



6th Battalion



A Coy runners up at the Battalion SAAM, July 96



Pte Wade, winner of the Best Female Shot, Battalion SAAM



Pte Cousins receives a prize from the CO's wife, Battalion SAAM



Sgt Rushmere sings Karaoke, Battalion SAAM



C (Essex) Coy, in France for the D Day celebrations, chat up the local talent



C (Chippendale) Coy relax in France

6th Battalion

The other feature of the past six months has been the strengthening of our bonds with I R ANGLIAN. 6th Battalion soldiers have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Vikings a number of times. A (Norfolk) Coy sent 11 soldiers on Exercise WELSH WARRIOR in Sennybridge in May, while the "Cambridgeshires" were assisted in a parade through Ely in May by the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion. Members of the Milan and Mortar Platoons have visited Norwich to give a presentation on their weapons while HQ (Suffolk) Coy have provided soldiers and A Coy one soldier on S Type engagements to the Vikings for their forthcoming Belfast tour. We wish Ptes Lindsey, Carter, Browne and Shropshire all the best and our sister Battalion a good tour and a safe return. D Coy have also matched the might of their affiliated Coy in some heated rioting at Longmoor Village. The "Fen Tigers" gave the Vikings a good run for their money and had an insight into NI training when they played civpop early in October. It is hoped that the links will be furthered on their return from Belfast.

On the sporting side, Maj Roger Shelmerdine-Hare, Training Major, and WO2 Callaghan, SPSI, led the Battalion team to 3rd place in the 2 Div Orienteering League. Maj Shelmerdine-Hare came 2nd in the overall league and first in the 35-40 years age category while WO2 Callaghan achieved sixth place.

On the social side the officers held their Summer Ball at RAF Honington in June and were entertained by both the Royal Anglian Regiment TA Band and the Battalion's Corps of Drums. The Sgts' Mess held their function later on in the

month at the Ipswich Moat House Hotel while A Coy celebrated the marriage of Sgt Hipperson with the reception being held in the TA Centre at Norwich.

The past six months have seen a number of changes in the Battalion. Maj "Stan" Bullock, after endless dining out parties, retired in style after throwing his own party at the TA Centre in Bury St Edmunds. The evening was compered by RQMS Tunstill who had arranged an Elvis impersonator to entertain the many people who came to say "good ye". The Battalion wishes Stan and Jenny a very happy and long retirement. Maj Doug Coe has replaced Maj Bullock as QM but after only five months he has retired. Nevertheless, he has not left the Battalion as he has taken up the position of PSAO of HQ Coy in Bury St Edmunds. We hope he enjoys himself in his TA service. C (Essex) Coy also said "goodbye" to their long serving PSAO, Capt David Spalding, who retired after nearly 41 years in the Army and 8 years at Chelmsford. We wish him all the best and a peaceful retirement. Sgt de Bretton-Gordon returned to the Vikings in July and was replaced by Sgt Wilkins as the MG Platoon PSI. We wish DBG the best of luck in the future while Sgt Wilkins has had his "baptism" of fire at Camp and is now firmly settled in. Sgt "Skelly" Skelton returned to the Vikings in May. The Battalion thanks him for all his hard work as Recce Platoon PSI.

A number of officers and soldiers have also left the tranquility of East Anglia behind to complete tours with the Regular Army. Maj John Davidson, ex OC D Coy, has been working hard as SO2 G3 Ops HQ ARRC in Sarajevo but managed to return home for the birth of his baby daughter, Kirsty Louise. He has



Capt Watson and LCpl Porter, French Commando Raid Competition, Lille.

now volunteered for another tour in the FRY. Capt Peter Chilvers has been sunbathing hard at HQ COMMZ (FWD) in Split but, nevertheless, has visited most units in Bosnia on attachment. Lts Lincoln, Moran and Gothard have joined 2RRF, 2 R ANGLIAN and 9 R IRISH respectively on SSVC attachments, while Cpl Hodgson, Ptes Davidson, Chatfield and Scott have joined the Permanent Staff at BATUS. Pte Scott, on his return from Canada, has re-enlisted to go to Bosnia as a LGV driver. We wish him all the best.

In summary, Summer and Autumn of 1996 have been extremely busy but remarkably successful. After probably the most complex camp in its history and an increase in recruiting, the 6th Battalion is revitalised and ready for the 2 Div Concentration in 1997. With recruiting battles won but the war not yet over, 6 R ANGLIAN now looks forward to achieving its aim of 100% strength by April 1997.

The Cambridgeshires: D Coy before the Ely Parade with 1st Battalion Corps of Drums



6th Battalion On Tour...Belgium 1996

To make 1996 (6 R ANGLIAN's 25th Anniversary year) really memorable, the Battalion was nominated a place on Ex "ORIENT EXPRESS". This little known TA exercise allowed the Battalion its first OTX and was based in Arlon, a small town in the Ardennes near the Luxembourg border in Belgium.

After much preparation by all departments the advance parties began deploying the week before the main body to take over the accommodation from the Belgian Army. Stormy crossings ensured that the G4 and G3 Advance Parties' sea-legs were truly tested and they were all extremely glad to see the Hook of Holland; however, the main body had no problems at all. Early on Saturday 14 September the Battalion was mobilised from across East Anglia and converged at the Port of Harwich. With over 50 green vehicles, 8 coaches and 350 soldiers it was an impressive sight as the Battalion was loaded onto the ferry under the control of the Adjt, Capt Bailey. Once aboard, the troops streamed into the ship's lounge to receive a discipline briefing from the RSM. This caused much amusement to the civilians travelling along with us and made WO I Duncan an instant star. Nevertheless, he was soon to be upstaged by the main entertainment, the ship's cabaret. Three dancing girls and a very attractive singer kept the officers and men captivated and extremely amused for the 8 hour crossing and many were sad to leave.

The journey from the Hook of Holland to Arlon was a feat of endurance in itself. Whereas the coaches sped down the motorways unrestricted, the green vehicles were escorted by the Dutch and Belgian RMP through the Low Countries and down through the Ardennes. As a result there were many tired eyes as the convoys arrived early on



The Training Area, who said you can't see the wood for the trees?

the Sunday morning but good drills ensured that we remained in order right until the end.

On arrival it was obvious that the camp was a little "rough and ready", but in the true indomitable style of the British soldier jokes about the formation of an escape committee and the Belgians who we shared the camp with soon began to flow. As the day dawned, the programme kicked off with a "Welcome to Arlon" brief by the CO to all the Battalion and its 70 attachments (we were joined by soldiers from units as diverse as 207 Fd Hospital, CUOTC, 658 AAC, PC Dets, CVHQ, Chefs, 3 WFR and many more). All Coys and specialist platoons then began the first week's package: a rotation through ranges, dry training on the extensive Belgian farmland and forest which surrounded the camp and R and R. The arcs on the ranges were restrictive but nevertheless the Training Major (Maj Roger Shelmerdine-Hare) and SPSI (WO 2 Callaghan) ensured that Coy packages

were imaginative and exciting without putting any additional holes in the locals! All Coys completed grenade throwing, section attacks, 94mm shoots, platoon in defence and night firing and enjoyed a locating the enemy demonstration. Molotov cocktail throwing and tank familiarisation training (consisting of a Leopard I tank driving over our soldiers while they lay in trenches) in the Belgian FIBUA complex proved very popular. Even the Bde Comd, Brigadier Wilson, had a go during his visit!

Dry training gave the Coys a chance to practice both their field drills and FIBUA in preparation for the FTX. The "real" countryside was a refreshing change to the soldiers. But it was not without its hazards. The deer shooting season did keep all ranks on their toes as hunters with high velocity rifles appeared out of the woods that we too were exercising in. Nevertheless, the Battalion had no accidents and locals were very friendly, except for a farmer

Live Firing Section Attack



A (Norfolk) Coy's homing instinct ensured they were the first to find Belgium's only tumip field



Camp 96



WO 2 Martin and Sgt Armstrong on their way to recce the local cafes at camp.



Lt Hadaway, OC Assault Pioneers; "Ok, I won't ask you again, who set fire to the tank?"



After a few soldiers were treated to the RSM's imaginative punishments, the Battalion had no more disciplinary problems at annual camp.



D Coy enjoy a hearty "Bastognian" breakfast final exercise



Molotov cocktail range



C Coy Advance to Contact through a Belgian village



D Coy officers and SNCOs relax in Brussels.

Camp 96



CIC Cadre. Recruits zeroing with the Belgian Automatic Registering System.



CSM "Sweeny Todd" Cullen scalps C Sgt Denyer



LCpl Feaks instructing on the range



WO1 Duncan in a rare quiet moment



LI Col Gill, CO



SSgt Bissett and RQMS Debenham

6th Battalion

who chased OC Recce Platoon with his shotgun. However, as Capt Watson is a fluent French and Flemish speaker, the situation was soon defused.

R and R gave the TA soldier a chance to pursue his other passion: Beer. Coy and Platoon days out were run to USAF bases in Germany, Luxembourg, Bastogne and Brussels and allowed all to sample the rocket fuel thinly disguised as lager that the Belgians drink. Nevertheless, the fact that Belgium has proved the crossroads for most armies in most wars for the past three centuries allowed some interesting battlefield (bottle-filled) tours. A Coy went to Verdun over the border in France, C Coy visited Bastogne to see the Battle of the Bulge Museum and D Coy visited Mons and Waterloo (an Essex and Cambridgeshire Regiment Battle Honour).

With the first week's cycle completed, the Battalion began to prepare for the FTX. Written by the CO, Lt Col Gill, and the guest Ops Officer, Capt Clive Trott (OC 2CTT), the scenario was as follows: the area around Arlon had been invaded by Bastognians, a state to the North; the British Army tasked 6 R ANGLIAN, who were training in the area, to withdraw to the safety of the Belgium border, but then (with the backing of the UN) committed them to intervene to clear the Bastognians out of the area.

As a result, the Battalion "evacuated" Camp Bastin on Monday evening and in convoy drove the 20 miles to the West. In the early hours we received orders to attack back into the area. Dawn on Tuesday saw an advance to contact across the farmland in pouring rain. The misty morning ensured that locating the enemy was difficult and the sound of battle soon rang through the small hamlets and villages. Nevertheless, by the evening the Battalion had cleared its objectives and were harboured in a large expanse of woodland.

After a swing in axis, and a helicopter insertion, further assaults were also successful and the Battalion began its infiltration phase. Junior NCO map reading was tested considerably as small teams worked their way through the woodland to Coy and then the Battalion RV. The enemy had obligingly withdrawn to the FIBUA complex to allow the Recce Platoon to identify the best routes for attack. As a result after early morning orders on the Thursday the Battalion advanced under the cover of the snipers and MG Platoon firebases. Both Coys assaulted through a First World War



The Lowestoft Mafia: LCpls Pollard, Palmer and Antill

style trench system and then leap-frogged through the village. Nevertheless, "the Bastognians" (D Coy in disguise) put up a valiant fight and ensured that neither A nor C Coy had an easy time of it.

Post-ex admin was prolonged by the packing up of the camp. Many soldiers worked long into the night to ensure that the Battalion provided the Belgians with the hallmark of the British Army - an exemplary handover. The Belgians were not disappointed. Despite heavy road-works on the return journey, all the Battalion made it back through Belgium (just) and set sail for home on the Ostend to Ramsgate ferry on the Friday evening. With a great sigh of relief, the Adjutant, OC Movements for the exercise), waved the last vehicles through the Dartford Tunnel at 0500 hrs on the Saturday morning!

Looking back, camp was a great success. Over 90 soldiers completed their CIC (Recruit Training), 4 soldiers passed their PNCO Cadre and the Sigs Pl Regimental Signallers Course has ensured that the Battalion's comms are now much sharper. The support from 658 AAC allowed all the members of the Battalion to have at least one ride in a Gazelle and some extensive tactical training too. All visitors, ranging from the Brigade and Deputy Commander of 49 (E) Bde, Chairman and Deputy Secretary of TAVRA and the Belgians, who have seen many British TA units, were extremely impressed by our training and even the CO seemed pleased! Finally, most wives and girlfriends have been treated to a box of Belgian chocolates which kept them happy too. The 6th Battalion now looks forward to its next OTX but we hope we don't have to wait another 25 years!

Assault Pioneer Platoon lecture on demolitions



A 6 R Anglian in Bosnia

Capt Pete Chilvers writes:

The Dayton Peace Agreement that brought the bitter civil war in Bosnia to an end saw the deployment of a NATO led peacekeeping force. For the first time in its history NATO has been used operationally. The Peace Implementation Force, or IFOR as it is abbreviated, numbers approximately 55,000 and is based on the ARRC (AFCENT Rapid Reaction Corps), an organisation that has largely existed only on paper in the past. It has, though, to everyone's great pleasure and pride, worked extremely well. No one knew what the reaction of the Former Warring Factions (FWF) would be to the agreement signed in their names or the new soldiers that came to implement it. The UN had over the years lost virtually all credibility and although hoping for the best we planned for the worst. In went Challenger, Abrams, MLRS, Apache and, of course, ...the TA.

On a wet day in April 500 of us turned up at Catterick for mobilisation. No one knew what to expect, and as we went through the endless briefings, refresher training and, yes, documentation, and more documentation, the air of subdued excitement was felt by all. We eagerly tried to find out where we were to be posted and what the latest situation in theatre was.

After four days that saw our numbers reduced slightly by medical and documentation screening we were sent down to Salisbury Plain and the tender care of the UN Training Advisory Team (UNTAT). Here we received more refresher training together with lectures, range practices and a field training pack-

age that reflected incidents that had and were occurring on the ground. A pleasant surprise, WO2 Callaghan, our SPSI, came down to help out with the UNTAT team and I know he would have dearly loved to have gone with us.

Then, finally, after two weeks of preparation, smartly turned out in our newly issued Combat 95, we were given five hours leave. Just enough time for a few goodbyes and the opportunity to purchase those last goodies from Salisbury city centre before being moved down to South Cerney, the gateway to who knew what.

For me, it meant an initial deployment to HQ ARRC Communication Zone Forward as a G2/G3 watchkeeper in Split, Croatia. Between hours spent in the Ops Room slaving over the computer or straining my ears listening to a Portuguese, Hungarian or Czech soldier on the Ptarmigan, I got myself away on Infantry attachments with the QLR in Gornji Vakuf and Vitez. Latterly I have been moved as a Liaison Officer for the new Support HQ based in Sarajevo. I was very pleased to work in Central Bosnia, especially the Vrbas and Lasva valleys, which I know is an area of great interest to those who served with 2 R Anglian on Op Grapple. The situation there is still tense, however the barriers and check points are all down. The Croat Defence Council (HVO) are all in barracks but keep one of their best brigades stationed locally. Both sides rely on and trust IFOR with their security but there are still a number of small incidents that show the underlying and continuing mistrust towards each other. On a positive note, though, many people are fed up with war and hopefully this peace will give those voices of reason a firm platform. One young ex-VRS soldier, whose father who had been an officer in the Bosnian Serb Army, told me he refused to be dragged back into the middle ages by the more militant and ignorant among the population. I was also able to make contact with Mirela and some of the other interpreters who remembered 2 R Anglian well.

The tasks for the Infantry fall into a routine of framework patrolling, backed up



Capt Chilvers receives his IFOR medal from his German CO

with robust rules of engagement which give the force a meaningful presence on the ground and provides the locals of all factions with an overall feeling of security. In addition there is the ongoing reconnaissance of polling station sites for recent and continuing elections and a regular programme of weapon site inspections.

One of the satisfying aspects of being in IFOR is that we do have 'teeth'. The UN became so discredited over the years that some credibility establishment was required early on in the deployment. For example the police must not have more than two people on a check point, no long barrelled weapons are to be carried and there is a limit on the calibre of weapons that can be held at designated sites. These limitations are enforced and check points have been forcibly dispersed with weapons confiscated. In one not untypical incident experienced by the QLR, a group of police in Bugojno were conducting a checkpoint with AK 47s directly outside their station. When told to disperse and hand over the weapons they refused to part with them. The Corporal concerned pulled his armoured vehicle up outside the doors of the station, made the main weapon system ready and dismounted. He then ordered the unrepentant policemen to comply, while impressing his will, face to face, with the aid of his personal weapon... The rifles were handed over, along with everything else owned.

One of several cantonment inspections I carried out took place in Prozor. We as IFOR carry out periodic checks on equipment to ensure that the FWF do not have anything they shouldn't, e.g. anti aircraft weapons over a certain calibre, and to keep track of what they do have and identify if and where it moves. My inspection was of a Croat 'Home



Capt Chilvers

Defence Bn HQ' and they had about 100,000 rounds of various ammunition and 600 small arms of various types and calibres. I also found an old Bren gun, two Barret 14.5mm sniper rifles and a 20mm sniper rifle. There was also a flame thrower and a couple of home made claymore type mines each about the size of a television. Finally they opened a large box that contained 'grenades various'. They were all there, fragmentation, smoke and white phosphorous, all stored with their fuses in, an ammunition storage nightmare. The list was extensive: RPGs, Mortars, 60mm, 81mm and 120 mm, a Multi barrelled rocket launcher... There was also a peculiar home made device they called a "Napalm Bombi." When I asked exactly what this was, although I could make a pretty good guess, they just smiled and said it was for killing people, of course, what else?

The big threat out here is mines, and we are constantly reminded of their ever present threat. Even as recently as September two were found in the scrub

brush just outside the HQ building of Divisional Rear, Split, inside a camp shared with the Croatian Army. With an estimated 6,000,000 in the ground they will be a problem for a long time to come. In many cases the locals are reluctant to see them lifted because they provide an impediment to returnees of opposing factions who do not know where they are.

'Peace' has returned to Former Yugoslavia, but it is characterised more as an absence of war rather than a lasting state of harmony and coexistence. As IFOR ends its mission, plans are being drawn up for the Follow on Force and its size and mission. Troops will unfortunately be required in this part of the world for a long time to come if the roots of peace that have been planted are to be allowed to grow, and the TA will be a continuing feature of any such force.

The TA reached a peak of 1300 in theatre. I know because a friend of mine does the personnel statistics for the ARRC. This represented about 12% of the entire UK contingent. It is true to say, and has been



Capt Chilvers at the Subalterns' House, Vitez - the 2 R ANGLIAN mural is still there!

acknowledged, that the Regular Army could not have carried out this operation without the TA. Everywhere I went in Croatia and Bosnia I constantly came across and worked with other Territorials, soldiers who were working in every arm and corps that deployed and doing an invaluable job. To anyone thinking of volunteering I would say that it is a very fulfilling experience, doing a job that you train for, and getting an opportunity to do it for real.

The Panthers were tamed

Sgt Armstrong writes:

On 18-19 July, 16 men from the Recce Platoon provided the hunter force for 3 Regiment Army Air Corps' escape and evasion exercise called "PANTHERS PATROL". Led by Sgts Armstrong and Martin, the exercise started with cooperation from the Battalion MTWO, WO2 Firth, in clearing the helipad of vehicles prior to the collection of the team by helicopters from Wattisham. The locals around the TA Centre were extremely impressed as three Lynx swooped down to transport the force to the exercise area. The platoon was dropped off at a very hot and deserted RAF Woodbridge thinking they were the ones being hunted, then racing through the heat haze a rover appeared and the umpires briefed us on our mission.

After receiving our tasks, the Platoon initially played locals and agents to give information to the "crashed aircrew". The most distinctive memory of this phase was L Cpl Evans-Hendrick sitting by the bank of a river, sunbathing in his Bermuda shorts and Raybands. He certainly received a number of strange looks from the pilots and navigators as they wondered whether to establish contact or not.

Then it was down to the business of capturing the air crew. Clearance patrols were put out on Rendlesham Heath where the teams bagged quite a few of the unfortunate runners. These were then processed through the system for a good soaking with a fire hose and then some

intensive questioning by an RAF Interrogator. As the light dropped, OPs were established and the force lay in wait to ambush some more runners. One unfortunate airman attempted to run from L Cpl Faulkes after he had been challenged. Cunningly, Sgt Armstrong shouted "Set the dog off, he's running towards you" to an imaginary dog handler. The escaper took evasion action and ran to the right - straight into a 6 ft ditch! Foolish man.

The Platoon managed to get a couple of hours staggered and well earned sleep before being tipped off that runners were hiding in a lay-by on a nearby road. These unlucky individuals were soon in our custody and were tied up and put

Lynx helicopter at the TA Centre, Bury St Edmunds.



The Hunter Force - 6 R ANGLIAN Recce Platoon



The Panthers were tamed *cont.*

through hell under the watchful eyes and direction of the umpires. All in all, the two days were a great success and very good fun. Many lessons were learnt with a lot of the Platoon observing for the first time the techniques of escape and evasion. After being on the hunter force, they also now know its better not to get caught.

The 25th Welsh 1000 Race

Capt Simon Watson writes:

It was an early start on 1 June with Reveille at 0430 hrs followed by a mad rush to be first in the queue at breakfast. After breakfast we boarded the buses and were driven from Camp at Capel Curig to the start at Abergwyngregyn. The mountain Gods were on our side as a beautiful sunny but cool day was forecast after the gales of the evening before. We comprised two teams: one entirely of Recce troops, the other a composite of two Signallers including the RSO, the Training Major and one lone Recce man.

On the bus the lads had taken immediately to trying to chat up the Northumbrian OTC girls team. God knows why, as after the race everyone would be too exhausted to do much other than collapse into a restful slumber. We arrived at the start to have our kit checked and carry out final pit stops before the 6-9 hrs of misery which were to follow. The sad jokes had already started by some who were slightly apprehensive or just trying to show off in front of the young lasses.

I then looked once more at my map and thought "Why on earth am I doing this"? Ten years previously I had sworn to myself never to do it again; just why was I here? The race consists of 80% climbing and 20% downhill over the 1000m peaks of Canedd Llewelyn and Canedd Datydd before dropping to 300m and climbing again over the 750m

saddle between Y Foel Goch and Glyder Fach. The race then descends again to 350m at Pen-u-Pass before climbing to Carnedd Ugain at 1065m. It is taken very seriously by some local Welsh units, the Paras and of the course the Gurkhas who find the mole hills we call massive monoliths very minor and rather amusing. The winners came in some time after 5 hrs 30 mins followed doggedly by our Training Major at 6 hrs. Very well done indeed! The full two teams' timings are listed below. However, the point should be noted that some of us had a bad day, at least that is my excuse which I shall not be dissuaded from.

The most important thing was to finish and have as good a time as possible on the way by talking to and taking the Mickey out of as many different people as possible. The camaraderie is excellent, the jokes mostly cynical ranging from "Well this is as good a place as any to die" to "Just think about it, you only have 30km more of this uphill climb to go". At the end everyone agreed it was well

worth doing even if our teams did not win any prizes and most of us suffered from stiff legs for a couple of days afterwards. Many did not suffer too badly with our feet; the standard issue boot was not too unkind. However, all of us learnt that next year we would take less food and water, especially me who took 3 litres (only to consume 1 litre since the hydrolyte which I bought to put it in was revolting).

Next year we will try to field three teams. However, this may not be possible since numbers may be reduced to save erosion to the hills. I shall definitely have another go.... I think.

Thanks must also go to Pte Cobbold who valiantly struggled up Snowdon with all our dry kit and flasks in his bergen which weighed in excess of 80 lbs. (It should be noted that he was aided by Pte Davy's father at the top when he was too tired to take it off! !).

The scores were as follows:

6 hrs	Trg Maj	-	Maj Shelmerdine-Hare	-	B Team
6.41		-	Cpl Wall	-	Sigs B Team
6.50		-	Cpl Langham	-	Recce A Team
7.05		-	Cpl Porter	-	Recce A Team
7.10		-	Capt Harrison	-	RSO B Team
7.18		-	Capt Watson	-	OC Recce A Team
8.05		-	Pte Shropshire	-	Recce A Team
8.45		-	Pte Davy	-	Recce B Team

DCoy Football Team



"A Rave from the grave, a blast from the past" - anyone recognise these 6 R ANGLIAN hippies?



The Tigers

Bayonets Fixed - Band Playing - Colours Flying

An overseas experience in Gibraltar, a Freedom Parade in Leicester and Annual Camp in Scotland shows the diversity of activities in many parts of the country and overseas that have kept the Tigers of the 7th Battalion busy these last 6 months.

EX MARBLE TOR

The central feature of May was Exercise Marble Tor during which 94 members of the 7th Battalion deployed to Gibraltar for two weeks led by Major Petar Starcevic and administered by his C (Northamptonshire) Company Headquarters. The Company flew from RAF Lyneham in a C130 to emerge 5 hours later into brilliant Gibraltar sunshine. Accommodation was at HMS Rooke with a spectacular view of The Rock and Morocco in the distance. The exercise was based around the core subjects of OBUA (Operating in Built up Areas) and Tunnel Warfare, which offered plenty of opportunity for challenging and demanding platoon level activities. Other activities included military swimming and abseiling, OPs and bayonet practice. Strong inter platoon rivalry built up as the benefits of working as a full strength Company became apparent. The exercise finished with a



Abseiling during Ex Marble Tor, Gibraltar



Cpl Brecken and LCpl Marchant hard at work on Ex Marble Tor, Gibraltar

three day FTX ranging across the Rock and practising all the skills learnt in the previous week.

It wasn't all military training during the two weeks. The Rock Race produced four good 25 minutes performances with Sgt Keith Gallentry winning closely followed by Pte Robert Francis and Cpl Peter Smith.

Having completed the Rock Run the Company was back up the Rock to refurbish Royal Anglian Way and erect signs at both ends. A day off in the middle provided soldiers with the opportunity to go to Benalmadena in Spain or, more adventurously, a group led by Lt Stavros Melides went to Algiers in Morocco. At the end of the exercise, with all the kit packed, the Company took on the Gibraltar Regiment at football only to be beaten 3-0 in a hard fought but friendly game.



Rock Race 20 May 1996 First ten runners Ex Marble Tor 3 Gibraltar 11 - 25 May 1996

Pte Tony Moore A Coy 10th LCpl Ian Price HQ Coy 8th Pte Giles Cowley B Coy 6th, LCpl Chris Nuttycombe C Coy 9th Pte Bob Francis B Coy 2nd Cpl Peter Smith A Coy 3rd Pte Jamie Thompson C Coy 7th Pte Tony Moore A Coy 4th Maj Petar Starcevic OC Coy 5th Sgt Keith Gallentry C Coy 1st



Sgt Webber, Pte Tutty and Pte Derry refurbishing Royal Anglian Way

PTE DUANE LOCKWOOD

It is very sad to report the death of Pte Duane Lockwood following an unprovoked assault within four hours of arrival in Gibraltar. Pte Lockwood died of his injuries at the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar on the 16th of May. He was buried with Military Honours at Gilroes Cemetery, Leicester, on the 4th of June in a moving ceremony attended by over 150 relatives, friends and colleagues, many from the Battalion. Pte Lockwood was a member of the GPMG(SF) Platoon. As a way of remembering him the Battalion commissioned, through the contributions of all ranks, a silver statuette. This statuette depicts a GPMG gunner in marching order. The piece will be awarded to a skilled Young Soldier at our Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting but will remain available for display at any function upon request.

Other Activities in May

For those not in Gibraltar during May training continued and Exercise Composite Tiger provided a good opportunity to keep the Headquarters under pressure. Our B (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company had already planned its escape and ran a very successful Bank Holiday excursion to the Lake District which included most of the expected disciplines.

Lt Pape's and WO2 Ford's hard work in gelling together the GPMG(SF) Platoon paid dividends when the results of Match 83 were announced. A Bronze Medal from Match 83 is not a thing to be sneezed at. The contest has many vagaries and the thorough preparation of the GPMG(SF) Platoon gave them a well deserved reward. Their score placed them second in 2 Division and third in UKLF.

City Honours its Regiment

The granting of The Freedom of Entry to the City of Leicester on 15 June at the invitation of the Lord Mayor Culdipp Batty offered the Tigers and our sister Battalion the Poachers an occasion which allowed us to strengthen our links with one of our principal cities.

Although drill is definitely not what a TA soldier joins for, many rehearsals had to be done at the TA Centres prior to the big day. On the weekend prior to 15 June the Battalion came together along with Colour Parties from 2 and 7 R Anglian. An early Sunday rehearsal was also sneaked in the Town Centre itself surprising those still making their way home from the night before. It was not until the morning of 15 June that all four Guards from 2 and 7 R Anglian plus the Minden Band and Drums of 2 R Anglian would come together for a rehearsal for the Parade later that day.



7 R Anglian Colour Party entering Town Hall Square, Leicester.



The Lord Mayor inspects No3 Guard in front of the Town Hall

15 June was a perfect sunny day with the Town crowded with Saturday shoppers. A large crowd formed to watch as the combined Guards of the Poachers, Tigers, Minden Band and 2 Royal Anglian Drums marched into the Town Hall Square. Accompanied by Major General Stone, the Lord Mayor and his party of Freeman, Provost, City Clerk and Town Crier entered the square after the Parade had formed.

Following an inspection of the Guards the Lord Mayor thanked the Regiment for its association with the City and pledged to maintain the good links between City and Regiment. The Colonel of the Regiment returned his thanks and stressed the important place Leicester has in our Regiment's history and future. Messages from The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, were read out, again stressing the links with the City. The Freedom of

Entry to the City of Leicester was then granted to the Regiment and a Freedom Scroll was presented to the Colonel of the Regiment.

cont



Colonel of the Regiment accepts the Freedom of Leicester from the Lord Mayor.

Tigers

Lieutenant Colonel Prescott, Parade Commander, now stepped forward to ask permission to exercise the Regiment's Freedom Right by marching through the City with Colours flying, bayonets fixed and Band playing. Permission duly granted, the parade set off through the busy City Centre. The reception from the local people was tremendous! The crowds parted before the parade and vigorously applauded the troops as they marched by.

Although the event was widely publicised beforehand many were obviously pleasantly surprised to be confronted by 200 soldiers marching past Marks and Spencers on a Saturday morning.

At the end of the march there were Receptions laid on for all those taking part. Again the City of Leicester made us feel most welcome with excellent receptions in the City Rooms and the Holy

Cross Church. The 800 pints of Tiger Bitter supplied by Everards Brewery were gratefully received at the Soldiers Reception as was the Jazz Band that had been laid on. A Cocktail Party was held in the evening by 7 R Anglian to express our thanks to the Lord Mayor, his Councillors and team of Council employees who made it such a memorable day.

Not all Drill

It hasn't all been drill for the Battalion and there have been several good training weekends. For Battalion and Company HQs a 49 (East) Bde run CPX in July provided a good vehicle for establishing SOPs and integrating new members into the HQs both at Battalion and Company level. The new Battalion Int Cell team did particularly well in all phases of the Battle and learnt a lot of lessons which will stand them in good stead over the next year.

As B Company were not involved in the Freedom Parade they took the opportunity to organise a live firing weekend at Lydd and Hythe. Excellent weather provided a backdrop to two live firing ranges, the Attic and Tin City. Each team got several runs through each range and lessons learnt could be put into practice on subsequent runs. Night firing was also conducted and again valuable lessons were learnt particularly in the differences between priests and gunman at night, which wasn't immediately apparent. The weekend was completed by the combined Officers' and Sgts' Mess team defeating the rest of the Company in a falling plate competition - highly suspicious!



Sgt Helen Bott relaxes after the rigours of Ex Staunch Defender at STANTA

An opportunity for OBUA training arose in July when it was found that 24 Bde would not be using the STANTA OBUA village during the middle of their Ex Gryphon's Clasp multi-national exercise. With assistance from WOI Jones and I R Anglian providing a quick handover/ takeover the Battalion was able to

deploy into the village for an excellent weekend's training. A two Company attack supported with battle simulation was the culmination of an intense period of instruction. All Companies and departments threw themselves into the exercise, although Lt Martin, the MTO, was too enthusiastic and broke his arm on the assault course!

Maj Starcevic, OC C Coy, briefs commanders during Ex Staunch Defender at STANTA

C Coy, battle prep for Ex Staunch Defender at STANTA



EX TARTAN TIGER

With the Freedom Parade over the next big event in the Battalion Calendar was Annual Camp. This year it was to be a Cadre Camp in Barry Buddon, Scotland. Barry Buddon Camp proved to be an excellent facility with much potential for the future. Despite dire predictions about the weather it was for the most part hot and sunny providing good conditions for all the cadres that the Battalion ran.

Each specialist platoon ran its own cadre with the Recce and SF platoons running their cadres from the seclusion of their own sub-unit locations. As well as much platoon bonding they accrued some valuable training that will stand them in good stead for the next training year. The Signals Platoon was possibly the most hard working platoon as they ran for the first time an internal Regimental Signals Cadre. Capt Howe was well supported by his NCOs and Sgt Smith their PSI but they had their work cut out to reach all the training objectives required by the course. The results speak for themselves as 16 out of 18 qualified as Regimental Signallers. As well as the course they also fitted in a day's adventurous training and a well earned day off.

The Battalion Cadres that were run were a Commanders' Cadre, Trained Soldier Cadre and Medical Cadre. All three cadres proved to be very useful. Each cadre served to teach new skills, reinforce old skills and generate interest in their respective areas.

The Trained Soldier Cadre aimed to confirm basic skills and then provide continuation training. Instruction covered



The Commanders Cadre, Annual Camp, Barry Buddon

areas such as advanced map reading, live firing of grenade and 51mm Mortar and arduous Battle Exercises. The 51 mm Mortar range run by CSgt Sackree was probably one of the most enjoyable events with many firing HE and smoke for the first time. The Automatic Marking System Range provided an excellent facility for zeroing and firing the APWT. It was the first time many, including Regular instructors, had seen the system in action. It saved time and ammunition allowing both coach and firer to have instant feedback on fall of shot.

The Medical Cadre swept up personnel from all Departments and Companies. In return for attentive study students learnt about anatomy, physiology, advanced life support, field duties and basic nursing skills. Major Isobell Frain, Battalion RMO, who ran the course, has put much work in at camp and previously to bring the RAP up to a high standard of medical

care and tactical skill. These skills were all tested on the Final Exercise.

All three cadres came together for the Final Exercise that combined recce patrols, hides, advance to contact and platoon attacks. Our attached German Reserve Officer from an AI Battalion was a bit shocked by the amount of foot work involved in being in a light role Battalion!

The MT ran several important courses that will literally keep the Battalion on the road for the next year. Several soldiers passed HAZMAT, LGV and B Veh courses although training them for the latter may have put several years on the MTWO, WO2 Culshaw's, life. It was only a lack of funding that prevented a hard working MT department from getting more people through the courses.

Despite our distance from civilisation we received many visitors during our time at



Capt York with Lt Sommerville on Annual Camps at Barry Buddon



Capt Pape meets the GOC at Barry Buddon

Tigers



The McKinnons from Signals, GPMG (SF) and REME on annual camp, a family holiday at Barry Buddon



Pte Pearl and friends pose by a scale model of Ben Nevis during Annual Camp at Barry Buddon



CSgt Sackree trains the Battalion's new No1 on the 51mm Mortar Brigadier Wilson



Pte Bellham kneels down to make his trench look deeper at Annual Camp



Lt Atkinson, LCpl Randall and W/Pte Kemp on RS Cadre meet Maj Gen Farrar Hockley

Barry Buddon. GOC 2Div, Major General Farrar-Hockley, made a flying visit and left having seen a wide cross section of cadres and soldiers. Commander 49 (East) Bde, Brigadier Wilson, made a longer visit that provided us with the opportunity to dine him out prior to his departure later this year. The visits of Brigadiers Stevenson and Browne of East Midlands TAVRA and Colonel Chissel, Dep Bde Comd, happily coincided with the Officers' and Sgts' Mess Dinner Night with 81 people sitting down to dinner. Our final visitor was Colonel Ostman, TA Col at HQ Infantry.

This year's camp proved to be a great success. Over the two weeks 190 members of the Battalion attended courses. The majority of those attending camp also got away for a day's adventurous training supported by 160 AYT in the shape of Cpls Jones, Sibley and Johnson. Three Officers managed to pass JOTES 1 exam with only 3 days notice when offered late vacancies on the HQ Scotland exam. Lts Thurley and Flemmington and 2Lt Sommerville should be well pleased with their efforts. Many important qualifications were gained especially on the signals and MT side of life - we are now better equipped to communicate and move ourselves. The Battalion is now well set to start the collective training year that will ultimately culminate in Exercise Eastern Harrier, the 2 Div Concentration.

Tigers Tails

Our 25th Anniversary saw the successful launch of the Battalion Newsletter 'Tigers Tales'. The idea was conceived by SSgt Goodrich and then swiftly passed on to the acting Intelligence Officer, OCdt Hughes, to implement. The Newsletter provides an excellent forum three times a year for everyone to express their news, views and humour about their life in the Tigers. It is hoped that 'Tigers Tales' will continue to flourish over the next 25 years.

Social Functions

It has not been all work and all Messes have held functions this year. The Sgts' Mess Summer Ball took place in Stakis Hotel, Corby. Nearly 100 mess members and their wives and girlfriends attended a successful evening - even if the RSM had to grip the comedian. The Officers' Mess Summer Ball followed one week later in Claire Street, Northampton. Organised by Capt Tony Amos and Capt Terry Hope it was a most enjoyable occasion. Even an excellent band could not drag the old and bold away from the horse racing event. Sgt Nagra organised the first ever HQ Coy Cpls' Mess Dinner the week before annual camp. A lot of effort on Sgt Nagra's part ensured a good night was had by all. He now plans to extend the night to include all Coys.

B Coy Bravery

Particular mention should go to Sgt Saywell, B (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company, for his part in the disposal of a 500lb wartime bomb. As the Company was preparing to deploy for a weekend's OBUA training a request for assistance came from local Police. A large wartime bomb had been discovered and a 4 tonner was required to move it. Sgt Saywell was the man who volunteered to drive the bomb very gingerly away from where it had been discovered.

Comings and Goings

As usual there have been several comings and goings in the Battalion over the last few months. WO2 Ibrahim has now returned to 2 R Anglian and was replaced by CSgt Keen. A Company have now lost CSgt Cooper back to 1 R Anglian and CSgt Odell has replaced him as SPSI.

In line with the rest of the TA 7 R Anglian has found itself providing more and more individuals to support the Regular Army. Currently we have 3 soldiers attached to 1 R Anglian and 2 serving in BATUS. 11 soldiers are currently serving with IFOR including our Battalion 2IC, Maj Rod Burns, and HQ Coy 2IC, Capt Terry Dance.

Congratulations to 2Lt Whitehouse and 2Lt Herbert on their recent commissioning at Sandhurst.



W/Pte Todd celebrating Independence Day with Admiral Leighton Smith, Commander IFOR

Young Reserve Officers Workshop, Lillehammer

Capt Alex Wong writes:

The Reserve Forces Association is the British representative body in the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR). This is an organisation of NATO countries that promotes inter-allied cooperation. CIOR holds an Annual Congress which is hosted by a different NATO country each year. In 1996 Norway hosted the Congress in the Olympic Town of Lillehammer. In addition to NATO countries South Africa and Finland were also invited to attend this year's Congress. The Young Reserve Officers Workshop (YROW) is a meeting of junior officers to discuss topics relating to the role of young officers in their respective armed forces.

Initially, my feelings were mixed at the thought of trying for selection to attend the Congress. Naturally selection conjures up a picture of mentally and physi-

cally arduous tasks performed under the exacting scrutiny of Directing Staff, but the thought of an expenses paid trip to Norway was none the less appealing! Selection was to last one day and it included attendance at a Dinner Night. Bonus! Also one of the selectors was my previous Commanding Officer, Lt Col Colville. Double Bonus! And not a BFT in sight. Triple Bonus!

Out of the thirteen officers to be considered 6 were to be selected to go to Lillehammer. Selection is open to officers from all three services, however attendance is always low. This may be due to training commitments or a lack of publicity for the event. Training Majors should note that assistance with funding for travel and attendance is available from outside unit budgets.

With the odds on being selected near 50/50, the coin landed on the right side for me and I was chosen as one of the six to go to Norway. The other five were from various arms and services and included one Naval Officer. No RAF officers attended selection; they probably had the wrong grid reference.

Up to our departure in August the RFA and the Norwegians sent a lot of information about the British Reserve Forces and the Congress arrangements respectively. Both were very well organised and timely so I felt very confident about the whole affair. We were also informed of the topic of discussion for YROW this year: *The role of the reserve officer as an informer to the public*. When this topic was expanded the YROW was to produce and present a paper to show *how a young reserve officer can raise the perception of the*

Tigers



Capt Alex Wong meets Norwegian EOD officer

value of Reserve Forces within his civilian community and the media, the political arena and local commerce and industry.

The programme for the Congress was particularly full with each day taken up with lectures, symposiums, demonstrations and working sessions. In the evenings we were invited to attend various social events organised by our Norwegian hosts.

Following transfer from Oslo we were allocated accommodation at Norseter Camp, which is a Home Guard base 10 kms north of Lillehammer. The accommodation was far better than most British training camps and looked as if it had been equipped by IKEA and Habitat.

When the YROW assembled it comprised of 45 officers from 13 nations including one South African officer and one Finnish officer. We were split into 3 syndicates to debate our sub-topics. It was no surprise to find that the primary working language for discussions was English with the final report written in English and French.

The central lectures were all of a very high quality. A particularly interesting presentation described the Norwegian Armed Forces, 90% of which is made up

of reservists. 80% of these reservists can be mobilised within 3 hours. Impressive by any standards. The Norwegians also put on a firepower demonstration that overshadowed the Weapon Effects Demonstration held at Warminster. The show started with two snipers and moved on to a full company sized mechanised attack with armour, artillery and air support. The ambience was enhanced by the proximity of many of the weapon platforms, some of them actually moving and deploying through the spectator stands. Obviously, their safety distances (and indemnity cover) must differ from our own. In defence of the Warminster WED, it is rumoured that the total cost of the Norwegian demonstration was in the order of several million pounds; based on the amount of ordnance I saw expended, I would say that was a conservative estimate. I doubt they could afford to repeat that several times a year.

Almost every evening the Congress delegates attended a social function. Our hosts included the township of Lillehammer and the Norwegian Defence Minister. The hospitality was sumptuous and by the end of the week the stocks of beer were increased so that the bar was not drunk dry early on in the evening. As guests, we were not expected to pay over £6 per pint for our lager, phew!

By my description of the Congress you may think that the whole event was a 'jolly', indeed I cannot deny I enjoyed every second of it. However, on a professional note, this was a unique opportunity to meet reserve officers from different nations of varying rank range to discuss common subject matters both in formal and social situations. It was interesting to hear about the role of the reserve forces in other countries and to see how reservists are employed alongside their regular counterparts. In compiling our final report we gained a great insight into the general organisation of other nations' reserve forces and how highly, or not, they are regarded by their community and their regular colleagues.

I would encourage all young reserve officers to find out more about the Reserve Forces Association as there are many opportunities for exchanges, visits and international competitions. Selection for next year's YROW delegates to attend the Congress in Denmark is due to take place sometime at the start of 1997.

Regimental Sport

Royal Anglian Regiment Cricket Club 1996

Lt Col Brian Davenport writes:

Two wins, four draws and four losses from the ten matches played shows a rather better return than the 1995 season. Weather and/or availability of players prevented the games against Uppingham, St Joseph's College and the Light Infantry from taking place. The matches, regardless of the result, were, as always, very enjoyable, but perhaps the highlight was the 7 wicket win against Woodbridge School, featuring an opening stand of 151 by Ward and Davenport. Of the four draws, the match against the Royal Hospital School was very much a 'winning draw', but the other three were avoidance of defeat exercises - helped by rain in the Framlingham game.

Regimental players came from a number of sources - officers and soldiers, serving and retired, the occasional potential officer and assorted 'guests'. Particular thanks are due to the 1st Battalion who provided a regular nucleus for teams. Individually there was consistent batting and bowling from Corporals Martin Wood and Paul Dufosee respectively, and useful input on occasion from Bartlett and Davenport. It was encouraging to see two young soldiers from the Vikings, Privates Pinner and Cloughton also performing well and enthusiastically. Thanks are due to match managers for getting teams together, and to Major Andy Foster for acting as Treasurer this year.

Looking forward to 1997, the fixture plan will be similar to previous seasons, but it is intended to play some additional fixtures against club sides in East

CRICKET RESULTS 1996

9th June v Felsted School - LOST by 6 wkts
The Regiment 92, Felsted School 92-4 (Dufosee 4-12)

16th June v Brentwood School - WON by 7 wkts
Brentwood School 128-6 dec, The Regiment 129-3 (Ward 59*)

23rd June v Gresham's School - DRAWN
Gresham's School 170-7 dec (Bartlett 4-38), The Regiment 90-8

28th June v St Edmunds College Ware - LOST
St Edmunds College 195-6 (Lapham 4-56), The Regiment 101

1st July v Framlingham College - DRAWN (Rain)
The Regiment 92, Framlingham College 64-3

2nd July v Woodbridge School - WON by 7 wkts
Woodbridge School 162-8 dec, The Regiment 163-3 (Ward 80*, Davenport 63)

3rd July v Royal Hospital School Holbrook - DRAWN
The Regiment 157, Royal Hospital School 116-9 (Davenport 4-24)

23rd July v Perse Pelicans - DRAWN
Perse Pelicans 179-6 dec (Dufosee 4-22), The Regiment 84-8

3rd August v Major General Thorne's XI - LOST by 56 runs
Major General Thorne's XI 247-6 dec, The Regiment 191 (Davenport 64, Groom 53)

Anglia, after the schools' summer term has ended. The home venue for the Club will probably now be Oakington with the 1st Battalion (although Colchester will still be available). New players, of whatever standard, are always welcome (and needed) and should get in touch with the Secretary, Captain F J R Grounds, at the 1st Battalion.

Tennis New Event

The Royal Anglian Regiment Tennis Tournament

A new match for schools affiliated to the Regiment will take place at Kimbolton School on 7-8 June 1997.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Golfing Society

Meetings for 1997 will be held as follows:

Spring Meeting Friday 18 April 1997 - Flempton Golf Club

Summer Meeting Friday 20 June 1997 - Stowmarket Golf Club

Autumn Meeting Friday 12 September 1997 - Luffenham Heath Golf Club

There will not be a meeting between Flempton Golf Club and the Society this year.

The Regimental Museum



Before construction of the new Regimental Museum

The Museum's Conception and its Construction

Lt Col Trevor Veitch writes:

When a Museum was first proposed some years ago there were many who assumed that we were too young a Regiment to have anything worthwhile to present. However, all other Regiments in the British Army have their own Museum, though many are not up to date and do not cover recent amalgamations, and the history of the Regiment ended in the eight museums of the former Regiments. Some 36 years of history of the Regiment was unrecorded. It was felt important that the displays in the existing former Regiments' museums were completed with more recent history to show the continuous thread of the Regiment's over 300 years history particularly for those visitors from the nine counties of East Anglia and the East Midlands from which it recruits.

Attempts were first made to find an existing Regimental Museum, all now in local authorities' hands, to accommodate the Regiment's growing collection. This was unsuccessful, but a visit by the author to Duxford resulted in a chance conversation with Mr Martin Boswell, Duxford's Exhibitions Coordinator, spotted wearing a Regimental tie as a past member of the 6th Battalion. He was enthusiastic about the possible use of part of the Land Warfare Hall for the Museum and arranged negotiations with the Imperial War Museum. Those talks were to lead to a legal agreement between the Museum and the Regiment.

In the meantime the necessary funds had to be raised and, as the Project Officer, I

was tasked to find the £150,000 assessed costs and an additional £100,000 to support the Museum into the future. £270,000 was raised by mid-1995 from the Regiment past and present and from the public of the region and the project was able to proceed.

In accordance with the joint agreement the Imperial War Museum was to design and construct the Museum, the Regiment to provide the collection and contribute to joint editorial control. Duxford provided Mr Steve Woolford in overall charge with Mr David Fearon the project's writer and Mr Martin Boswell responsible for display and coordination of construction. Design was placed with Mr Steven Ridgeway of Ridgeway Associates and construction with Mark Harris Scale Models. The Project Officer moved to Duxford in October 1995, pre-fabrication of the cases, tableaux and figures began in November and by last Christmas the space below the viewing platform in the Land Warfare Hall began to change shape.

From the Regiment's point of view, what would have been a nightmare nine months were greatly eased by the professional skills of the team that Duxford had put together for the project. All aspects were cleared with the designer, the bills and budget control were looked after by Mr Steve Woolford, who somehow squeezed out of a tight budget additional and larger cases, an additional

VDU, humidity controls and much, much more.

The contractors were quick to accommodate these changes (necessary because the collection had largely not existed until a few months previously and exhibits were arriving daily) and a date for opening was set for 13 June.

The end result for the Regiment is a high quality Museum, in a prestigious location in the centre of the Regimental area. It has already been visited by The Duke of Kent, Prince Khaled of Saudi Arabia and hundreds of members of the Regiment and their families not to mention thousands of visitors to Duxford. The Museum has brought the Regiment daily into the public eye at a time when, for reasons of security and the burden of increased commitments, its activities are less familiar to the public. The Regiment is delighted with, and grateful to, the Imperial War Museum for its new Museum which successfully links with its previous 300 years history as well as giving a detailed and balanced picture of a modern infantry Regiment. The success of the project resulted greatly from the commitment to it by the Duxford Exhibitions Staff and many Imperial War Museum departments in London and at Duxford for photographic, conservation and research support; the construction team, Sergeant Bob Boyd and the Regiment's Museum Attendant Mr George Boss, also made major contributions.

The Opening

Col Christopher Dale writes:

The Museum, in the Land Warfare Hall of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, was opened by Mr Martin Bell OBE, the BBC War Correspondent, on 13 June 1996. It was one of those days on which fortune smiled on The Royal Anglian Regiment; the weather was glorious and, so far as is known, no administrative horror occurred. The Museum itself looked splendid despite a last minute rush to achieve completion.

Guests were divided into two groups: our sponsors, who had given generously to the appeal and made the construction of the museum possible, were given lunch in the Duxford Conference Centre Officers' Mess. After lunch, with help from the police, this group in their convoy of some eighty cars then had to cross the busy A505 to get to the Land Warfare Hall.

The second group of guests had gone straight to the Land Warfare Hall where light refreshments were available. At 14.30 the lunch party joined the others making a total audience of some 200 people.

At the lunch the Colonel of the Regiment took the opportunity of thanking all sponsors for their amazing generosity and

also members of the Imperial War Museum who had been so helpful with the conception, construction and completion of our Regimental Museum. He thanked particularly Lieutenant Colonel Veitch, the Project Officer and Appeal Director, for all his hard work.

The official opening itself consisted of an opening address by Field Marshal The Lord Bramall, Chairman of the Imperial War Museum Trustees. He welcomed The Royal Anglian Regiment to the Imperial War Museum, stating how right it was that The Royal Anglian Regiment should have found a site so central to its nine county recruiting area.

The Colonel of the Regiment, in his reply, thanked Field Marshal Bramall, saying how delighted he was that The Royal Anglian Regiment should have found so excellent a home. He went on to say how grateful he was to everybody who had had a hand with the appeal, with the construction of the museum (particularly Mr Martin Boswell and Mr Steven Ridgeway and Mr David Harris the designer and constructor. The Colonel of the Regiment stated that the Regimental Museum was one in which we had every reason to be proud.

Because of the presence of the old Colours of the 2nd Battalion and the Memorial Book recording all those of the Regiment and the three East Anglian Regiments who had died in the course of duty, the Reverend Tom Hiney, our Honorary Chaplain, dedicated the Museum.

The Patron of the Appeal, General Sir John Akehurst, read the Regimental Collect.

Mr Martin Bell then gave a short address before formally opening the Museum. He said that Bosnia and the many other war sites that he has visited where British troops were in action had convinced him of the excellence of the British armed services and the Army in particular. As an ex Corporal of the Suffolk Regiment he commended the Museum to all ranks of The Royal Anglian Regiment and then pulled aside the curtains to reveal the plaque.

The Drums and Buglers of the 1st Battalion then blew a fanfare and the visitors moved down the steps from the walkway to visit the Regimental Museum.

The Regimental 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
The Charles S French Charitable Trust
The Chetwode Samworth Charitable Trust
The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust
The Ford of Britain Trust
The Simon Gibson and the GC Gibson Charitable Trust
Vauxhall Motors Ltd

Anglia Television
Barclays Bank plc
British Aerospace Defence Ltd, Dynamics Division
British Gas Home Energy
Calor Gas Ltd
Charles Wells Ltd
City of Ely Council
Clarksteel Ltd
Colonel R G Wilkes CBE TD DL
Dunstable Town Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Essex and Suffolk Water plc
GKN Defence Ltd
Greene King plc
Guardian Insurance plc
Heckler and Koch (UK) Ltd
Holt's Branch, Farnborough, The Royal Bank of Scotland
J A Sharwood and Co Ltd
Lord Belstead
Munton and Fison plc

Normanton Knitwear Ltd
Pedigree Petfoods
RCI United Kingdom and Ireland
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Spicers Ltd
TeleAdapt Ltd
The Alliance and Leicester Building Society
The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
The Everard Foundation
The Great Northern Railway Hotel, Peterborough
The Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust
The Lord Barnby's Foundation
Lord De Ramsey Family Charitable Trust
The Major Simon Whitbread Charitable Trust
The Pye Foundation
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association
The Sandra Charitable Trust
The Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for East Anglia and the East Midlands
The Worshipful Company of Poulterers
Varity Perkins
Whitbread in the Community
Whiting and Partners, Charters Accountants
Wilson's Hogg Robinson

The construction...



The display cases like these



Mr David Fearon, IWM, with Northern Ireland display. ▶

▶ Lt Col Veitch advises on the Aden figures

Mr George Boss mounts badges of rank. ▶



Lt Col Veitch and Mr Martin Boswell, IWM, adjust exhibits. ▼

Mr George Boss in his stores ▼



▶ Sgt Boyd and Cpl Large manufacturing display stands



Museum

The Opening... 13 June 1996



Mr Martin Bell and 1st Battalion Drummers.



The Museum is declared open.



The Uniforms display case.



Miss Susannah Veitch invites Maj Gen Jack Dye and Maj Randal Cross to sign the Visitors Book.



Mr Bell talks to Maj Tim Smith MBE and Sgt AJ Rainey MC, both decorated in Bosnia.



The Book of Remembrance listing those 56 members of the Regiment who have died whilst on duty since 1958.



Some of the 17 uniform paintings specially commissioned by the artist Alix Baker FRSA for the Museum.



Private, The 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot, Salamanca 1812.



Private, The 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot, Taku Forts 1860.



Colour Sergeant, The 58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment, Ulundi 1879.



Private, The Cambridgeshire Volunteers, The Suffolk Regiment, South Africa c1900



Lance Corporal, 1st Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment, NW Europe 1944 - 45.

Museum Organisation

The Museum is run by the Regimental Secretary as Curator, assisted by the Attendant, Mr George Boss, ex Royal Leicestershire Regiment, 4th and 3rd Battalions. Mr Boss is available at Duxford daily on 01223 835000 and welcomes enquiries and visits from members of the public and the Regiment. The Regiment is indeed fortunate in having the benefits of Mr Boss's enormous enthusiasm and knowledge in this important position. Over the coming months he will have an office where research, including the viewing of archives, photographs, slide and film, can be done. Responsibility for the Museum lies with the Trustees, who are:

Col K Woodrow (Chairman)
Col N H Kelsey OBE TD ADC
Lt Col F A H Swallow OBE
Maj W K Pool
Mr Stephen Woolford, IWM

Brig C Groves
Col J P Macdonald
Maj D J Thorogood
Maj W H Reeve
Lt Col T D A Veitch (Secretary and Curator)

Collection

Material for the Museum is always sought, both to complete existing displays and to bring exhibits up to date. The following have generously donated items since the last Castle:

Mr J Walker Aden documents
Major C Brock Aden FLOSY flag

Wanted

The following items are wanted:

Norway Arctic SLR sling, AMF(L) grey cap cold weather
Rhodesia Commonwealth Monitoring Force plaque
UN Blue UN Cravat
NI Early leg guards, earliest flak jacket (without plastic butt supports)

Acoutrements

Field Marshal's rank badge
Large 3rd Bn badge for Aslt Pioneer Sgt's apron
E ANGLIAN Regimental Association lapel badge
1 E ANGLIAN hose-top and flash
2 E ANGLIAN hose-top
1st Bn hose-top flash
2nd Bn hose-top flash
4th Bn green hose-top
Lt's shoulder-titles - pale, embroidered R ANGLIAN, as used in Aden

Weapons

IWS, Wooden Butt for early L67A3 1.5 riot gun, Sniperscope for .303 sniper rifle

Plaques

1st City Regt and Regt de la Rey, S Africa
Lincoln and Welland Regt, Canada

Postcards of Historic Uniforms

The uniformed figures illustrated on the previous page are part of a set of 16 postcards on sale from RHQ and the Museum, with proceeds going to the Museum. The illustrations were painted by Alix Baker for the Museum's family tree wall and feature the Former Regiments at important dates in their history. The originals are hung in RHQ. The cards, for mounting as collectors items or for use as highly attractive postcards, are on sale as follows:

Sets of 16 cards £ 5.00
Singles 40p each (Plus post and packing)

Museum Brochure

A brochure for the Museum is now ready, available at £2.50 from the Museum or RHQ. It is titled "History and Traditions of The Royal Anglian Regiment" and covers the Regimental family tree, customs, dress, ceremonial and much more with illustrations based on Museum displays.

Test your knowledge of Regimental History

The following questions can all be answered by inquisitive visitors to the Regimental Museum.

1. Who was the last Regimental sportsman to represent his country?
 2. How many tours has the Regiment done in Northern Ireland since 1970?
 3. Which part of the Regiment, although not then titled East or Royal Anglian, played a key part in the Borneo Campaign in 1963?
 4. What number is inscribed on the base of the Essex Regiment's Salamanca Eagle?
 5. Why is the Cambridgeshire Regiment sometimes, wrongly, not shown as a predecessor Regiment?
 6. What was the Regiment's key role in the independence of Rhodesia?
 7. Why is the mess table in the Museum covered by black cloth?
 8. What major operational feat did the 1st Battalion carry out in 1964?
 9. What is the origin of the black cloth backing to the Regimental beret cap badge?
 10. What element of the Regiment, often dirty and late, whistles en route daily between London and Norwich?
- Should you need it, the answers can be found on page 84.

Film Archives

Although Mr Boss holds a comprehensive library of Regimental film and videos, one important, and inexplicable, omission is good film of the Colours Presentation at Duxford on 29 April 1995. This is urgently sought along with any early Northern Ireland riot film. The Museum's film library includes the following subjects:

Royal Norfolk Regiment

The Regiment in India
Amalgamation 1959

Suffolk Regiment

NW Frontier 1939
Cyprus 1958
Amalgamation 1959

1st East Anglian Regiment

Berlin 1960
Colours Presentation 1962
British Guiana 1962
Freedom of Norwich 1963

1st Battalion

Tidworth 1974
Beating Retreat 1974
Freedom of King's Lynn 1976
300th Anniversary 1984
NI 1985
Airmobility 1992
Freedom of Brentwood 1993
Bosnia 1995

2nd Battalion

Boxing 1981, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994
Gulf 1991
Celle 1991, 1994, 1996
NI 1986
Training for Bosnia 1994
Bosnia 1994

3rd East Anglian Regiment

Malaya 1960

3rd Battalion

Re-badging 1964
Berlin 1965
Aden 1967
UNFICYP 1969
Exercise in Malaya 1970
3 NI films
Freedom of Colchester 1992
Final Parade 1992

7th Battalion

Formation 1971
(and final parade
4th/5th Northamptonshire Regiment)

All

End of National Service, Depot 1961
Colours Presentation 1974
Depot Recruiting 1990
Arms Cuts, General Thorne, 1991
Army Food 1992
Colours Presentation 1995
(poor quality)

Film can be viewed by arrangement at Duxford

Copies of any film may be purchased through RHQ. Anyone holding additional film and video is requested to please contact RHQ.

The assistance of the Anglia TV Library with research and provision of film is gratefully acknowledged.

Voluntary Attendants Urgently Sought

Serving and retired members of the Regiment with an interest in its history, customs, uniforms, and operations are sought as Voluntary Attendants to relieve or to assist Mr Boss in the Museum. To date only 3 Trustees have assisted and as a result the Museum is often unmanned on one or two days in the week, or at weekends. Volunteers should please contact Mr Boss or the Regimental Secretary.

The following companies would like to wish the Museum all the best for the future.



News from The Cadets

Lincolnshire ACF

Assistance to Game Fair

3 Company cadets had a pleasant and busy weekend helping to run a Game Fair held in the extensive grounds of Grimsthorpe Castle near Bourne over the period 25 - 28 July 1996.

Grimsthorpe Park will not be unknown to television addicts as this is the location where the popular series *Middlemarch* was made. Caution had to be taken in the heat of the day as there was a danger of heatstroke. Cold drinks were on hand at each location, provided by the organisation. Food to supplement haversack rations was also provided.

For three days the cadets helped the organisers in the day to day running of the Working Dogs Trials, operating radios to ensure the smooth running and rapid recording of scores. Senior cadets were in attendance at the National Rifle Association Air Rifle Range where they assisted members of the public in changing targets, loading weapons and range safety.

The Game Fair is organised by the Country Landowners Association. It is the largest country fair in the year and moves to a different location in Britain each year.

Assistance for the event was provided by Maj Mark Julian, Maj Ray Ogg, OC 3 Company and his cadets, the Public Relations Officer RSMI Sharpe and instructors of 3 Company.

Le Shuttle Ride to Vimy

When it was mooted that a ride on Le Shuttle was being considered during annual camp an air of mystery descended on the minds of most as to how the apparent logistical problem of getting 350 cadets over (or under) the Channel would be achieved.

After some very long nights over equally long months, receding hair line and ever greying thatch, the Training Major, Major David Larder, achieved the near impossible and programmed each cadre to visit France. A task fraught with the problems of passports, travel permits, signatures of party leaders, nominal rolls of cadres, rehash of nominal rolls and clearance for the late nominations.

It was intended that apart from treading on foreign soil the cadets would enhance their knowledge of the area and the history of the involvement of the British forces during the two Great Wars.

An opportunity arose for the PRO to venture forth to foreign soil on the second Sunday when the routine and itinerary had by now become tried and tested by the coach drivers and their couriers in the guise of Major Ray Ogg and Captain Bob Carter.

Our driver was a cheerful rotund soul who introduced himself to the cadets as Dave and had soon established a rapport as he gave a guided tour along the route with non-stop explanation.

The magnitude of Le Shuttle was the first thing to behold with the apparent endless line of carriages and the incredi-

ble engineering feat of the tunnel that within a very short time would see us emerge in France.

Many were the gasps and comments from the cadets as the coach driver manoeuvred along the platform and, nearly going sideways, edged the coach onto the rolling stock and down what seemed a tunnel of metal carriages.

Arriving in Calais the coach headed for St. Omer for a short tour and the cadets to exercise aching limbs and backs, having had a nap, before partaking of lunch at a picnic site en route to Vimy. Before alighting at St. Omer, and before the instructors could make the point, a cadet reminded the group to be on their best behaviour.

At Vimy the party was allowed freedom to roam over the area of the trenches which had been dug and had fortified the ridge in defence of the coal fields to the East by the German Army. The trenches of the Allied forces were to the West within 100 metres of the German lines and until a system of tunnels was dug by British Army Engineers under and to the rear of their defences, the allied forces failed to capture the ridge. These tunnels were taken over by the Canadian Army in 1917 who stormed the German lines of the ridge on 19 April capturing all by afternoon but for Hill 145 which withheld the barrage and attack for a further three days.

The cadets could not fully appreciate the history of the conflict until the tactics and resources of the day had been

explained. After a casual look around the trenches they were met by Canadian students who were to be our guides round the tunnel system where the greater impact of the battle for the ridge was realised. Here they were to observe the underground command post, medical centre, ammunition stores now well preserved with modern materials and not the damp and muddy conditions that prevailed at the time.

In one part of the tunnels was a display of very rusty militaria of electric and mechanical water pumps, weapons and kit that was reputed to have been found during the excavations; one odd item was the neck and upper part of a 1937 pattern water bottle!

A short coach ride later and the magnificence of the monument to commemorate all the Canadians who gave their lives in the Great War, and those whose final resting place is unknown came into view. Again we had the benefit of a student to explain the history of the memorial and the significance of the battle could be more readily understood as, gazing from the parapet, the slag heaps of the coal mines could be seen in the distance. Now could be appreciated the determination of the German Army to defend and the Allied forces to defeat and halt the manufacture of armaments.

Observing the monument from the East as it stood in all of its majesty the dark clouds gave it a sombre appearance, a solitary heavy cloud lay over the peak of the twin pillars but beyond were whiter

Cadets

clouds and a blue crystal sky with a hint of sun indicating that from the gloom of the battle a new and brighter era was on the horizon.

As we looked up from our vantage point we could observe in the distance the area where we were told the campsite lay and much to our concern could be seen the storm clouds seemingly hanging over the area.

Cabaret Rouge was the next port of call to visit the British cemetery where in excess of 6700 British soldiers lay at rest in rows, defined by headstones with their Regimental cap badges.

Although many of the Regiments have long since disappeared or amalgamated with others there was interest instilled among the cadets as they were tasked to find graves of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

In a quiet ceremony a small cross was laid by a cadet at the grave of an unnamed soldier of the Lincolnshire Regiment whose simple inscription read 'KNOWN UNTO GOD'.

Luckily for us the storm had passed by the time we reached the campsite at Licques for our overnight stay and although small it was very well laid out and had a modern ablution and toilet block. Many of the cadets were rather mystified to approach a cubicle and find not the usual fittings but a tiled hole in the ground with raised oblong blocks on either side on which to place the feet, and, when explanations were offered, looks of disbelief descended on youthful faces, male and female.

24hr ration packs were issued and the cadets and their cadre staff went about the preparation of their evening meal although for some of the cadets this was a new experience and strange were the menus prepared.

The courier, PRO and driver were catered for by the permanent camp staff of Captain Lynn Oram of 1 Company and Officer Cadet Joanne Plummer of East Midlands OTC.

Being 1 hour ahead of the time in England the cadets were far from ready to settle down for the night at 10pm and whispered conversations were to be heard by the patrolling instructors to a late hour. It is the law on campsites in France that all unnecessary noise ceases at 10pm allowing peace and tranquillity to descend. I don't think they had heard of Army Cadets, but, all credit to them, the cadets behaved impeccably; all but two or three who could not resist the dreaded weed and dispersed into the toi-



Lincolnshire ACF cadets lay a cross on a Lincolnshire Regiment grave at Cabaret Rouge.

lets to indulge.

Dawn arose on Monday, as did the party after a short lie in, and the cadets prepared the remains of their comports for breakfast, one finding that boil in the bag stew was quite tasty although he had compared it to what he fed his cat.

By 9:15am we were on the road again for the final of the historical visits to the Atlantic Wall Museum at Audinghen close to Cape Griz-Nez, where it is reputed the film *The Guns of Navarone* was made.

Here the Todt organisation of the German Army in the Second World War built a massive fortified bunker to fire huge 800kg shells at southern England from large rail mounted 280mm calibre guns. On display in the compound was one of the larger mobile guns which was commonly known at the time as Big Bertha.

Much of the bunker is below ground level and the thickness of the walls displays how the Germans were very protective of these locations. Among its many rooms were artefacts of war of many nations: arms, bayonets, swords, radios, grenades, motor cycles and much more to create and nurture the interest of the cadet historians. It was to tax the memories and knowledge of the instructors with the ongoing and incessant questions!

As an added interest before returning to Le Shuttle the group were given the opportunity of a visit to a hypermarket where the cadets could exchange their remaining francs on gifts, but it was observed that most revenue was exchanged for items of food. Guidance and advice was observed and in some cases cadets pooled their resources for a better deal on their purchases, one even buying a pack of 8 cornetto ice-creams which he could then trade with other cadets.

Our final stop in France was at the duty free shop; alright for the more senior members of the group but disappointing for the cadets who were unable to stock up with cigarettes to carry them through to the end of the camp.

The arrival at the terminus was another experience, becoming more interesting when it was noticed that the baggage of the coach ahead was being unloaded at the customs post, stern looking, armed, French customs officers in attendance. When our turn arrived at the post it was explained by our courier, Major Ogg, that we were a school group who had been on a historical and fact finding tour; we were waved through without mishap.

There was a short delay at the terminus as we had to wait for the later Shuttle but the cadets were still in high spirits and remained so even after arrival at Folkestone and the end of the line.

All in all they had been a good disciplined group, a pleasure to have been with and worthy ambassadors for Lincolnshire ACF.

Some of the cadets, when they went forward to the toilets, were concerned that in passing the leading coach they were being sprinkled with water. They were reassured when it was explained that now the air conditioning was in operation it was blowing the moisture from the coaches as we had been subject to a storm prior to loading on Le Shuttle.

This was a different story for some of the cadets on an earlier excursion. It is reported that the driver, Dave, giving the impression he was cleaning the coach windows, had reversed the wiper tubes, gone back to the coach and operated the wipers. Someone called that the tunnel had sprung a leak. Disbelief and horror registered on many faces.

Kimbolton School ACF

Cape March 1996... *Half Term with a difference*

At the end of October a team of two officers, the RSM and eight cadets led by Major Sue Camp from Kimbolton School CCF met in the School car park for what was going to be a trip of a lifetime.

As a result of our marching record at the International 4 day marches at Nijmegen, Holland, the South African Defence Forces had invited us to take part in the 10th Western Province Cape March. This march is a speed marching competition over 87km traversing Table Mountain.

After a journey lasting some 24 hrs we arrived in Johannesburg via Abu Dhabi (6 hr wait). That night we stayed in the Officers' Club at Pretoria before continuing our journey to Cape Town in a C130 via Swaziland and Lesotho to pick up other teams. We were accommodated along with all the other international teams with 9 SA Infantry Training Regiment about 20km outside Cape Town. Getting about was not going to be a problem as our hosts provided a 10 seat minibus for our use. Keen that we made the most of our stay, our hosts took us on a night tour of Cape Town.

On Tuesday we went to have a look at the route. Spectacular is the word I would use to describe our first impressions. To get over the shock we all went swimming at Camps Bay in the afternoon and stayed at a local restaurant for a team dinner in the evening. The next day we went for a two hour pre-breakfast training march. This is when our support driver, Major Tom Dormer (Ex Royal Anglian now 158 Regiment RLC (V)) discovered blisters thanks to a new pair of boots borrowed from his son. More sight seeing in the afternoon with a barbecue in the evening hosted by 9 SAI.

Thursday morning was photo call day at the castle in Cape Town with the GOC Western Province (Major General Lamprecht) followed by a Team Leaders briefing at Silvermine Sports Club. Proceedings were lightened by one African Team Leader asking if they could march in bare feet as they found boots were uncomfortable. The Cadets played a volleyball match against KORBR in the afternoon.

Friday dawned bright and warm, as we gathered in the Main Square in Cape Town along with 215 teams from around the world for the opening ceremony. After speeches by the GOC and Mayor,

prayers were said by the SADF padre, then the Mayor fired a 25pdr gun which was the signal for the teams to move off. A long crocodile snaked its way through the busy streets and up Table Mountain to the first check point (1500ft), where the time starts.

Coming off Table Mountain you take what can only be described as a goat track through a nature reserve down to the Rhodes Memorial. A long stretch of road now through Constantia before the difficult mountain pass at Silvermine and the night stop at Noordhoek.

All the British teams were in good spirits, although the Coldstream Guards had lost a man through heat exhaustion and 1RGBW had also lost one man. The Kimbolton cadets were all going strong although Major Camp's blisters were causing some concern. 47 km had now been completed.

Day 2 of the march started overcast but still very warm. We all set off with a will as today's route is easier- an initial climb up Chapman's Peak where the Body Heat final was filmed- then we followed the coast road back to Cape Town.

With only 10km to go Major Camp was withdrawn from the march by the medics. With the RSM now leading, the team put its head down and started to make up lost time, spurred on by the



Kimbolton School Cadets in South Africa

British Support teams and South African supporters. We finished in style, the second British team home on the road, to a tremendous welcome.

Sunday is R&R day. After a late breakfast at The Strand we drove on down the coast to False Bay and Betty's Bay close to Hermanus where the whales gave birth.

Monday was another very bumpy 6 hour flight in a C130 via Swaziland and Lesotho back to Pretoria. On the Tuesday morning we had a very interesting visit to a SA Engineer Formation cartography unit, followed by a last minute swim/shopping before heading for Johannesburg and the long flight home, this time via Durban, Abu Dhabi and Doha.

We wish to thank all our good friends in South Africa, especially Major Gerhard Botes, whose organisation was superb.

We finished in 90th position with a time of 14 hrs and 11 min.

Uppingham School Shooting Team



The Team being presented with the Shield as Winners of the 49 Bde Cadet Rifle Meeting held at Beckingham Range on Sunday 5 May. The Officer presenting the shield is Captain CV Trott, OC 2 Cadet Training Team.

The Associations



NORFOLK

Benevolent Work Secretary's Report

I have to report that the Association's work of caring for those who fall on hard times continues with the assistance of the Army Benevolent Fund, SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and many other Ex-Servicemens' charities.

Our membership continues to gradually change with the bias moving towards those who served in either the two Former Regiments or who are "pure" Royal Anglians if there is such a being. Inevitably there are more falling out to the Upper Parade Square and the responsibility of seeing that their relatives are cared for accounts for a percentage of the benevolent cases with which I deal. Last year nearly £6,000 was spent from Regimental funds in this cause not forgetting the appreciable additional money received from those other Service funds as a result of almonising.

Chapel

The Chapel Committee would like to register their enormous thanks to Mrs Rosemary Barclay for the flowers she has so dutifully arranged for so many years. Mrs Jeanine Raybould has kindly taken on this task for which we are very grateful.

War Memorial Homes

These never stay empty for long and the work of the group of visitors who report any problems which become obvious is most helpful.

Regimental Museum

Unfortunately we have had to suffer from not only our Curator being made part-time (3 days a week) but also Miss Thaxton has been absent on maternity leave.

The Trustees have however managed to double the Appeal Fund in less than a year and plans exist to increase this even more by obtaining funding for an "educational package". Approval for a stairlift for the back stairs has been given so with luck we should have this installed next year subject to funding. In addition, we have just obtained a substantial grant to fund an educational package to encourage the use of the Museum by more school children.

Few other Regiments have such magnificent Regimental Chapels, War Memorial Homes and a Regimental Museum which is a showpiece and the envy of those Regiments yet to take the cold plunge and move under local authority control with their museums.

The 4th May was a memorable occasion for the Association when the day started with a joint parade for the Lord Mayor of Norwich outside the City Hall. With the Minden Band, 1st Battalion Guard of Honour and Regimental Colour on parade, the spectacle was very apt and colourful and a suitable outward symbol to celebrate the end of World War Two which had not been possible before.

A service in the Cathedral followed which included the Laying Up of the Regimental Colour. There then was a Beating Retreat which in turn was followed by a reception in St Andrew's Hall.

On 1st September many members attended The Royal Anglian Regimental Gathering at Oakington hosted by the 1st Battalion. Again, the links with the young soldier and the old were renewed with the Regimental Colour parading with the Branch Standards.



LINCOLNSHIRE

The Lincolnshire Regimental Association continues to gather new members from those who served with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, 2nd East Anglian Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment. Members from the latter are slowly increasing in numbers and are represented on Branch Committees throughout the Association. We hope this will continue in the coming years and secure the future of the Association.

This year saw the largest delegation of Royal Lincolns attending the Regimental

Gathering for a number of years, with 4 standards and just over 110 members making the long journey to Oakington Barracks to take part in a very successful day.

The annual Regimental reunion, held over the weekend 28/29 Sept in Lincoln, was a great success with the annual general committee meeting and annual general meeting being well attended. The reunion dinner and dance, held in the assembly rooms, was chaired by our president Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright with over 110 members and their guests attending for a very enjoyable evening.

Sunday morning saw those who had stayed over night, including our Chelsea Pensioner Tom Scott, form up at Newport Barracks before marching behind Branch Standards along Newport Road to St. Nicholas Church for morning service, conducted by Canon Brian Wisken, at which the Rev. David Bates, a former member of the Regiment, gave the address.

It was decided at the annual general meeting that the next annual reunion would be a one day affair, to be held in Lincoln on Sunday 28th Sept. 1997.

Visit to the Somme

A small group of Lincolns, armed with two Branch Standards from the Lincoln and Grimsby Branches, recently travelled over to France to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Early on in the morning of the 1st of July they attended a service at the Lochager Crater, which had been the site of an attack by the 10th Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment. Even though only a small number of people managed to attend the service Mick Reams and Albert Leach held the standards at the full for over an hour and raised much comment among the crowd for their steadiness on parade.

Associations



Albert Leach (left) carrying the Grimsby Standard and Mick Reams (right) carrying the Lincoln Standard at Thiepval



The Standard Party being inspected by HRH the Duke of Gloucester at Thiepval

After the service had ended, at approximately 0830 hours, there was just time to stop for breakfast before moving on to the main ceremony being held at Thiepval. Here there were large crowds of people and it wasn't long before the Standards were once again on duty, parading under the monument during the commemoration service. On completion of the service the Standards were quickly re-positioned to line the approach leading to the Cross of Sacrifice where they were inspected by H.R.H the Duke of Gloucester. After all official events had taken place a private wreath-laying ceremony was held by the group at the Stone of Remembrance.

Malayan Reunion

The Annual Malayan Reunion was held in the TA Centre, Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln, on Saturday 5th October. Over 200 attended the function, many from outside the county, at which, to make everyone feel at home, a very hot curry was served. The bar profit was very healthy and there was no shortage of a yarn or two which improved the passage of time.

The Grimsby and Lincoln Standards at the Stone of Remembrance Thiepval



Our thanks must go to the organiser Colin Coggan whose hard work ensure everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Grimsby Branch

A very successful Branch annual reunion luncheon was held at the Beacholme Holiday Centre, Humberston, with many of the members and their guests having travelled considerable distances to attend. We were delighted to have with us as principle guests Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Gerrard-Wright, Lt. Col. & Mrs. Dymoke, Capt & Mrs. Richards and the Rev. David Bates, who, after an excellent lunch, were able to enjoy an afternoon meeting familiar friends.

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and to honour those members of the Regiment who took part, in particular the 10th Battalion known locally as the "Grimsby Chums", a wreath was laid at "La Brassielle" by Mr McInnes of the Grimsby Rotarians on our behalf. The wreath was presented to the Chairman of the Grimsby Rotarians

by the High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, James Milligan-Manby Esq. and Mr A Carrol, Chairman of the Grimsby Branch, during a recent luncheon.

Scunthorpe Branch

The Scunthorpe Branch continues to thrive and recently celebrated its third anniversary since its formation in June 1993. Over 80 members and their guests met on the 7th June in the Wortley Hotel to celebrate in style with the Branch Standard being marched on parade and placed at rest by the Guest of Honour Mr Jack Lindley MM (who had travelled all the way from Norfolk to be with us). It should be noted that Mr Jack Lindley MM has been associated with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment over 70 years, and we, as a Branch, were honoured to have his presence. The M.C. for the evening was none other than our Branch Chairman (Mr Cliff Bromby) who ensured that everyone enjoyed the evening and "a good time was had by all" (in particular the M.C.). Thanks must, once again, go to our Branch Secretary's wife, Rata Jollands, who did a

The Chairman of the Scunthorpe Branch Cliff Bromby presenting Mr Jack Lindley MM to the Branch Anniversary Dinner. Looking on are Mr Doug Hare (Standard Bearer), Barry English and Dennis Pearson Esquires.



Associations

marvellous job of organising the raffle. Also many thanks to all those who kindly donated prizes.

Wednesday 20th September saw 30 members enjoy a trip to Humberside International Airport, which many of the older generation may remember as Kirmington RAF Base during World War Two. The Chairman of the Airport, Councillor David Spooner, gave a very informative talk on its history before being brought fully up to date by the Airport Manager.



The High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, James Milligan-Manby Esq (third from the left), presenting the Lincolnshire Regiment Association wreath to the Chairman of the Grimsby Rotarians, Mr Guy Brown (third from right), closely supervised by Mr Arthur Carroll (centre) Chairman of the Grimsby Branch Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association



SUFFOLK

Visits to Normandy

Veterans of 1 Suffolk who landed on D-Day and served in Normandy 1944 have made two highly successful visits this Summer. The first was to Colleville-Montgomery on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Field Marshal Montgomery on 6 June by Prince Michael of Kent with Viscount Montgomery. The statue was provided under the arrangements made by the Normandy Veterans Association. The Mayor of Colleville-Montgomery, from whose initiative the idea for the statue came, specially invited veterans of the 1st Bn to be present at the ceremony as the Battalion had liberated the place on D-Day. After the ceremony wreaths were laid at Hermanville and Hillman where the Regimental Flag was flying. The day was rounded off by a really marvellous dinner party given by Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment to all 37 of the party - a most generous act on their part.

The second visit was in September when a party of 44 including 22 D-Day veterans spent three days going round not only the old battle fields - Morris and Hillman, Chateau de la Londe, Sannerville and Banneville - but also those of August '44 on the Vire-Tinchebray road when the Battalion took over 300 prisoners. They were met by

local dignitaries and escorted by the Gendarmerie. A 'vin d'honneur' and lunch was given by the inhabitants of Tinchebray and wreaths were laid at four village war memorials and at two wartime temporary graves. The opportunity was taken to visit Pavee and the memorial to Cpl Bates VC 1 Royal Norfolk. Visits to cemeteries of St Charles de Percy, La Deliverande and Banneville were also made. The trip ended with dinner given to Les Amis at a restaurant at Colleville.

Branch Reports

Judging by views expressed by Branches the Minden Day Reunion was considered a great success with increased numbers. The weather was fine and helped make it a special one. Particularly welcome was Martin Bell the well known BBC TV broadcaster, with Suffolk tie, ex 1 Suffolk and Vice President of the Beccles Branch. He joined the Old Comrades in the march past. Other honoured guests were a number of Les Amis from Colleville-Montgomery. The Bury Branch once again did sterling work in organising the day under the management of Major Stan Bullock.

Several Branches reported favourably on the reception given by the 1st Bn Royal Anglian at Oakington Barracks at their open day - even by the Branch that complained about the price of the



John Perret lays a wreath at Bernieres le patry near Tinchebray Alex Bailey in front other Suffolk Regiment Association members on right

beer. Other special events included the FEPOW Reunion at Sudbury on 29 June when the organisation was considered wonderful and service remarkable - drinks and food were free and all FEPOWs received a handsome travelling clock and their ladies flowers.

1st Battalion Colour Party, Minden Day Reunion, Bury St Edmunds



Associations

Also singled out for mention was the Suffolk County Royal British Legion 75th Anniversary at Euston Park on 28 July. Hemel Hempstead Branch as usual makes much of its fund raising efforts. 51 years of SSAFA brought a good response. Beccles continues to be highly

involved in its support for the local Suffolk Army Cadet Force and the museum where an appeal is being made for photographs based on the Suffolk Regiment to be placed on permanent display. Otherwise Branches report continued busy programmes of visits, din-

ner/dances, parades involving standard-bearers and mutual attendance from fellow Branches. Though less hectic than last year with its 50th Anniversary parades, Branches were fully occupied with good turnouts.



Membership is open to past, present, and future members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment and/or successor Units, 629 (Cambridgeshire Regiment) LAA Regiment R.A., 629(Cambridgeshire Regiment) Parachute Light Regiment R.A., Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Regiment, D (Cambridgeshire) Company 6th (V) Bn. Royal Anglian Regiment, 3 (Cambridgeshire) Coy 5th(V) Bn Royal Anglian Regiment, The Suffolk Regiment, The East Anglian Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment who reside in Cambridgeshire, also Officers and Adult Instructors of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, Home Guard badged to the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

New members are welcome and should contact the Secretary at the address above right.

Officers' Dinner Club

Major D.J. Baldry

Sgts' Dinner Club

C.Sgt H.S. Taylor

Britannia & Castle and Castle News

Cambridgeshire Editor

Major D.J. Baldry

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Old Comrades Association:

Patron	Lieutenant Colonel ELV Mapey OBE TD
President	Colonel WF Page MC TD
Chairman	Major DR Haslam TD
Secretary	Major MA Jarvis
	1 Witham Close, St Ives, Cambs. PE17 6DY
	Tel: (01638) 665926 (Office)
	(01480) 380234 (Home)
Treasurer	Maj KJ Starling

Future Events

Event	Date	Day	Time	Location
Regimental Council	16th March	Sun	10am	Waterbeach
Officers' Dinner	12th April	Sat	7pm for 7.30	Waterbeach
Annual Service of Remembrance & Re-union	8th June	Sun	2pm for 2.30	Ely
Minden Day Re-union	3rd Aug	Sun	11.30am	Bury St Edmunds
OCA AGM	21st Sept.	Sun	14.30	Masonic Hall, Ely

News from the Branches

Wisbech

Branch Secretary Major David Denson reports that over the last year the Branch has continued to meet regularly on the last Friday of each month and its membership remains at 35.

In September of last year the Members at its AGM re-elected its Branch Officers and a new Social Committee:

Chairman: John Russell

Treasurer: Alex Bennett

Secretary: David Denson

The Branch was pleased to welcome Major General Gerrard-Wright to its

Annual Dinner last October with over 50 members and guests attending. As usual the Cambridgeshire silver was on show and much appreciated. In November the Branch attended a number of social events including dances, carol services and the usual New Year's Eve party. Regrettably other social functions have not been so well supported.

We were pleased to be well represented at the Ely Parade. By way of relaxation some members of the Branch escaped out of Wisbech to visit the Tower of London during the evening to observe the Ceremony of the Keys. Reluctantly the guard opened the gates and let the members leave. It was noted that some members would have preferred to stay in the

Associations

most excellent bar where we were made most welcome.

It is with great sadness that the Branch records the death of its Welfare Officer and most popular member, Horace Plitch.

Ely

The Secretary reports that they are a small Branch but try to take part in most functions. In November on Armistice Day wreaths were laid in the Regimental Chapel on behalf of the Association; also at the City War Memorial. Regrettably members were unable to attend at Westminster.

Next we attended the St George's Day Service in Ely Cathedral which was followed by the AGM; six members attended and decided to carry on. We attended Minden Day celebrations at Bury St Edmunds and the opening of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Museum at Duxford. We were very impressed with the amount of work put into this. We attended the Regimental Gathering at Oakington.

We regret to report the death of Mr E Wayman.

Cambridge

The Branch reports that they had a quiet year.

March

The Branch reports a quiet year but says it is functioning well. They had raised £199.95 from a jumble sale and their Branch bank balance was good. So far as they were aware, they had attended all the functions which had been organised during the year.

Whittlesey & Peterborough

The Branch has managed to survive another year. It is hard when there are no new Cambridgeshires to keep up the membership. However, we have had five new members, 3 ACF (Cambridgeshires) and 2 ex Suffolks.

We are now have 42 members including: FEPOWs, 10 Cambridgeshires, 1 Royal Artillery, 1 REME, 1 Middlesex Regt.

The remainder are Cambridgeshire Regt, 629 Para, 1 Cambs TA, Suffolk Regt and Adult ACF.

20 of the 42 are active and attend functions and meetings. Officers of the Branch continue as before and our annual functions and meetings are:

The AGM, the Ely Reunion, a barbecue in conjunction with the Northampton

shire and Royal Anglian Association (Peterborough Branch), the Annual Church Service at Whittlesey in September, the Annual Regimental Branch Dinner in October. and a Christmas Social Evening in December.

Branch funds are small as our only income is raffles and subscriptions. The Branch supports all the Association events and also those of the British Legion and Ex-Servicemens' events in Peterborough and the surrounding district.

Looking to the future, it appears that the Branch must rely more and more on the Cambridgeshire Army Cadets who will eventually take control when the Old Cambridgeshires either pass away or become too old to continue at the helm.

Snippets from the OCA AGM 22nd September 96

It was confirmed that under the Constitution approved in 1990, members of the Home Guard who were badged to the Regiment were entitled to be members of the Association.

It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Mrs Roy Stubbings to thank her for arranging the flowers in the Regimental Chapel and to Mrs Flood (widow of Major David Flood) for her offer to take over this responsibility.

The Treasurer reported that the accounts were healthy. It was agreed that the profit from the Lamb Hotel Lunch on the day of the Annual Service should be transferred to the general account. It was also agreed that the £500 legacy from Colonel Ennion should go to the Museum Fund.

The Chairman reported that no further work on the Regimental Chapel was proposed at present. The two chairs were dedicated earlier in the year. The funds are in good order and stand at approximately £20,000.

The Annual Service date has been agreed as 8th June 1997. It was agreed that the ACF Band should be invited to attend and march at the rear end of the Parade leading the ACF Unit. Also that the Standards and Escorts should parade. It is intended that there should be a rehearsal on the day at 13.30 at Barton Road. The tea ticket will now cost £2 each.

Annual Reunion

The Annual Service and Re-union took place on 9th June 1996 at the Cathedral with tea at the Hayward Theatre afterwards. The preacher on this occasion was

the Archdeacon of Ely. Some 250 tickets were sold and our stalwart caterers again provided tea, sandwiches and cakes. At the last minute we were delighted to learn that the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion now stationed at Oakington Barracks wished to attend and lead the March Past. We were pleased to accommodate them, having first ensured that the City of Ely Military Band, who have served so well in the past, were happy with this arrangement.

The Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden, took the Salute, accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ely. For the first time in several years, we were pleased to see a contingent representing the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force on Parade and it is hoped that this will again become a regular feature.

Mr Les Oakley reports that he has the database containing details of all the Regiment's graves and Commemorations of all those who fell in both World Wars and would be pleased to pass on any information to those interested. His address is 47c Prickwillow Road, Ely, CB7 4QR Tel: 01353 662931.

From the Cambridge Evening News June 13th 1996 "Looking Back" item.

From the News of June 1946: By a unanimous vote, Cambridge Town Council approved the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough on the Cambridgeshire Regiment. The Mayor, who moved that this should be done, said that everyone was proudly conscious of the gallant way in which, during the War, they had upheld the finest traditions of their Service in the most severe ordeals and trials.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

Patron: Mr JGP Crowden K.St.J JP, Lord Lieutenant.

President: Colonel WF Page MC TD.

Chairman: Colonel JP Macdonald, 15 Wimpole Road, Great Eversden, Cambridge CB3 7HR. Tel: 01223 263293

Museums Update

The tedious task of cataloguing items is continuing. We are fortunate to have a store room available at the TA Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, and the County Conservator will view the store and advise appropriately.

We will also have to consider what items

will go to the Ely Museum. The Trustees of the Ely Museum naturally want to reflect the activities in Ely and the old Isle of Ely, so, in the main, items to be displayed would be those of H Company of the Volunteers, together with items relating to the Ely Company of the TA Battalion, Home Guards and Cadets.

There will be ongoing costs to maintain the Duxford display and the need for fund-raising is now desperately important. We have been fortunate to be able to add on our insurance to the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum next door, which will keep our costs down. Whilst the Ely improvements will cost us nothing, however, all Regimental Branches will be contacted for help in raising funds. It has been suggested that funds could be diverted from the Chapel Fund which is now double its original target, but there are substantial difficulties in doing this and at present help from this quarter is unlikely in the near future.

Reduced admission charges to Duxford Museum can be obtained by presenting a Royal Anglian Regiment Association Membership Card. To obtain one of these free of charge ask your Branch Secretary, who will request them in bulk from the OCA Secretary, Major Jarvis.

Obituaries

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

Rolfe

Captain Garnet Rolfe died on 20th September 1996 aged 70 years. A service of thanksgiving was held at St Nicholas Church on 9th October. After being invalided out of the Army he joined the Cambridgeshire Army Cadets until re-organisation in the late 1950s serving with distinction for many years including being in command of the Newmarket Company. He was an active member of the Rifle Club and led an ACF team to Bisley. In his capacity as a telecommunications expert he was seconded to NATO for several years. In the early days of the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme he became an examiner and assisted with its formation in the area.

Potts

Mr William Potts of Mablethorpe died at the end of May 1996. He served in the Regiment and was taken prisoner at Singapore.

Wayman

Sgt E Wayman died 20th August 1996 aged 80 years. He joined the TA at Ely in 1939 in the 2nd Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment and was in the MG Platoon. Taken prisoner at Singapore, worked on the Burma-Siam railway and was POW for 3 1/2 years.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

Col Pat MacDonald writes:

As most active Cambridgeshires will know, the Regiment's Collection was officially opened at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Tuesday 27 August 1996 by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Lord Lieutenant. The principle guests included the Director General of the IWM, Mr Robert Crawford, the Chairman of the County Council, Chairmen of the District Councils (or their deputies), the Mayors of Cambridge, Ely and Wisbech and Chairmen or deputies of Parish Councils across the County who had responded to the Appeal launched in June 1995. The Regiment was represented by the Deputy Honorary Colonel (TA) (Cambridgeshire), the CO and OC D Company of the 1st Battalion, OC D Company and the Adjutant of the 6th Battalion, the County Cadet Commandant and members of the ACF. The RBL was well represented as were members of all Branches of the OCA. The reception was kindly organised and smoothly run by Major Derek Baldry and Colour Sergeant Herbie Taylor, assisted by members of the ACF. A strong and cheerful party from D (Cambridgeshire) Company, 6th

Battalion, led by Company Sergeant Major Martin Bessell, acted as guides and ushers. Without this unstinting support, the event could have not been the success it clearly was.

The ceremony was set in motion by Colonel Walter Page's welcoming remarks. He made a presentation of an

engraved whisky glass to Martin Boswell in recognition of his untiring work in setting up the display. The Colonel of the Regiment spoke next, emphasising the anchor role which the Counties and their Territorials had played in the recent upheavals in the Army, caused by Options for Change - and how much the Regiment would continue to rely on this



L to R: Mr Stephen Woolford and Mr Martin Boswell, Imperial War Museum, Colonel WF Page, President of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association, Mr Robert Crawford, Director General IWM, Major General PPD Stone, Colonel of the Regiment, and Mr JGP Crowden, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire at the official opening of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

Associations

valuable support. He invited the Lord Lieutenant to open the Collection. Mr James Crowden reviewed the high points of the Cambridgeshire Regiment's life from the early Volunteer days through service in South Africa, the 1st Battalion's worthy record in the 1st World War, to the tragedy befalling both Battalions at Singapore. The story did not end there, he added, and he reminded us of the days in the light anti-aircraft role and as airborne troops after that. He recalled the return to the infantry fold in 1956 and events which led on from there to today and D (Cambridgeshire) Company, 6th Battalion. The Lord Lieutenant mentioned the valuable role played on the home front by the Home Guard and he highlighted the part played, since the war, by the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force: how in the Regiment's dark and thin days, the Cadets had kept the torch alight. Before opening the Collection, Mr Crowden quoted from Rupert Brooke:

"For England's the one land I know,
where men with splendid hearts may go;
and Cambridgeshire of all England, the
shire for men who understand."

Guests then visited the Collection and all commented very favourably. Many visited the new Royal Anglian Regiment Museum next-door.

From the launch of the Appeal to opening was only 14 months. A very great deal of work was packed into that small span of time and credit for it is due in many places. Firstly, thanks are directed to all those friends and members of the Regiment who gave so generously towards our Appeal for £12,500. In the event, we passed our target handsomely, raising over £18,000 by a healthy margin. Secondly, thanks must go to the Trustees and, particularly, the staff of the IWM. Of these, especial gratitude from us all must go to Stephen Woolford, Head of Education and Exhibitions, and his Deputy, Martin Boswell. Their infectious enthusiasm is a thread running through the whole process. There are many others to whom the Regiment is in debt: they would all acknowledge that there is not space enough to list all and would accept, instead, a simple, but very warm, thank you.

However, the story's happy ending has a black cloud on the horizon. We are broke!

Briefly, the IWM had to announce, in July, that their original estimate of costs (£12,500) was short of what was materialising and the revised figure was now to be £23,200, leaving us about £5,000 short. The funds we have are invested by RHQ with their charitable investments so some interest is accruing: but not enough. In addition, of course, there will be continuing calls on our resources, which we estimate will be not less than £700 a year. We have ideas about how we might raise this shortfall; one of them is to ask readers of *Castle* for their help, please. (We shall be following-up other ideas during the Winter) If you do wish to respond to the additional cry for help, please send your donation to me at: 15, Wimpole Road, Great Eversden, Cambridge CB3 7HR. Cheques, etc., should be made payable as before to: 'The Cambridgeshire Regiment OCA (IWM Appeal)'. Thank you.

Mr Martin Boswell, Imperial War Museum, writes:

Having never really had an appropriate location that is truly our 'own', with the exception of some small token displays in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, the Regiment now enjoys a high profile site next door to its prestigious neighbour, the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum.

Colonel Pat MacDonald, who had been appointed Chairman of the Guardians of this collection by the Regiment's Council, was co-ordinator and master-minded the appeal for funds. This exciting project took just 10 weeks to build (I defy Anneka Rice to do better).

There are many objects on display that testify to a unique and distinguished history of this fine Regiment and the less informed visitor is often surprised to discover that the Cambridgeshire's pedigree, at least since 1860, has always been as part-time soldiers.

Many of those items exhibited have come to light only recently as a result of personal contact with a variety of people connected with the Regiment and therefore have never been seen on public display. A very notable exception though are three of the Regiment's drums that are of great significance. These drums were hidden in 1942, prior to the Japanese taking

Singapore Island and with it the ill-fated troops of the 18^(East Anglian) Division. The Singapore Drums as they would be later known are the stuff of legend, for while both Cambridgeshire Battalions went into the POW bag enduring 31/2 years of cruelty and tropical disease, the drums remained defiantly undisturbed until after the war when this time the Japanese were now prisoners.

Fifty years after these events the Singapore Drums still symbolize great pride, surviving intact in a bitter chapter of the Regiment's history. So imagine the surprise if you will when on the occasion of the opening we were able to introduce for the first time the man responsible for hiding the Drums in a hotel out-building, Mr Ron Kitson, and Mrs Mary Dawson nee Taylor, who as a Red Cross Welfare Officer later discovered them and returned them safely home. Indeed there was a great feeling of history being made!

Should anyone have any queries regarding the new exhibition, please telephone or write to:

Mr Martin Boswell,
Exhibitions Co-ordinator
(Cambridgeshire Regiment Archivist)
Imperial War Museum,
Duxford Airfield,
Duxford,
Cambs CB2 4QR.

Tel: 01223 835000 Ext 271



Meeting for the first time, Ex Sgt Ron Kitson and Mrs Mary Dawson. (Photo IWM)



BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE

The Hertford Branch celebrated its sixty years of unbroken service to the Association, since it was formed on 11 June 1936, and long may the Branch continue. It is now the senior Branch of the Association. On its formation in 1936 the Branch Secretary was Mr Charles Mansfield and he continued as such until 12 October 1951. The present Secretary is his son Stan Mansfield who has also organised the Association's very successful Annual Dinner and Dance for the last twenty years or so.

Vandals and thieves have been active of late painting rude words on the front wall of the Regiment's Memorial Gardens in Kempston. Flowers have been stolen and four lengths of wire from the garden railings have disappeared. The wall has since been cleaned and the wire replaced. Lieutenant Colonel Young had brought down from Yorkshire 54 lavenders and a number of other shrubs for the Memorial Gardens, a generous gift which is much appreciated. These with other evergreens have now been planted by the gardener. The grass has been cut and the beds weeded regularly throughout the Summer, making the gardens much admired by visitors and passers by.

The re-furbishment of the Regimental Museum at Luton is now complete and the Museum Sub-Committee is looking for new acquisitions. Lieutenant Colonel Bagstaff attended a meeting in London on 2 April 1996 arranged by the Army Museums Ogilby Trust. At the meeting it was resolved to oppose an MOD decision to reduce financial support for Army Museums, affecting especially those Museums housed in MOD accommodation. Provisional Registration status has now been granted to the 16th Foot Museum and it is now eligible for governments grants, etc. A one hundred per cent inventory of the 16th Foot Museum property has now been completed. A Battalion flag flown in North Africa and donated by ex- Provost Sergeant Jack Sharman who now lives in New Zealand is one of the many items recently handed over to the Museum.

Association Dinner And Dance - 1996

The Association Dinner this year was attended by over two hundred members, wives and friends on Saturday 20 April 1996. A party from the Essex Regiment Association also attended with their President Colonel Geoffrey Morgan and Mrs Morgan. The evening started in the usual way by marching in the Branch Standards. As a Tribute to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment they were then marched out to its Regimental March, 'The Lincolnshire Poacher'. Among the guests was Lieutenant Colonel David Clements MBE, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, who in his speech gave an update on the Battalion's present activities. The evening ended in its traditional way with everyone present marching round the hall to our old Regimental March, 'Mandolinata'.

16th Foot Officers' Lunch, Chicheley Hall

Some twenty two officers, wives and widows turned up on a damp day for the annual 16th Foot Officers' Lunch at Chicheley Hall, Bedfordshire, on Thursday 4 July 1996. For the first time lunch had to be served indoors. Notwithstanding this those who made the journey enjoyed a good lunch and were able to renew friendships in a very cosy atmosphere.

Association Members' Visit to the 2nd Battalion

The Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, when he spoke at the

Association Dinner, commented that he wished to strengthen the links between the Battalion, the Counties and the Old Comrades Branches. He then extended an invitation for Association members to visit the Battalion. Thus it was that eighteen members of the Association were invited to be at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, on Thursday 18 July.

The visitors were met by the Commanding Officer as they entered the Officers' Mess and over coffee he gave them a detailed briefing on the role of the Battalion at Warminster as a Combat Group. The old comrades were then handed over to the OC of A Company, Major Gaskin, who took them to the ranges to show them Warrior APCs and static displays from other members of the Combat Group, Challenger Tanks of the 9/12th Lancers and the 'funnies' of the Armoured Engineers.

The CQMS of 'A' Company had set up a field kitchen in a shady area within a clump of trees. Sealed rations in bags were simmering in water and each member was given a choice of steak, corned beef hash, chicken, pasta or a breakfast of sausage and beans. The bag selected was extracted from the water and the contents tipped into an expendable mess tin. The food was hot and tasty. There were chocolate bars to follow and a hot drink of sweet tea. The meals of our old army days seemed rather Heath Robinson by comparison!

At the end of lunch Warrior APCs arrived and the Association members were split into five groups and given safety instructions and offered the chance of driving and putting one of the Warriors through its paces. All who drove thought the whole experience was exhilarating. It was then back to camp where all were



Members of The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association on their visit to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Warminster on 18 July 1996 learning the rudiments of the 81mm Mortar.

News From the Branches



Lining up for mid-day rations in the field.

invited to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess for a farewell drink before the long drive home. A big thank you to the 2nd Battalion for a most enjoyable and memorable day.

1st Battalion Reunion 1951-54

Over seventy former National Servicemen who served with the 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment in Egypt during 1951-54 attended a reunion at the Stotfold Social Club, Bedfordshire, on Saturday 29 June 1996. Many travelled from outside the two counties coming from Norfolk, Suffolk, Northamptonshire, Birmingham and London to meet colleagues they had not seen for over fifty years. The evening was soon awash with now older comrades, swapping stories about their experiences in the somewhat hostile environment of the Canal Zone.

The evening reunion was organised by Mr Ron Hope, who served with the 1st Battalion as a L/Corporal in 'D' Cadre Company in Egypt. The guest speaker was Major Horace Parker who served with the Battalion throughout its tour of duty in the Canal Zone. He reminded those present of the role played by National Servicemen in that area and in Cyprus during that period. He congratulated Ron Hope and thanked him on behalf of everybody present for an excellent evening and proposed the toast of 'The Regiment and Absent Friends'.

Mr Clem Lewin was invited to read his nineteen verse poem of his 'Memories of the Canal Zone' which was well received, but the full text, even if we had the space, could not be published for obvious reasons!

Many of the ex-1st Battalion members brought their wives, grown up children and friends to the gathering. An excellent buffet was provided with a specially made cake iced with the canal, pyramids and palm trees produced for the occasion by Ron's daughter and niece. Such a success was this gathering that it is planned to arrange another for May or June next year.

The Royal Anglian Regimental Gathering

Many Association members attended the Regimental Gathering which was hosted by the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Oakington, Cambridgeshire, on 1st September. A little difficult to find as a signpost at the last roundabout was sited on the wrong side of the road, sending quite a few cars racing back towards Cambridge. Anyway we know where the Barracks are now for next year.

The day of course, was marred by the death of Captain Tom Bullock MBE, and during the Drumhead Service our thoughts were with Tom's widow and family.

The Association members with their Standard marched past the Colonel of the Regiment with members of the Essex Regiment Association to marches played by the Royal Anglian TA Band. The 1st Battalion laid on some very interesting static displays in the afternoon for members to browse around, the young soldiers in charge being keen to demonstrate their weaponry and equipment. The Watford & Hemel Hempstead Branch came third in the Association Shooting Competition. The day ended with a fine music and marching display by the Minden Band of The Queen's Division.

Besides attending the Association Dinner and Dance and the Regimental Gathering at Oakington, members of the Bedford Branch had a good day's outing to Southend-on-sea. The journey time was about two hours and a very friendly Forces Club made us welcome. Three of the Branch attended the official opening of The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum at Duxford. A couple of glasses of wine and three very good speeches. Very smart and worth a visit. A most pleasant evening was spent at a barbecue on the 5th July which was held at Harrold in the grounds of Mr 'Toby' Dobson's home. He has very kindly given the Branch much support for which we thank him. The ale was £1 a pint, the barrel being emptied without a problem. It was a great success due to the efforts of Eric Two, Lisa and Trevor Cox, John Baggardige and Karen and Dennis Wooton. On 6 August members visited the Charles Wells Brewery, which went down a treat, both the visit and the ale, and on 14 September the Branch had a very successful dinner at 'The Keep' at Kempston. The old Association Union Standard has now been framed and it has been suggested that it be hung in 'The Keep'.

Over the holiday period little has happened in the Hertfordshire Branch, although a party of ten did travel to Warminster to be guests of the 2nd Battalion who made us most welcome. One of the highspots of the day was the opportunity to drive a Warrior armoured vehicle which was thoroughly enjoyable. Although the Branch was formed 60 years ago no celebration was planned. Over these years we have held our monthly meetings at the TA Drill Hall; sadly, we have had to make other arrangements as the TAVR now insist on charging for the use of the Hall. This we think is a poor return for those years of support the Branch has always given the TA.

The Watford & Hemel Hempstead Branch held an enjoyable 'fifties' night at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday 30 March. The group playing was the 'Reflections' whose lead singer and guitarist Tony Beadle served in the 1st Battalion at Tidworth and Goslar. Thirty of the Branch members attended the Association Annual Dinner and Dance which once again proved a great evening. In June £250 was raised by three members at a car boot sale. The money raised plus £50 from the Branch funds was donated to the St Francis Hospice. On Saturday 6 July a coach party of Branch members went to

Associations

Turners at Northampton for a very enjoyable 'Sixties' night. On 18 July four members travelled to Warminster to visit the 2nd Battalion and on Sunday 28 July some members went to Bisley with the Trubore Shooting Club.

Since the last report the Hitchin Branch has had its Summer outing when 35 members and friends set out for Sandringham on 21 July. Before entering and touring the grounds and House, we enjoyed a pre-arranged meal at the Estate restaurant. Leaving for home around 5:30pm, it having been a very hot day, we decided to call at 'The Travellers Rest' at Chittering to replace some of the lost fluid, which made a fitting end to a perfect day out. Other outings for this period were to Haileybury College for 'Beating the Retreat' on 15 June, a few members joining with the local Royal British Legion for this event, at which our Standard was carried by Don Randall, who, incidentally, also carried the Branch Standard the very next day for the Legions 75th Anniversary Parade in Hitchin. A coach was arranged to take Branch members to the Horse Guards to see the Royal Marines 'Beat Retreat' on 12 June. A number of our members attended the Royal British Legion Tattoo and Reunion in London on 15 December for the Christmas Carol Concert, with a stop for a meal on the home run. On Saturday 21 December, thirty three members and friends will be attending our annual Christmas Dinner at the Firs Hotel at Hitchin.

The Luton and Dunstable Branch held a Coffee Morning at the Dunstable Methodist Church Hall on 25 May and made a profit for the Branch, after

expenses, of £93. A coach trip to Eastbourne on 29 June was a great success and a good time was had by all. Our friends from the Normandy Veterans joined the party and helped fill some of the seats. Besides the Branch being represented at all the Association and Regimental Gatherings, some members and their wives went on the Annual Dunkirk Veterans' Pilgrimage from 31 May to 5 June, this being the 56th Anniversary of the Evacuation. We travelled over on the ferry from Ramsgate to Ostend with members of the local Dunkirk Association and while there attended a remembrance service at the village of De Paradise, where 95 soldiers of The Royal Norfolk Regiment were massacred by the SS. Each year this service of remembrance is held in their honour, when the villagers lay on food and liquid refreshments and old comrades are united. There were four big marches and a service of dedication on the beaches of Dunkirk where wreaths were laid in honour of the fallen. The Branch Secretary, Selwyn Chapman, carried, with pride, the Branch Standard on all these parades. Although the 'Bedfords' were one of the many Regiments at Dunkirk, we believe it was the first time that a Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association Standard has had the honour of being represented at any of these events. The Standard Bearer and members were being continually asked by onlookers which branch of the Services the Standard represented as it was unlike any of the other ex-Service Standards taking part in the parades. A car load from the Branch had a most enjoyable day at Warminster as guests of the 2nd Battalion.

Hertfordshire Regiment

As you may understand this past year has been one of upheaval, with the passing of Major Colin Albany TD, who as Secretary was the backbone of the Association. This, with the death of our President Colonel Stanley Burr TD in August this year, has been a severe blow to us all. In the last week we have also lost one of our staunch committee members, Mr Alf Page of Ware. The Chairman of the Association, Major Peter Burgess, has temporarily taken over the duties of the Secretary until a successor is found.

We held a very good Spring Supper gathering in March with an excellent meal which was followed by entertainment including music by a young organist with music and a sing-along.

A group of members attended the Royal Tournament with members of the local Royal British Legion and a splendid evening was had by all. Several members of the Association attended the visit to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Warminster with Mr Stan Mansfield's Hertford Branch. An excellent day out with members enjoying a chance to drive a Warrior Personnel Carrier, which reminded them of their Bren Gun carrier days in Italy during the war.

Obituaries

Lord Luke, 2nd Baron of Pavenham, died on 25 May 1996 aged 91. Served as 2IC 5th Battalion and CO the 9th Battalion.

Colonel Stanley Burr TD, late of The Hertfordshire Regiment, President of The Hertfordshire Regiment Association, died on 1 August 1996.

Mr Harry Chapman died December 1995 as did

Mr Evan Evans. Both had served in the 1st Battalion in India and as Chindits.

Mr Harold Govey died on 14 July 1996. Corporal 2nd Battalion 1940-46.

Mr W Hall on 27 February. Served with the 2nd Battalion.

Mr Joe Hodby died on 28 March 1996 aged 73. Served in North Africa, Italy and Greece with the 2nd Battalion.

Mr Thomas Ware died on 19 July 1996. Served in North Africa with the 2nd Battalion.

Mr Peter Kilby died on 18 July 1996, aged 79. Served with the 6th Battalion and 1/7th Queens.

Mr Tom Morley died on 2 August 1996, aged 76. Served with the 2nd Battalion in the BEF, CSM 5th Battalion TA and past Chairman of the Bedford Branch.

Mr A Bennet TD passed away on 16 September 1996, aged 83. Served in the 5th Battalion as Lieutenant, captured at Singapore and was a FEPW.

Associations



Col JCD Heggs DL succeeded Col WG Dawson TD DL as Chairman of the Association on 1 July 1996 and Lt Col FAH Swallow OBE succeeded Lt Col J L Wilson DL as Secretary on 27 May 1996.

Royal Tigers' Weekend this year reverted to the usual format. On 22 June the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held, attended by 58 members. After unanimous resolution by the meeting, Colonel Bill Dawson and Lieutenant Colonel John Wilson were made Honorary Life Members by the President.

The 71st annual dinner was held at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. It was most pleasing to report that once again the attendance was good, with over 160 sitting down, which is admirable. The President of the Association, Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE, presided.

In his speech at the conclusion of dinner, the President thanked the two outgoing Association officers for their Sterling work over many years. He echoed the views of many old Tigers in saying what an excellent parade we had all enjoyed when the Royal Anglian Regiment had been granted the Freedom of the City of Leicester the previous weekend. Royal Tigers Wood was a marvellous living memorial to the Regiment, with almost all the trees doing extremely well. It had survived the drought and was really beginning to look delightful. The President concluded his address by thanking the 7th Battalion and the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire ACF for all their help with the arrangements for the weekend. After the General had proposed the Loyal Toast and the Toast to The Regiment, the reunion continued, both bars trading happily into the night.

On Sunday the weather was kind for the Annual Service in Leicester Cathedral, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the Lord Mayor of Leicester, the Vice Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and the Assistant Chief Constable of Leicester. The Provost of Leicester took the service

and the preacher was the Rev Canon James Clarke. The Standard of the Association was carried by Mr RE Jones. After the service, the civic dignitaries supported the Lord Lieutenant when he took the salute as the Association marched past. After the usual march to the Town Hall and dismissal, members returned to the TA Centre to continue the reunion. This year solid sustenance was added to the usual liquid variety, and as this proved extremely popular it will be repeated in future years.

It was another very successful weekend, which would not have been possible without so much support from 7 R ANGLIAN. Their willing assistance is very much appreciated by us all.

On 10 September Fred Norwich and John Sheppard represented the Association at the 100th birthday party of a Somme veteran, ex-Private John Wilson, at the Bradgate Suite at Filbert Street. He had been sent a telegram and he was presented with a Regimental tie and some of his favourite sherry. It was a very happy, successful and memorable occasion.

The annual reunion of the 50th/8th/1st Battalion was brought forward to the last Saturday in September to allow members to take advantage of better weather. There were 24 members present, most of them familiar faces from the previous years, and they had an excellent evening. Again, they expressed their sincere thanks to 7 R ANGLIAN for use of the TA Centre, and to the barman and caretaker who arranged an excellent buffet and who both contributed enormously to the success of the evening. Next year's reunion will be on 27 September 1997.

The Chairman of the Association visited Princetown on 20 October for the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Princetown Battlefield State Park, dur-

ing which the 1777 battle was re-enacted. This is seen as a very important event in American history. It marked the turn of the tide in the fortunes of General George Washington.

On 3 January 1777, as he was successfully slipping round the left flank of Lord Cornwallis's Force, he was seen by Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood of the 17th Regiment Foot (later The Royal Leicestershire Regiment) who were marching to Trenton to reinforce Cornwallis. Mawhood quickly re-deployed his Battalion and engaged the enemy and, indeed, attacking with bayonet, put what turned out to be Washington's flank guard to rout; but the 17th Foot were heavily outnumbered, something like twenty to one (244 all ranks against Washington's force variously estimated at not less than between 5,000 and 6,000 troops). After several hours of very hard fighting, Washington had the 17th Foot totally surrounded. The Regiment, unaided and with no hope of any reinforcement, eventually, and again with the use of bayonet, broke out and joined Lord Cornwallis, thus achieving their original aim. That is a brief resume of a very sharp but important action. Because of their exemplary conduct the 17th Foot were allowed to display the uninterrupted laurel wreath around the Tiger Badge on Regimental collar-dogs. The Battlefield State Park authorities invited Colonel Heggs to give a presentation on the Battle from the British point of view and he jumped at the chance! The site of the battlefield is a beautiful place. The enthusiasm of the "re-enactors" of the Battle had to be seen to be believed, as did the kindness and hospitality extended to him as their guest. The title of his presentation was "The Battle of Princetown - WE DON'T THINK WE LOST" (by an officer of the 17th Regiment of Foot). They listened very attentively, but it is still not clear if the Americans got the full message!

3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon, 11 October

The following attended the 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon at Warley on 11 October 1996:

Colonel and Mrs D Lacey
Colonel and Mrs GCP Morgan
Colonel and Mrs RA Shervington
Colonel CAF Thomas
Lieutenant Colonel TDA Veitch

Major and Mrs JA Bacon
Major JA Girdwood
Major and Mrs JG Hancock
Major DJ Thorogood
Major PH Williamson MBE



Annual Reunion 1996

The annual reunion was held on 6th and 7th July. The various Regimental meetings and the Dinner were held on the Saturday and the Comrades' Church Parade and Reunion on the Sunday.

The dinner was held, as usual, in the TA Centre with 190 members in attendance. General Sir John Akehurst presided and proposed the toasts of "The Queen" and our "Colonel-in-Chief". General Akehurst said that telegrams of good wishes had been received from Her Majesty The Queen and from HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, in reply to loyal telegrams sent to them earlier. In his speech General Akehurst welcomed all the comrades present, but especially Mr Henry Chater (who had been made an Honorary Member of the Association on his 100th Birthday) and Mr. Jack Saunders. They had both fought on the Somme and still lived in Northampton. He then introduced the new Area Secretary before thanking his predecessor for his excellent work on behalf of the Association. He presented Lt Col Wilson with some Regimental silverware mounted in a special case, a mantelpiece clock and a cheque towards a greenhouse, the money for which had been donated as a result of an appeal by the Chairman. The President thanked all those responsible for the excellent arrangements and meal, before proposing the toast to "The Regiment".

The next day the weather was good for the Church Parade. The turnout was as good as ever and the march, headed by The Royal Anglian Regiment TA Band, was enjoyed by marchers and spectators alike. The Church Service was well attended and as usual stimulating. The address was given by the Rev Keith Anderson, the vicar of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After the service the parade returned to Gibraltar Barracks for dismissal, en route giving an "eyes right" to the Mayor of Northampton, who took the salute, and to our President.

4th Northampton (1939-1946) 50th All Ranks Dinner

The 4th Battalion celebrated its half-century with their annual, and sadly last, dinner at the TA Centre, Clare Street,

Northampton on Friday 3 May 1996. 76 comrades and chauffeurs attended. A moment's silence recalled the deaths of members who had died since last year. After Grace by the President, Peter Scopes, the comrades launched in to a fine meal prepared by Mr and Mrs Wragg. In addition, Mrs Wragg had made a splendid celebratory cake, decorated with the Regimental badge, to mark the occasion. After speeches and toasts, James Braddock presented Regimental shields to three members of the Committee for long and outstanding service to the Reunion - Peter Scopes, a founder member with a 100% attendance record and Treasurer from 1963; Freddie Bells, for a 100% attendance record and for many years on the Committee, and Victor Harding for the duties of Secretary and Chairman from 1981. As a result of the poll which had decided that this should be the last reunion of its kind, the Chairman called for all-out support for the Regimental Weekend held on the first weekend in July each year. He suggested, as a start, if not already a member, joining the Comrades' Association, for which life subscription costs £1. There are two Newsletters published each year, in May and November.

A warm welcome had also been extended by the 70th Battalion to 4th Battalion Reunion Association members to their annual dinner in Kettering each October.

A notable reunion closed on a somewhat reflective note.

5th Battalion The Northampton Regiment (78th Battle-axe Division)

The 5th Battalion held its 8th reunion luncheon on Sunday 19 May 1996 at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, near Rutland Water. The host, Major Donald Girdwood, welcomed all the ladies and gentlemen and presented the ladies with attractive posies. After the Exhortation given by Mr N Mann and Grace said by Major Derek Hooton, Major Girdwood asked the assembly to stand and observe a short silence to mark the death since the last luncheon of Eddie McAlwane and of those others who were no longer with us. He also read out apologies from comrades unable to attend owing to illness.

Following a most enjoyable meal the guest of honour, Major RK Hill TD DL, proposed the Toasts to Her Majesty The Queen, HRH Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and The Regiment.

In conclusion we again extend our grateful thanks and appreciation to our gener-

ous benefactor who sponsors the luncheon and to Gordon Isom for his hard work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the reunion.

Peterborough Branch

The Branch was invited to attend the very fine parade in Peterborough on 30 March 1996 when the 5th Battalion Colours were laid up in the Cathedral and the new Regiment was rebadged to Royal Logistic Corps. We record our thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Baylis and his RSM who have gone out of their way to help our Branch and make it welcome on so many occasions. We wish the RLC well in their new role and hope they continue to host our reunion dinners in Peterborough.

In April, following the rebadging parade, we held our annual Reunion Evening in Huntingdon. Again this year we met at the Conservative Club and a very happy evening it was. A fish and chip supper was prepared by the Club, which was particularly well received, and we were delighted to continue our strong links with Huntingdon, where many people served at the TA Centre.

Our local meetings continue to be held at the Woolpack in Stanground, a good venue. We continue to welcome Royal Anglian members to the Branch and attendances remain high. During the Summer the joint barbecue with the Cambridgeshire Regiment went off well. It was a fine summer evening and good hospitality and refreshments, both liquid and otherwise, were greatly enjoyed in the pretty garden of the Woolpack, on the edge of the River Nene.

The Branch still has many enthusiastic members to keep it active, and with increasing membership. It is hoped that any of the readers of the Castle who are not on our mailing list and would like to attend regular meetings, dinners or otherwise, will contact us.

Officers' Lunch Party

The Officers' Dining Club held their annual lunch on 3 May 1996. This year a new venue was used, the magnificent and most interesting Officers Mess of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Millbank, London, thanks to the kind hospitality of Col. John Richardson who, when a young officer, served in the 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment. A pleasant menu and impressive wines from the Mess Cellar made it a particularly memorable occasion. The Regiment Secretary, Lt Col John Wilson,

Births, Marriages and Deaths

and his wife were "dined out" and his successor and his wife "dined in" as guests. General Akehurst presented Lt Col John Wilson with a Regimental tie, a token of the Regiment's thanks for his outstanding service.

Private James Osborne VC

The Association recently contributed towards cleaning the headstones and restoring the graves of Private Osborne, who won the Victoria Cross on 22 February 1881 when the 58th Foot (Rutlandshire) was in Natal during the

First Boer War, and of his wife who was buried next to him in Wigginton, near Tring, Hertfordshire. A service of rededication was held on Sunday 29 September 1996, attended by the Chairman and Secretary. Private Osborne's granddaughter and her family attended, and the church was packed. After the rededication by the Vicar, the Exhortation was given by the Chairman and a bugler from the Poachers blew the Last Post and Reveille. Anyone near Wigginton would enjoy visiting the Graves in a lovely village graveyard.

Visit To The Poachers

It has been arranged for members of The Association to visit the Poachers on Wednesday 30 April 1997 at The School of Infantry. Coaches will take members to Warminster from Northampton, Peterborough and Felixstowe, but any members who wish to make their own travel arrangements may do so. Anyone who might be interested in participating should please write to the Area Secretary by end January 1997.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

Vikings Marriages

Bevan	On Jun 08	Sgt Bevan to Janine	Jenkins	On Aug 30	Pte Jenkins to Elizabeth
Boreham	On Jul 20	Cpl Boreham to Elizabeth	Liddell	On Aug 10	Pte Liddell to Myra
Brown	On Aug 20	Cfn Brown (REME) to Melita	Phair	On Jun 22	Pte Phair to Melanie
Brown	On June 26	Pte Brown to Claire	Picton	On Aug 02	LCpl Picton to Catherine
Burrell	On Jul 20	Maj Burrell to Susie	Plumton	On May 04	Cpl Plumton to Teresa
Bygrave	On Apr 27	Pte Bygrave to Jackie	Rackham	On Mar 02	Cpl Rackham to Paula
Carter	On Aug 10	Sgt Carter to Alanna-Laurie	Reid	On Aug 21	Pte Reid to Tracy
Codling	On Jul 19	LCpl Codling to Julie	Root	On May 04	Pte Root to Tasmin]
Douglas	On Aug 03	Pte Douglas to Ruth	Stapley	On Jul 20	Pte Stapley to Clarie
Fordham	On Sep 14	Pte Fordham to Marie	Tawse	On Aug 14	Pte Tawse to Nicola
Green	On Aug 07	Pte Green to Jacqueline	Tinkler	On Jul 27	LCpl Tinkler to Michelle
Groves	On Aug 17	Pte Groves to Marie	Trigg	On Aug 17	Capt Trigg to Racheal
Hales	On Oct 04	Pte Hales to Kathryn	Ward	On Jul 12	LCpl Ward to Anne
Hasnip	On Jul 27	LCpl Hasnip to Abigail	Weston	On Aug 03	Capt Weston to Hazel
Haylett	On Aug 17	Pte Haylett to Katherine	Willsher	On May 11	Pte Willsher to Kerry
Hicks	On Aug 24	LCpl Hicks to Danyala			

Vikings Births

Freeman	To Cpl and Alison Freeman, a son, Kieran
Milne	To LCpl and Julia Milne, a daughter, Jenna
Richardson	To Pte and Kelly Richardson, a daughter, Tammy Louise
Chandler	To Pte and Diane Chandler, a son, Ben Robert William
Traves	To Sgt and Samantha Traves, a daughter, Dakota
Neal	To Pte and Julie Neal, a daughter, Sharron
Howlett	To Cpl and Carole Howlett, a daughter, Brooke
Moller	To LCpl and Sarah Moller, a son, Samuel
Wiltshire	To Pte and Donna Wiltshire, a son, Jack
Hardy	To LCpl and Debbie Hardy, a daughter, Michelle
Hogston	To LCpl and Joanne Hogston, a son, Toby
Wood	To Cpl and Tracy Wood, a daughter, Grace
Dennis	To LCpl and Toni Dennis, a daughter, Francesca
Shaw	To Sgt and Kim Shaw, a son, Harry
Chalkley	To LCpl and Lorraine Chalkley, a son, Christopher
Robinson	To CSgt and Karen Robinson, a daughter, Dannielle Shannon
Charles	To LCpl and Nicola Charles, a son, Matisse
Patrick	To Cpl and Joanne Patrick, a daughter, Chloe
Watts	To Cpl and Bridget Watts, a son, Benjamin
Brown	To Pte and Claire Brown, a son, Jake
Groves	To Pte and Maria Groves, a son, Leon
McAllister	To Cpl and Caroline McAllister (REME), a son, Bruce
Rackham	To Cpl and Paula Rackham, a son, Bradley
Russell	To W02 and Moira Russell (AGC), a son, Joseph
Stringer	To Cpl and Evonne Stringer, a daughter, Sophie
Cook	To Maj RA Cook and Celia, a son, George Edward

Births, Marriages and Deaths

Poachers Marriages

Horne	On 9 Aug 96,	Cpl Horne to Afrodita
Jackson	On 12 Oct 96,	Cpl Jackson to Frances Valerie
Bliss	On 7 Aug 96,	Pte Bliss to Claire Elizabeth
Sumner	On 21 Sep 96,	LCpl Sumner to Donna Angela
Crockett	On 24 Aug 96,	Pte Crockett to Lisa Marie
O'Connor	On 6 Jul 96,	Pte O'Connor to Jessica Louise Henrietta
Edwards	On 22 Jun 96,	LCpl Edwards to Melanie
Dyson	On 27 Apr 96,	Lcpl Dyson to Louise Ann
George	On 12 Apr 96,	Pte George to Rebecca
Smith	On 6 Jul 96,	Pte Smith to Tiffany Vanessa
Leeke	On 21 Sep 96,	Pte Leeke to Lisa Jane
Hills	On 24 Aug 96,	Lcpl Hills to Karen Marie
Blair	On 29 Jun 96,	Pte Blair to Julie Anne
Staples	On 3 Aug 96,	Pte Staples to Karen Louise
Rushby	On 17 Aug 96,	Pte Rushby to Clair Louise
Crozier	On 2 Apr 96,	Pte Crozier to Jody Lynn
Waters	On 24 May 96,	Pte Waters to Helen Marie
Bell	On 4 Apr 96,	Pte Bell to Sarah Caroline Catherine
Harris	On 25 May 96,	Lcpl Harris to Georgina Yvonne
Oliver	On 17 Aug 96,	Pte Oliver to Julia Ann
Clegg	On 6 Apr 96,	Pte Clegg to Stephanie Christine
Morgan	On 24 Aug 96,	Pte Morgan to Alison Julie
Brawn	On 4 May 96,	Pte Brawn to Donna Michelle
Clements	On 26 Oct 92,	Lt Col DJ Clements to Antonia Addington

Poachers Births

Mutch	To Sgt & Mrs Mutch, a son, Bobby
Hack	To Lcpl & Mrs Hack, a daughter, Courtney Marie
Grice	To Lcpl & Mrs Grice, a son, Daniel Robert
Thompson	To Pte & Mrs Thompson, a daughter, Emma
Gray	To Lcpl Gray, a daughter, Olivia McKenzie

6th Battalion Marriages

Bailey	On 27 Jul 96, Capt PD Bailey to Miss Ruth Lyons
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Obituaries

Major General C R Turner Cain CB CBE DSO



Major Gen Bob Turner Cain died on 11 July 1996 aged 84. Had it not been for the world economic depression in the early 1930s, Bob Turner Cain would have joined the family firm of Norfolk malsters. From the age of 14 he had accompanied his uncle, the chairman of the company, around the company's maltings in Northern Norfolk. By 1932, however, the malting industry was so depressed and (to those with a sense of history) signs of another war with Germany were so obvious that he decided to make the Army his primary career. But he always kept in close touch with the family business.

A physically large, avuncular figure with a powerful, outgoing personality, who

was known as "Uncle Bob" by his soldiers, he had two highly successful and quite different careers. As a soldier, he fought in the pre-war North West Frontier campaigns, then battled through Normandy and took part in the assault over the Rhine. In the very different ethos of the 1960s, based in Singapore, he was in charge of logistics during the Brunei and Borneo campaign which secured Malaysia against the aggressive intentions of Indonesia's ruler, President Sukarno. After retiring from the Army, as chairman of the family firm, he then increased malt production over twenty years from under 5,000 to 100,000 tons per year.

A son of Wing Commander G Turner Cain, he was educated at Norwich School and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Norfolk Regiment in 1932. He was posted to the 1st Bn on the North West Frontier of India in 1933. He saw active service almost straight away in Waziristan, taking part in operations against the Fakir of Ipi, a notorious frontier fire-brand. For this he was mentioned in despatches.

Returning to England five years later, he became Adjutant of the Regimental Depot of the now Royal Norfolks in Norwich, where he assisted in the mobilisation of the Regular and Territorial Bns at the outbreak of war in 1939. He did

not go to France with the British Expeditionary Force and so fortunately missed the evacuation from Dunkirk. He rejoined the 1st Bn as a Company Commander in 79th Armoured Division after attending Staff College, Camberley, in 1941. In the preparations for D-Day, he was transferred to the 1st Herefords as second-in-command and as a reserve CO for the landings in Normandy.

The 1st Herefords were in 159th Infantry Brigade, which landed as part of 11th Armoured Division. At the end of June, their CO, Jack Churcher, was promoted to command the brigade, and Cain took over the Bn. His first major action as CO was on 20 July 1944, during Operation "Goodwood", Montgomery's abortive attempt to break out with three armoured divisions attacking abreast down a bomb carpet laid by the strategic bombers. Thereafter, he fought with the 1st Herefords throughout the North West Europe campaign from Normandy to the Baltic.

He was awarded his DSO for his Bn's crucial night assault crossing of the Willems Canal at Zomeren on 21-22 September during 11th Armoured Division's attempt to reach 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem. Before his bridgehead was secure, he was heavily counter-attacked by experienced, high quality German infantry. Their eventual repulse

Births, Marriages and Deaths

in bitter and confused fighting enabled the Sappers to bridge the canal and tanks and a further Bn to cross and exploit his success by seizing the town of Asten. His DSO citation ends: "His sound tactical ability made possible the great success of his Bn at heavy cost to the enemy; his coolness and personal bravery under enemy fire were an inspiration to all ranks."

As the war ended he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and was lucky enough to be present at the German surrender to Field Marshal Montgomery on Luneburg Heath on 4 May 1945. After a series of staff appointments, he was given war-substantive command of his own regiment, 1st Royal Norfolks, in 1947, which was stationed in Berlin during the breaching of the Russian blockade of the city by the allied air lift from the West.

By 1950 he was a student at the Joint Services Staff College. From there he went on to spend three years in the Military Intelligence Directorate of the War Office before being appointed, at last, to fully substantive command of 1st Royal Norfolks, stationed first in Hong Kong and then at Colchester.

After two years as the commandant of the Tactical Wing of the School of Infantry, he was promoted Brigadier in 1957 and seconded to the Federal Army of Malaya as Commander of the 1st Federal (Malay) Infantry Brigade with which he carried through some of the last jungle operations against the communist terrorist gangs on the Thai border. He was awarded the Star of Kedah for his services to Malaya.

He returned home in 1961 and was sent as Brigadier General Staff to HQ British Army of the Rhine. He anticipated trouble of some sort with the Russians and took precautionary steps to strengthen the communications with the British garrison. He was soon amply justified by the sudden building of the Berlin Wall.

He was appointed CBE in 1963. Promoted Major General in 1954, he flew eastwards again, this time to Singapore as Major General (Administration) in GHQ Far East Land Forces, and handled all the Army's supply movement problems throughout the confrontation with Indonesia in Brunei and Borneo, a difficult task which ended in one of the tidiest victories secured by the British Army in any of its minor postwar campaigns. As Denis Healey, Labour Minister of Defence, was able to say at the close of the campaign in 1966, it would be recorded "as one of the most efficient uses of

military force in the history of the world". A campaign which ought to have served as a model for the USA about how to fight jungle warfare against a determined and ideologically motivated opponent, it secured the future of Malaysia against what was at the time a large and menacing enemy.

Turner Cain retired in 1967. Appointed CB that year, he became Deputy Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment into which the Royal Norfolks had been amalgamated.

His second career as a malster had opened before he retired from the Army. At his request, the Army Board had allowed him to take over the chairmanship of the family firm in 1962. Besides the twenty-fold increase of malt production during his time as chairman, two new maltings were built, and transport and cereal products companies were added. By the time he retired in 1982, the firm had become Anglia Maltings (Holdings). When he handed over, he became president of the family business.

He married Lamorna Maturin Hingston, daughter of Colonel G B Hingston, in 1938. They had a son and a daughter. His family survive him.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

By permission "Times"



Major L H B Colvin MC

Major Leslie Colvin died on 2 October 1996 at the age of 88. He served his beloved 2nd Bn The Lincolnshire Regiment from 1940 - 1945 as Platoon and Company Commander and as its Second in Command and CO during the final attack on Bremen. He was awarded the Military Cross on July 1944 for his

leadership and gallantry during the Battle of Herouville, where the 2nd Lincolnshires, practically unsupported, met stiff opposition and stubborn resistance. Leslie Colvin led from the front and was soon engaged in fierce close quarter fighting, himself shooting two Germans at point blank range.

After the war, he served with the 1st and 4th/6th Battalions and was Garrison Commander of Penang. For a time later he worked for MI6.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, Edna Mary, and family.

RPB



Captain T H Bullock MBE

Capt Tom Bullock died suddenly whilst attending the Regimental Gathering at Oakington on 1 September 1996. He joined the Army in late 1944 and after training joined the 1st Bn The Essex Regiment in India, serving in Poona, Bangalore and Bombay at a time of internal security following the mutiny of the Indian Navy. He was an instructor with 1 Essex when it was the East Anglian Brigade Training Bn at Colchester from 1948 - 51 and at that time many future officers, including Maj Gen Keith Burch, benefitted from his initial instruction as an NCO of the potential officers squad.

Tom, as well as being an excellent soldier, was also a family man, and, seeing no prospect of married quarters in Germany, he left the Army so that he could be with Doris.

He worked for Ford at Dagenham for a while but could not accommodate the Trade Union approach to life. After an altercation with a shop steward he rejoined the Essex Regiment. His ability earned him rapid promotion but his lack of seniority due to broken service slowed his progress. The reorganisations following the amalgamations of the 1960s helped in some measure to solve this problem as in 1963, after tours in Germany, Malaya and Northern Ireland,

Births, Marriages and Deaths

Tom, as a substantive Sergeant, was posted as A/CSM of A Company 1st East Anglian and went to Aden in 1964. His performance then was outstanding and he gained accelerated substantive promotion to Colour Sergeant and then to W02.

Leaving the 1st Battalion he had a tour as a TA PSI before becoming RSM of the 3rd Bn in which capacity he again served in Aden, briefly as RSM to his previous recruit and then CO Keith Burch.

Because of Tom's broken service it was impossible for him to gain a QM's Commission but in 1970 he was appointed Lieutenant with a Short Service Commission. As a Captain he served as a Cadet Training Officer, translating on retirement to be the CCF Training Officer for Hurstpierpoint College.

In retirement he continued to be active in Regimental affairs and was for several years President of the WOs' and Sergeants' Past and Present Association, chairing its Dinner at Bassingbourn in inimitable style. He was in many ways the original "chirpy chappie", his gift of repartee and ribbold comment spurred many an idle soldier to greater effort and defused, some say deflated, an occasional tense situation involving a senior officer. He inspired great affection and loyalty from both his subordinates and those for whom he worked. His unflinching cheerfulness in all situations was both his hallmark and his greatest strength.

Tom will be greatly missed in the Regiment, by SSAFA and the hospital for which he did voluntary work and above all by his family. We extend our sympathy to Doris, Anthony and to his family. Perhaps we can take some comfort from the way he left us, wearing his medals and amongst his old comrades. He would have appreciated that.

WCD

Captain C B Scott

Colin Scott died on 10 May 1996 at the early age of 59. He joined the 1st Bn The Essex Regiment from RMA Sandhurst serving in C Company at Goslar.

He resigned his commission as gunfire had affected his hearing, thus cutting short a promising military career. He spent a short time in industry when he became a voluntary prison visitor. This drew him to seek a new life in the Prison Service and he was appointed an Assistant Governor Class II in 1964. He attended a course at the Prison Services College and went from there for five years to Dartmoor. He was promoted and held a number of appointments at a wide variety of prison institutions each time gaining further seniority. He finally finished as a Governor Class 1 when his career was cut short as he had to undergo major surgery for cancer. He recovered from this operation but was not up to the strain of command. The Prison Service loaned him on attachment to help the Birmingham Institute for the Deaf. He was in this appointment when he died.

Colin had made his mark in his second profession. He was remarked upon as "A good organiser who expected high standards, a kind man who put great emphasis on fairness. The increasing complexity of management did not enthuse him but his loyalty was such he would always try to follow the lead from Headquarters".

His association with the Army left him with a keen interest in military history. He was renowned for his skill and knowledge of Scottish country dancing. He was also a keen fell walker.

RHM

Lieutenant Colonel G R Yates

Geoffrey Yates was born on 14 February 1927. He was educated at Haberdashers' Aske's in Hertfordshire and was commis-

sioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment on 21 December 1946.

He was an extremely capable Regimental Officer, but his true forte was on the Staff. After regimental service and a tour in West Africa, he went to the Depot as Adjutant to Michael Goodale, before returning to regimental duties with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. On arrival he took over Support Company before moving on to become 2IC C Company. After amalgamation with The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, the new Bn moved to Cyprus and Geoffrey became OC B Company, which was detailed to Aden in an independent operational role. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 30 June 1972. He was recognised as an expert in Time and Motion Studies and his last appointment in the Army was as Commander and Chief Instructor of the Joint Army/RAF Work Study School.

Geoffrey was a good marksman with a rifle and was in the Regimental shooting team on many occasions. He was a keen golfer and an expert water skier, but above all he loved sailing. He was a master mariner and a very keen yachtsman. Whilst having a great respect for the power of the sea, his knowledge and ability were such that the English Channel was seldom a problem.

Geoffrey retired on 18 July 1975. For 14 years he was in local government on the staff of the Royal Borough of Kingston, retiring as a Chief Officer in the planning department.

Geoffrey died at Hindhead on 11 May 1996 after a long illness, born with great courage. He had a lovely sense of humour and will be sadly missed by all of us who had the privilege of serving with him.

The sympathy of the Regiment is extended to his wife Barbara and their sons Andrew and Graham and their families. Geoffrey was one of those men who only made friends, never enemies.

PK

Deaths

In addition to the Obituaries, we regret to record the deaths of the following:

Maj(QM) LB Day, 3 East Anglian, 12 Feb 96.

Capt SFA Parker, 26 Apr 96.

Pte D G Lockwood (V), 7th(V) Bn, on 16 May 96 at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, following an incident in Gibraltar.

Col (ACF)M H (Malcolm) Best, formerly Royal Lincolnshire Regt and ACF County Commandant for Lincolnshire, 7 Jun 96.

Capt(ACF) D B (Doug or "Bomber") Harris MSM, formerly Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, 3 East Anglian, 3rd Bn and RSM 5th Bn., 10 Jun 96.(A full obituary follows in the next 'Castle')

Mrs Valerie Cobbold, wife of Maj Tony Cobbold, 15 Jun 96.

CSgt A D (Andy) Deller, former 3rd Bn, drowned by flash floods in Oman while serving with the Royal Oman Police, 20 Jun 96.

WO1 R (Roy) Smith, formerly 1st Bn, 22 Jun 96.(A full obituary follows in the next 'Castle')

Capt TW Gough (V), 23 Jun 96

Capt H (Howard) Eaton, formerly Cpl 1st East Anglian and 1st Bn, later Int Corps, 30 Jun 96.

Maj RHA Painter, 3 East Anglian, 16 Aug 96

Maj JR Griffin, 2 East Anglian, 17 Aug 96

Mr R G Padbury, formerly 1st Bn, 28 Sep 96.

Lt Col C T Marshall, formerly Royal Leicestershire Regiment and 4th Bn, 2 Oct 96.

Lt J Hawkins, 1st Bn, 10 Dec 96

We extend our condolences and sympathy to their families and friends.

Notices

The Memoirs of Major General John Gaspard Le Marchant 1766 -1812 (Sandhurst to Salamanca)

This book to be published by Spellmount Limited in July 1997 as one of a series of military classics, is a facsimile of the much sought-after rare memoirs of a great soldier first published in 1841 by his son Sir Denis Le Marchant MP. General Le Marchant, described by Sir Charles Oman as "The Scientific Soldier", founded RMA Sandhurst and the Army Staff College, designed a new British cavalry sabre and instructed the Army in its use. His Headmaster described him as "the greatest dunce I ever met", and, at the age of sixteen, he challenged his first commanding officer to a duel, yet he survived to rise to a position of considerable influence as a military visionary. He proved himself a born commander and he led the famous cavalry charge at Salamanca in 1812: his death in that battle robbed the Army of one of its most able, talented and courageous leaders. Sir Denis, Clerk to the House of Commons for 23 years, gives a unique insight to the politics and mores of the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars. The book includes an up to date introduction by Nick Leadbetter, a retired REME officer, and the Foreword is by David G Chandler, one of the twentieth century's leading military historians. Priced at £24.95, it is a 352 page hardback book with 11 colour plates, a map of the battle of Salamanca and the family tree.

Advance copies (p&p free) can be ordered direct (cheques to Spellmount Ltd) from:

NALeadbetter, Centuries House, London Lane, Ascott-U-Wychwood, Oxfordshire OX7 6AN. (Telephone 01993 831571).

Notice for Collectors

Approximately 100 campaign medals awarded to soldiers of The Northamptonshire Regiment from the Crimean War (1854-56), Boer War (1899-1902) to the Great War (1914-18) [They are all inscribed with the army number, rank and names of the recipients], plus a collection of World War Two medals. All mounted in baize-lined drawers in an oak cabinet (16" x 10" x 14").

A collection of 52 cap badges and 52 sterling silver medals of the 52 Great British Regiments now disbanded, in a brass-bound sapele case (21" x 14" x 5"). Limited edition.

Approximately 100 military band records (33 1/3 rpm) from all over the world (UK, Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Far East including China, Japan, Singapore & Thailand, USA, Canada, etc.

Please contact: Major Peter Scopes, Rectory Cottage, Barnwell, Northamptonshire PE8 SPG (Tel: 01832-272814) for further information.

Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows

The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows at Hampton Court offers residential care to 30 soldiers' widows at a modest rate. Details are held at RHQ.

Haigh Homes

Haigh Homes advertise unfurnished houses and flats to let to ex-Servicemen and women at favourable rents in 50 localities throughout the UK. Details are held at RHQ and by Area Secretaries.

World War II Tour of Burma, "Beyond the Chindwin"

Silken East is the first tour company to run tours for ex-Servicemen to Burma. Details of the 16 day tours, which can be tailor-made to a party, are available from RHQ.

Wanted - Military Knights of Windsor

The MOD is seeking recruits to the Military Knights of Windsor. Of the 12 posts for officers 4 are for Late Entry Officers. Applicants wishing to join the Regimental Secretary on the waiting list are required to reside at Windsor Castle and pay for fuel and light only, receiving a small stipend which covers Council Tax and water rates. In return Knights are obliged to carry out not too onerous public duties. Details available at RHQ.

Society of Friends of The National Army Museum

The Regiment has joined The Society of Friends of the National Army Museum. The Society helps NAM to acquire important historical items that might otherwise be lost to the general public. Membership, available to any member of the Regiment through RHQ, provides access to visits, newsletters, special exhibitions and the exchange of information.

The Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA)

Only half of those eligible for RFEA's free life-time job finding service actually register with them. The following describes the work of RFEA, whose benefits are strongly recommended to other ranks leaving the Army:

Our task is to assist all ex-regular servicemen and women who did not hold commissioned rank to find employment provided they served with good character for a minimum of three years (or less if discharged on medical grounds). We take a long term interest and can, as a registered charity, offer our free counselling service to them throughout their working lives. Since March 1996 this service has been extended to any officer who served in the ranks for a minimum of three years.

The RFEA works together with the Tri-Service Resettlement organisation the Services Employment Network/SkillBank, the Officers' Association and the Employment Service as part of the Forces resettlement service.

Our Employment Officers maintain close contact with local employers, also offering them a free service from our 39 Branches spread throughout the United Kingdom. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Resettlement Officers, Corps and Regimental Associations, Jobcentres, Yellow Pages and local telephone directories.

Sadly, only half of those eligible to register with the Association do so but during the period 1 April 1995 - 31 March 1996 the Association assisted 11,235 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,692 in employment. That is a 41.7% success rate. Of those placed 2,594 were men and women from the Army.

Why not contact us and see how we can help you.

Association Branches

Royal Norfolk Regiment

HQ The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Norfolk Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk) Britannia House, TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2AD
Tel: (01603) 400290
President: Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE CVO

King's Lynn Branch:

Chairman: Capt A A Hammond OBE, Sandena, Old Mill Road, Roughton, Norfolk NR11 8PE

Secretary: Mrs C Hudson, 24 Rosebery Avenue, King's Lynn, Norfolk PO30 4AA
Tel: (01553) 762478

Gt Yarmouth/Gorleston Branch:

Mr R C Pillar, 16 Alder Close, Bradwell, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PD

London Branch:

Mr M J Frances, 4 Kingswood Park, Hendon Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1UG

Norwich Branch:

Mr P E Boxall, 31 Breckland Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 ORW

Suffolk Regiment

HQ The Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Branch) The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN
Tel: (01284) 752394 (Wednesdays only)

President: Brig W C Deller OBE

Bury St. Edmunds and District Branch:

Mr J Gingell, The Willows, Depden, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 4BY

Ipswich Branch:

Mr A E Stollery, 12 Cedar House, 2 Heatherhayes, Ipswich, Suffolk IP14 3CB

Hemel Hempstead Branch:

Mr R G Picton, 45 Paston Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 5AZ

Beccles Branch:

Mr M I. Martin, 46 Fair Close, Beccles, Norfolk NR34 9QR

Felixstowe Branch:

Mr N Buckingham, Marahaba, 18 Fairfield Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP1 9JN

Stowmarket Branch:

Mr S P Sykes BEM, 27 Broomsparth Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4DB

Lelston Branch:

Mr A A Smith BEM, 95 Abbey Road, Lelston, Suffolk IP16 4TA

Sudbury Branch:

Mr D Land, 2 Pot Kiln Road, Gt Cornard, Sudbury CO10 ODA

Cambridgeshire Regiment

HQ The Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association and The Cambridgeshire Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association C/O TA Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge CB1 3HT
Patron: Lt Col E L V Mapey OBE TD
President: Col W F Page MC TD

Cambridge Branch:

Capt J Nelson, 53 Fulbourn Old Drift, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4NO

Ely Branch:

Mr H R Hitch, 4 Canterbury Avenue, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 3DW
Tel: (01353) 664563

March and District Branch:

Chairman: Mr D W H Cox, 13 Fleming Court, March, Cambridgeshire, PE14 9HD
Tel: (01354) 52021

Wisbech Branch:

Major DS Denson TD, 107 Drybread Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire PE7 1XL

Whittlesey/Peterborough Branch:

Mr D G L Matthews, 3 Greengate Court, Flag Fen Road, Eastfield, Peterborough PE1 5LA
Tel: (01733) 555394

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

HQ The Royal Anglian Regiment Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3BN
Tel: Brentwood (01277) 213051
President: Lt Col Sir Derek Milman Bt MC

Hertford Branch:

Mr S R Mansfield, 1a Gwynne's Walk, Hertford SG13 8AD Tel: (01992) 581551

St Alban's Branch:

Mr H R Howard, 24 Sherwood Rise, South Down, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2LL
Tel: (01582) 621725

Bedford Branch:

Mr W J Baggardige, 40 Cody Road, Clapham, Bedford MK41 6EA
Tel: (01234) 328160

Hitchin Branch:

Mr L Olney, 10 Abbiss Orchard, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3TN
Tel: (01462) 450710

Hertfordshire Regiment Association

Mr C Austin, 97 West Street, Hertford, Herts SG13 8EJ
Tel: (01992) 558757

Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch:

Mr E G Owens, 37 Bidshall Crescent, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 3NF
Tel: (01582) 665734

Luton and Dunstable Branch:

Mr S Chapman, 86 St Margaret's Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 LPQ
Tel: (01582) 28976

Essex Regiment

The Essex and Royal Anglian Regiments Association HQ The Royal Anglian Regiment, Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3BN
Tel: (01277) 213051
President: Col G C P Morgan DL

4th Battalion Comrades Association:

Mr E B Hazle DCM, 11 Hunter Avenue, Shenfield, Essex CM15 8PE
Tel: (01277) 214606

7th Eagle and Gun Regimental Association:

Mr V Foulsham, 62 Armstrong Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9PT
Tel: (0181 531 4808)

Chelmsford and District Branch:

Miss S Ostler, St Michael's, 1 Gloucester Avenue Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9DP
Tel: (01245) 358724

Thurrock and District Branch:

Mr P Giggins, 89 Salisbury Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6DG
Tel: (01375) 378427

Royal Lincolnshire Regiment

HQ The 10th Foot Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Sohraon Barracks, Lincoln LN1 3PY
Tel: (01522) 525444
President: Maj Gen R E J Gerrard-Wright CB CBE

Lincoln Branch:

Mr A Hibbard, 17 Ruckland Avenue, Lincoln LN1 3TF
Tel: (01522) 530396

Grimsby Branch:

Mr D Carroll, 87 Manor Drive, Waltham, Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN37 0NS
Tel: (01472) 826953

Grantham Branch:

Mr O Hardy, 29 Premier Court, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 8FB
Tel: (01476) 66652

Spalding Branch:

Mr A Waterfall, 26 Brewster Road, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 0DY
Tel: (01205) 358565

Midlands Branch:

Mr L Wood, 15 Lanchester Road, Radford, Coventry CV6 3EY
Tel: (01203) 597815

Stamford Branch:

Capt W L Simpson, St Clement, 8 Barn Hill, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2YG

Scunthorpe Branch:

Mr C Bromby, 85 Southfield Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN16 3BT
Tel: (01724) 859253

Northamptonshire Regiment

HQ The Northamptonshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northampton) Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton NN1 3RE
Tel: (01604) 35412
Chairman: Col P Worthy

Corby Branch:

Mr K R Fordyce, 7 Motiston Close, Corby, Northamptonshire

Peterborough Branch:

Maj R K Hill TD DL, Cherry Orton Farm, Orton Waterville, Peterborough PE2 5EQ

Royal Leicestershire Regiment

HQ The Royal Tigers Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicester) TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY
Tel: (0116) 2622749

President: Maj Gen A J G Pollard CB CBE

Leicester Branch

Lt Col F A H Swallow OBE, The Grange, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN15 5JL

Other:

Warminster Branch:

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association, PO Box 123, Headquarters Infantry, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0DG
Tel: (01985) 219273 Ext 2211

Regimental Shop

PIN TRAYS - china, white, blue badge	£ 1.80
BADGES Blazer	£ 8.15
Cloth	£ 0.80
Collar Offrs 1st, 2nd & 3rd Bns	£14.50 pr
Lapel R Anglian (boxed) enamel	£ 4.75
Lapel R Anglian Association	£ 1.30
BELTS Stable Med, Lge & XL	£ 8.30
BOOKMARKS (old style)	£ 0.40
(new style) Drummer printed in colours	£ 0.66
Presentation of Colours April 1995	£ 1.00
BUTTONS Blazer in polished gilt - Lge & Sml	£1.80 ea
Side Hat & Mess Kit (Offrs')	£ 3.50 ea
CHRISTMAS CARDS (Regimental badge on front)	£ 0.37
COFFEE MUGS - black & yellow badge	£ 1.50
GLASSES	
Beer Mug 1 pint	£ 1.65
Beer Glass 1 pint straight	£ 1.10
Whisky	£ 1.10
ICE BUCKET DRUM	£17.85
KEY RINGS - leather - assorted colours	£ 0.45
PENDANTS (enamel, R Anglian Badge) on chain	£ 7.50
PEWTER TANKARD - 1st & 2nd Bn badge	£19.65
POSTCARDS - Historic Uniforms of Former Regiments	
Set 16	£5.00
Single Cards	£0.40
PRINTS (colour) - set of 8 comprising 7 Former	
Regiments in period dress + R Anglian Drummer.	£ 5.20 set
Single prints of above	£ 0.65 ea
Large print R Anglian Drummer	£ 0.50 ea
REGIMENTAL RIBBON 1.5 in" wide - same design as stable belt webbing	£ 2.60 mt
SHIELDS (plaques) wooden, hand painted	£22.55
STICKERS - plastic - 12"	£ 1.80
6"	£ 1.25
4"	£ 1.20
2"	£ 0.80
SWEATSHIRTS - navy with white printed badge on left	
breast - sizes	
Med & Lge	£ 9.50
XL	£ 9.95
XXL	£10.40
T SHIRTS - navy, white badge, sizes	
XXL	£ 4.75
XL	£ 4.40
Med & Lge	£ 4.10
TABLE MATS - prints of Former Regiments & Drummer with dark blue or red border (set of 8)	£33.15
TEA TOWELS Cotton showing all cap badges of the Army.	£ 2.25
R ANGLIAN	
(1st & 2nd Bns)	£ 3.40
(1st,2nd & 3rd Bns)	£ 3.40
(1st,2nd,3rd & 4th Bns)	£ 3.40
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NEXT CASTLE JUNE 1997

Entries for the next edition of Castle are required by end April 1997. The following articles were received too late to be included in this edition but will be included in the June 1997 edition: Norfolk ACF, Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Notes.

ANSWERS TO THE TEST ON PAGE 60

1. Sgt Lenny Paul, 3rd Battalion, represented England and GB at Athletics in 1989. From 1989-97 he has represented GB at bobsleigh, including Captain of the Winter Olympics team.

2. The 1st Battalion's current tour of NI is the Regiment's 27th.

3. The Royal Leicestershire Regiment joined the East Anglian Brigade on 1 May 1963 and became the 4th Battalion of the Regiment on its formation on 1 September 1964. From September 1963 - February 1964 it had a highly successful tour in the Borneo Emergency, claiming 7 terrorists killed.

4. Trick question - there is no such number, although many illustrations show 62, the number of the French Regiment from which the 44th East Essex Regiment captured it at Salamanca in 1812.

5. The Cambridgeshire Regiment (TA) never had a regular equivalent and it became part of the Suffolk Regiment. As a result, when the Suffolk and Royal Norfolk Regiments were amalgamated in 1959 those regular county Regiments only were generally, but wrongly, accepted as predecessors to 1 E ANGLIAN and later 1 R ANGLIAN.

6. The 3rd Battalion provided 3 officers and 28 men, the largest

contingent, for the Commonwealth Monitoring Force and supervised the disarming of guerillas and subsequent elections for the new state of Zimbabwe.

7. The black table runner was a Royal Leicestershire Regiment custom, sometimes adopted by the present 2nd Battalion, to commemorate the death of General Wolfe at Quebec in 1759 (he had been commissioned into the 17th Foot). Of interest, the 48th Foot, later the Northamptonshire Regiment, attended Wolfe's death with a surgeon and a soldier.

8. The 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt Col (now Maj Gen) J B Dye, by capturing Jebel Huriyah in the Radfan Mountains after an epic approach march, brought about the end of the Radfan Campaign.

9. The khaki beret was inherited through the 1st Battalion from the Royal Norfolk Regiment, who had adopted it when their 1st Battalion was part of 24 Guards Independent Brigade in 1942. The Norfolk black patch commemorates the burial of Sir John Moore at Corunna in 1809 by officers and men of the 9th Foot.

10. The railway train "The Royal Anglian Regiment" travels daily from Liverpool Street Station to Norwich.

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Mix and Match or Modular Courses. It may be possible within some organisations to take a course that combines different elements that when pulled together make up the essentials for job hunting. Take for example, an army driver with HGV2 and organisational experience who aims to work in the UK Haulage industry. He knows that the company he wants to work for want HGV1 licenced staff, they carry some hazardous goods and there could be the opportunity for promotion in the future. The answer here could be a course made up of a National CPC, a full ADR (Hazpak) qualification, the HGV1 licence together with an introduction to computing, all of which is possible in a four week course. Again the only way to find out is to ask!

IMPORTANT NOTE: In July 1996 some important changes were made to the driving tests for cars, LGV's and PCV's. They will all require a separate written test and it will not be possible to go straight from a car licence to an LGV1(artic).

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