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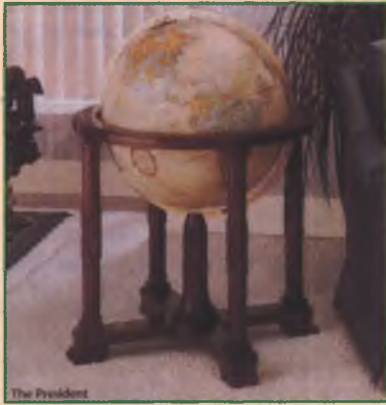


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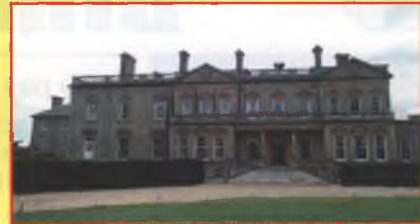
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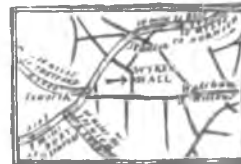
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If you meet the above criteria, please forward your CV and salary details by post or email to:

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Wentworth Laboratories
1 Gosforth Close
Sandy
Bedfordshire SG19 1RB
Email: lindsey@HopeAssociates.freeserve.co.uk

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June 2000
Vol 11 No 3



Editor: Col AC Taylor

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Front cover

Scenes from Londonderry.

Back cover

OCdts McNeil and Dobbin at 4.566m.

Regiment and Museum Internet Website
www.army.mod.uk

**FORCES &
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The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.



The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon.



The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

From the Colonel of the Regiment



Gen Sir Michael Walker GCB CMG CBE ADC Gen, Colonel of the Regiment.

Since our last edition, a war-torn Sierra Leone has been added to the busy operational activities of the Army. There can be no clearer evidence of the dangerous instabilities that exist in today's world. As a trading nation our security and prosperity are inextricably linked to events around the world and it is inevitable that we will continue to be involved by projecting force at short notice. We simply cannot afford to have a hollow force structure if we are to do this. Regimentally, therefore, we must continue to ensure that our highest priority is the recruiting and retention of our officers and men and their training for operations. We do not want to be found wanting, if or when the call comes.

It is with deep sadness that this edition records the death of Maj Gen Sir David Thorne - one of our most memorable and distinguished Commanding Officers and President of the Regimental Association. He held many cards of quality in his hands. Prime among them were his own proven physical and moral

courage, his boundless intellectual and physical energy and abilities and his profound understanding of his officers and men. He had an ability to imbue people with his enthusiasm for the profession of arms, which he so loved. And he had a natural flair for that special brand of leadership which brings out the best in people, often in the aftermath of disaster. He was an exhilarating man to be with and had a real zest for life.

His loyalty to the Regiment was absolute. In that generation of officers and men touched by him, he left the legacy of a true understanding of the nature of military leadership. He always led from the front, drawing heavily on his reserves of resilience and stamina - but they never ran dry. He never spared himself, inspiring confidence and raising morale wherever he went. Allied to his personal warmth, his patent integrity and his radiant good cheer earned him the deep affection and respect of all who ever worked with him.



The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Deputy Colonels-in-Chief

HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon
HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

Colonel of the Regiment

Gen Sir Michael Walker GCB CMG CBE ADC Gen

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Rev MD Franks MBE

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

1st Battalion: Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CBE

2nd Battalion: Brig JC McColl CBE

TA Sub Units: Col NH Kelsey OBE TD

Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk, Suffolk	Col PJS Child
Lincolnshire	Col RJM Drummond OBE
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire	Col JBC Prescott
Essex, Hertfordshire	Col RA Shervington TD

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
Gibraltar	The Royal Gibraltar Regiment
Malaysia	1st Battalion the Royal Malay Regiment
New Zealand	3rd Battalion (Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
	5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment
Pakistan	First City Regiment
South Africa	Regiment de la Rey

The Regiment is affiliated to 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC(V)
and to the Worshipful Company of Poulterers
1st Battalion has a Bond of Friendship with *HMS Norfolk*

Civic Honours

The Regiment has been granted the honour of the freedom of:
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 Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Leicester,
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 Romford, Southend, Sudbury, Watford, Wellingborough, Wisbech, Great Yarmouth,
 and the Colour of the Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Regimental Locations

Regimental Headquarters

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN
 (Tel: 01284-752394. Fax: 752026. Mil: 94-650 5124)

Regimental Secretary: Col AC Taylor
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Maj J Fisk
Regimental Careers Officer: Maj RC Gould

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,
 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
 Tel: 01603-400290
Area Secretary: Maj WH Reeve

Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
 Tel: 01604-635412
Area Secretary: Col FAH Swallow OBE

Regimental Information Team

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn
 Tel: 01223-204216
 Goojerat Barracks, Colchester
 Tel: 01206-782311

Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way,
 Warley, Essex CM13 3BN
 Tel: 01277-213051

Area Office Lincoln

Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln LN1 3PY
 Tel: 01522-544886
Area Secretary: Capt DJ Lee BEM

Regimental Museum

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs CB2 4QR
 Tel: 01223-835000 Ext 313
Regimental Attendant: Mr GA Boss

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion,
 Ebrington Barracks, BFPO 807

Lt Col RJ Kemp MBE

2nd Battalion,
 Beachley Barracks,
 Chepstow, Glos NP16 7YG

Lt Col AJC Wild MBE

East of England Regiment
 TA Centre, Blenheim Camp, Newmarket Road,
 Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lt Col CA Newell PWRR

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Maj DJ Gregory
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Capt PD Bailey
RMA Sandhurst: Maj STH Andrews
Army Foundation College Harrogate: Lt OCC Brown

Personalia

Honours and Awards

Millennium New Year's Honours

GCB

Gen Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE ADC Gen

MBE

Capt FA Ralph

Operational Awards

CBE

Brig RM Brunt OBE

QCB

WO2 RG Gray

GOC NI Commendations

Sgt CA Jewell 1st Battalion

Cpl DC Fay

Lt NDB Charlwood 2nd Battalion

LCpl J Cooley

Long Service Awards

LSGC

WO2 DM Hazlewood

Sgt AM Ellis

Sgt JPT Grouse

Sgt P Markham

Sgt PGH Wilkins

Sgt MJ Wright

Cpl K Blayney

Cpl A Pierce

LCpl SR Bromsdon

EM

WO2 IM Sackree

Sgt Dunningham

Sgt Route

Cpl Rolph

Cpl Instance

Cutlers Award 1999

Sgt JE Self, Drum Major 1st Battalion

has been declared the winner of the Director of Infantry's Cutlers Award for 1999.

Senior Officers' Appointments

The following appointments have been announced:

Gen Sir Michael Walker GCB CMG CBE ADC Gen CGS 17 April 2000

Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CBE Col Comdt Queen's Div 14 January 2000

Brig JC McColl CBE (for Maj Gen) GOC 3 Div November 2000

Lt Col PD Jones MBE CO 1st Battalion December 2000

Honorary Appointment

Lt Col JBC Prescott has been appointed
Deputy Honorary Colonel (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire)
in succession to the late Col JCD Heggs

Commissioning

2Lt JP Delph was commissioned on 10 December 1999

2Lt JP Downes and S Roberts were commissioned on 14 April 2000

WO1 (RSM) T Beighton was commissioned on 9 April 2000

Transfers In

2Lt H Hancock from RA 1 November 1999

Lt JD Hughes from NZDF 3 March 2000

Postings

RHQ has been told of the following postings:

Capt IM Chance

from ITC Catterick to 1st Battalion

January 2000

Capt MC Elphee

from 1st Battalion to DPM Div Team

January 2000

Lt PJ Messenger

from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick

January 2000

Maj SPM Blythe	from MCM Div to Nato Def College	February 2000
Capt BM Allen	from ATR to 1st Battalion	February 2000
Lt PG Worthington	from 1st Battalion to ATR	February 2000
Lt Col (for Col) RE Harrold	from JSCSC to HQNI	March 2000
Capt SC Worthy	from HQ ARRC to 2nd Battalion	March 2000
Maj IRM Hall	from 2nd Battalion to HQ ARRC	April 2000
Capt N Faint	from ATR Bassingbourn to 2nd Battalion	April 2000
Capt PS Leslie	from RAF College to 2nd Battalion	April 2000
Capt D Moss	from 1st Battalion to Flying Trg	April 2000
Capt TE O'Driscoll	from HQ 2 Bde to 1 LI	April 2000
Capt EL Paden	from 1st Battalion to Flying Trg	April 2000
Lt SG Otter	from 2nd Battalion to ATR	April 2000
Maj(LE) RJ Brown	from 2nd Bn to Tidworth Garrison	May 2000
Lt Col GD Duthoit	from HQ 2 Bde to DA Rabat	June 2000
Maj PML Ferrary	from HQ LAND to MOD DI	June 2000
Maj SJR Browne	from JSCSC to 1st Bn	August 2000
Maj A Gosling	from JSCSC to 1 RRF	August 2000
Maj DP O'Driscoll	from ACDS(OR) to 2nd Battalion	August 2000
Maj DG Vincent	from HQ HND to NI Trg Wg	August 2000
Maj JJW Hart	from 2nd Bn to RMCS	November 2000
Capt FJR Grounds	from ITC Wales to Army Presentation Team	December 2000

Left the Army

The following are leaving, or have left, the Army:

Maj AC Wiles	14 October 1999
Lt Col JGG Ross	9 March 2000
Capt DJ Ward	29 March 2000
Capt CTD McLay	30 March 2000
Maj W O'Driscoll	30 April 2000
Capt EC Reynolds	27 May 2000
Maj GF Tomlin MBE	1 July 2000
Col DSB Phipps	17 July 2000
Capt K Copland	29 September 2000
Maj RA Cook	13 October 2000

We wish them well and hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions.

Promotions

Lt PC Worthington	to captain	12 October 1999
Lt AF Hawley	to captain	9 February 2000
Lt Col R E Harrold	to colonel	30 June 2000
Maj SJ Bacon	to lieutenant colonel	30 June 2000
Maj MJ Beard	to lieutenant colonel	30 June 2000
Maj SPM Blythe	to lieutenant colonel	30 June 2000

Regimental Matters

The Regimental Reunion

The Regimental Reunion will be held at Bassingbourn Barracks on Sunday 23 July 2000. The format will be as in previous years:

1000	Gates Open
1130	Drumhead Service
1215	March Past
1230	Bars, Kiosks and Stalls Open
1330	Side Shows, Shooting Competition
1500	Band Display
1730	Bars Close
1800	Clear of Barracks

We hope that even more serving and retired members of the Regimental and Association branches with their Standards will attend this year. Packed lunches will not be available, you are asked to bring picnics or use the considerable refreshment facilities provided. Entry passes will not be issued.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund

The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to help former members of the Regiment and their dependants who are in need of financial help to ease distress. Cases are referred to RHQ by SSAFA, the Royal British Legion, DSS, Blesma, Combat Stress and other similar organisations that do so much to look after the welfare of ex-Servicemen.

In the last year a total of 106 cases have been considered, 94 have been approved and £25,600 dispensed. Additional support has also been obtained from other welfare sources, particularly the Army Benevolent Fund. The income for the fund comes from the Day's Pay Scheme and the profits from investments.

Your contribution is essential to the future running of the fund. I will ensure that should you ever need the fund then there will be sufficient funds available.

If you have not joined the Day's Pay Scheme, contact the admin office today.

Regimental Uniform Shop

RHQ operates a shop for officers' uniform. Officers wishing to use this facility should contact Maj J Fisk, the Assistant Regimental Secretary.

Volunteers wanted from members of the Royal Anglian Regiment

SSAFA Forces Help offers life-long friendship, support and practical help to anyone who is or has ever served in the Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

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Please contact Ann Needle, branch recruitment officer, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP. Tel: 020 7463 9223. Ann will send you some literature to read and put you in touch with your nearest team.

Contributions to *Castle* wanted

Why not write an article for *Castle* to record, with words and photographs, your experiences? Let everyone else share in your experiences and laugh with/at you. Lay down for posterity your thoughts and activities. Such articles do not have to be tales of great bravery and derring-do. If it is something you would talk about over a beer, share it with a wider audience - the readership of *Castle*. So let's have your articles please.

Next *Castle*, December 2000
Contributions required by 29 October 2000

Diary Dates

July

- 8/9 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Northampton
- 14 R Lincolns Officers Reunion Lunch, Sobraon Barracks.
- 15 Essex Regiment Association Annual Dinner and Dance.
- 23 Regimental Reunion, Bassingbourn.
- 29 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner, Bury St Edmunds.
- 30 Suffolk Regiment Minden Day Reunion, Bury St Edmunds.

September

- 1 Royal Anglian Regiment Foundation Day.
- 2/3 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Reunion, Lincoln.
- 15 Regimental Golf Autumn Meeting, Flempton Golf Club Cambridgeshire.
- 23 1st Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment (old 50th/8th) Reunion, Leicester.
- 30 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Dinner, Norwich

October

- 1 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Commemoration Service, Norwich.
- 6 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon, Warley.
- 6/7 70th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Kettering.
- 14 4th/5th Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner, Leicester.

November

- 3 Regimental Council Meeting.
- Regimental Dinner, Army and Navy Club.
- 9 Field of Remembrance, Westminster.
- 12 Remembrance Sunday.
- 28 Consultation Meeting, RHQ.

December

- 2 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon, Army and Navy Club.

Mainly About People

We send our congratulations and can feel proud that **Gen Sir Michael Walker**, Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, is now Chief of the General Staff (the professional head of the Army).

Pte Paul Wright, who was murdered by the IRA on 8 October 1979 in West Belfast, has been honoured by his home town of Royal Leamington Spa. His parents campaigned for many years to get their son's name added to those on the town's war memorial and were told that it would not be possible because 'Northern Ireland isn't a war'. However on 16 March 2000 a civic ceremony was held to honour their son. Among those present were **Col RJM**

Drummond, who was commanding the 3rd Battalion at the time of the murder, and **Maj RC Gould** who was also serving at the time. Ex Pompadour **Maj Andy Styles** completed a sponsored scooter ride last summer from UK to Ethiopia and on his way south visited the British Military Cemetery in Silent Valley Aden where a number of our soldiers are buried. The cemetery is being well maintained and he took photographs of the graves, including that of **Cpl Ricky Watson** who was killed on 24 October 1966 while serving with the 3rd Battalion. By chance the editor got to know his daughter while working as the Defence Adviser in Nigeria so was able to send her



The parents of Pte Paul Wright at the meorial that now bears his name.



Cpl Ricky Watson's headstone.

a photograph of her father's grave which she has never visited.

Lt Col JBC Prescott, who has been appointed Deputy Honorary Colonel (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire), commanded the 7th Battalion 1994-97. He now lives in Leicestershire and works for the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Peter Chilvers, who was an officer with the 6th Battalion for some years, visited RHQ recently between tours in Bosnia. Peter originally went to Bosnia as a TA officer but at some time along the way took a contract with the office of the High Representative (OHR) as the exhumations co-ordinator. During his visit to Bury St Edmunds he presented a M76 Draganov sniper rifle to the museum, a memento of his service with SFOR in Banja Luka, in the summer of 1997.

This year has seen the centenary commemorations in South Africa of the many actions during the Anglo Boer War involving our former Regiments. **Lt Col Anthony Swallow**, together with **Mr Richard Lane** and **WO1 (RSM) Tommy Marston**, followed the fortunes of the Royal Leicesters (17th Foot) and attended the commemorations at Ladysmith. The picture below shows a wreath being laid at the grave of **Lt Francis Parsons VC** of 1st Bn Essex Regiment (44th) at Driefontein.



**Who are they, where, and why?
(December 1999 issue)**



Back: WO1 (RSM) Ray Baldry, WO2 Ted Holden. **Front:** Maj Tom Styles, Capt John Hutchings. Photograph taken at RAF Cranwell where the team from the Depot, Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds were judging the drill competition (June 1963).



Peter Chilvers and the rifle he donated to the museum.



'Poachers in the USA' - Maj Mike Beard and WO2 Odell, both serving as exchange officers at the US Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia.

During the break between the second and third terms at Sandhurst officer cadets must take part in an expedition. **OCdt Paul Harris**, who will join the Poachers after commissioning, was part of one which climbed Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.



OCdt Harris - rainforest stage - 3,500m 30C...



OCdt Harris - at the summit - 5,895m -5C.

A message from the Chaplain

Drawing wrong conclusions



There was an old woman who crossed the Brazilian frontier every day on a motor scooter, with a sack of sand behind her. The customs officer eventually became suspicious and inquired: 'What have you got in that sack?' 'Only sand, sir', came the reply. The officer emptied the sack and, indeed, it contained nothing but sand. And so it went on for a month.

One day, the officer said

to the old woman: 'I won't arrest you or say anything to the police, but just tell me...are you smuggling or not?'. 'Yes,' she replied, truthfully. 'Well, what are you smuggling?', he pressed her. With a smile on her face she replied, 'scooters'.

Yes, we can be so wrong in our judgements. I think it is fairly true to say that the more one knows about an issue the less one says. I have often sat in company where an issue came up in conversation. Some would rattle on and draw conclusions all over the place, knowing very little about the issue. At the same time, someone in the same company knowing the real situation, would just sit there in disgust.

This is very sad when people are involved. It is sad to hear people criticised and condemned by others who only know few of the facts.

I wonder are you guilty. Have you the courage to reflect for a few moments and examine your conscience?

Letters

From the Editor

I am grateful to Mr DG Nelson of Stamford Lincs and others who have submitted articles on the Anglo Boer War. All our former Regiments provided forces for the war and it would be invidious to single out the exploits of one of them for special treatment in *Castle*. It would also be difficult, if not impossible to do justice to their combined contribution in a journal of this nature. You will therefore not find an article on the Anglo Boer War in this issue.

However there is a short review on the Boer War South Africa by Martin Marix Evans.



Aden Veterans' Association

I have started an Aden Veterans' Association for those who served in Aden between 1964 and 1967 and know that your 3rd and 4th Battalions were there during that period. I was in the Royal Sussex as was my co-founder, Mr Ernie Izard. We can be contacted at:

(Myself) Aden veterans@CS.com

(Mr Izard) Izzyl@supernet.com

I am trying to publicise the Association and would be grateful for anything you can do to help.

FJ (John) Hotston
7 Marie Curie Avenue
Netherton
Merseyside L30 5RX



Wrong Caption Warminster Journal

May I point out to you and your readers that the caption under the excellent picture of the Royal Anglian Association members marching proudly through Warminster on Remembrance Day was wrong. It portrayed us as the Royal Air Forces Association.

We do get called the Angle Irons and the Royal Anglicans, but to my knowledge, this is the first time we have been called the Air Force.

Ted Wilson, Chairman
The Royal Anglian Association (Warminster Branch)
Ex 2nd Battalion



245273879 Gynn DN late Pompadours

My son, Neil Gynn, who served with the Pompadours from 1979 to 1988 and saw service in Belize, Cyprus, Germany and Northern Ireland, was killed in a car crash in Namibia on 30 April this year. After leaving the Army Neil enjoyed a successful career and became the director of a security firm in London. However his passion was travel and it was while travelling with his fiancée, Eliane, that he was killed.

We would like to talk to or hear from his friends from Army days and are keen that those with whom he enjoyed periodic reunions are aware of his death. Also we would like to know if anyone has any suitable photographs of Neil taken in the Army that they would be prepared to lend so that we can copy and then return them. Our telephone number is 020-8428-2145.

We very much hope that some of your readers will respond to this.

Thank-you for your assistance at this sad time.

Roger and Doris Gynn
36 On the Hill
Carpenters Park
Watford
Herts WD1 5DR

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



1st Battalion - The Vikings

Royal Anglian soldiers are particularly well equipped (in the Ulster situation) because of their innate good humour, tolerance and steadiness.

The Ipswich Evening Star, 18 January 1971

Peace in Our Time?

The changing political scene in Northern Ireland has created new challenges for the Vikings in Londonderry. The Battalion remains busy with numerous operational commitments to be fulfilled in the city and across the province. These operational duties include static security duties at our four bases, rural patrols, external base security (GDA) patrols and deployments as the Brigade or province reserve. The Recce Platoon continues to be deployed under control of Force Troops; they have gained an extremely good reputation throughout the province and have received praise from HQNI. The pace of operational life has not significantly detracted from our continuing aim to release as many soldiers as is possible to participate in training and sport.

The Wild West?

The suspension of the Executive has generated a political vacuum in which dissident Republicans have thrived. This increase in dissident activity has led to a number of attacks and finds throughout province. In February and March attacks took place in County Fermanagh and County Londonderry against security force targets. The attack in County Londonderry occurred in Ballykelly at the home of our neighbouring unit, the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Dissident Republican Terrorists gained access to the camp and planted a bomb beside an accommodation block. Fortunately the device only partially functioned and no injuries were sustained. In addition to this several finds have been made; a 500lb bomb was intercepted en route to Belfast, and an RPG-22 (a modern anti-armour weapon) was found close to a military base in Dunganon. These incidents clearly demonstrated the capability and intent of the dissident groups.

Back to the 'Cuds'

In response to the increased threat from dissident Republicans the Battalion resumed patrolling in the rural strip of land known as the 'Enclave', which lies between the west of the city and the border with the Republic of Ireland. These patrols aim to interdict and disrupt terrorist movement to and from Londonderry. Patrols are inserted by boat and helicopter. Part of our province-wide role is to supply reinforcement companies to areas such as South Armagh to assist the TAOR units in patrolling tasks.

Dissident Threat

The Dissident threat became very real for the Vikings at 0616hrs on 6 April 2000 when an IED functioned at the camp perimeter in Ebrington. The device, which was estimated to be around 5lb of home-made explosive, was lowered over the perimeter wall next to the old guardroom. When the device



Damage to the old guardroom.

functioned it damaged the gable end of the guardroom and demolished a section of the perimeter wall. Pte Welsh from B (Suffolk) Company was on duty in the old guardroom at the time. He was knocked off his feet by the blast but immediately responded by sounding the attack alarm alerting the rest of the camp to the explosion.

A joint RUC and Army follow-up operation occurred, with members of B (Suffolk) and C (Essex) Companies providing cordon troops for Ebrington Barracks. Members of C (Essex) Company were also involved in a follow-up operation in the City to clear a suspect vehicle believed to have been involved in the incident. During a search of the vehicle and the surrounding area a number of detonators and timer power units were recovered. The continuing vigilance of the soldiers on guard and other sentry duties ensured that the terrorists were unable to breach the camp perimeter and had no option but to lower the device over the perimeter wall. This undoubtedly prevented potential loss of life.

Lundy Day

Prior to Christmas the Battalion's main focus for training was the impending Lundy Day celebrations, and the prevention of public disorder problems that traditionally accompany many such events in Londonderry. The Lundy Parade is a symbolic event for the Protestant community of Northern Ireland and attracts large numbers of marchers from across the Province. The parade commemorates the closure of the gates of the city, in the face of the advancing Catholic army, by the Apprentice Boys of Derry. During the march a large effigy of the 'traitor' Col Lundy, who attempted to allow the Catholic army access to the city, is burnt in the city centre.

Preparations for the day were run by D



Effigy of Col Lundy.

(Cambridgeshire) Company which provided a public order training facility for the Battalion at Magilligan Training Camp. Capt Martin Elphee and his team ran a comprehensive package which covered subjects including powers of arrest, dealing with the Press and dealing with widespread public disorder. The package culminated in a joint RUC and Army exercise, which tested commanders, individual soldiers and police officers to their limits.

On the day itself prior to the parade the Battalion conducted a large-scale search operation to clear the route. During the search eight all arms search teams, eight arms/explosives search dogs, two Royal Engineer search teams and associated search advisors and one Lynx helicopter were deployed both east and west of the River Foyle. Thankfully Lundy Day passed peacefully, with the small

The Vikings



B (Suffolk) Company Public Order Training.

amount of troublemakers present being dealt with by the parade stewards.

Christmas and New Year in Londonderry

With the Lundy Day parades completed the serious business of celebrating Christmas and New Year started. For many Vikings it would be their first Christmas away from home. To that end celebrations were entered into with a vengeance, with a number of pre-celebrations being provided for the Battalion. Among the normal myriad of company parties and visits to various messes a CSE show visited the Battalion. Various acts were provided including a comedian and an ABBA impersonation group. Christmas was celebrated in all camps with vigour, the Battalion placed itself on minimum manning allowing all non-essential personnel to stand down and enjoy the holiday season.

For those remaining on duty the officers and SNCOs served Christmas lunch in all locations. The two cans of beer per soldier, kindly donated by the Regimental Associations from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex, were warmly welcomed by all, especially those west of Foyle in Fort George and Masonic.

New Year's Eve provided its own challenges, with the millennium bug threatening to disrupt the infra-structure of Londonderry. However after some serious risk assessment another period of minimum manning was granted. The Battalion did not entirely stand down and as always various QRFs and escorts were required to be on standby. For those remaining in the province the millennium was celebrated in style, and the barracks provided grandstand seats for the huge fireworks display provided by Londonderry town council.

New Vikings

The Battalion continues to place great emphasis on our programme of active recruiting. The hard work put in by all members of the Battalion and also all of our training and recruiting organisations back

home has continued to show dividends with a regular stream of new Vikings joining from training. The continuing success of 'Viking Encounter' run by 160 (R Anglian) AYT in Colchester is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the majority of Viking recruits in training have attended a Viking Encounter prior to enlisting. With the continued efforts of the Battalion on 'Viking Call' visits to local recruiting areas, coupled with the support of the AFCOs, training establishments, the RIT and 160 AYT, the Battalion aims to be fully manned by July this year. Current forecasts indicate that we are on track to achieve this target.

Visits

The Battalion has hosted numerous visitors. These included: a farewell visit by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, the outgoing CGS, and Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike GOC NI who has visited on many occasions including a Christmas visit to A (Norfolk) Company in Fort George. Other visitors have included The Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Defence and the new Assistant Chief Constable (North Region) Mr CC Albiston. Brig Roger Brunt also paid us a farewell visit, including lunch in the Officers' Mess,

prior to handing over as Commander 3 Infantry Brigade. C (Essex) Company hosted Col GCP Morgan and Mr Gordon from the Essex Regiment Association. Both served with the 4th Essex Regiment during World War Two, Mr Wren left the Regiment soon after the war but not before establishing the first Essex Regiment Corps of Drums, the drums of which are now displayed in the Viking Officers' Mess. A (Norfolk) Company is planning a similar visit by members of the Norfolk Regiment Association and it is hoped to mirror this with future visits by the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Associations.

The Future

As the Battalion completes the first year of its tour the focus remains firmly on the operational requirements in the province. The Vikings will undoubtedly face fresh challenges over the coming months. The first of which is the considerable training requirement generated by our move to the mechanised role in May 2001. The move to Pirbright is welcomed by all ranks of the Battalion. Our new role as mechanised infantry promises to provide challenging and varied training opportunities and a chance to get back into combined arms soldiering. Pirbright provides an excellent base for the Battalion, which is within a few hours of our home counties and offers excellent local training and social facilities. The Battalion has commenced rerole training and this is proving to be a fine balancing act between operational and training requirements. The main training bill is the provision of drivers and commanders for the numerous vehicles associated with the mechanised role. Other cadres include L37 gunners, support weapons, signals, CVR(T) drivers and gunners and many more. We aim to have trained as many of these individuals as possible in Londonderry so the Vikings can hit the ground running in Pirbright.

Farewells

During the Christmas period the Vikings said farewell to the Quartermaster, Maj Tony



The Commanding Officer presents the QM with a leaving present.

The Vikings

Jones. He was dined out in December with functions in both the Officers' and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. He was presented with several leaving presents, including a preserved and framed Minden Day wreath that decorated the Regimental Colour on his last Minden day with the Vikings. After almost 30 years of uninterrupted service with the Battalion, Maj Jones will be greatly missed.

The Battalion also said goodbye to Poacher Platoon 2. The continued support of the 2nd Battalion has proved to be invaluable especially given the current pace of operations in province. Both Vikings and Poachers alike have gained experience and forged new links by working together in Londonderry.

Training

The Battalion has continued to send as many people as operationally possible on overseas exercises. Soldiers have trained in Belize, Kenya and Poland. The Battalion has also sent soldiers to Bermuda and Sierra Leone as members of short-term training teams. B (Suffolk) Company is currently deployed on Exercise Marble Tor in Gibraltar. Meanwhile A (Norfolk) Company is preparing to compete in the Northern Ireland skill at arms competition. One notable deployment involved B (Suffolk) Company on Exercise Cossack Express, with the Royal Irish Rangers in the Ukraine.

Exercise Cossack Express

WO2 (CSM) Hill writes:

During October last year, 56 members of B (Suffolk) Company deployed to the Ukraine as part of Exercise Cossack Express, a two-week exercise designed to foster goodwill

between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the British Army, as well as giving a TA unit the opportunity to conduct some excellent live firing.

The TA unit in question was 4/5 Royal Irish Rangers, based in Portadown and commanded by Lt Col Jonny Rollins, a former Viking. B (Suffolk) Company provided a PRT, a complete platoon commanded by Lt Matt Woodeson, a rifle section and a fire team to bolster the Rangers numbers. Twelve cap badges took part in the exercise, producing an admin quagmire that the Rangers did very well to keep on top of.

For some of our soldiers this was the first time they had visited a foreign country (so long as you do not count NI as foreign) and the exercise was to prove to be a real eye opener. The first impression the majority of soldiers got, and the overwhelming one throughout the exercise, was the poverty that the Ukrainians suffer. The Bosnia vets among the company kept muttering about how they thought they were back in Split/Gornj Vakuf etc but the camp, in the middle of a training area three times the size of Salisbury Plain and close to the Polish border, proved to be comfortable and spacious. The sewerage system kept providing surprises and one didn't lean against the walls unless you wished to get covered in whitewash, but these were minor discomforts.

Work quickly started with live firing building from pairs fire and manoeuvre, leading up to a full company attack, all within a week. The troops attached to the Ranger companies quickly began to show their skills and were often sought out for advice. The OC, Maj David England, was quickly co-opted to write and run the final exercise, while the rest of the Company HQ, under

Capt Joe Carnegie and WO2 (CSM) Hill, provided PRT to the Ukrainian Airborne Company attached to the Battle Group for the exercise. This proved to be an exercise in diplomacy and taking cover, as the Ukrainians' skill in live firing consisted of pointing their rifles in the general area of the target and letting fly. By the end of the week, however, there was an amazing transformation with the Ukrainians conducting an impressive company live firing attack.

With the end of the live firing phase, the Battle group moved into the field for a four-day blank firing exercise based around a United Nations intervention scenario. This was a highly enjoyable phase that ended with a Battle group attack that was nearly over in 15 minutes, if the umpires hadn't killed off the Ukrainian Company who swept through the enemy quicker than an outbreak of Ebola. The highlight for most of the soldiers was the R and R in the city of Lviv (pronounced Livov). This was put forward as a 'cultural exchange', although most of the exchanging seemed to be US Dollars for rony vodka, and the vision of several soldiers trying to send flowers from NI to Ukraine suggests that it was that special brand of culture, that squaddies are well renowned for, that was also being exchanged. After a short period of administration, the Battle group returned to a wet and cold Northern Ireland (some things never change) and back to operations.

Ukraine is still the favourite subject of the B Company soldiers, with many stories growing in embellishment with every rendition. The Company is now looking forward to Exercise MARBLE TOR 1 to Gibraltar in April, where no doubt even more stories and legends will be reformed."



WO2 Hill with some new Ukranian friends!

The Vikings

Battalion Tactics Cadre - 01/00

17 January - 7 February 2000

*Sgt B Traves (Training Wing
Sergeant) writes:*

Within the pages and covers of the December 1999 edition of *Castle*, was a most eloquently written piece by an unnamed author, recounting his experiences of his trip to the Training Wing for the mandatory Potential NCO's cadre (I know who you are and I know where you live!). In the same way as the PNCO's cadre is the prologue to the start of a private's climb on the rank ladder to reach lance corporal, the same is true for a lance corporal's attendance on a Battalion tactics cadre which is the prologue to the hard climb to the second rung of the ladder.

The unease and uncertainty that so often characterises the first day of a PNCO's cadre was clearly missing, all had attended that cadre and for the large majority, had laid those first day nerves to rest, buried (18 inches down) in the sub-conscious under the heading 'Experience'. This time, especially after the CO's and training warrant officer's opening addresses, all knew just how much was expected of them '110 per cent effort 110 per cent of the time gentlemen'.

Week one was kick-started into action, by a timely reminder of the course's aim, by way of presentations from a JNCO recently returned from completing SCBC and secondly from a colour sergeant instructor, teaching tactics on phase 2. After a military knowledge test, BPFA and an afternoon devoted to weapon handling skills, the trend for the first week was set. The students revised all platoon weapons, did ITD tests and were reintroduced to the complexities of the TAM.

Interspersed with a healthy amount of physical training, inclusive of a gentle nature walk, for about eight miles, around Ballykelly airfield. Two days of teaching practices, both from and to the section

commanders, started week two, after which came the serious business of 'tactics'. The buzzwords for this week were orders and battle procedure and by this stage the idea of staggings on as Guard 2IC just didn't seem as bad as it did ten days ago!

Scratching heads, snapped pencils, frequent inhalation of nicotine and the para-phrased '1,000-mile stare' were all in abundance! Questions such as; just exactly where do we get the platoon commander's concept of operations?... and where the hell has my mission gone?... had all become common. The training wing Sergeant, with his advance party of drivers and chefs, left on Thursday as well, giving the students a none too subtle nudge in the proverbial ribs, as to where their next ten days lay - Brecon!

As the students and DS arrived in Wales, in particular Farm 11, Brecon showed its true colours and obligingly hacked it down! Beds found, kit retrieved, food eaten, all that remained was to find out what was going on. Two days of battle lessons and Tews followed and then it was down to an almost non-stop roller-coaster of attacks, patrols, battle preparation, change of command appointments and the students even found time to sleep! The Brecon weather played its part beautifully, rain, sleet, hail and of course, wind. A testament to how strong the wind gusted was characterised by the fact that the cadre's proudly erected 12x12 tent finished upside down in the nearby wood line - twice!

The Wales package culminated in two events, both of which gave rise to an uncharacteristic and stomach-churning wry smile from the training warrant officer. With a glint in his eye, he announced 'Right gentlemen Obua' and with that brief, but unnerving introduction, the glint of metal was seen and the unmistakable sound of a bayonet being fitted was heard. Innumerable attacks and the completion of the Brecon three-miler later, the last piece of training was upon the troops - the 'Fan Dance' - need I say more? With great sighs of relief, aching

feet, scraped knuckles and in some cases, dented egos, the cadre uneventfully returned to Londonderry, except for the small matter of the 45-seater coach having to be push-started! The last day, consisting of admin and interviews, was informally rounded off with the liberal consumption of curry and amber nectar.

What was the aim of the cadre? Was it to muck around 21 of the Battalion's JNCOs for four weeks? No, it wasn't...it was to enable the junior commander to confidently attend SCBC, prepared with the skills and the knowledge to attain a creditable pass and hence, take post firmly on that next rung of the promotion ladder. Was the aim achieved? Time will tell!

Exercise Viking Ski Finn

Lt Nick Charlwood writes:

Exercise Viking Ski Finn was conceived in the summer of 1999. The original aim of the Exercise was to provide soldiers from C(Essex) Company with an exciting Out of Province Training opportunity, providing soldiers with an introduction to Alpine Skiing. Due to the popularity of the concept, the camp was opened up to soldiers from across the Battalion and Brigade Headquarters. Around one hundred and forty soldiers responded to the offer and the Camp was expanded from a one-week exercise into a six-week long training camp.

The camp took place between February and April 2000. The period was divided into six weeklong courses, where up to twenty-four soldiers at a time learnt to ski to a basic standard. The staff for the camp consisted of a small cadre of permanent staff drawn from across the Battalion. These were augmented by a number of other instructors. The permanent staff remained with the ski camp for the entire period, whilst the other instructors remained with the camp for as long a period as their work demands allowed.

The camp took place in the French resort of Les Arcs 1800, a purpose-built skiing resort in the French Alps. The resort has in the past played host to a number of forces events and as such the locals are unfazed by exuberant soldiers! These factors all added together made the resort ideal for the Battalion's purposes. The advance party left Londonderry at the end of February leaving the dismal Irish winter behind. After three days driving (on the wrong side of the road!) and having spent £25,000 on new skiing kit Lt Charlwood and CSgt Buxton arrived. During the following week runs were recced, skis were waxed and, perhaps most importantly, the après ski programme was finalised.

Throughout the camp all of the soldiers and indeed officers attending have shown a remarkably good sense of humour, managing to find the ability to smile after painful crashes or merely through humiliating themselves after falling off chairlifts. The soldiers have also proved themselves to be more robust than the kit.



Tactics cadre student observes his arcs.



Can you spot the CO 1 Royal Anglian?

Two pairs of skis were broken along with numerous poles and goggles. This is compared with no major injuries to the soldiers (except perhaps to the CO's pride!). The falls that have resulted in these breakages did not dissuade any of the soldiers and everyone attending the camp easily achieved the standards required to pass the Army's basic ski proficiency award.

The après ski was vigorously pursued by everyone attending the camp. With many of the local bars being treated to the sight of Vikings in togas! For many the highlight of the week was a torch-lit descent of the mountain. It was incredible to see soldiers with three days' skiing experience skiing with flaming torches down the mountain in the dark.

The Vikings conducted some excellent PR for the Regiment. The soldiers provided a section of the French population, who would normally have little contact with soldiers, with an excellent impression of the Vikings and of the Army as a whole. Exercise Viking Ski Finn proved to be a great success. It gave our soldiers an excellent opportunity to escape the rigours of life in Northern Ireland and provided them with a complete and challenging change in routine.

The Viking Nordic Ski Team

Lt Matt Woodeson writes:

The Viking Nordic ski team formed in early November. The main competitions that the team focused on were the Infantry Championships - held at Nordsetter in Norway, and the Land Command/Divisional championships - held in Serre Chevalier France. Competitive Nordic skiing is an extremely arduous sport. It involves two different styles of cross country skiing; skating and classic.

Not all of the races are just straight skiing, the biathlon is a race in which the skier is



Battalion ski instructors - from left: Sgt Roach, Lt Charlwood and CSgt Buxton.

required to ski a number of loops of a fixed distance and at various stages shoot targets from a variety of positions. On completion of the loop the next member of the team undertakes the course.

The senior race of every meet is the military patrol race, normally held over a longer distance than the other races. The team of four are required to dress in camouflage whites, carry a prescribed amount of kit and ski around a course that tests navigation, skiing and the mental agility of all team members. During the race the team are subjected to a senior officer's inspection of their kit, and must complete a shoot and a number of command tasks. The Viking team consisted of six novice skiers - Lt Woodeson, Cpl Summerson, LCpl Hassen and Ptes Gomes, Hornsey and Stubbs. As novices the team was able to travel to Norway and be trained over a period of five weeks prior to

the start of the Infantry Championships. The infantry holds a training camp in Nordsetter, near Lillehammer. Each team is given a trainer for four weeks and then left to their own personal and team training. Unfortunately for the Viking team a car knocked down the trainer allocated to us during the first week of our training! So the Viking team members had to rely on what they had picked up from him to see them through. The lack of snow forced the teams to ski on the frozen lakes in and around the Nordsetter area. This provided the only real type of skiing practice the team had, until race week, when some real snow fell.

The daily routine in Norway was particularly tough. As the lack of snow prevented any real distance work from being undertaken, running, swimming and gym circuits were used to try and increase the team's fitness to race levels. The mornings

The Vikings

consisted of a long run, then some technique work on the lake, lunch and then either a visit to the gym or two hours in the pool or range work down in the Birkebine Olympic stadium. Soft tissue injuries started to affect all of the teams at the camp due to the intensity of the training. Race week arrived along with some welcome snow, allowing the organisers to cut the tracks for races. The 10km classic race was harder than the 15km race, purely because of the conditions that it was held in.

Throughout race week the team gave a good showing. The team then moved out to Serre Chevalier to take part in the Land Command Divisional Championships. 25 Engineer Regiment were our main rivals in the Northern Ireland Division. The Vikings however had a secret weapon; a trainer from the infantry camp was hired. Ned Kelly used to be an engineer, skiing for 35 Engineer Regiment, one of the best ski teams in the Army. He coached the Vikings for three weeks, and it was here that the expertise of the team started to improve. The team was finally able to compete with the other teams on a more equal basis. Out of the 40 teams



Range work.

that had arrived at the championships, very few teams were complete novice teams. This became apparent when it was realised that there was no distinction made between novice and open skiers. The Vikings faced some very difficult competition over race

week with teams such as the England B Squad completing the course set in under half the time of some skiers. However the team did perform well; the training and hard work put in France and Norway paid off. If it were not for an unfortunate disqualification in the patrol race the team would have come away with 16th place overall. Instead the Vikings had to settle for 24th. However, this is still a creditable position for our first season's racing.



The author racing.

Sailing

2Lt Richard James writes:

As part of the preparations for the British Army Antarctic Peninsular Expedition a boat big enough to store the required equipment needed to be identified. *Sea Spirit*, a 64ft yacht with a steel hull (needed to move through ice floe) was found at Inverness.

In order to assess the suitability of *Sea Spirit* for the gruelling South Atlantic Ocean it needed to be moved to Marchwood, a sail of some 800 nautical miles. Expedition organiser Maj James Harris, OC C (Essex) Company, suggested that this would be an ideal opportunity for some members of C (Essex) Company to escape guards and duties at Ebrington and crew the yacht. On arrival in Inverness Ptes Dudley, Logdon, Nicholls and myself met up with the rest of the crew, a collection of students from Nottingham and Edinburgh OTCs. After a day of preparation we eventually set sail from Inverness. All was not to go as planned however and we soon found ourselves back in Inverness for repairs. A further attempt got us some 90 miles to Peters Port through a force seven gale and very rough seas, unfortunately due to further faults with the boat and a worsening weather forecast it was decided to return to Inverness.

While this trip may sound somewhat ill-fated it did actually provide a good week of sailing in some very difficult conditions that ensured the crew became well-rehearsed both in day and night sailing. Furthermore it served as a thorough introduction for the three soldiers of C (Essex) Company, none of whom had sailed before and all of who

The Vikings



Ptes Nicholls and Dudley take a break.

will (perhaps with a little persuasion) sail again, hopefully in better climes. *Sea Spirit*, skippered by Maj Richard Pattison (ex 2 R Anglian), was subsequently sailed to Marchwood without incident. The trip was completed in just four days but this time with favourable conditions and a different crew.

Viking Sport

Despite the operational demands placed upon the Battalion the Vikings continue to place a great deal of emphasis on competing in sport at all levels. The Battalion has again had a successful period on the sporting front. The cross-country team achieved third place in the NI team championships. The squash team reached the final of the NI Cup by defeating 1 PWO 4-1 in the semi-final, unfortunately the team was defeated by a group of extremely good players from HQNI. Capt Dom Biddick also recently led the Viking 'Iron Man' team to victory in the 8 Brigade competition, which involved swimming, cycling, running and upper body endurance tests. Preparations for the forthcoming cricket season have started under the

watchful gaze of Capt Bunny Nye. The team is currently attending twice-weekly net sessions as the campaign to retain the Infantry Cup for the third year in a row gets underway.

Boxing

Capt D Stefanetti (SFO) writes:

After the successful inter-company boxing competition the Battalion entered a team in the Army Inter-Unit Novice Grade III Championships. I received a simple brief from the CO... 'win the championships or remain as families officer for the next five years!'

The squad members from the various companies were attached to HQ Company and accommodated in Clooney Base. The squad formed up under the guidance of Sgt Riley, LCpl Walker and Fus Muirhead. The Battalion was lucky to retain Fus Muirhead from the last unit, not only because he is a trained PTI but also because he has boxed for England! The squad very quickly settled into a routine of sustained physical activity and diet control!

As the first fight arrived on 26 November 1999 against 25 Engineer Regiment, away

in Antrim, the squad was in a confident, positive mood. It was a hard-fought event which gave the team members valuable experience of fighting against another unit, something only two of them had done previously. At the end of the evening the Vikings had won by six bouts to three. With only a long weekend to take some well-earned leave and recover, the squad quickly settled back into training. The squad was well aware that its next fight against 1 RGJ would be a hard contest as it had beaten 1 RWF seven bouts to two in the semi-final.

On 21 January 2000 in the Bubble Gym at Ebrington, which had been magically transformed by WO2 (RQMS) Mackness into Maddison Square Garden, the Northern Ireland final took place. Guests on the evening included Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike KCB DSO MBE GOC NI, the Commander of 8 Bde, the deputy Commander of 39 Bde and senior RUC members.

The event, which at one stage saw the Vikings four bouts to one up, had everything...passion, raw courage and determination were evident in both teams. The evening proved to be a great advertisement for the sport of boxing, in the end the final outcome depended on the final bout of the evening, the heavyweight bout. Pte Tuppen produced the fight of his life against a skilful and determined opponent. At the end of three rounds both boxers had fought themselves to a standstill and you could hear a pin drop as the referee called for both boxers to announce the decision. 'By a majority decision, red is the winner'...eight words that meant the Vikings were the Northern Ireland Grade III Novice Boxing Champions for the 1999-2000 season.

The next fight was the semi-final of the competition which was held in the Maida Gym, Aldershot on 24 February 2000 versus 2 Para. It is no exaggeration to say we were totally outclassed by the Para team. We did learn valuable lessons and if anybody with a 'Schermuly' on his arm is reading this we will be ready next time we meet. The hard work, passion and determination shown by



Sgt Riley attends to Pte Turner.



Pte Tuppen avoids the advance of a 2 Para boxer.

The Vikings

the squad was only outclassed by the amazing level of support shown to the squad by the entire Battalion. The next inter-company competition takes place in July and as far as the Inter-Unit Grade III Novice competition is concerned - we will be back!

Football

Capt Bunny Nye (QM(T)) writes:

The Infantry Cup saw us go out in the first round losing 5-0 away to 1 RGJ in Belfast. 'It's got to get better than that!' I hear you say...and thankfully it does.

In the Army Cup we started strongly defeating 5 Regiment AAC 5-2 and 1 RGJ 4-3 in the first two rounds at home with strong performances. The third round took us to Lisburn to play a strong 15 Signal Regiment team where we played extremely well but went down 2-0. Meanwhile the NI league is ongoing and as this article goes to press we are in fourth place with five games to play. We started the league campaign with a 4-1 victory away to 25 Engineer Regiment at Antrim and in early January had a good home win against the Scots Guards winning 3-1. Since then we have drawn 6-6 with 5 Regiment AAC, lost 4-1 to 1 RWF, defeated RAF Aldergrove 3-2 in our best performance of the season, coming back from 2-0 down, to win with 20 minutes to play. We also recently defeated 3 R Irish 3-0 at Ballykinler.

The Battalion team recently won the NI Cup in a tough final against 1 RWF at home. The cup campaign started with a 4-3 victory away to 25 Engineer Regiment and was followed up by an excellent performance against 5 R Irish when the team came back from two goals down to win 5-3 after extra time and penalties.

The semi-final was played away against Depot R Irish in Ballymena. In an extremely competitive final the Vikings initially went



From left: LCpl Ward, Sgt Ramm, Sgt Goodman and Pte Jardine with the NI Cup.

2-0 down in the first half as the RWF team started strongly. Towards the end of the first half the Vikings stepped up the tempo and started to dominate the opposition. This resulted in a penalty to the Vikings, which was drilled past the keeper by Pte Jardine, this left the score at 2-1 to the RWF as the teams went in at half time. After a robust debrief on their first half performance by Capt 'Bunny' Nye, the team emerged fired up and quickly reasserted their control over the game. This pressure produced the equaliser with LCpl Phil Ward scoring from a corner.

With around 20 minutes to go the RWF defence was split by some strong running from the centre forwards and Sgt Ramm broke through and lobbed the keeper to make it 3-2 to the Vikings. The RWF came back

strongly in the last 10 minutes but were denied a goal by some determined Viking defence. After the game the Deputy Commander 8 Infantry Brigade presented Sgt Goodman, the team captain, with the NI Football Cup. This cup has a long history and was formerly the NI District Challenge Cup which has been won by the Royal Norfolk Regiment in the 1912-1913 season. It was fitting that Maj (Retd) PJS Child and Maj (Retd) WH Reeve, from the Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, were present at the game.

At a representative level we have done well with Ptes Moseley and Jardine representing the newly formed Army U21 side and Pte Moseley has since been selected as a reserve for the Army tour to Jersey and Guernsey. In addition Sgt Ramm, LCpl Ward



Viking football squad.

The Vikings

and again Pte Moseley represented the Infantry with the notable achievement of Sgt Ramm recently making his 25th infantry appearance.

The football team has had an excellent season and hopefully by the next edition of *Castle* we will have some silverware to show for our hard work. Finally, I must finish by thanking Maj Tony Jones for all the hard work he has put into Viking football both on and off the pitch over the last 30 years. He will be sadly missed and is proving to be an extremely hard act to follow.

Rugby Union

Maj David England (OC B Company) writes:

The Viking Rugby Club has continued to go from strength to strength with many new members willing to put their bodies on the line. I was selected as the new rugby officer and subsequently managed to re-establish my position at open side flanker, which I had last played in some eight years earlier! The team has been led throughout the season by Capt Dan Howson and Sgt Granfield.

The season started well with a 54-12 victory over the Grenadier Guards at home. The team has had a successful season so far with seven wins in 11 games. The best performance to date has been the game against 1 RWF (this season's Army Cup holders), in which the Vikings held the RWF to a 22-10 defeat, the high standard of Viking rugby was commented on by a former Army coach. The pack has grown stronger under the presence of Capt Mark Powell with some committed performances from Sgt 'Taff' Patten, Cpl Rice and Lt Rob Hitching. The backs have become more dynamic with the kicking game being led by Capt Dan Howson and strong running from Sgt 'Jock' Appleton,



Line out action from the inter-company 10s.

Lt 'Bubba' Biggs and LCpl Glascodine.

On 9 March 2000 the annual inter-company Rugby Union competition was held. All the teams performed admirably but by the end of a great day's rugby HQ Company proved to be too strong for the other companies.

The Viking rugby team has just returned from a week's tour in England. The tour proved to be a fitting culmination to the season with a comprehensive 71-10 victory at Chicksands followed by a 29-0 defeat of RAF Brampton. Some hard-earned rest then followed before the infantry sevens competition in Warminster. The two games earlier in the week had taken their toll on the squad members, but the Vikings managed to reach the quarter-finals before being knocked out by the Coldstream Guards who went on to win the tournament.

The club now has an extremely strong nucleus of players from which a strong team can be developed for the next season. Particular merit should be taken by Cpl 'Whistling' Pete Barrs who continues to be rock-solid in the front row at the grand age of 41 having played 25 years of rugby!

Hockey

CSgt Dade writes:

The Vikings hockey team assembled as the inter-company hockey league began in earnest in November 1999. The Battalion has a large base of players, mainly within HQ Company, however after some very competitive matches played at Ballykelly, D Company has retained top spot as Battalion champions.

So to the main aim of the Battalion hockey year...the Vikings gathered together a group of 30 players and began a training-up period in preparation for the Infantry Cup. The final friendly before the Infantry Cup match was played in Aldergrove against 5 AAC. It again went against us 3-0 but the shape of the team was good and ready for the Infantry Cup.

On 9 February 2000 the match against 8 R Irish took place. On paper this match was going to be difficult and the tactics of stern defence and team discipline held us strong. The first half ended with the Vikings 1-0 to the good and with our opponents in disarray. The second half was one that will stick in the mind as the Vikings were attacked time and time again. In defiance the team held out until a penalty was awarded to 8 R Irish with only five minutes to go. The 1-1 result was a disappointment to the team but we live to fight on. The man of the match that day was Cpl Brian Plant whose display in goal prompted one observer to recommend that he trials for the infantry team.



HQ Company - winners of the inter-company 10s.

2nd Battalion - The Poachers

The Commanding Officer writes:

By the time this hits your letterbox the Battalion will be happily settled in Gloucestershire, close to the Welsh borders and fully acclimatised to mist and drizzle. Early morning PT in the searing heat will seem like eons ago and the Mediterranean views from the single living accommodation will be long forgotten. Editorial deadlines being what they are you will have to wait until December to find out how the Poachers have settled back into the UK.

So what of Cyprus? It barely seems like yesterday that the Battalion was packing up to leave Warminster and yet here we are with three exercises in Jordan and the Falklands deployment behind us, three JNCO cadres and a list of adventurous training qualifications and experiences that are far too numerous to mention.

Professionally, the operational role in Cyprus was not a challenging one. It was built upon static tasks and reaction forces. To this end fulfillment and challenge had to come through arduous training. The operational cycle was designed to achieve this and permit the company commanders to have ring-fenced training periods to keep individual skill levels as high as possible. With the annual culmination of this training cycle being the live firing OTX in Jordan at either company or Battalion level, there was always a goal. This focused our training and ensured that we would return to our role in Land Command at the highest training level achievable in a single arm environment. It is at this point that the one shortfall in training becomes evident, the lack of combined arms opportunities. That said, soldiers at all levels enjoyed their training. For those of you interested in more detail, look out for a series of four articles on Jordan in the next issue of *The Infantryman*.

On the adventurous training front, the opportunities were outstanding. A flick through previous editions of *Castle* and the many articles in this edition are testament to this. The majority of soldiers had the chance to dip into a number of activities through challenge pursuit and PATT periods and many have followed up with more concentrated training in their favourite areas. The adventure training opportunities that are available in Cyprus are a great asset in the effort to maintain morale throughout the tour in Cyprus.

On the sporting side the limited sizes of leagues and the lack of variety made many sports as exciting as the Scottish 2nd Division. This however, has not stopped participation by the many as well as by the gladiators. There have been a number of noticeable successes over the two years; such as the Silver Boot for the Walkabout, the Dhekelia Dash 15-mile relay race and the successes of a fledgling rugby 15s side.

The real bonus has been the emergence of new, young talent in a wide range of sports - The RSM and Commanding Officer can now confidently hang up their trainers.

Domestically and socially, Cyprus had its

pressures, but it also had many opportunities that for the majority outweighed these. We have seen 20 marriages, and 34 children have been added to the Poacher family. Many, many people have visited Egypt, Israel and Jordan and of course Northern Cyprus, Latsi and Akamas have proved themselves to be popular destinations.

Was it a success? In a nutshell, yes.

So what of Chepstow? Well, we assume the grand title of a Light Battalion in the Manoeuvre Support (Jungle) Role and have re-organised on our arrival in Chepstow to an orbat with four sections per rifle platoon, (one with GPMGs), 12 Milan posts and six mortar tubes. The Drums have become 6 Platoon (The Drums) in a rifle platoon role. Our focus is on a BRB tour from November 2000 - May 2001, so it will be the urban jungle before the real one. Our training this summer has focused on topping up our conventional skills and getting the Orbat right, especially in D (Sp) Company. From August we focus on Northern Ireland, and look forward to a welcome operational tour for the Battalion.

Chepstow is a superb part of the world. It offers easy access to our recruiting area and great opportunities for training. We are looking forward to getting to know it, for a couple of years at least!

What follows is a series of articles to wind up our time in Cyprus. They indicate that we were busy right up to the last and, in true Poacher fashion, 'Went for it'. Read on...

The Last Six Months in the Poachers

Capt Nat Haden writes:

When the Battalion had finally all returned from the OTX in Jordan and started the long process of washing the dust out of our equipment the emphasis shifted towards starting the handover.

November saw the Battalion readjusting to life in Cyprus. A major expedition was launched to go and climb a 6000M mountain

in the Himalayas, with the warning that if they failed they shouldn't bother coming back. The team for the annual Dhekelia Dash competition had time to do a small amount of training before they took part in and won the competition. D Company also got the chance to become film stars as they were filmed for an SSVC video on internal security operations in Cyprus, although there have been no BAFTA nominations arising out of the performance yet.

December arrived and the first checks prior to the handover began. Rumours about the millennium bugs effect on the infrastructure of Cyprus abounded and the Christmas festivities began. The traditional Officers' v Sergeants' Mess football match ended with the traditional 'embarrassing defeat' of the officers. The Austin Dinner in the Officers' Mess was a great success, although some pairs of trousers didn't seem to fit quite as well this year as they had the year before. The traditional Soldiers' Christmas Lunch passed with only a few sprouts decorating the walls and the majority of the Battalion went on leave on 22 December to prepare for Christmas and the Millennium. Both events passed without a hitch. The soldiers at the Black Knight checkpoint became the first people on British soil to see sunrise on the morning of the new millennium. The only victim of the millennium bug was Pte Murphy, a soldier in C Company whose watch stopped working.

As the Battalion came back to work on 8 January the students for the JNCO cadre reported for their first day's tuition, most of which was spent in PT kit.

More young officers from the Battalion went back to the UK to undertake another Project Rapport, a fun and very valuable set of lectures that are given to schools in the Battalions recruiting area. In the Officer's Mess young officers could be seen revising late into the night for the all island JOTES 1 exam that the Battalion was hosting.

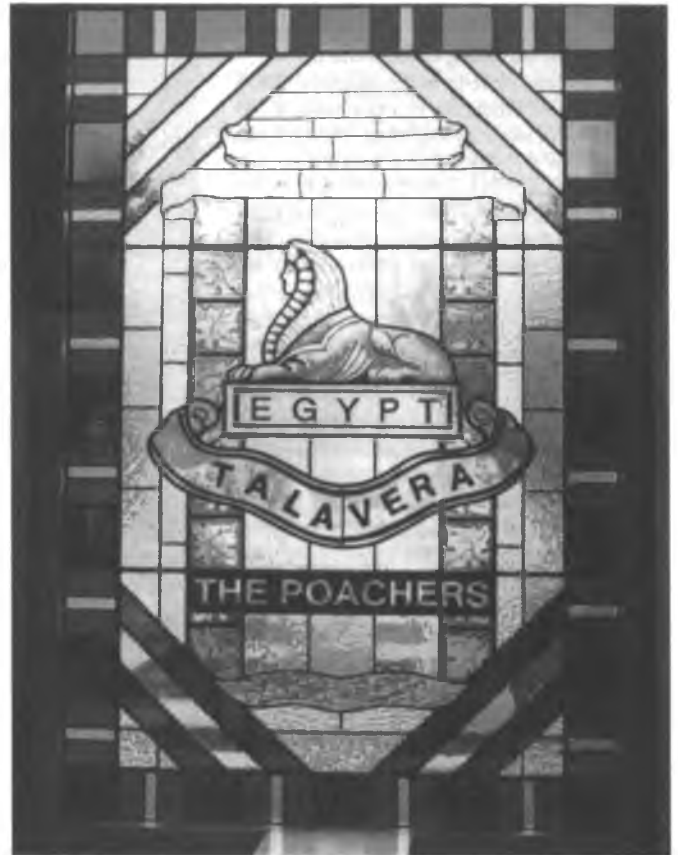
The week of the Combined Arms Simulation Trainer (CAST) arrived and key



Maj Nick Nottingham goes for the interception - Officers' v Sergeants' Mess football.

The Poachers

CBF Maj Gen Al Ramsay CBE DSO presents CSgt (now CSM) Dunn with his LSGC Medal.



The Poachers window, a permanent reminder of our time in Cyprus.

players in the Battalion deployed to Episkopi Garrison. CAST was organised and run on Island, although some staff and exercising troops came over from the UK and Germany to take part. CAST gave the Battalion a good chance to get back into the flow of conventional operations after two years in Cyprus and it proved to be a valuable exercise for the BHQ staff. On a sporting front January gave the Battalion's Rugby team a chance to have one last game in Cyprus in the Rugby 15s competition where they were narrowly defeated in a plate final against the KOSB.

The PNCO cadre welcomed February with a sigh of relief as it meant that the end of their course was in sight. The month started with the Battalion skill at arms meeting organised by Maj Dharan Hunter and C Company, which gave rise to a lot of banter within the Battalion.

After three days of competition A Company rose victorious and increased their score in the inter-company competition. At the end of the second week of the month the end finally came for students on the PNCO cadre. The inspecting officer for their pass out parade was the Commander of British Forces Cyprus, Maj Gen Al Ramsay CBE DSO. While congratulating the students he took the opportunity to thank the Battalion for its work over the previous two years and to say goodbye.

February was also the month in which the Garrison Commander, Col AF Potter OBE, said his official farewell to the Battalion. At the end of the month the outgoing Chief of



Pte Cash from A Company holds their trophy aloft.

the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, visited the Battalion.

As March arrived the sound of MFO boxes being put together and nailed shut echoed around the Battalion and the move back to England began.

On 15 March at 1000hrs the Poachers formally handed over Alexander Barracks and once again officially took up residence in the United Kingdom. The new camp still overlooks water, but it is now the nice brown colour of the Severn Estuary. By 23 March the Battalion was complete in Beachley and had started to go on leave.

April saw the Battalion return from leave and start the process of settling into our role in England. The role here is very different to the role in Cyprus. It is equally, if not more, challenging, both conventionally as the Battalion adjusts to the new Orbat and also as the Battalion starts to train in the internal security role for Northern Ireland.

Additional tactics, JNCO and sniper cadres have been running and maximum advantage has been taken of our proximity to SENTA, much to everyone's delight.

The Battalion also continues to support the RAAT and this has seen C Company assist the Hunter Force on the SAS escape and evasion exercise, and B Company provide CIVPOP to IWG as part of their pre NI training.

A Company and elements of BHQ are scheduled to deploy to Norway on a Partnership for Peace exercise in late May. More about this one in the next issue.

The Poachers

Skill At Arms Meeting

Capt Jason Sparks writes:

The Battalion skill at arms meeting 2000 took place at Dhekelia Ranges from 8-10 February bringing together the whole Battalion in what became a very close run competition.

B Company had fired its shoots previously due to operational commitments thus providing a complete set of scores to be chased (and rapidly overtaken!) during the meeting. Although in all fairness they shot in cold and windy conditions whereas the weather on the main event was gloriously sunny.

Each company provided two details of 10 riflemen throughout the skill at arms meeting to shoot the Association, the Whitehead Cup and FIBUA. Four members of each detail also competed in the LMG match, and two members in the 30's Pistol Cup.

Knockout falling plate rifle and pistol matches were also competed for, as well as the more 'relaxed' officers v WO/SNCOs shoot. Neither the knockout matches nor the Officers v WO/SNCOs shoot counted towards the overall skill at arms meeting final results.

Each shoot was weighted equally by awarding the winning detail 10 points, runner up nine, continuing all the way down to the lowest scoring detail which was awarded just 1.

The mornings were surprisingly cold for Cyprus and the first firers bore the brunt of the cold weather with the first rounds down the range by 0715hrs. The Whitehead Cup was one of the first matches to be shot by each team, followed by the 30's Cup. By the end of the first day it was clear that A and C Companies had come out on top with some very respectable scores.

The second day saw teams rotating through the Association and 30's Cup again. Generally the shooting was of a high standard. The day finished with the closely contested Officers v WO/SNCOs competition, consisting of both rifle and pistol falling plate matches. The WO/SNCO team closely won the event after a fine pressure shoot by the RSM at the end.

The third day saw the completion of the competition, in balmy Cyprus weather. This, combined with some background music on the PA system and a barbecue lunch brought the event to a close.

The Battalion had the honour of receiving the Chief of Staff for HQ British Forces Cyprus, Air Commodore PA Robinson OBE for the final day and presenting the prizes. Several items of silver found their way into the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess! A Company walked away as the winning team after a very close run with C Company.

Notably, the best individual officer shot (Lt Whitham) scored higher than the best WO/SNCO (Sgt Simpson)! Cpl Collins of A Company just beat LCpl Brocklesby from C Company for the best overall rifleman prize.



Maj Dharan Hunter, Maj Nick Nottingham, Air Cdre PA Robinson OBE and CO look on at the shooting.



Practising drills before the competition.



The Chief of Staff for BFC, Air Cdre PA Robinson OBE presents the award for best officer shot to 2Lt Rupert Witham.

Exercise Nordic Poacher*Capt Alex Hawley writes:*

Nordic skiing is often referred to by the uninitiated as 'uphill skiing'. When compared to its Alpine cousin it certainly lacks the rush which accompanies potential imminent death, and falls some way behind in the trendiness stakes. However, Nordic skiing can be an immensely challenging (and enjoyable) winter activity. When it is allied with shooting to become biathlon it becomes the almost ideal military - and particularly infantry sport.

Leaving the warmth of Cyprus firmly behind, eight A Company soldiers and I travelled back to the UK on route to the Harz Mountains, Germany. Stopping briefly in Chepstow we drove to Dover to RV with Cpl Mayall who had been released from duties at ITC Catterick to instruct on the expedition.

The problems associated with mounting an overseas expedition from Cyprus were eased greatly by the assistance of I Cheshire with whom we are conducting our arms plot swap. They provided us with accommodation in the UK and a minibus for the duration of the trip.

After a lengthy drive we arrived in Torfhaus. We were accommodated in one of the multi-activity lodges run by BFG in the Harz. The building was well-equipped (including Sky TV!) and above all warm. The village itself is conveniently located at a major intersection of the ski tracks - or 'Loipe'.

All the soldiers were novices, and did therefore spend a good portion of the first couple days in the snow rather than on it as they were introduced to basic skiing techniques. Once a modicum of confidence had been gained, Cpl Mayall and I took the soldiers on progressively longer tracked routes.

By the middle of the week we were completing 20km circuits, and the troops were continuously introduced to new techniques, such as 'double-phasing' and skating. By this stage some of the group were emerging as naturals and everyone was enjoying the break from Cyprus.

Torfhaus is a short drive from Bad Harzburg where we did our food shopping, and the soldiers enjoyed the odd night out. Most days though we were chin-strapped by the time we had finished skiing, and once a heavy meal had been cooked and eaten we were ready to kick for touch.

On the final day Cpl Mayall set a hugely challenging 25km course to test the troops' newly acquired skills. A strong and a weak skier were paired together and set off at five-minute intervals; I followed some distance behind. LCpl Sutherland and Pte Key won the contest in a creditable time of three hours.

After seven full days' skiing we left the Harz and began the mother of all drives back to Calais. The trip had been an immense success, and has hopefully furnished The Poachers with the basis of a winning future ski team.

PJNCO Cadre 2000*Lt Brian Rayment writes:*

An unusually wet and stormy morning in Dhekelia greeted the 40 Potential Junior NCOs on 4 January this year. Before Christmas the training team had run a section week, this had reduced the number of students from 62 to 40. With the prospect of another six weeks like the one that they had already experienced, some of the students could be forgiven for being slightly nervous.

The cadre was to be run by a team consisting of Lt Rayment, CSgt (now CSM) Adie, Sgt Burt, Cpl Donovan, Cpl Guthrie and Cpl Mattingly. The aim was to train efficient NCOs within the six weeks available. From the very start of the cadre students started to leave. In the early stages this seemed to be due to injuries that occurred during the physical aspects of the training program. Despite the arduous training, the long hours and the tired and sore limbs, all the students were generally working well. The effort that some of the students were demonstrating to overcome the obstacles that were placed in front of them was in some cases exceptional and proved to be an inspiration to both students and staff.

Classroom work was an essential part of the course but could not provide the practical experience that the students needed. For this reason the Cadre deployed into the field as early as possible. The first field deployment

happened during the second week. To keep the students on their toes it was decided to keep the deployment time a closely guarded secret. In what was to become a shining example of misinformation, the students were convinced that they were deploying very early one morning. However at 1600hrs the previous day, after a perfectly normal day's work, the platoon commander suddenly called the students in and gave orders for a night infiltration. Much to the delight of the rest of the training team.

All of the exercises were designed to place an emphasis on a particular skill and the first was offensive operations. After couple of tiring days the cadre finally returned to Dhekelia, but obviously not before the obligatory run back into camp. Most of the students did seem to be motivated quite well by the suggestion of a nice cold drink that they would receive upon their return.

The students practised all of the core Infantry and many other skills during the six weeks of the course. They were on exercise for a total of three weeks practising attacks, patrols, OPs, FIBUA, harbour drills and administration among other things. All of the exercises were run at the other end of the island in the Limas training area near Episkopi Garrison, where the terrain is slightly more challenging both for map reading and also physically. All those who successfully completed the exercises agreed



CBF Maj Gen Al Ramsay CBE DSO congratulates the newly promoted LCpl Seymour on coming top of the cadre.

The Poachers



Cpl Donovan and Pte Aukland comparing notes.

that it was worthwhile. During the second exercise it was decided to stay out an extra night which unfortunately took us into the weekend. This brought a few cries of 'You can't do that, my wife thinks I'm coming home tonight'. To quell this Sgt Burt informed the students that we had telephoned their wives and asked their permission. We hadn't, but in the students' rather advanced state of paranoia it set some minds wondering.

The pass off parade took the form of an inspection by the Commander of British Forces Cyprus, Maj Gen Ramsay CBE DSO, followed by a march past the rest of the battalion, who were formed up around the edge of the square as spectators. The top three students were promoted during the parade; they were LCpls Seymour, Turnell and Hume. All the successful students had a good reason to feel proud that day. Of the 40 that started on that wet morning they were among only 15 students who eventually passed the cadre.

Lincoln Christmas Market - Mini-Kape Tour

Lt Sam Wilson writes:

For the second year in succession, the Poachers' Corps of Drums deployed from Cyprus to Lincoln in early December to perform at the Christmas Market. The aim of the tour was to maintain a high profile in the Battalion's recruiting area, while at the same time attracting recruits and sowing seeds in schools and youth organisations.

Having started life in 1981 with just a handful of stalls in Castle Square, the Lincoln Christmas Market has grown over the years to become one of the largest such events in the country, attracting thousands of visitors from the UK and abroad. As such a high profile event, it provides an ideal opportunity to keep the Army (and the Royal Anglian Regiment in particular) in the public eye. This was truer than ever this year, with the BBC choosing the Market as the venue for its Christmas *Songs of Praise*.

Planning started back in July. With last year's mini-KAPE tour such a success, the Commanding Officer was determined to increase the resources committed to the visit, so A (Lincolnshire) Company was warned off to provide two 'skirmish' teams to deploy with the Drums. The intention was not only for the skirmishers to exploit the interest created by the drummers, but also to mount independent recruiting activities at schools, youth clubs and ACFs in Lincoln and Scunthorpe.

The recce in August presented Lt Wilson and the Drum Major with a welcome excuse to escape the oppressive Cypriot summer, while meeting key personalities at Lincoln AFCO and on the Christmas Market organising committee.

By the time the advance party arrived at the team's base in Kirton-in-Lindsey on 3 December. However, conditions had changed somewhat. The Siberian winds that sweep across North Lincolnshire soon had everyone pining for the warm Mediterranean winter. The Corps of Drums in particular had to endure some miserable weather while rehearsing for the Market's grand opening ceremony in Castle Square, while a lone BBC Radio Lincolnshire reporter lent a sympathetic ear.

The focal point of the tour was the opening ceremony of the Christmas Market, which was being covered not only by the BBC, but also by regional TV and radio stations as well. The cathedral and castle provided a spectacular backdrop as the Corps of Drums led the Mayor of Lincoln through the crowds to the Castle gate, and then scurried atop the Castle walls to perform the fanfare that signalled the opening of the Market. For the thousands packed into the cobbled square below it was a truly impressive sight.

The Corps of Drums continued to exploit the opportunity for publicity created by the Christmas Market over the remaining three days, with frequent appearances in the entertainment stand and marching displays through the streets. Capt John Lee, the Regimental Area Secretary for Lincolnshire, also managed to arrange performances at the Waterside Centre in the city centre, which proved to be a great crowd-pleaser. The drummers in their Scarlets seemed to arouse an unhealthy amount of interest from certain female members of the crowd!

Meanwhile the A Company skirmishers, under the direction of Cpl Sands, were able to feed off the publicity created by the Corps of Drums, handing out recruiting leaflets and chatting to interested members of the public.

Away from the Market, the team conducted more conventional recruiting activity. This included manning a Battalion information stand at a careers fair at Thomas Sumpter School in Scunthorpe, and mounting displays at a youth club in Scunthorpe and at Newport ACF detachment in Lincoln. The level of interest and enthusiasm encountered was generally encouraging, though it was evident that the Battalion, and the Army as a whole, needs to continue to commit more time and

The Poachers

The Drums marching through the centre of Lincoln.

resources to the vital task of recruiting in order to sustain current manning levels, let alone improve them.

Overall the week proved to be, in most respects, a great success. Those who took part relished the chance to operate on their home turf for once, and the interest aroused and publicity achieved made the effort worthwhile. The Corps of Drums is now an established part of the Christmas Market programme, and has already been invited back to perform next year.

Ayios Nikalaos On New Year's Eve - The Dawn of the New Millennium

2Lt Adam Wolfe writes:

The first thing to note about New Year's eve at Ayios Nikalaos Ops room and the Black Knight Checkpoint is that the world did not descend into Armageddon and Judgment Day did not arrive. For 8 Platoon C Company nothing so spectacular occurred. Despite

having the option of remaining on duty, the married soldiers strangely opted to return to their homes to see their families and to celebrate the Millennium away from the most easterly patch of British soil in the world. Ayios Nikalaos is guarded 365 days a year by the Resident Infantry Battalion (RIB) in Cyprus and each platoon spends one week fulfilling this commitment as they rotate through the Ops cycle.

OC C Company delivered some drinks to the soldiers and these were stored in the fridge, ready to be drunk at the stroke of midnight, although the staggered guards meant that it was to be sometime after midnight before everyone had got their drink. Even the prospect of the small drink that they were allowed cheered the troops up. On the OC's departure the Quick Reaction Force Team settled down to an evening of Millennium celebrations that were happening all over the globe and brought to us by a slightly distorted picture from BFBS television.

Cpl Crabbe's team at the Black Knight checkpoint consisted of four men manning a permanent vehicle check point where black and gold painted obstacles and constant video surveillance monitors control movement across the boundary between the Turkish controlled area and the British Sovereign Base. LCpl Squibb's team comprised the QRF, and LCpl Kirk's team was on rest - nothing could go wrong. As midnight approached it transpired that this was in fact a favourite way to spend New Year's Eve for many soldiers. Perhaps it was by chance that they had spent a similar New Year's Eve in a similar Ops room in Northern Ireland



The Drums forming up prior to the parade.

The Poachers

and in other parts of the world. There was surprisingly little 'chuntering' and everyone was agreed that we were certainly having the least expensive millennium possible.

As the build up to the millennium approached for us we could hear the sounds of a party in the distance and heard the combination of Turkish gunfire and fireworks to our north. At midnight Ptes Murphy, Macdonald, Lucas, LCpl Squibb, some of the resting team and I opened our cans of lager in synchronization. As we were two hours ahead of our friends and family in the UK we resolved to stay up until 2am, in order to open our second can! A call to Black Knight confirmed that they too were celebrating in the same way. A concerned Pte Young had considered removing his watch for fear of the spontaneous explosion that the millennium bug would cause on the stroke of midnight.

Dawn arrived and all available members of 8 Platoon were at Black Knight for a photograph in front of the Poachers' flag in order to remember the first sunrise of the millennium. I will look at that photograph when I am 85 years old and fully intend to bore my grandchildren with the story of 8 Platoon on the millennium. Of course by that time the story would have evolved to include an incursion into the Sovereign Base Area followed by all the computers exploding on the stroke of midnight, and how we risked our lives to put everything right again.

In the event the only problem caused by the millennium bug was when Pte Murph's wristwatch had a problem coping with the new date.

United Nations Line Tours - Highlighting The Cyprus Problem

2Lt George Osbourne writes:

Cyprus is a divided island with the UN monitoring the ceasefire lines. Line Tours are run by the UN as a way of both giving



Baseline commanding in four languages.

visitors a greater understanding of what the Peacekeepers do in Cyprus and of explaining the Cyprus problem to them.

The UN area around Dhekelia is Sector Four. It is manned by an international Battalion stationed at Famagusta and made

up of 2 Austrian Companies, including one Slovenian Platoon and one Hungarian Company. The common language is English.

One of the main problems that the UN soldiers have is the lack of infrastructure around them. The buildings in which they are stationed are all abandoned civilian properties. The main reason for the lack of purpose built barracks is that the UN only has a 6-month mandate, continually renewed. This means that the commitment is viewed as short term, and as such there is no investment into infrastructure. The result of this is that the soldiers, particularly those based away from the main HQ in Famagusta, live in poor conditions with few distractions.

The cease fire line is often the flashpoint for demonstrations by both communities. During a particularly violent confrontation in 1996 the UN troops had no riot equipment and were attempting to hold the two sides apart with their bodies alone, this resulted in injuries to several of the UN troops. Lessons have been learnt from the incident and obstacles now fill the gap between the opposing OP's and the Peacekeepers have the appropriate equipment.

The military cost to both sides on the Island is great. The North has a fairly small economy



The problems of multinational training.

The Poachers

and is mainly subsidised from the mainland, both with troops and finances. The southern republic on the other hand has a thriving economy driven by tourism, and can therefore afford to fund the majority of its own defence. However it is still supported by mainland Greece. Both communities still have National Service.

The only part of Cyprus where the two communities still live together is the village of Pyla. The community there is balanced although both Greeks and Turks each have their own Mayors, Schools, Shops and Cafés.

Cyprus remains a problem. The best hope for a solution is that both sides now want to join the EU. As the EU will not accept a divided nation into its ranks both sides have had to return to the table to try to arrive at a workable solution. Hopefully, with this new impetus the UN will not have to remain between the two sides for much longer.

The Cessac Awards

One of the key welfare areas in Cyprus is in looking after the families and the community as a whole. In an effort to recognise work in this key area Dhekelia Garrison has instigated an award scheme specifically designed to reward members of both the Garrison and of the local community who have made a significant contribution in this area. The awards are held annually and are called the CESSAC awards, standing for the Church of England Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Charity.

The actual award consists of a certificate and a small sum of money. Local television and press normally cover the event.

For both the years that the Battalion has been in Cyprus a CESSAC award has been presented to WO2 Beaumont who has played an important role in the Families Office throughout the Battalion's tour in Cyprus. In Dhekelia the Families Office is responsible for both the Poacher and Garrison families. The climate, location and restrictions that are particular to Cyprus all contribute to create a heavy workload for the Families Office and their contribution to the Battalion's general well being is a large, although sometimes understated one.

WO2 Beaumont has become a familiar and well-liked figure around the married quarters during our time in Cyprus. His easy-going manner, dedication to his job and obvious concern for the people that he is dealing with have all contributed to make him very effective at his job. WO2 Beaumont is a very deserving recipient of this award and it was very fitting to see him receive his award from the Garrison Commander, Col AF Potter OBE. Another recipient of the award from the Poachers family was Donna Mortimer, who was recognised for her work with the Dhekelia youth centre.

Sadly, Cyprus was the last tour that WO2 Beaumont will complete with the Battalion. During his many years with the Poachers he has become a very well-known and liked character. He will be missed.

The Poachers Rugby Club - All Island Rugby 15s 2000

Sgt M Urand writes:

The All Island Rugby 15s took place on 29 January at Ayios Nikolios. The Poachers, fielding a new squad with a few old and bold drawn in, were drawn into a league consisting of 1 KOSB, 1 Staffords and the RAF 1st XV who were the winners of the trophy for the last three years, and the favourites to lift the cup again.

The first match was against the RAF. The squad, which had not played together as a team before, played some good rugby. Despite this, by half time the RAF had one try against the Poachers. The second half was a great improvement on the first and as

the final whistle drew ever closer Cpl Fred Oldenburgh (D) took on the RAF backs to score a try to level the score. Up stepped the new Poacher's kicker, Pte Nobby Stiles (B), to put the Poachers in the lead with a well-executed drop kick. In two years of rugby in Cyprus, this was our first victory over the RAF.

The next match was against the Staffords. This proved to be a much easier game than the previous match with the RAF. The final score was 59-0 to the Poachers.

Our hardest match was the match against the KOSB, which was to come next. With the team already into the semi-final, a few changes were made to the pack and the backs to give the 'old and bold' a rest. During this match the Poachers suffered a major setback when Pte Pez Perry (D) broke his leg in a tackle, the fact that he was team captain at



Cpl Gadsden, LCpl Shiels, LCpl Ainge and Pte Bellemy in action.



Scrum down.

The Poachers



From left: 2Lt Russell, Newmarch, Cpl Oldenburgh, Pte Perry (shortly before breaking his leg) and Pte Hughes size up the opposition.

the time and player of the year for the 1998-99 season added to the loss. After the ambulance had left the field the team was a little down. At the final whistle the score was 7-5 to the KOSB.

As the competition went on the squad started to get more injuries, when the team went into the semi-final match against the Eagles (Episkopi Garrison), they had suffered nine injuries among the original players. In the semi-final the Poachers were defeated 12-10, which put them into the plate final against the KOSB. In the final the Poachers were again defeated 12-10.

The team's next target is the Infantry Sevens at Warminster in April and then a return as guests to Cyprus for the Akrotiri International Floodlit Tens.

The Poachers Golf Society Christmas Competition 1999

WO2(RQMS) Abbs writes:

Due to the busy lead-up period to Christmas, it was decided that the annual Christmas golf competition would be played over the stand-down period. On a nice, warm and sunny winters day, (one of the benefits of Cyprus Golf) the 36 willing competitors arrived at the Joint Services Golf Club (Dhekelia), in fine fettle ready to take on this challenging and unpredictable course.

Breakfast was provided by the Battalion's catering department who ensured that everyone deployed into battle with their stomachs full. In full stride, the teams set off to the first tee. Father Christmas was found between holes nine and 10. He was waiting with mince pies and gluhwien for those who felt the need for further energy supplementation.

It was decided that the format this year would be Texas Scramble played in threeballs with society handicaps being used as an aggregate team handicap. The competition was primarily a nett competition, as usual, to allow an even spread of prizes to

golfers of all abilities, but with some gross prizes too. It was clear from the start that there would be some low scores. Once all the scores were in and had been duly checked, the team of Cpls Bannon, Bradley and Goodman ran out the nett winners with a horrendous nett score of 41 (who said the society handicaps were fair?). The gross prize went to the select team of the Commanding Officer, RSM and the author with a gross score of 67 (par 69). The juniors' team, captained by Darren Abbs, put all the scores into perspective with an excellent gross score of 62!

The prizegiving took place before the evening's entertainment started and prizes were kindly presented by the Commanding Officer. All in all it was an enjoyable end to Cyprus golf and we look forward to taking on the green courses of Chepstow in the spring.

NEFSKI Championships 10-12 February 2000

Lt Simon Otter writes:

The Near East Forces Ski (NEFSKI) association is the Cyprus ski club run in the Troodos Mountains. Its aim is to encourage all Cyprus units to participate in Nordic and Alpine skiing. NEFSKI holds an annual championship which takes the form of a two-day Alpine skiing competition encompassing the 'giant and 'special' slaloms and a one-day cross country skiing event. The Poachers entered a team of four in the former of these two disciplines.

Prior to the event each team member was asked to grade himself, against what? We all asked! At best we were confident we could make it down the mountain although we were uncertain if this would be by way of skis or stretcher.

The team, by unanimous decision, decided that a day of practising was required. We arrived at Troodos camp in style; for we had hired a 1970s deathtrap, which could only loosely be described as a car in the UK sense.

One more problem that beset us was how we were going to make the four-mile journey from the camp to the slopes. The problem was solved when 2Lt Osbourne and Pte Djemal volunteered themselves to sit in the back, on top of the skis and facing out towards the rear of the vehicle. We got some very strange looks from the other competitors in their state-of-the-art four-wheel drive vehicles. The only other mishap was when Sgt Richards approached a rather large mound with a little too much confidence and took off, luckily a very substantial pine tree broke his fall. To his merit he quite literally bounced up and continued.

And so on with the championships. The first day was the giant slalom. The course was steep, icy and contained 25 gates. On the pre course inspection none of us were convinced that we would make it down within the allocated two minutes. First off was Sgt Richards, followed by 2Lt Osbourne, myself and then Pte Djemal. The team time was a respectable 3m 55s, with the fastest three times counting for the team. At the end of the day we finished 12th out of 17 teams, not good but not the worst!

The second day brought the special slalom. Essentially the same course with more gates (35 in all) and consequently tighter turns. The downside of this and we all realised it early on, was that if we did fall we would fall further. Again the team made it down safely, in a much more impressive time of 3m 43s. Considering that the course was generally slower on the second day this was a great improvement.

After the special slalom the team moved up to eighth out of the 17n teams. Individual positions (there were 80 competitors) were 2Lt Osbourne 28th in a total time of 2:23:36, Lt Otter 36th in 2:36:03, Sgt Richards 39th in 2:39:43 and Pte Djemal 69th in 3:20:55.

The championships were great fun, with the races themselves pretty challenging. All of us improved our skiing noticeably in the short time, mainly by having less regard for life and limb.

The Pafos Marathon - Sunday 27 February 2000

2Lt Geoff Williams writes:

We arrived in Pafos far too early. So much so that we could well have been the only participants in this fairly new international running event. However, as the sun began to rise other runners began to appear. Ten members of C Company turned up for the event, three who had elected for the marathon, and seven who had chosen the half-marathon.

Thus, after an hour or so sitting by Pafos's picturesque harbour indulging ourselves with the complimentary refreshments the three marathon runners headed for the starting gate. Lt Belderbos, LCpl Greenhill and Pte Cox joined the compliment of about 100 runners from over ten countries ready for the start, which was given by the local mayor.

During the hour between the starts of the

The Poachers

marathon and the half-marathon the atmosphere around the harbour really began to improve as more and more people arrived. What turned out to be a large aerobics session was put on by the organisers as a communal warm-up which was ignored by all the Poachers. Maj Hunter, 2Lts Newmarch, Williams and Wolfe, Pte Tidswell, Pte Wolfe and Pte Webber competed in the half-marathon.

The fairly flat course somehow managed to appear as a constant gentle uphill, it extended along the coastal roads to the north west of Pafos and then doubled back on itself to finish at the harbour. The full marathon course extended just that little bit further along the coast!

Although the course was sparsely supported with the exception of those tourists on holiday who were waiting patiently at bus stops for transport that was no doubt delayed by the event, on returning to Pafos we were greeted by a welcoming reception at the now bustling harbour. As the sun beat down, and the music from a local wind band filled the air everyone agreed that it had been an event well worth participating in, and in very different surroundings from the events attended in the UK.

Platoon Trip to Israel And Egypt

2Lt Rupert Whitham writes:

On Wednesday 12 January, 18 soldiers from 3 Platoon, A Company departed Limassol Port bound for Israel. At the time some people had reservations about letting us go. Why should a platoon cruise around the Mediterranean, visiting exotic lands and enjoying itself, while the remainder of the battalion was busy working hard? Hopefully, the following story helps explain why:

Pte Binnoware is 17 years old and was, until recently, quite ignorant of life beyond his home town of Skegness. His closeted existence comprised part-time work in a hamburger bar and Friday nights down the local club. Then he joined the Army and everything changed! He visited strange new worlds different to his own: Basingbourn, Catterick, Salisbury Plain, Sennybridge, Cyprus, Jordan; the list was endless. But it was the trip to Egypt and Israel that made him the seasoned traveller he now is.

In Israel, Pte Binnoware (or *Bineveryware* as he is now known) visited the sites of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the Wailing Wall, the Mount of Olives, the bustling bazaars of Jerusalem and, not least, the Elvis theme café just outside Tel Aviv. His cultural appetite whetted, Bineveryware voyaged onwards with his companions to Egypt, enjoying four course meals and cabaret entertainment en-route. With her treasures before him, no time was wasted visiting the ancient pyramids, the mysterious Sphinx, a papyrus factory and the splendours of Tutankhamen's burial chamber.

Pte Bineveryware returned to barracks refreshed, happy and culturally enriched. He



Which has the most hair - Capt Hawley or the pyramid?

had learned about different civilisations, seen places that had formerly been little more than places on the news, visited the site of one of his Regiment's most illustrious battles and, perhaps most importantly, come to know those in his platoon that much better.

While, of course, the above character in my story is fictional, his experiences are most definitely not. The trip, paid for entirely out of the soldiers' own pockets, widened many a horizon and will be the source of some happy memories for years to come, as the following two articles show.

Pte Wheatley - A Soldier's Perspective

I was looking forward to the trip because I had just come back from a tour in Northern Ireland and so I was keen to meet the new faces in the platoon. One aim of the trip was to be able to see the Sphinx and understand the significance to the Battalion.

We travelled down to Limassol and set sail on the Wednesday evening aboard the very large Princess Marissa cruise ship. Because I am not a very keen sailor and certainly not keen on the continuous swaying of a ship, I concentrated on the entertainment that was laid on for us. The cabins we slept in weren't very spacious at all and I was determined not to spend much time in mine if I could help it.

We docked in Israel at around seven

o'clock in the morning. It was a long coach journey to Bethlehem and Jerusalem but once there we visited a lot of interesting places. These included Jesus' birthplace and the Wailing Wall. Back on the ship I was hoping to get an early night but in the end it didn't turn out that way. It was an enjoyable night though and the cabaret was excellent.

The next day we had a similar tour starting with a three-hour bus journey southwards. As there were ten coaches we had a military escort from the dock. We travelled to Cairo, which houses around 15 million people making it one of the biggest cities in the world. First of all we stopped off at the Pyramids and then we visited the Sphinx. This was the highlight of the trip because in 1801 our Regiment had taken part in an expedition to Egypt. They fought at the Pyramids and at the siege of Alexandria, winning the battle honour 'Egypt' and the Sphinx. Later we also visited the biggest museum in Cairo and saw the Tutankhamen exhibition.

Overall the expedition was worth while. I probably wouldn't visit Israel or Egypt again, but I am pleased to have been and I look forward to the platoon's next adventure.

Cpl Collins

- A Junior NCO's Perspective

We shared two-man cabins that were about the size of an MFO box! On board we had

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some food and headed for the bar where the entertainment was going on: two stunning female singers, a band called 'Top Gun' and three dancing girls. They entertained us all for three nights on the ship and were very good.

The next morning we docked at Haifa and boarded the coach for a two-hour journey to Bethlehem. The first stop was the Church of Nativity that was built on the spot where Jesus was born. I always thought he was born in a stable but it turned out to be a cave of all things. You learn something new everyday. Someone who knew what he was talking about guided us around and it was actually very interesting even though it was not our usual 'cup of tea'.

The trip lasted all day and we even had time to shop. The locals constantly tried to sell us souvenirs that we didn't want and they followed us for miles, hassling us until we bought something off them.

Back at the ship we set sail for Egypt, it took all night, so there was more beer and entertainment before we decided to retire to our cabins. When we next awoke we were at Port Said.

Egypt is important to us because in 1801 the Regiment was sent there to fight the French who were trying to seize the country and cut British communications with India. On 15 June eight companies of the 10th were landed at Kossier on the African coast. From there they marched 120 miles across the desert and sailed down the Nile to meet Gen Hutchinson's army and defeat the French at Alexandria. For this the Regiment was granted the honour of the Sphinx and 'Egypt' underneath.

We boarded another coach and it was off to the pyramids. A guided tour was given en-route. On the journey we were given an armed escort owing to a terrorist incident that happened a few years ago. We crossed the Nile and drove through Cairo.

When we arrived at the Sphinx a platoon photo was taken. The Sphinx's nose is missing because when the French invaded, Napoleon ordered it to be destroyed by firing cannon balls at it. There was a guided tour of a museum, which held Tutankhamen's belongings.

Back at the ship we returned to Limassol the following morning. The whole trip cost just over £100 and was worth every penny. All members of the platoon had an excellent time and I recommend it to all readers of *Castle*.

The move from Cyprus to Chepstow

All too quickly the two years were over and it was time to leave the land of warm sunny days, golden beaches, water-skiing and cold beer and to turn our attention to the move back to a cold UK. Not to the heartland of Royal Anglian recruiting countryside as we might have expected - in fact almost the

opposite - to Chepstow, underneath the old Severn Bridge, and remembered by some as the Royal Engineer Apprentice College in years gone by. The first recce by the Battalion 2IC and the QM in early 1999 confirmed that apart from anything else the weather was almost guaranteed to be wet, as it rained for the duration of the recce - a pleasant change some might say from a two-year drought in Cyprus.

The planning for the move started about ten months ahead, and as we were due to swap with the unit in Chepstow - 1 Cheshire - there was unusually only one other unit to deal with. Having mutually agreed the handover date - 15 March 2000 - everything else was worked out from there. Various key appointments then had to be filled: WO2s Good and Ibrahim masterminded the flights and travel arrangements for the whole Battalion. The march ins and outs and families' issues were organised by Capt Felix Ralph and the families office staff. The freight was organised for transportation back to UK by WO2 Thorpe, and received in UK by WO2 Brown. The two QMs; Maj Richard Brown and Capt Alf Todd ensured that the handover of Alexander Barracks and the take over of Beachley Barracks went as smoothly as possible.

And so the long checklist of work began. Equipment to be checked, boxes to be packed, and work done to ensure that Alexander Barracks was left in the best possible state for our successors. There was only one thing to get in the way - a battalion OTX to Jordan. This was completed by October 1999, which left a clear five months for everyone to focus on the task in hand.

Unit moves are always different and pose their own particular set of problems especially when moving from overseas. For the families such moves can be the most traumatic. Packing up the house, waving good-bye to belongings six weeks before you move, taking children out of school, cleaning quarters, marching out, the flight, marching in, receiving belongings from storage and settling back into life in the UK. And for some asking yourself the same old question - 'Why do we keep doing it?' Facing the prospect of living out of a house with very few of your own belongings for six weeks, then living out of a couple of suitcases for a few days and then out of an overnight bag on the evening of your flight was not one that most families relished. On this occasion the move was synchronised so that families marched out of quarters, and moved into local hotels until the day of their flight. On arrival in UK all families were again accommodated in a hotel before moving to their new quarter the next day. We were to be spared the hospitality of Gateway House. Some will still remember the joys of the fire practice at 2am prior to a 5am flight on the way out to Cyprus.

Chepstow only has a small married quarter area and was not big enough to accommodate all of our families. The fact that we have some 60 families more than 1 Cheshire presented the families office staff and the

DHE with some very real problems. Eventually having allocated every available quarter in Chepstow some families were accommodated in nearby Crickhowell and Hereford. A fairly major juggling task for the families office staff and the other planners.

The flight dates were worked out and both battalions were split between three main body flights and an advance party. A very small pre-advance party was sent back to UK before Christmas to prepare the reception of the Battalion. This would aim to see the handover complete on 15 March 2000 and because of the handover of commitments in Cyprus the last Poachers would arrive in UK on 24 March. This last group would be based on A Company who wisely spent the last week making the most of the Troodos Mountains.

The advance party touched down on 23 February, which gave them two weeks before the first main body flights started to arrive. The advance party was made up entirely of those individuals who would be responsible for taking over Beachley Barracks and preparing the way for the rest of the Battalion. As ever this group were also the 'guinea pigs' to ensure that all the systems were in place for the move itself. In the event the flight was on time - more or less - and although somewhat exhausting the system seemed to work relatively smoothly. The plan now revolved around the takeover of the camp and the reception of the other flights to enable everyone to go on their disembarkation leave as soon as possible after arrival.

Apart from a minor RAF crisis on Main Body 2 and a particularly unpleasant tummy bug that affected some of Main Body 3 the move was successful and relatively trouble free. Each flight was received into Beachley Camp for two days and then sent on four weeks' leave before returning to work after the Easter break. The only slight distraction was a series of hoax bomb warnings that happened to coincide with the arrival of Main Body 3. *Plus ça change!* - We really were back in the UK.

Arms Plot moves are never easy - moving 650 soldiers, 250 families, the Battalion's kit and equipment 2,500 miles around the world is a daunting prospect, no matter how many times you've done it - and it is a credit to a considerable number of people in the Battalion, and a number from outside, that this move was so well prepared and executed with the minimum of fuss or difficulty to everyone concerned. All we have to do now is look forward to the next one!

The rest of the year's programme is continually changing but on current plans A Company will be going to Norway, B Company to provide Civpop for 1 WG in their preparation for Northern Ireland and C Company will be providing the Hunter Force for the SAS Combat Survival Course. And all this before the Battalion exercises its Freedom of several towns and cities in the recruiting area in June. Who said life was dull in the Poachers?

The East of England Regiment

Taking shape

The new Regiment continues to take shape and build on the foundations laid at its first annual camp in July 1999. The Battalion's training in November centred on the Remembrance Weekend and involved A (Norfolk) and E (Essex) Companies travelling to Colchester Ranges to complete their annual personal weapons tests while C (Leics and Northants) and B (Lincoln) Companies conducted section-level training at Chilwell. D (Notts and Derby) Company went it alone with individual training at Proteus.

All companies returned to their respective TA Centres on Saturday evening and played their part at local Cenotaphs across the Regiment's catchment area on Sunday. Events ranged from two minutes' silence on Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds to laying a wreath in Lincoln Cathedral in front of a packed congregation of ex-Servicemen, the bishop and other local dignitaries. The Regiment was represented at 17 Acts of Remembrance in total.

Preparing our potential officers

Continuing the drive to improve officer cadet training, Maj de Planta and WO2 (SPSI) Ralph organised and ran a command task day for nine potential officers at Proteus on Saturday 13 November 1999. The aim was to teach the rudiments for tackling command tasks in readiness for their Territorial Commissioning Boards. The potential officers responded well to their opportunity and most are now better prepared for their forthcoming challenge at Chilwell Territorial

Commissioning Board Centre.

Young officer training continued in the period with a weekend dedicated to signals under the guidance of Maj de Planta and Sgt (PSI) Lamb and a weekend focussed on map reading under Maj de Planta and WO2 (SPSI) Ralph. The training was visited by CO 254 Field Ambulance who requested, and the Commanding Officer agreed, that his own young officers be permitted to attend all future events. The last weekend of the present cycle ended with a look at the glories of Combat Service Support and confirmed to all the students that they were right to join the infantry!

The preparation appears to be working. In January OCdt Tristan Griffin passed his Territorial Commissioning Board and OCdt Alex Harris passed his Regular Commissions Board. We wish them both every success in their future military careers.

Ladies' dinner night at Northampton

After a thorough briefing of all things G1 to G4 at Northampton TA Centre on Saturday 20 November, the Regiment held its first ladies' dinner night. Organised by the indefatigable Capt Mike Cunningham, our sole cavalry officer in a sea of infantrymen, 67 officers and their guests sat down to a dinner of salmon and beef while the band played a wide range of topical tunes. The evening ended with a casino and dancing and was considered by all to have been a resounding success.

Ethnic links

The Regiment continued to promote the links

established by 7 R Anglian with the Sikh community in Leicester. On Sunday 21 November, the Commanding Officer, OC C Company, Adjutant and RSM joined the annual Sikh Parade through the streets of Leicester and attended a lunch at the local temple. The process of persuading more people from ethnic backgrounds to join either the Regular Army or the TA is a slow one but it is anticipated that, in time, such links will be fruitful for the Regiment.

Regiment celebrates its first Christmas

Over the weekend 3-5 December 1999, all five rifle companies gathered at Beckingham Training Camp to complete soldiers' bounty obligations and to celebrate Christmas for the very first time together.

The two days of military training included range work, orienteering, first aid and fitness while the social events focussed on a soldiers' evening meal, with officers and SNCOs waiting on, and a lively cabaret event that was enthusiastically received by all.

The Regiment completed its last 1999 training evening on 15 December. The permanent staff took a very well earned break from a demanding six months' training and enjoyed block leave until 4 January. All training ceased during the period and everyone, both Regular and TA, had a chance to spend quality time with their families.

Shooting becomes the New Year's focus

Training began again on the weekend of 7-9 January. A (Norfolk and Suffolk) and E (Essex and Herts) Companies joined up to



Brig JC McColl CBE, Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Sgt Nagra MBE, Lt Col C Newell CO EER - guests of honour at a Leicester Sikh parade.

The East of England Regiment

spend the weekend live firing at Colchester while C (Leics and Northants) and D (Notts and Derby) Companies chose to use the equally excellent modern range facilities at Beckingham. B (Lincs) Company felt the need to deploy into the field and enjoyed a demanding two-day defence exercise at Stanford. Not for them the comfort of a warm hut and a gentle lie down on the 400m firing point!

Skill at Arms meeting

The January company-level shooting work-up training culminated at Strensall Ranges over the weekend of 11-13 February with a skill at arms meeting. The event included a visit from the Honorary Colonel and four of the Regiment's five Deputy Honorary Colonels.

D (Notts and Derby) Company, under the expert guidance of TA 100 shot Lt Keith Spiers, took most of the silverware and came out as worthy winners. The Brigade Commander presented the shooting prizes and took the opportunity to award the Orienteering Shield to B (Lincolnshire) Company for its overwhelming success in this essential military sport.

During the same weekend, RRTT (S) and RRTT (N) joined forces to train the 56 recruits that are currently undergoing Phase 1 training in preparation for their combat infantryman's course at ITC Catterick.

The Regiment spent the remainder of February and the early part of March preparing for its first Field Firing weekend at SENTA on 10-12 March. The event followed on from the Range weekends in January and early February and was intended to train soldiers up to Platoon level field firing. At the same time, on other parts of the Training Area, the Regiment's two GPMG (SF) Platoons fired Match 9 and the Mortar Platoon conducted its third live firing shoot.



Cpl Stuart, D Company - champion shot, Battalion SAAM 2000.



E (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company recruiting in Chelmsford.



New recruits at the first induction selection weekend, January 2000.



Mortar Platoon live firing at Senta.

The East of England Regiment



LCpl Boardman going through final dry drills prior to live firing.



SF Platoon undergoing final rehearsals prior to attempting Match 83.



SF Platoon in action.

The weekend culminated in an impressive Battalion firepower demonstration utilising all the Battalion's weapons.

Black-tie dinner at Strensall

The officers held a black tie dinner during



The Battalion on the ranges.

the skill at arms meeting. Fifty three former officers, serving officers and officer cadets gathered.

Before dinner, the Commanding Officer invited the officers to pay tribute to Col John Heggs the late Deputy Honorary Colonel for C (Leicestershire) Company. The principal guests were the outgoing RSM

WO1 (RSM) Thomas, Mr Roger Hyde, North East Regional Director Environment Agency and Lt Col (Retd) Harry Realf. Colonel Harry had served with the Royal Engineers during the second world war and, before dinner, described his experiences as a young sapper officer in May-June 1940.



Assault Pioneer Platoon practising watermanship skills.



A Battalion river crossing.

The East of England Regiment



Cpl Cavadasca, Sgt Dunningham and OC E Company, Maj C Trott, with the President of the Council of TAVRAs, Lord Freeman, on his visit to Chelmsford TAC.

Investors in People

The Regiment successfully renewed its Investors in People certificate in February following an exhaustive, in-depth inspection from the 2 Div Investors in People inspector. The inspector visited the Regiment, less E (Essex, Beds and Herts) Company, during a weekend at Strensall. He spent the day touring the companies and talking to soldiers of all ranks during which time they were able to satisfy themselves that the principles and requirements of Investors in People were being followed by the Regiment.

Training outside the Regiment

The Commanding Officer and WO2 (SPSI) Ralph, both former RMAS instructors, spent a week in January preparing aspiring NCOs from across the Queen's Division for the demanding Sandhurst Instructors' Selection Course. The course was based at Sobraon Barracks in Lincoln and gave the NCOs a clear insight into what to expect during selection.

The Regiment has been leading the way on the Commanding Officers' Designate Course at Warminster. In November and March, the Commanding Officer, Lt Col C Newell, Adjutant, Capt Gary Morris, Capt John Ford PSAO D Company and Maj Godfrey Shaw OC C Company were invited to explain the delights of running a TA Regiment to those Regular officers selected to command



Presentation of medals. From left, back row: CSgt (now WO2) Brazier (TEM), Cpl Cain (TEM), Sgt Dunningham (TEM). Front: Pte Hacker (ACF Medal), Cpl Crawley (TEM and Lord Lieutenant's Certificate), LCpl Instance (TEM).

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WPte Cormer, OCdt Griffin, Cpl Hall, caving with RSM Thomas.

reserve units across the Army. In addition, Maj de Planta gave a briefing on NCO career management in the TA. The briefings seemed to hit the mark and the team has been invited to address the next course.

Maj de Planta continues his attempt to visit every country in the world during his Army career. He spent two weeks in mid-April as SO2 G3 Visits and Protocol with 15 (North East) Brigade during a link-up exercise with a French Army Division in Sissonne. Other members of the Regiment on the exercise included Brigade Commander Brig Alan Deed, the Commander's driver, Cpl Marshall and Capt Ian Crouch SO3 G3 Ops.

New commissions

In February, two warrant officers received late entry commissions into the Regiment.

WO2 (CSM) Ian Sackree assumes the post of company 2IC at B (Lincolnshire) Company and WO2 (RQMS) Bob Rogers takes up his post as officer commanding RRTT (N).

New personalities

Maj Bob Potter leaves after two excellent years as the Quartermaster. He departs to join the London Regiment. He is replaced by Maj Tony Jones from the 1st Battalion who, not surprisingly, has already stamped his considerable personality on the Regiment. He intends to build on the solid foundations established by his predecessor.

We also warmly welcome Lt Col (Retd) Jeremy Prescott as Leicestershire's new Deputy Honorary Colonel. As a former Commanding Officer of 7 R Anglian he is

no stranger to Leicester and is perfectly placed to offer advice and experience if required. We also say farewell to the RSM, WO1 Paul Thomas, who leaves the Army after 22 years' service. He moves to York where he has secured a post as a business services manager with the Environment Agency. WO1 Thomas handed over to WO1 Michael Abbs who arrived from the 2nd Battalion. He is no stranger to the TA having served with 7th Battalion as a permanent staff instructor.

Full time reservists

The Regiment currently has four officers and 24 soldiers away on FIRS. 2Lt Alex Dart is on an SSVC with the 1st Battalion in Londonderry and was last heard of preparing for Exercise Grand Prix in Kenya with the King's Regiment.

The next few months

The next few months sees the final chapter of the Regiment's build-up to its operational target date. In addition to organising and running a Brigade Young Officer's weekend at Chilwell, the Regiment will exercise as a formed unit at Stanta on 2-4 June 2000. The defence exercise will be a real test of the Regiment's new cohesion and promises to stretch all ranks.

It is not, however, all work and no play. The Officers' Mess summer ball will take place on Saturday 10 June in North Luffenham and looks likely to be a memorable occasion in the new Regiment's short history.



LCpl Hazel, Pte Finch and LCpl Fallon, pictured while serving with 2 RGJ in Kosovo.

158(R Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC(V)

Exercise Snow Snake

Capt J Ranson writes:

Twenty-three members of 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment, RLC (V), headed off to Canada on 15 February, with a certain amount of excitement and trepidation on a winter orientation exercise, temperatures ranging from cold (-10C) to really cold (-21C). Our hosts for the exercise were the members of 23 (Hamilton) Service Battalion, based in Hamilton, Ontario.

The aim of the exercise was to gain experience in cold weather conditions while reconfirming basic soldiering skills during CSS operations. A secondary aim was to strengthen ties with the 23 SVC battalion.

The groundwork that the Canadians had put in, in preparation for our arrival soon became apparent by the reception by a police sergeant who took us straight through Customs. It continued when, boarding the coach everyone was issued with an information pack. This was professional, informative and continually used during our time in Canada. The coach trip from Toronto airport to Hamilton was a quiet affair with everyone's body clock indicating 0100 rather than 2000. This was one of the first hurdles we needed to overcome. With such a short time in Canada it was an immediate requirement and, once at Hamilton it was into a meal, and to meet and have a few social beers with the members of 23 SVC Battalion.

The first day - introduction to the Battalion,

and the issue of kit. It took less than an hour to issue all of our members with the necessary, if not bewildering, kit for winter training. Already the learning had started in the form of new vocabulary like 'mutlucks' - Canadian 'moon boots' and the 'touque' - a woolly hat which we believe got its name by the fact you took it everywhere with you. Once issued there was a definite lesson required on how to use it. Having learned how to wear it, it didn't take us long, (a walk round the vehicle park), to learn how different training was going to be in the cumbersome kit - similar to the feeling of wearing NBC dress category 3.

The clothing having been issued, it was then time to learn about the C-7 rifle - the Canadian version of the American M-16. Once the drills were learned it was the intention to practise on the SAT (small arms trainer), however the computer was having an off day.

Now that part of the pre training was completed it was time to move out to the training area - Meaford (north of Toronto). The coach journey took four hours but gave us the opportunity to see the vastness, the straightness of the roads, and in some areas, the bleakness, of Canada, and also continue our experience of Canadian culture in the form of Tim Horton's coffeehouse.

Once at Meaford we went out to the ranges to do some live firing with the C-7 rifle and also to the grenade range. For many people in the Regiment this offered the opportunity to throw a grenade for the first time and for

others the throwing of more grenades in one day than in a whole TA career. That evening, by visiting the Blue Mountains the Canadian pastime of skiing was experienced by all, except the RSM, who thought that snowboarding was for him...maybe he should consider sticking with wind surfing!

The following day, while we were waiting for the transport, we had our first 'real' experience of wind chill - fortunately this was for less than an hour and was the last time! Once on the training area it was time to start the winter indoctrination - learning about the living accommodation (five-'man' tents), toboggans and moving into location, Canadian rations, the Coleman High pressure paraffin stove and lanterns, and snowshoes! The snowshoe experience offered everyone the opportunity to look and feel like a duck out of water, but it didn't take long walking in knee deep, and sometimes waist deep, snow for people to appreciate, and learn to get about in them.

Once the non-tactical training was completed we then moved to the first harbour location for the exercise tactical phase. On arrival we established a harbour area in preparation for the arrival of the main body. This meant we put up three or four tents between us, and by the end we were quite proficient and able to erect them in less than 10 minutes. We were introduced to Canadian pyrotechnics. Relative to ours the thunder flash was a little disappointing, however the simulated artillery shell was very impressive. Then the usual location routine began, with



some of us, for the first time in a long time, providing security for the location. The following morning we experienced a -21C breakfast.

The following day we moved location, which required us to pack up all our 'homes' on the toboggans and drag them on our highly mobile snowshoes to the new location, impressing the Canadians with the speed with which we made the TAB. It didn't take us long into the march to strip down to T-shirts and whites. This prevents building up a sweat, something that you should never do in such cold conditions; it can be a killer. This may go a long way to explaining the somewhat 'laid back' approach we initially thought the Canadians had.

Once established in the new location we were able to start some driver training in winter conditions, including both on road and cross-country. The vehicles looking to be quite mobile in these conditions were not as mobile as it initially appeared and required towing/pushing assistance.

That evening we moved back to Hamilton,

and in order to build on our Canadian culture there was 'take a Brit home' where each of us visited the home of some of the battalion members. This was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone, and enabled us to continue to forge friendships.

For our R and R we visited Niagara falls which is a spectacular site in the winter with the slower waters of the falls frozen in icicles and rainbows formed in the spray. Once the sightseeing was finished, Toronto was the next stop, with several people getting giddy over the glass floor in the CN tower 553m high. The Toronto trip didn't just offer a sightseeing opportunity but also training for our REME contingent when the coach broke down on the way back to Hamilton.

The exercise was an excellent experience enjoyed by all of the 158 Regiment members. The programme was full but not so much so that we couldn't relax. The training was pitched at the right level and pace for everyone to assimilate and pass the field exercise phase. We all learned, and had hands on experience of, surviving and fighting in

cold weather conditions.

The amount of preparation work and organisation completed by the Canadians was excellent. Their welfare system was also excellent as demonstrated in the transport provided, their administration, food, and their response to the coach breakdown.

The directing staff were all impressed by our teamwork, which enabled us to achieve the objectives of the exercise and maintain morale. Many comments were made about how quickly we had picked up the required skills and the enthusiasm with which we carried out tasks. All in all the exercise was a complete success from our point of view.

The hospitality of our Canadian friends was outstanding. The Canadians were always helpful, ever ready to show us their way of operating, and there was always someone to show us the finer aspects of Canadian life too! I only hope we can come close to matching it on their exchange to the UK in September on Exercise Millennium Bear.

Minden Band The Queen's Division

A busy season ahead for the Minden Band, with performances at the Country Park Show, Syon Park in London and the Chatham Navy Day in May, Beating Retreat for the ABF in Bedford in June and then down to the Falkland Islands for the Liberation Day Parade.

Freedom Parades with 2 Royal Anglian - The Army Exhibition for Schools at Basingbourn - The Wandsworth Show - The Royal Warwick Show - The Kohima Weekend in York. Just a few of the many appearances the band will be making over the coming months.

All music and no play makes for a dull life, and so in January the band deployed on Exercise Torgon Ebor, a week-long skiing exercise in the Swiss Alps. With further adventure training in Pembrokeshire in April the year has been quite physical.



The Minden Band ski team: Having conquered all the slopes at the resort the team are, from left: WO2(BSM) Piper, Cpl Jones, LCpl Tucker, LCpl Maddocks (kneeling).

Have you ever heard of the Army Benevolent Fund?

What is the Army Benevolent Fund?

The Army Benevolent Fund is the Army's Central Charity committed to the welfare of Army and ex-Army personnel and their families. We work in partnership with all Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds and in co-operation with other service charities in identifying, investigating and, primarily, giving support to eligible individuals in **real need** amongst the Army and ex-Army community.

We aim to bring help to the many cases where State assistance is either inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the need at the time it is most required. In a nutshell we are **your** charity.

We provide help in two ways:

Financial support: to individuals through their Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds. This normally takes the form of a grant to supplement whatever the Corps or Regiment has the resources to provide.

Practical help and advice: through substantial financial grants which we make on behalf of all Corps and Regiments to over 70 other charities. These are organisations who provide for the special needs of soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families.

What do we do?

Here are some examples of the kind of help we have given recently:



John - a serving soldier had an horrific car accident in Germany which resulted in him losing the ability to walk. Sadly he had to be discharged and needed specialist care and help with the purchase of an electric wheelchair. Together the **ABF** and his Regiment were able to help him.

Graham - on exercise with the Territorial Army, suffered a fall and broke his back. The local Council offered him a house suitable for his disability but it badly needed re-decoration and he also needed removal expenses. The **ABF** met the total cost.

Joshua - the son of a serving soldier, has cerebral palsy and needed a special Orthotic Walking Trainer. His father's Regiment and the **ABF** provided the £2500 that was needed.

Susan - the wife of a serving Warrant Officer, has terminal cancer. During the course of her illness walking has become very difficult and climbing stairs impossible. She was confined downstairs until the **ABF** and her husband's Regiment bought her a stair lift.

Margaret - the widow of an ex-soldier is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. She was unable to look after herself and was moved to a nursing home. After State Benefits, there was still a weekly shortfall of fees. The **ABF** granted her £12 a week, renewable annually for the rest of her life.

Why should you support us?

The Army Benevolent Fund is in direct support of **you** and **your** family. We exist to provide help with any problems that could confront you now and in the future.

But providing that help is costly. Last year we disbursed over **£5 million** to people like John, Graham, Joshua, Margaret and Susan and the need is rising every year that goes by. We must continue to raise funds if we are to be able to carry on giving this much needed help.

All ranks of the Army are brilliant fundraisers. So please remember the **ABF** when raising money for, or giving money to charity.



The Army Benevolent Fund

... in direct support

1st Battalion - The Vikings



Pte Gomes - Exercise Cossack Express, Ukraine 99.



WO2 Soanes - WTWO.



LCpl Canning is lead out for his bout.



D Company on the left contemplate scrumming down against the attractive HQ Company front row!



A (Norfolk) Company try out the new battalion mountain bikes.

The Vikings



The Viking 25km patrol race team.



Viking rugby team v 3 R Irish - Sgt 'Jock' Appleton slips the ball out wide.

The Vikings



Viking football team celebrates winning the NI Cup.



Viking boxers - NI novice boxing winners. Rear row from left: Fus Muirhead, Pte Sayce, Pte Johnson, Pte Wand, Pte Rust, Pte Gill, Pte Lewis, Pte Walker. Centre: WO2 (RQMS) Mackness, LCpl Stewart, Cpl Head, Sgt Riley, Pte Tuppen, Pte Holmes, Capt Stefanetti. Front: Cpl Rix, LCpl Canning, Lt Col Kemp OBE, Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike KCB DSO MBE, Pte Irving, Pte De-Meirre, Pte Bye.

2nd Battalion - The Poachers



Maj 'Bomber' Brown evening the score for the Officers' Mess.



Pte Simon soaks up the atmosphere while painting a local school.



Milan Platoon drills.



The Garrison Commander, Col AMF Potter OBE, chats to the RSM, WO1 Tim Beighton, over a drink at the Sobraon Ball.



The CO emerges from the water during the Battalion triathlon.



The sun setting over Dhekelia.

The Poachers



Pte Seymour planning his next move on the PNCO cadre.



Maj Gen Al Ramsay CBE DSO talks to Pte Aukland as the CO looks on.



From left: LCpl Pardy, Pte Leach, Capt Haden and Pte Stocks, feeling the altitude just before the snowfield.



LCpls Turnell and Seymour contemplating some new instructions on the PNCO cadre.

The Poachers



Dawn on the PNCO cadre. Pte Vendyback provides cover.



Pte Nanson recovering during the rugby 15s.



Sgt Maj Robinson testing the new 'relevant military tasks'.



Sgts Lewis and Jackson, founder members of the Battalion historical re-enactment society.

The East of England Regiment



Cpl McCurdy with a recruit at SENTA.



Exercise Eastern Bloc.



Sgt Taylor and Cpl Bailey preparing some culinary delight on the field firing weekend.



WO2 (CSM) Sackree 'leading' his men from B Company.



WO1 (RSM) Thomas.



Battalion SAAM, February 2000.



Pte Jenks.

The East of England Regiment



WO2 Hudson and Col Drummond, Honorary Colonel B Company on TANOD 25 March 2000.



WO2 (CSM) Pickett helping the Lord Mayor of Leicester draw the winning ticket on TANOD.



The pistol match - Battalion SAAM, February 2000.



Battalion SAAM.



CO and Training Major directing operations.



Farewell to the old QM, Maj Bob Potter.



The Grimsby Boys!



The recruits at Strensall.



WO2 Rogers OC RRTT(N) and recruits.

Special features

Exercise Poachers Peak - Expedition To Nepal 1999

Capt Nat Haden Expedition Leader writes:

The original idea to run a Battalion expedition to the Himalayas to take a group of novice climbers up a 6,000m peak came from an idle thought that the current Battalion Second In Command had had during a previous expedition to Nepal. The thought had started along the lines of 'wouldn't it be nice if...' and finished with a letter winging its way from Cyprus to Bassingbourn in the Autumn of 1998 telling me that I had to organize an expedition to climb Island Peak. After looking on a map and finding that Island Peak stands at about 6,190m above mean sea level in the same area as Mount Everest I set about organising the expedition.

Organising an expedition to Nepal was not as difficult as I thought for two reasons: The first is that around ten British Forces expeditions go there every year so there is plenty of information available to prospective expedition organisers. The second reason is that I was supported in my attempt by LCpl Wall AGC (SPS) who did the vast majority of the paperwork, including the ATFA, thus leaving me free to concentrate on other things like the Milan course that I was on at the time.

Eventually, after many faxes and Orbat changes, some very painful injections and a quick 'whip-round' for funds the expedition was ready to go. The final list of expedition members consisted of 11 members of the Battalion and one instructor who was loaned to us by 9 Cadet Training Team in York. On the 10 November 1999, after a hectic few days in the UK trying to assemble equipment and a few stray team members, and only a week after returning from the OTX in Jordan the expedition was ready to depart.

Kathmandu was the first sight of Asia for most members of the expedition and proved to be a strange mixture of colour, poverty and tourism, with beggars and street hawkers standing outside the many internet cafés. The trekking company the expedition used was typically efficient and within a day of arriving we were ready to begin our venture into the hills.

In order for members of the expedition to properly acclimatise to the altitude the route to Island Peak took us slightly out of our way to a place called Kala Pattar. The walk to Kala Pattar took eight days in all although it was only a distance of about 40km on the



Team one on the summit. From left: Pte Flitton, LCol Baird, Pte Stocks and Pte Leach (6,190m).

map. The route took us up a valley and past some incredible scenery. The path was not the vague track that I had imagined but a very well worn path that was as well defined and as busy as any to be found in the Lake District. This route is known locally as the 'Andrex trail', for obvious reasons. Kala Pattar is effectively used as the viewpoint for Mt Everest and at 5,500m is a small challenge in itself. It gave the group a chance to take in the awesome sight of Everest and to get some excellent photos.



With Everest in the background (centre), the team is pictured during acclimatisation.

Special features



The final climb to the summit (6,100m).

After Kala Pattar it was time to start the main event and so the group moved to Island Peak base camp. This took us four days and unfortunately involved us losing some height. When we reached base camp we spent a morning practising the skills that we would require on the snowfield and went over actions that would be taken in an emergency. After a good lunch we moved to High Camp

where we pitched our tents in the snow, climbed into the bottom of our sleeping bags and waited for the snow to freeze again so we could begin the climb.

As dawn came on the next morning we began the final ascent to the summit. Most of the group had never climbed anywhere higher than Snowdon before and so going on the snowfield at 20,000ft was understandably slow, the going got even slower when we came across the 100m snow-wall that was waiting for us near the summit. The group eventually reached the summit some seven hours after we had started that morning and so after a few minutes on the summit we started to make our way down, arriving back at base camp 12 hours after we had left high camp that morning.

All members of the expedition that left base camp made it to the summit. In all the expedition was walking or climbing for 18 days. During this time we covered 150km and climbed up to an altitude of 6,190m, which is over 1km higher than Mont Blanc. There were no injuries or serious illnesses among expedition members during the expedition. It was an outstanding opportunity to introduce soldiers to Himalayan mountaineering and a unique experience for all. We must thank the Regiment and the Most Worshipful Company of Poulterers for their financial support, for without it the expedition could not have taken place.

'Don't look at me...Follow me' Phase 1 Training at Bassingbourn Barracks

by Maj MAL Lyne R Anglian

As this edition of *Castle* goes to print, the Queen's Division Company at the Army Training Regiment completes a highly successful and very busy training year. In the last 12 months 595 QD recruits have been through the Common Military Syllabus for recruits (CMS(R)) and dispatched to Catterick for the 14 week combat infantryman's course (CIC). Of this number 139 were destined for the two Regular Battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Phase 1 training, or CMS(R), for adult Queen's Division soldiers, is conducted at Bassingbourn Barracks, near Royston (formally Depot The Queen's Division). In addition to our company, both the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Royal Corps of Signals conduct the same training here but do so with recruits from their own capbadge. The 11-week course is designed to teach the new recruit basic soldiering skills in order for him to start the more demanding special to arms (Phase 2) training prior to joining the Regular Army.

The 'product' of the 11-week course is not, and could never be, a fully trained, highly motivated, dedicated and professional soldier. What has been achieved though is significant and often underestimated. The majority of the course time is spent training the recruit in safe weapon handling and marksmanship - the essential skills of any soldier. Naturally, due emphasis is placed upon physical fitness and the ability to march with battle loads. In addition there are three basic field exercises designed to introduce the recruit to life in great outdoors and elementary training in NBC, map reading, first aid and of course drill.

Since the formation of the most basic armies, commanders and instructors alike have complained about the standard of man put before them for training. Comprised mainly of drunks, womanisers and robbers the regiments of yesteryear achieved some truly

remarkable successes. The infantry has always required the lion's share of recruited manpower and has developed training and leadership methods to breach the ability and motivation gap between recruit and fighting man.

Today the job of the recruit instructor is just as demanding and equally important, so what are the essential qualities needed in such a man? Clearly they must be a first rate soldier but of vital importance is also their ability to impart their knowledge in something other than short, sharp, jerky movements. 'Brecon Bunnies' and Warminster Binocular types do not automatically make good recruit instructors. Patience, understanding and mental flexibility linked to unfailing enthusiasm and tolerance are critical if we are to develop the hard won Viking and Poacher day-one recruit into a soldier capable of meeting the initial demands of Catterick. It is worth reflecting on the thought that for every Royal Anglian recruit arriving at Bassingbourn, about 100 others have been approached and spoken to by recruiters from within our battalions. These 'contacts' come at a high price both in terms of manpower, time and materiel.

The job of the trainer is to train and not select, whatever he may personally feel about an individual on first meeting. On occasion this reality may well sap the desire to live but, there is no doubt in my mind that the quality of recruit entering training is not, in the round, as appalling as some might lead you to believe. Training remains a demanding job but the future RSMs, platoon sergeants and section commanders are there to be teased out but they, like all of us, need excellent and inspirational leadership from the moment they arrive in the Army. If you think you can inspire a man to follow, and teach him to be the soldier you think you are, then Bassingbourn or Catterick could hold considerable personal and professional rewards for you.



ATR Bassingbourn, Minden Day August 1999. Royal Anglian Regiment staff and recruits. Picture by Pearson GB Ltd.

Lt William Woods

by Timothy Cooke

William Woods joined the 48th Foot as an ensign in April 1808 and became a lieutenant at the end of 1809. He served with the Regiment at the first Siege of Badajoz and in the Battle of Albuera before transferring to the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards on 23 January 1812.

Although he wrote numerous letters during his service in the Peninsular War, only one survives. This was written after Albuera on 29 May 1811 from Almandralejo, a small town near the Portuguese frontier. Woods records how he was wounded during the battle and taken prisoner when the French cavalry launched a surprise attack on Colborne's Brigade. Having refused to give his parole, Woods escaped and succeeded in returning to the British lines with the help of a Spanish goatherd.

The letter was made available for publication by William Woods' great-great-grandson, the late Mr RAA Woods, who died earlier this year aged 99.

Almandralejo, 29 May 1811

My dear Eliza and Mary,

Again have I the pleasure of addressing you, and intend, my dear sisters, giving you the further particulars which I promised in the few hurried lines I had time to write from Solano. In a few days after I had dispatched a former letter from this place, about the 27th ult., the first Brigade (to which our Battn. belongs), commanded by Col. Colbourne, received an hasty order to march. Instead of proceeding against Badajoz as we fully expected, our route lay directly into the Interior of Spain, and the extent of the march was to Belalcazer, a town near Cordova. The object in view was to surprise a castle in which the enemy had deposited an immensity of plunder, provisions and stores of every description. Our movements were conducted with the greatest secrecy, and after days and nights of uncommon fatigue, we arrived before the place, without their having the least intimation of our approach. The object was before us, but to our infinite mortification, proved unattainable. Less than 100 men had it in their power to set a fine Brigade of near 1,800 British troops at defiance.

The castle was a moorish structure, such as are very common in this part of the Kingdom (Andalusia). The rascals for some time previous, for fear of the Spaniards, had built up every door, and avenue to it, as strong as the walls themselves; not a single outlet remained, and if the men approached to break into it, showers of shot and immense stones were hurled upon them! Nothing could be done without heavy artillery. There was no time for delay. Bodies of French Cavalry hovered about in every direction, and so small a force as we were, separated at such an immense distance from the Army, might easily have been cut off.

We retired by a pass in the Sierra Morena, had arrived at our old Quarteres on the 11th inst., after an absence of 13 days and a march of near 300 miles. You may form some idea of the fatigues we endured when I tell you the Brigade was so exhausted that nearly half the men were brought in on cars, or any conveyance we could procure. The Troops we left here were all gone before Badajoz. We remained merely to recruit and rest the Men till the 14th, when we moved to a position near Valverde, where we were joined by the remainder of our Division and considerable Reinforcements from Lord Wellington's Army. Soult, with a powerful Force, was on his way from Seville, and actually entered this place the day after we quitted it.

On the 15th, the whole of the Army advanced and took up a position near Albuera. A river runs close by this Village, and in a wood on the opposite side, the columns of the Enemy were discovered. At day-break on the 16th, the picquets were skirmishing, and at 8 o'clock there was a heavy cannonade. At this time the rain began to descend in torrents, and in a great measure obscured the distant prospect. The enemy forded the River two miles below the town. Already they had occupied some commanding heights, and were attempting to secure another on which almost the fate of the day depended. The first Brigade, consisting of the Buffs, 2nd Battn.

48th, 66th and 34th Regt., were ordered to check them. We advanced rapidly, under a most unparalleled fire of Grape, Musketry, and 12 lb. Shot. At the foot of the hill my worthy Captn. (Captn. Wood) was shot through the thigh, and the command of the company devolved upon me. As well as I could, amidst an incessant roar of Artillery, I entreated the men to be firm and steady. They, however, needed no caution. We were soon halted and began a brisk Fire, but trifling compared to that of the Enemy. In a few minutes the Drum beat for it to cease, and Genl. Stewart ordered us to charge. The men huzzaed, and advanced with the greatest spirit. A Column of Grenadiers of gigantic stature rendered hideous by the huge fur caps and enormous beards and mustachios which they wore, were opposed to us. When within a few yards of them, the Bayonet so terrified these formidable heroes that numbers dropped their Arms and attempted to fly. Our Men made dreadful havoc amongst them. This Column was completely routed, and two others were giving way. Had another Brigade been near to support us at this Juncture, the fate of the day would in a few minutes have been decided. But, Alas! No support was immediately near. The French General saw it, and got a Regt. of Hussars, and a new species of Troops armed with Lances and mounted, amongst us. At this time more than half the Brigade were either killed or wounded, and I found myself left with only four men of the Company, surrounded on all sides. In a minute after I was struck smartly on the right leg by a Ball which had rebounded from the ground, and the next instant a number of Hussars came upon us and rode me and the four Men all down together.

Before I could get up a French officer came. I called out in French 'I am an English officer'. The scoundrel made no reply, but spurred his horse violently to get him over me. He was followed by several Dragoons, and I was trampled upon and bruised in several places, but not half so severely as I expected. I got up as soon as I could, and was cut at by two Dragoons in all directions. I evaded many cuts, and expected to have got away, as some of our Dragoons were coming up the Hill, when some one gave me a blow on the back of my neck which brought me down again. At this instant a French Officer came up and saved my life. The two villains, with horrid imprecations, robbed me of everything, pockets and all. I was then taken to the Rear, where, to my regrets and honor, I found Maj Brooke, two captains and five subalterns, with a number of our men prisoners, besides about 17 officers of other regiments. All but about three wounded. They used us most cruelly, many of my brother officers could not get their wounds dressed; they were completely drenched in blood, which was still fast flowing from the deep cuts of the Sabres.

Neither age nor rank seemed to soften their feelings. Maj Brooke is a grey-headed old man 66 years of age, and though he was cut in the head severely, yet they would not allow him to ride, but even made him wade up to the middle through rivers, which were running rapidly from the late heavy rains. Immediately after we were taken to a wood, where all their heavy luggage remained, and where they brought their wounded. We remained here in the midst of heavy rains without any covering, but what few cloathes they chose to leave us on our backs that day, the night, till about four o'clock of the 17th, and without any thing to eat. At this time they gave us some rice and a few live goats, which, when killed and divided with the rice amongst the prisoners, amounted to 4oz of meat each. At two in the morning of the 18th, we were marched off with about 4,000 of their wounded and a strong escort of artillery, infantry and Dragoons. My whole thoughts were bent upon getting away, and during the march to Ribeira, which occupied the two following days, I tried three times and failed. I have not room to give you particulars.

At Ribeira we were put into an olive ground surrounded by high walls, near the town, and close to a river. Some of the wounded officers had permission to sleep in the town, and partly from this circumstance Capt Spedding of the 4th Dragoons, and myself, arranged a plan of escape. We waited for our bread, which was

Special features

served out at nine at night, and was only a two pound loaf among nine of us, when we went boldly to the gate. The sentries asked 'Where are you going?'. 'Into the town to be sure,' was our reply. The men without disturbing the officer of the guard to know if we were among the number who had permission, allowed us to pass. Soon after we crossed the river, got into the high corn, and by creeping through it a long way, completely eluded both the infantry and Dragoon picquets. We then posted away till about one o'clock as hard as possible (avoiding every road), when we came to a swamp, which it was impossible to cross in the night. We concealed ourselves in some standing corn, and waited most anxiously for daybreak.

As soon as there was sufficient light, we looked round, and to our surprise found we had taken a wrong direction, as the spires of Villa Franca, a town full of their cavalry, were quite visible at about a league distance. There was no time for a delay; we ran as fast as we could the contrary way, and a little after sunrise met with a goatherd feeding his flock. Without ceremony we told him what we were and required his assistance. He said he was a good Spaniard, a patriot, and would do all in his power to serve us. Leaving the flock in charge of a boy, he led us into a most sequestered spot, where, like the nest of a timid and cautious bird, his hut was situated. A little girl (his daughter) gave us a most delightful treat of new cheese and excellent bread. After this she milked some goats and gave us as much milk as we liked. The man, seeing us almost exhausted, spread a cloak and skins on the grass near the door, and while he was on the watch we had a most refreshing sleep of near two hours. He awoke us, and led us through almost trackless paths, till we came in view of Alanja, a town perched among a ridge of lofty rugged mountains. With a Blessing he now quitted, and we arrived at the town so fatigued we could scarcely move. We went to the Alcade or Chief Magistrate, who gave us wine and other refreshments, and provided us with mules and a guide to conduct us to Merida. We arrived here early in the evening, and were treated with the greatest hospitality, many of the inhabitants vieing with each other which could do most for us. The following morning the Governor furnished us with fresh mules, and we proceeded to

Solano, five leagues, where I saw Marshal Beresford, and joined what remained of our poor Battalion.

On the 23rd we came here and have remained since very quiet, in excellent quarters and well supplied with good provisions. Ours and the Spanish cavalry are harassing the rear of the enemy, and are daily sending in prisoners. Their loss must have been very considerable. On the road to this place from Albuera, which is about six leagues, we picked up more than 900 wounded; and on our arrival here, in one Convent, we found 330, besides some officers in different houses. It is easy to account for their having 9,000 men besides an immense number of officers disabled in the late action. Six thousand British troops were all that were on the field, what number of Spanish and Portuguese I don't know. In our two Battalions we had 50 officers present, and all, with the exception of eight, were either killed or wounded. After the action, the 2nd Battalion, out of 413 men, had only 25 fit for duty; we now muster seven officers and 120 men. Almost all the prisoners have made their escape and joined. I am sorry to say all the officers they have remaining with them belong to us. Maj Brooke, two captains, and four subalterns, have given their parole. Though so weak, yet we still keep our old place, and are first in advance. It is rumoured that the whole of the 2nd Division is to be sent into Garrison Towns in Portugal, to rest after its numerous fatigues, but nothing is certainly known. Gen Hill is again arrived in the country, and we are anxiously expecting him to reassume the command of this Army; some change must then take place, and I shall not delay acquainting you with it whenever it happens..

In a few days I hope (my wound) will be quite healed. I have now command of a company, consisting only of eight men, the poor remains of more than 59 soldiers. Accept all of you my best love, and remember me to every kind friend or enquirer, - I am, my dear sisters, ever

Your affectionate brother,
William Woods

NB - Gen Hill is just arrived here - Badajoz is expected to fall in a few days.

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THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

A TA Officer with SFOR, the Stabilisation Force*Capt Peter Chilvers writes:***Capt Chilvers touring the sites of FR Yugoslavia.**

Summer 1997 now seems such a long time ago but for Banja Luka, the Republika Srpska and Bosnia it was a turning point. It was a time of tension and intense activity for the British Division and the troops under its command in what is the capital of the Serb entity. The old nationalist elite attempted to secure their hegemony by mounting a coup against the President, who, looking to the future of her people realised greater cooperation with the International Community was the only way ahead.

SFOR, the Stabilisation Force, had, since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, effectively established its control over the Entity Armed Forces. However the clauses and annexes dealing with indigenous forces had been stretched and abused by the creation of 'Special Police' units in an attempt to develop what turned out to be, in effect, a private army. It was the control and thus neutralisation of these units that was necessary if the thaw in relations with the President was not to be still born. The 'Special Police' were generally under control of the more extremist elements in the Serb Entity and as such were a serious threat.

The solution was to bring these errant forces under the provision of the military annex of Dayton. This was an action requiring great cooperation between SFOR and the OHR (Office of High Representative), the lead civilian organisation created by Dayton itself. The Operation planned required swift and secure implementation since any prior warning could have resulted in the removal of evidence and illegal equipment owned and operated by

this 'force within a force'. It was necessary to close them down, take out their logistics and show the people what really was going on.

On the day of implementation, troops moved in to secure the city of Banja Luka and the locations of the 'Special Units' were subjected to immediate and forced inspection. The resulting haul included over a thousand weapons and tons of ammunition and explosives. Sniper Rifles, Scorpion machine pistols, mines, explosives, anti-aircraft weapons, books with pages cut out for pressure switches and boxes of chocolates rigged as booby traps... all essential police equipment.

Working in G5 - Civil/Military relations, my involvement with the Operation entitled me to take a weapon as a trophy. I chose one of the few Dragandov Sniper Rifles seized, an interesting weapon that has engraved in to the wooden stock the Serb National Emblem of a cross with four Cyrillic Cs. This stands for 'Samo Sloga Srbina Spasava' or 'Only Unity Saves Serbs.' On the side of the hand guard is also inscribed 'Kupres 1994', so the weapon concerned has seen fairly wide service throughout Bosnia. I am delighted that it is to form part of the Regimental Museum's collection on Bosnia.

Editors note: Peter Chilvers has now left the TA, and is on his second tour as the Exhumations Co-ordinator in OHR. He tells me that he has found the job challenging and demanding - and after four years in the region he now feels that he needs a change.

The Associations



The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)

Benevolent Work

The Area Secretary dealt with 131 benevolent cases in 1999 of which 60 (54) were Royal Norfolks. Some £77,120 (£66,584) was dispensed from all sources including Royal Norfolk £6,300 (£4,692). Among those who benefited were 18 ABF Annuities (Royal Norfolk) and 16 Annuities (Suffolk) with 17 persons from both of the Regiments benefiting from a free week at Pontins Holiday Camps, courtesy of the ABF. The turn round time for handling the cases, bearing in mind there were an additional 21 cases compared to 1998, revealed that in the first two categories (1 and 2-5 days) the results were a surprising 77 per cent as in 1998.

Regimental Association Dinner

The TA Centre at Norwich was crowded for Saturday 25 September when some 175 sat down to share a four-course meal. The chief guest was Lt Col Clive Newell, Commanding Officer of the East of England Regiment. His words of encouragement were well received and he wrote afterwards to say that he felt enormously privileged to meet so

many World War Two veterans from our different and varied Battalions. Those present included Old Soldier Mr HA Brawn-Meek 1934-43 (1st and 2nd Battalions) and Young Soldier DW Eyles R Anglian 1981-88. Col Newell was able to assure us that our links with the TA here in Norwich were firm for the foreseeable future, whatever that means.

Our thanks as usual go to Mr Paul Boxall and his band of helpers for setting up and taking down everything connected with the dinner. Once again his raffle was a success raising some £285. In recognition of his work for the Regimental Association, he was presented with an engraved crystal bowl.

Chapel

The service on Sunday 26 September was well attended as usual. The families of the late Maj Sam Hornor and Mr Jack Forrest were present to see memorials dedicated as was one for the late Brig Jack Wilkinson, former Colonel of the Regiment.

Regimental Homes

The homes are all currently occupied. A rehousing programme together with an

upgrading project is in hand. The latter will modernise kitchens and bathrooms. If you wish to put your name on the waiting list either for one of the homes on Mousehold Lane Norwich or at Gaywood in Kings Lynn please call Regimental Headquarters and we will send you a form to complete.

Regimental Museum

This will not be closed during the refurbishment of the castle. Work continues on the archives and photographs. Visitors now almost number half a million since opening in July of 1990.

Remembrance Service

This will be at the Cottages at 1045 on Saturday 11 November. Dress, medals and tie.



The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk)

News from the Branches

The winter of 1999-2000 has seen the branches in a flourishing mood. The membership of most if not all is on the increase. Several report the arrival of new Royal Anglian members which bodes well for the future.

Many and varied activities were reported. On a more serious note branches attended Remembrance Day services and in one or two cases Armistice Day itself was also commemorated on 11 November.

The Bury St Edmunds branch paraded on Remembrance Day for the service at St Mary's Church, Pakenham. After the service there was a march past at which the salute was taken by an ex-POW, Jim Palfrey. The

ceremony coincided with Jim's 80th Birthday and 120 people gathered to celebrate both at a party organised in Pakenham village hall.

Lowestoft reported the dedication of its new Standard at a service in the Lowestoft Fishermen's Bathel in October, 1999. Representatives attended with banners from several other branches.

A display of Suffolk Regiment memorabilia is being organised by the Beccles branch in the Beccles office of Waveney District Council from 3 to 17 July. Another attractive way in which the Beccles branch is keeping the Regiment in the public eye is by financing a set of four kneelers in Southwold church. The kneelers will carry

the Regimental badge flanked by the Minden colours of red and yellow.

Around the branches

An occasion to look forward to will be the dedication of a new standard by the Hemel Hempstead branch on 2 April, 2000. Some of us will have to wait till Minden Day to see it.

On a lighter note branches marked Christmas and the new millennium in a variety of different ways. There were social evenings, buffets and dinners as well as dances.

Lowestoft branch reported a novel, but rather chilling way to raise funds. The son of the branch chairman and his step-daughter

The Associations

bravely went for a swim in the sea on Christmas morning! In return for their donation they were presented with Suffolk mugs.

The Suffolk Regimental Museum

The museum appeal has almost reached its target and it remains open expecting to reach the target figure later this year. It is still possible for anyone who wishes to make a contribution!

In the meantime local authority planning approval has been granted and the final details of construction and layout are being prepared together with builders' estimates. It is still confidently expected that everything will be ready and the museum formally

opened in the summer of 2001 though an actual date has not yet been set..

Minden Day

This year the annual Minden Day celebration will take place on Sunday, 30 July at Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds. Events will adhere to the normal, well-tryed formula beginning with a service in the morning. There will be no requirement for tickets and all members of the Regiment and their families are welcome.

Anniversaries

A party from the Regiment is planning to return to Normandy in June 2000 to participate in the D-Day ceremonies.

Another important anniversary occurs this year, one that, perhaps, we are less inclined to commemorate. It is 60 years since the evacuation of the BEF via Dunkirk in June, 1940.

There is in the *Britannia and Castle* newsletter published this summer a fascinating article on the last few days of 1 Suffolk in Belgium and France prior to evacuation to the UK. The article is written by Bobby Byrne who was serving in the intelligence section of the Battalion at that time. It tells the story of those difficult and dangerous times as seen by someone who was in the thick of it. Bobby is to be warmly congratulated on his excellent and stimulating article.



Mr R Pielar (Chairman Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Branch), Messrs M Joel, J Wells, J Colley and B Beckett with the Curator of the Mickleborough Collection, Mrs Jane Billings at the presentation to commemorate the Reg Underwood memorabilia collection.



The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Lincolnshire)

A Royal occasion for the opening of the Regimental Museum

The Duke of York arrived in the city at around 11am on Friday, 7 April 2000 and was warmly welcomed by crowds of well-wishers who had waited patiently outside

the old Yeomanry Barracks on Burton Road, Lincoln in order to catch a glimpse of their royal visitor. He was formally received by the Chairman of the Museum Trustees, Maj Gen Dick Gerrard-Wright, before embarking on a tour of the new Regimental Museum.

Despite a bomb scare in the morning,

everything was in its place, including an invited audience of over 200 guests who were assembled in the main hall to witness the official opening of the museum.

During an amusing speech, Gen Gerrard-Wright told his guest that he was delighted the Duke had agreed to open the museum and paid tribute to the dedicated team which had

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Gen Gerrard-Wright welcomes The Duke of York to the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Museum.

put the museum project together.

'The hard work has paid off and we have a fantastic monument to the Regiment. The museum will be of interest to visitors of all ages, but more importantly, we hope that this will be a constant reminder of the sacrifices which were made by our soldiers, and this will be a fitting memorial to them. The museum will remind present and future generations of the part which the Regiment has played in defence of this country, during its 300 year history.'

Unveiling a commemorative plaque the Duke said: 'It is with great pleasure that I have been able to see the museum myself. It is obvious that the Regiment is highly respected and has a close liaison with the community, which is of benefit to the Army as a whole.'

After meeting several members of the Regimental Association the Duke took his leave of the city, allowing guests the opportunity to see for themselves the newly opened museum. It was a memorable occasion and his visit was much appreciated.

Poacher 2000

The Poacher 2000 was held on 18 March at the Springfield Exhibition Centre in Spalding, by kind permission of the manager, Mr Brian Willoughby. The guest of honour for the evening was Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL, the President of the Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regimental Association who entertained us all with an interesting and heartfelt opening address.

This unique occasion, attended by over 300 former members and their guests from the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, the 2nd East Anglian Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment, was evidence that Regimental spirit is still very much alive



Dusty Miller and Wally Hibbard discuss old times in front of one of the military vehicles at the Poacher 2000.

and the place was soon awash with Old Comrades swapping stories about their experiences. It was without doubt a night of celebration and after an excellent buffet, prepared by Sandy Wells, the dancing continued long into the night.

Our grateful thanks go to the Spalding Branch, in particular Trevor Snell, who organised a very successful and enjoyable event and one that many feel should be repeated annually.

Scunthorpe Branch

Due to communication problems the annual Christmas Dinner, held on Friday 10 December, very nearly didn't take place, but

thanks to the quick thinking and persuasive powers of our Chairman, Cliff Bromby, things worked out extremely well in the end. After an excellent meal our guest of honour, Capt John Lee, proposed a toast to the Regiment. Live entertainment and dancing followed and everyone went home having enjoyed a splendid evening.

Many Association members have also enjoyed a number of outings organised by the branch which have included a visit to the Skegness Branch, a social evening held at Rapier Barracks Kirton in Lindsey and of course the opening of the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Museum by HRH The Duke of York.

The Associations

Stamford Branch

Following our Remembrance Dinner last November and the civic parade at the Stamford War Memorial, the Branch agreed to take on 'the improvement of the war memorial' as its millennium project. Seven bronze plaques listing the names of 237 men killed in World War One, erected in 1919 are almost illegible and the memorial itself requires attention. We have therefore decided to organise special events throughout the year in order to raise funds for its refurbishment.

On Saturday 12 February, 50 members and friends joined together in the local sports centre for the annual 'Sobraon' supper. Loyal toasts to fallen comrades and to 'the Regiment' were proposed and Ron Walker gave a talk on the Battle of Sobraon in which the 10th Foot made that famous 'silent charge'.

Michael Griffin, the Branch Standard Bearer, attended the 'Poacher 2000' in the Spalding Exhibition Centre on 18 March

and reported that it was a first class event. Also on display there were a number of veteran military vehicles kindly arranged by one of our members, Dusty Miller.

Tuesday 11 April the branch met with many other ex-service organisations in the Newage Social Club for a special millennium gathering. Entertainment was provided by the Stamford Brass Band, which played a varied programme by well-known composers, including *The Thin Red Line*, *The Dambusters March* and *The Lost Chord*. The branch was asked to provide the buffet and a splendid selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies were consumed with relish during the break. The usual raffle was organised which raised £150 towards the millennium project, the refurbishment of the Stamford war memorial. Altogether a most enjoyable and successful evening.

Lincoln Branch

The branch continues to be a vibrant part of the Association with membership steadily

rising to almost 300 members.

A number of events have been organised during the past six months, but the one that turned out to be extremely popular was a narrowboat trip on the Leeds/Liverpool canal.

Future events planned for the branch include a ladies' guest night on Saturday 2 June at Sobraon Barracks, a visit to Chatsworth House on Sunday 2 July and of course our visit to the annual Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn on Sunday 23 July. For further information contact the branch Secretary.

The branch welfare fund is now well established following successful fundraising events. The two band concerts by the Minden Band of The Queen's Division and the Lincolnshire Fire Brigade Band in particular have attracted a great deal of interest from all sections of the community and are now firmly on our annual events list. Our sincere thanks go to both Bands for their continued support and assistance.



The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and the Cambridgeshire Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

News from the Branches

Whittlesey and Peterborough

There are now over 30 members and the branch is going from strength to strength. There have been several very successful events such as the barbecue, church service, the annual dinner and the Christmas social. The cadets have been an enormous help, acting as standard bearers and other duties. Monthly meetings have been held at the ACF HQ which are very well attended. £50 has been donated to the Whittlesey Detachment ACF for their funds.

Wisbech

Mr R Keating reports the death of the Chairman, Mr John Russell. John worked hard for the branch and he will be missed for his banter and humour.

Membership stands at 31 and meetings are held at the drill hall on Fridays. The branch supported Remembrance Day Services in Wisbech at which our Standard was paraded. A carol concert was held in the drill hall where the Salvation Army and Songsters played a concert of Christmas carols and music.

Ely

Wreaths were laid in the Regimental Chapel, Ely Cathedral and the Ely War Memorial and members attended the St George's service in the Regimental Chapel in April.

Minden Day was well attended by the members, it was quite a memorable day and the weather was perfect.

Some members were able to attend the Peterborough and Whittlesey Branch annual service at Whittlesey and we were also represented at the funeral service of Capt P Clancy and the Memorial Service for Maj JD Bunkall.

Snippets from the OCA AGM

The Old Comrades AGM has voted to change its name to the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association as a way of encouraging younger people, both from the TA and the cadets, to join. It is also intended to incorporate Royal Anglian in the title to encourage wider participation.

It was also agreed that wives and widows of members could become honorary members of the Association and that Associate membership could be given in recognition of service, at the behest of branches.

It was reported that the Regimental Chapel Trust had net assets in excess of £26,000. A £100 donation has been made to the Cathedral fabric fund and £700 to the Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection. Mr David Seekings has been appointed an additional Trustee along with Col Elsdon.

Col Elsdon has agreed to supply a minibus and driver to take a party to the Field of

Remembrance at Westminster, and for two Lord Lieutenant's cadets to represent the OCA at the Abbey.

The next meeting is to be held on Sunday 17 September 2000 commencing at 2.30pm at the Cadet HQ, Waterbeach.

News from the Regimental Council

Capt Paul Leach reported that the Museums Collection had received the following donations: Royal Anglian Regiment £1,500, the Chapel Trust £700, the Officers' Dinner Club £350. The collection needs about £700 annually and the fund at present stands at approximately £2,000.

A Freedom casket has been presented to the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force for display.

CSgt H Taylor reported that he had taken possession of the Regimental flag found at Bury St Edmunds.

He also expressed his thanks to Cambridgeshire ACF for assistance with the Sergeants' Dinner Club.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

The Collection has received a unique and historical item in the form of a book, put together in a prisoner of war camp in the Far East by members of the Regiment.

Called *The Fenman* it came into the hands of Sgt Bert Major of the 2nd Battalion in the

The Associations

notorious Changi Gaol in late 1942. He has preserved it carefully through those days and ever since.

Extracts were published after the war in the local press in 1946 - and Maj Hutt used it in writing his history of the Regiment. It is now on display with other items from the Japanese PoW camps in the Far Eastern Exhibition at Duxford.

The most important event for the 'Collection' during the winter period was the formal handing over to the Wisbech Museum on indefinite loan Sgt Maj Rowe's medal group. This was made to the Trustees of the Museum by the Lord Lieutenant at a formal ceremony in January. Bill Knowles, a trustee of the museum - and himself an Old Cambridgeshire, received the medals from the Lord Lieutenant.

Also present were the Mayor of Wisbech and the Chairman of Fenland District Council, who were guests on that occasion. Lt Col WF Badcock MBE, President of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, members of the Regimental Council and a good turnout of Old Comrades from the north of the county enjoyed the evening, well hosted by the Wisbech museum.

Dinner

A dinner was held on Saturday 29 January at the ACF Centre, Waterbeach.

Lt Col WF Badcock MBE presided and Col RA Shervington TD, proposed a vote of thanks to Maj Dennis Haslam for his outstanding service over the years including his service at D Company as company commander and chief executive officer of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. A presentation was then made of an antique telephone table.

Col Peter Storie Pugh writes from Fort Mahon, Salvagnac, Tarn, France...

For the foreseeable future I shall be unable to attend any Regimental functions.

The reason is straightforward. In June 1998 I was a passenger in a car that was proceeding in a gentlemanly fashion on a main route when a bloody female frog hit my vehicle broadside on; I was hit at the point of impact. I was taken to the Reanimation Centre at Albi hospital and the medics said I wouldn't survive, shameful lot of bastards. You can guess that I did survive in fact and certainly hope to prove wrong the medics' second prognosis that I would never stand or walk

again. At the moment I am in a pretty useless state with one arm and hand and leg u/s and don't expect to recover for some time.

Obituaries

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

Bradford: Lt Christopher Bradford died suddenly on Saturday 29 January while visiting his daughter in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates.

Fuchs: Sir Vivian Fuchs, the Polar explorer who died in November aged 91, made the first overland crossing of the Antarctica, an adventure described as 'the last great journey on earth'.

King: Maj Peter Frank King MBE TD MA (Cantab) died on 29 December 1999 aged 83.

White: George Edward White died on 12 March aged 101. Mr White was presented with the Legion d'Honneur on behalf of the French President in January 1999. He joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment at the age of 15 having lied about his age and fought at Ypres. When he was found out he was sent home and called up again when he was 18.



Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Beds and Herts)

The Regimental War Memorial and Garden

On Sunday 19 March 2000 a buffet lunch was held at the 'Keep', Kempston to commemorate the handing over of the Regimental War Memorial and Gardens to the Kempston Town Council. This function was attended by several councillors of the Kempston Town Council together with the town clerk. The council representatives were entertained by Brig Angus Robertson and Mrs Robertson, together with Maj J Holl and J Darville and Mrs Darville, Mr and Mrs D George and Mr and Mrs T Roberts. During the lunch a Regimental Shield, suitably inscribed, was presented to Cllr David Lewis, whose parents' ashes, (ex-Sgt Lewis (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment)), are buried in the Memorial Gardens. Cllr Lewis received the Shield with thanks and assured the assembled company that the Memorial Gardens would be taken care of for ever. This meeting ended 78 years of caring for the Memorial Gardens by members of the Association, and while this was a joyous occasion, we are all aware that a page of history had turned and this was the end of a chapter in the life of the Regiment.

The Regimental Museum Appeal
In July 1999 the Trustees of the Regiment

Museum launched an appeal to raise money for the Regimental Museum which is housed in a gallery within the Luton Museum. The trustees are enormously grateful for the splendid support which the appeal is receiving both from members of the Association and the people of both counties. So far over £25,000 has been raised with the promise of at least another £15,000 within the coming year.

The Association Wreath Laying Ceremony and Reunion

Association members, on arriving from both near and far to attend the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony and Reunion at the TA Centre, Kempston on the Sunday morning of 21 November 1999, were supplied with hot coffee or tea which was made available by members of 158 (Royal Anglian) RLC.

New faces were among the old guard who come year after year to this grand gathering. The parade follows the now perfect formula that has been devised over the last few years, each previous year's parade becomes the rehearsal for the next. The only difference to the parade from other years was the absence of the TA Band. At 11.50 all the Association Branch Standards plus Standards of the Royal Norfolk Association Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Branch, the Suffolk Regiment

Association Beccles Branch, both carried by our Association members who live in these areas and attend these branches, the Hemel Hempstead Branches of the Suffolk Regiment, Royal Fusilier and Korean Veterans Associations, together with the wreath laying party preceded by the Corps of Drums of the East of England Regiment marched through the old Barrack gates to their positions on and in front of the Regimental Memorial.

After the Bidding and the Prayer of Remembrance was read the laying of the wreaths took place. The *Last Post* was played and the Standards dipped for the silence until *Reveille* was played. Prayers, Regimental Collects and Grace concluded the short service, the parade coming to attention for the playing of the Regimental March and the National Anthem.

While the Standards and wreath laying parties moved to the head of the marching column the Vice-President's party moved to the saluting dais behind the 'Keep'. After the march past the Vice-President, Maj Robin Medley, addressed the parade. Once dismissed the members either went back to the TA Centre or proceeded to the 'Keep' for their lunches. The Corps of Drums played a fine selection of tunes and marches during lunch in the 'Keep' and again in the TA

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Centre. In both of these centres old friends met, talked and parted for another year and so ended this year's great Reunion.

News from the Branches

In October the Bedford Branch visited the Royal Hospital Chelsea which was a great success. During the visit a Regimental badged kneeler was presented to the Hospital. On the 11 November our Standards paraded in Harpur Square, Bedford with many other ex-servicemen's Standards for the two minutes' silence. Members with the Standards paraded on Remembrance Sunday at Bedford and of course at the Association wreath laying and reunion on 21 November. On 28 November a minibus full of members attended the BIA International Tattoo which was very enjoyable. The Branch Dinner was held at the 'Keep' when 64 sat down to dinner. One must thank all those involved in the dinner arrangements and for the excellent menus.

The Hertford Branch ended the year on a busy note. A very successful dinner and dance was held on 11 November 1999 and the following morning a number of the branch were on parade for the Hertford Armistice service. The following week we were able to send a coach of members to Kempston for the annual reunion and parade, a day that is always popular. Our Standard Bearer has attended all of these functions and also a civic service at Hoddesdon.

The St Albans Branch attended the reunion at Kempston and had a good day. At their December meeting, Lt Col Veitch came and the branch was able to present him with £100 raised by members at the meeting for the Museum Appeal Fund. Being a small branch this was a good effort. As it was

Christmas refreshments were laid on so the branch rounded off 1999 very well. On 1 January 2000 Mr Reg Howard, who has served the branch for over 50 years, resigned his position as branch Secretary, a position he has held for many, many years although he will continue as Treasurer. He handed over to Mr Peter Messenger who served with the 1st Battalion in Tripoli and Greece from 1947-49.

In August the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch had a car boot sale in aid of the St Francis Hospice. A total of £400 was raised. On 4 September six branch members attended the Suez Reunion at Arlesey and on 11 September a coach was organised to take 53 members and guests to Walthamstow Greyhound Stadium for an evening of dog racing, although very few came away any richer. Mick Allum and Fred Redman attend at the Regimental Plot at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. Thirty-six members of the Branch attended at the Cenotaph for the first time as ex-National Servicemen on Remembrance Sunday. They hope to go again this year. On 20 November 12 of the branch attended the CESA buffet/dance at the Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead. Once again members attended the reunion at Kempston and our annual dinner/dance was once again a great success.

The Hitchin Branch Standard was on parade at the Remembrance and Reunion at Kempston together with branch members. Members, wives and guests had a very pleasant evening at the branch Christmas dinner at the Ambassador Hotel in Letchworth on 18 December. The Minden Band was playing at the Queen Mother Theatre on 18 September in aid of SSAFA and most members attended the show and

had an enjoyable time.

The Luton and Dunstable Branch was represented at the Luton Memorial at 11am on 11 November 1999 and members also attended at Luton on Remembrance Sunday with the Branch Standard when a wreath was laid on behalf of the branch at the town's memorial. Members with their Standard were again on parade at the wreath laying and reunion on the following Sunday. The branch dinner at the Royal Naval Club, Luton on 12 November went off very well and their social evening and annual raffle at the December meeting again was very successful.

The Millennium 2000 Suez Canal Zone - 1951-54 veterans reunion will take place on Saturday 2 September 2000, at the Arlesey Town Football Club Function Hall, Arlesey, Bedfordshire at 1900hrs.

Mr Ron Hope, who organises this venue, had decided to resign this position in October, but he was approached at the November reunion at Kempston by Suez veterans and their wives to keep it going as they always enjoyed themselves at these reunions and they were now beginning to get to know each other and look forward to meeting each year.

He has decided to carry on organising these reunions. He is also returning to Egypt in April for another visit.

Obituaries

The following members have died since the last issue: Doctor D Evans, Medical Officer with 61 Column Chindits; Mr L Fish, Sgt, 1st Battalion, Suez; Mr J Gilchrist, 5th Battalion, PoW; Capt G Lloyd, 2nd Battalion, Italy; Mr GW Nicholson, 1st Battalion; Capt N Twells, 1st Battalion, Tobruk, Burma; Maj G Whitworth, 2nd Battalion, Dunkirk.



The Royal Tigers Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)

Royal Tigers' Weekend - 24 and 25 June 2000

The annual general meeting of the Association will take place at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road at 6.30pm on 24 June 2000. This will be followed by the 75th annual dinner at 7.15 for 7.45 pm. On Sunday 25 June 2000 the Regimental Parade Service at the cathedral will be at 10.30am. The preacher will be the Rt Rev Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester. Please be seated by 10.25am. During the service the Colours, which have all either been rehung or laid to rest finally in a casket, will be blessed and a memorial plaque to Lt Col SA Rolfe-Smith OBE will be dedicated. After the service the Association will form up outside the

cathedral and march to the town hall. The salute outside the cathedral will be taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. Following the service and parade, there will be a reception and lunch at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. Entry to the annual dinner, the reception and the lunch will be by ticket only, so please apply to RHQ.

Regimental Colours

A complete reorganisation of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment's Colours in the Regimental Chapel has been completed. With appropriate permission from all the various authorities, the four TA Colours have now been removed from the TA Centre,

Ulverscroft Road, and are hanging in the Regimental Chapel, and the four 3rd Militia Battalion Colours have now been removed from St Thomas's Church, South Wigston. A total of 14 Colours are now hanging on refurbished or new fittings in the Regimental Chapel and all the remaining Colours, 25 in number, have been finally laid to rest in a new specially-made mahogany casket which has been placed below the altar in the Regimental Chapel.

Benevolence

During 1999 the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Charitable Fund disbursed £5,429 of Regimental money, and also £5,176 from the ABF, to ex-Tigers and their families. In

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addition, £3,555 was distributed to ex-soldiers or their widows as ABF annuities.

Ladysmith 1999 - Centenary Year - Anglo-Boer War

The Regiment was represented at the celebration commemorating the centenary of the start of the siege of Ladysmith by Capt Richard Lane and Mr T J Marston MBE MSM. The memorial to the Regiment, which was erected just after the war, has been refurbished with a new plaque in marble, using the same words as the original. Mr Tom Marston laid a wreath on the memorial, almost 100 years since the Regiment had occupied the fort. Another wreath was laid at the Garrison Church in Ladysmith where marble friezes carry the names of the many British Regiments involved, together with the names of all the soldiers who were killed during the siege, which commenced on 1 November 1899 and lasted until 1 March 1900 when Ladysmith was relieved by Gen Redvers Buller VC. A centenary parade was held with several British Regiments participating, and a memorial certificate was presented to every Regiment on parade by the Mayor of Ladysmith. The Regimental party later attended the official mayor's reception and laid other wreaths.

At the end of February 2000, another Regimental group of five members went out to Ladysmith to celebrate the centenary of the relief of the siege. In addition, coinciding with our visit, Mr and Mrs Hawkins from Leicester were visiting Ladysmith. Her father had served in the Regiment during the siege and she also had an uncle there serving in the Royal Field Artillery who won a DCM during the battle at Wagon Hill on 6 January 1900.

During the major wreath-laying ceremony outside the town hall and Siege Museum, Brenda Hawkins represented the Regiment and laid our wreath. During the various other visits, further wreaths were laid at the



Mr T J Marston MBE MSM at Leicester Post, Ladysmith.

Regimental memorial at Leicester Post, the Garrison Church and the Ladysmith cemetery.

Our final day was spent on a truly memorable visit to Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift. The sun shone and the views of the Isandhlwana feature and open countryside were unforgettable.

Our guide was an ex-Rhodesian policeman who lived locally and had studied the battles exhaustively. He took us through the detachment deployments and massacre of the unprepared force by the Zulus as a Tewt which we shall never forget. Our afternoon visit to Rorke's Drift brought an exposition of another battle now engrained into our memories. Both battlefields are quite fascinating, and well worth a visit.

We are extremely grateful to Mr Brian Kaigin, the Vice-Chairman of the Ladysmith Historical Society, who did so much to make both visits by the Regimental groups memorable and fascinating.

Tigers Back Home

Following the very successful millennium reunion last December, a follow-up reunion has been organised for 1 December 2000 at Glen Parva Barracks. Please make a note in your diary now for this splendid return of the Regiment to South Wigston after 40 years' absence! Further details will be available later from the area office in Leicester.

Royal Anglian Reunion

Mr Clements, a Pompadour, is organising a reunion for any ex-members of the Royal Anglian Regiment on Saturday 12 August 2000 in the Tigers' Room, Leicester Rugby Ground, Aylestone Road, Leicester. All ranks will be welcome at the bar and disco. Doors open at 7pm. and the party must finish at midnight. Further information from Mr Clements, 22 Wigly Road, Leicester LE5 1JH (telephone messages can be left at 0116-218079).



The Essex Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Essex)

Our President, Col GCP Morgan OBE DL, and Gordon Wren visited the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, and especially C (Essex) Company commanded by Maj James Harris, in Londonderry from 23 to 25 March 2000.

The visit consisted of a comprehensive tour of the Battalion locations with visits to Fort George and the Masonic. Time was spent at the Magilligan training ground where C (Essex) Company were on the range and

conducting crowd control and vehicle stop and search exercises. An excellent Ladies' Mess Night was enjoyed on the Friday night and, supervised by the ever vigilant Sgt Clarke. The evening went as smoothly as one would have expected. It was an impressive sight, with the Essex silver drums on display together with the Colours.

The visit reaffirmed and strengthened the alliance existing between the Association and the Battalion.

At a meeting of the 4th Battalion Comrades Association at Warley on 3 April, the first two Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Capt George Green, Chairman of the Branch, and Mr Peter Giggens, Honourary Secretary of the Thurrock Branch. Signed by the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir Michael Walker GCB CMG CBE ADC Gen, they were presented by Col Geoffrey Morgan. George Green, therefore, was the first to receive such a certificate.

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Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Capt George Green, Chairman of 4th Battalion Comrades Association.



Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Mr P Giggins, Honourary Secretary Thurrock Branch of the Essex Regiment Association.

All members of the Association and Battalion representatives should by now have received their copy of the year 2000 *Eagle*. Significantly not only is this the first copy of the new millennium but the 50th edition produced since the war. Thus the gold print on the cover. All are invited to contribute, whether Old Comrades or serving soldiers, and hopefully, on a wide range of subjects. The 2001 edition is already under way so don't delay!

Diary dates for the year include the reunion on Sunday 25 June, the Salamanca dinner at the Marconi Club, Chelmsford, on Saturday 15 July and our annual visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Sunday 8 October. The service, as usual, will be conducted by the Rev Tom Hiney MC. Our own services at the Regimental Chapel continue to be well attended on the first Sunday of each month.

We are sad to report the death of Col John Miseroy who lived in the USA but was a regular visitor to Warley. A full obituary will be included in the next *Eagle*.

4th Battalion Comrades Association

The period from December through to March is traditionally a quiet one for the Association, although not necessarily for the Comrades Council members. The council does not meet for the months of January and February but work still goes on behind the scenes.

A request was passed on to us from RHQ from United Productions, a television company based in Bristol, requesting information on the part played by the Battalion in the battle for Cassino. This company has been commissioned by the BBC to make a new major documentary series on the Second World War and we have supplied lists of participants in the Cassino battle and Alamein for them to follow up. Several comrades have been contacted and we are sure that their contribution can only enhance the reputation of the Battalion.

We were saddened by the death of one of the Battalion's great characters, Pat Lewis, in February. Pat was awarded the Military Medal for his actions in repairing telephone links, and aiding the evacuation of wounded from the Castle on the night of 18/19 March 1944.

Pat was a staunch supporter of the Association and will be sorely missed.

Sunday 29 March saw the first event of the year, with the annual memorial service for those we lost in both world wars. This was held in the Regimental Chapel at Warley. Over 80 comrades and guests attended and the service was conducted by the Rev Pugsley. Buglers from the Essex Corps of Drums sounded Last Post and Rouse, and at the end of the service the Evening Hymn and Retreat call were played in memory of

those more recently deceased.

The Association is in a very healthy state and although inevitably losing some of our older members we are still managing to recruit members of the old 4th Battalion, the 2nd/4th Battalion and the post war TA Battalion, so the future looks bright.

Thurrock Branch

In October, the 4th Essex Comrades dinner and dance was held in the TA Centre at Warley and produced a very good turnout. It is surprising how many elderly Essex TA personnel attend, and it is great to see them all.

November saw a busy month of Remembrance with services at our own Regimental Chapel, Chelmsford Cathedral, the Garden of Remembrance, Westminster, together with the branch parade and service in Thurrock.

We held our dinner and dance in December with an attendance of 167. Many came from other associations in the area and guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Thurrock and also our Member of Parliament with his wife. January and February were quiet months apart from the branch meetings.

In March, we held our branch AGM and you will hear of any changes in due course. Many members are unable to attend through something we all know about called age! Also there is the distance to travel.

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The Northamptonshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northamptonshire)

Benevolence

During 1999 the Northamptonshire Regimental Benevolent Fund disbursed £6,260 of Regimental money, and also £8,615 from the ABF, on 51 Regimental cases. In addition, £3,645 was distributed to ex-soldiers or their widows as ABF annuities.

Officers' Lunch Party

The Officers' Dining Club held its annual lunch on 5 May 2000. With the sad demise of the wonderful Mess at Millbank which we have been fortunate enough to use in recent years, we returned to the Duke of York's Headquarters, where the new caterers gave us a splendid meal.

Maj Tony Amos and his wife Di were invited as our guests, and Gen Sir John Akehurst presented him with a pair of binoculars and a silver coffee pot to thank him for the wonderful way in which he looked after the arrangements for our annual reunions for some 20 years.

Eight Regimental widows also accepted their invitations as our guests, and it was lovely to see them bolstering our numbers to the largest turnout for several years.

The happy family atmosphere made it another memorable occasion.

Peterborough Branch

It is difficult to follow the report on our successful annual dinner which was included in the December issue but our Chairman, Terry Edge, did arrange a novel social gathering in mid-February on the night after Valentine's Day, when we took a party of 40 branch members, wives, guests and families to an exciting night at the recently refurbished Peterborough Greyhound Stadium... 'Peterborough Branch gone to the dogs,' I hear some critics say!

It was a great success and we achieved good publicity for the branch in sponsoring The Steelbacks Millennium stakes at Race 11. Right is a photograph of the branch members who presented the trophy to the owner of the winning dog.

RSM Alan Cross of 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC (V) kindly hosted our annual general meeting again at the TA Centre, London Road this year. We had an excellent attendance as usual and heard encouraging reports from our Treasurer in presenting the branch annual accounts and an encouraging report from our Chairman who outlined the branch achievements in the last year and reported on the programme he has set for us



for the next few months.

In particular we look forward this year to our Millennium Branch Reunion Dinner in October. The East of England Regiment Band and Drums has agreed to play for us again this year after an absence of several years and we hope this will be an occasion when many of you will be able to join us. It is always a pleasant evening. Please note the following events and diary dates when you are very welcome:

Saturday 10 June: Royal Anglian Day at the TA Centre, Peterborough 1pm to 7pm. The Drums will play in the early afternoon, and refreshments will be available.

Thursday 20 July: Joint barbecue with the Cambridgeshire Regimental Comrades at Childers, Whittlesey (phone for details).

Saturday 21 October: Millennium Dinner - TA Centre, Peterborough 7pm for 7.30pm prompt (if you are not already on the mailing list, let us know).

Finedon Branch

I am happy to report that the branch has had a very busy time during the last six months with functions held on a regular basis.

October saw the branch in strength at the Poachers gathering at Felixstowe and all those who attended had a great time. This

was followed in November by the branch turning out to represent the Regiment at the Annual Remembrance Day Parade. On this occasion we paraded at Desborough and after the church service the wreath was laid by Dick York on behalf of the Regiment. Everyone looked very smart in their blazers and Regimental ties, and this was a credit to the branch and the Regiment.

Because we are drawn from East Northamptonshire we parade at a different village every year and this is working very well. It helps to keep the Regiment in the public eye. After the parade we entertained our ladies to lunch at The Tolmache Arms in Harrington.

At the end of November we held a very successful games night at the Conservative Club in Finedon. In December we held a formal dinner at the Colombia Hotel in Wellingborough.

Again there was a very good turnout and everyone had a great time. January saw us all getting together for another enjoyable ten-pin bowling day.

The branch is now 34 strong and we hope to increase this in the coming year. Is there anyone out there from East Northants? Come and join us, meet your old comrades and have a great time!

Obituaries

Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE CVO

Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, who has died aged 66, was the first Commander of the British forces in the Falkland Islands after the end of the South Atlantic conflict.

When he was appointed into command in the Falklands in July 1982, he was asked whether there was a continuing threat to the islands' security from Argentina. He replied that the threat was not great, but that the position required awareness and sensible judgment.

An intelligent, energetic man, he tackled with dynamism the task of housing all his troops comfortably and maintaining morale. In the process he earned the nickname 'Stakhanov', after the Russian miner held up in the 1930s as a model of unprecedented productivity.

During his time in the Falklands, conditions - with post-war shortages and appalling weather - could well have made the men despondent; yet visitors noted that they remained cheerful and with high morale. Everyone knew that Thorne was working flat out to improve conditions, and that he was ever mindful of the welfare of the Falkland Islanders themselves.

He was also noted for the trouble he took to ensure the safety of the local penguins. Subsequently, he became a trustee of Falklands Conservation. After retiring from the Army, Thorne became Director-General of the Commonwealth Trust and Secretary-General of the Royal Commonwealth Society, leading a highly successful fundraising campaign.

David Calthrop Thorne was born on 13 December 1933 and educated at St Edward's, Oxford, and Sandhurst, before being commissioned into the Royal Norfolk Regiment. Early tours of service included Northern Ireland and Cyprus.

He graduated from the Staff College, Camberley, in 1963, and from the Joint Services Staff College in 1967. He then spent three years on the Defence Intelligence Staff at the Ministry of Defence.

He was instructor at the RAF's Staff College from 1970 to 1972 and then for two years Commanding Officer of 1 Royal Anglian Regiment (formed from the former Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments).

In 1978-79 he commanded 3 Infantry Brigade on active service in Northern Ireland, where his acute understanding of terrorist methods greatly contributed to intelligence operations. In 1979 he briefed Margaret Thatcher, the new Prime Minister, on the gruesome Warrenpoint bombings.

Returning from Northern Ireland, Thorne took the course at the Royal College of Defence Studies. Promoted to major-general, he was then appointed Vice Quartermaster General.

After his Falklands tour - at the end of which he was appointed KBE - he was successively Commander of 1st Armoured Division in Germany and Director of Infantry at the MoD. In both these appointments, he showed himself an incisive and flexible thinker in times of changing conditions.

Besides his work for the Commonwealth Trust, in retirement Thorne was director of the West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust (1993-97), and from 1998 project director for the National Skills Festival 2000.

He was appointed OBE in 1975, CBE in 1979, KBE in 1983 and CVO in 1995.

He was Deputy Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment (1981-86), Colonel Commandant of the Queen's Division (1986-88), and president of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association from 1988.

An excellent all-round sportsman, David Thorne played both



cricket and squash for the Army and for Norfolk. He was president of the Norfolk County Cricket Club from 1993 to 1995.

He was a keen lepidopterist, and he and his family lived in a house surrounded by animals and birds.

He married in 1962, Susan Anne Goldsmith; they had a son and two daughters.

(The above appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of 29 April 2000)

For us in the Regiment Sir David will be remembered for his boundless energy and enthusiasm and his loyalty. He always led from the front inspiring confidence and raising morale wherever he went. He displayed integrity, cheerfulness and warmth and earned the deep affection and respect of all who ever worked with him. He will be sadly missed.

We extend our sympathy to Lady Thorne and to Edward, Laura and Georgina.

His funeral at St Michael's Framlingham on 29 April was attended by numerous friends from the Regiment, the Army and the numerous organisations with which he was closely associated. This will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Norwich Cathedral on 21 July at 1400hrs.

Col JCD Heggs DL

Editor

John Heggs died on 22 October 1999, after a long fight against cancer.

At Sandhurst he was captain of boxing and good enough to attract the attention of the leading promoters of the day but he chose the Army and was commissioned into the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1955. The battalion was in Cyprus fighting EOKA, a testing campaign in which John gained valuable experience.

After Cyprus the Battalion moved to Plymouth. During this period John was capped at rugby by Devonshire as a wing three-quarter.

Nothing remarkable about that but he later achieved the same success with Leicestershire, this time as a second row forward.

After a spell in Münster and in Leicester recruiting he went with the Battalion to Hong Kong. After six months the young Capt Heggs found himself in Borneo commanding a company with a 10,000 square mile area of responsibility. After a spell as Adjutant of 4th/5th Battalion in Leicester he rejoined the Regular battalion taking command of the same company (B) on operations on the streets of Aden and in the Radfan. On return to UK he was told that he was too young to command a company in the Regiment so he was seconded to the Malaysia Rangers who were on operations in North Borneo. Thus, still under 30 years of age, he began his third operational tour as a company commander.

After Staff College and a staff job John commanded Tiger Company before going off to command 8 UDR in Dungannon when the terrorist campaign was at its height. He never ceased to praise the courage, resilience and determination of the men and women of the UDR and RUC who risked their lives daily.

In retirement he commanded the HSF Company and later became the Regiment's Deputy Honorary Colonel in Leicestershire, an appointment which gave him enormous pleasure and which he held until his death.

He was proud to have been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County and well known for his work with various charities and other bodies. He was a Governor of Ratcliffe College, his old school, and the President of the Old Ratcliffian Association and was pleased to tell people that he was probably the only one to have



Obituaries

been asked to leave three schools in his youth.

John was also Chairman of the Royal Tigers Association until shortly before his death. He always took a great interest in the welfare of Old Tigers and their families, and was one of the moving forces behind Royal Tigers Wood at Bagworth. He will be greatly missed - the size of the congregation at his funeral in the chapel at Ratcliffe College was evidence of the affection, respect and regard in which he was held by his former colleagues and friends.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Mary and to his children.

Maj CA Styles MBE

Maj Andy Styles was killed in a motorcycling accident on 1 June. This oration was given at his funeral by Col Kerry Woodrow...



How are we going to remember Charles Andrew Styles? A man so full of energy that there was no problem he could not overcome, a highly independent man who liked to do things his own way. I am sure we will all have our own favourite memories of him, whether as a motor mechanic *par excellence*, a soldier, a sportsman, a daredevil, an entrepreneur, a do-it-yourself expert, an adventurer, a brother, husband or father, for he was all of these. Well I think we are going to remember him for just being Andy, a friend whose company we enjoyed and who it was fun to be with.

Andy always wanted to be a soldier and went straight from school to Sandhurst. He joined 1st Battalion The 3rd East Anglian Regiment in Malaya in 1961 and was immediately welcomed by all ranks as someone rather special, perhaps due to the good humour and sense of fun he showed when on the receiving end of a particularly successful practical joke laid on to mark his arrival. This caused Andy to parade on the battalion square at three o'clock in the morning ready to be sent to Laos. But instead of finding the whole battalion there too, Andy was, of course, quite alone. It is a sign of the respect and affection that his fellow soldiers have for him that there are so many here today.

On the last night in Singapore before we returned home, who else but Andy could mistake the Governor of Singapore for the European head waiter in the restaurant where we had gone for a final meal and ask him for a table? We got one too, but were invited to leave shortly afterwards when Andy lit a Chinese firecracker. The following year in Ballykinlar, who else but Andy, driving his sports car so aptly named *The Yellow Peril*, would dare to drive under the closed barrier at the entrance to the barracks while the guard mounting ceremony was taking place around the barrier?

It was small wonder that when we went to Berlin it was Andy who won Dagmar's heart, but their courtship was not without difficulties. Andy was confined to barracks after he had been caught speeding between her flat and the camp for the third time. They were married in 1965 and shortly afterwards Andy joined the SAS. Leaving Dagmar behind in Hereford he saw active service first in Borneo and then Aden where he quickly earned the respect of his peers for his bravery and determination. Later, when he was the training officer responsible for the selection of SAS recruits, he used to involve Dagmar in one of his exercises. She acted as an agent who the recruits had to make contact with after swimming the river Wye in the middle of the night. During the post exercise debrief, Andy used to take great delight in explaining to the recruits that the reason the agent would not give them her telephone number or accept their invitation to a date was because she was his wife.

Subsequently he and Dagmar were based in Malaysia, Singapore, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Canada. Truly a case of join the Army and see the world!

Towards the end of his service, who else but Andy would volunteer to command the Joint Services Parachute Experimental Unit at an age when most people have long since given up parachuting? It was a job at which he excelled and for which he was awarded the MBE.

When he left the service, who else but Andy would have the idea of using the skills with ropes he learned in the SAS to pioneer a new method of restoring the faces of church clocks? When you leave this church, look up. The two faces are a great memorial to him and it is fitting that one can be seen from his garden only 200 yards away.

And finally there is Andy the adventurer. Who else but Andy would stop his work extending a Grade II listed cottage, which he was doing by himself, to drive a motor scooter across Asia Minor, through Arabia and on into Africa, just for the fun of it? He was planning another trip, this time across Russia, when he was killed.

But there was a serious side to Andy too. He had a great sense of fairness. We were in an Indian restaurant once when the man at the next table, having eaten an enormous meal, announced to all and sundry that he was leaving without paying because the food was so awful. Andy quietly told him that he was not leaving until he had paid his bill, and when he saw the look in Andy's eyes, he did. Andy also cared about those less able than himself. One of the things he did recently was to teach maths to adults with learning difficulties.

But in remembering Andy we must not forget those who are grieving for him most. Dagmar of course - it is only a few weeks to what would have been their 35th wedding anniversary - and Tasha, now establishing herself as a competent businesswoman. Nor must we forget Andy's brother, Rob, for not only has he lost a brother, but six short weeks ago, his mother too. The three of you are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time, and it is a sad time, but we can all take comfort from the words of the hymn we shall be singing at the end of the service *Though I walk in the Shadow of Death, Andy's death, He Restoreth My Soul and Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow*. And they will.

Now if this had been a military funeral, complete with band - and how Andy would have hated that - we would have come here to mournful music, lamenting the loss of a comrade. But we would have left to rousing, cheerful times thankful for the privilege of having known him and happy in the knowledge that he was our friend. So when we leave this service let us do just that. Let us remember him with affection and give thanks for the life of Andy Styles.

Deaths

We also regret to record the deaths of the following:

Lt Col MA Chamberlain died on 9 December 1999.

Maj GB Whitworth late Beds and Herts died on 4 January 2000.

Capt G Lloyd late Beds and Herts died on 13 January 2000.

Capt J Chisnall late Essex and Suffolk died on 2 July 1999 (belated entry - for which apologies).

Maj TEA (Robbie) Robinson former Regimental Adjutant died in late March 2000.

Col JV Miseroy late Essex and Royal Anglian died on 29 February 2000 in Florida USA.

Brig GWH Peters CBE DSO MC died on 28 April 2000. He commanded the 1st Battalion the Hertfordshire Regiment in Gibraltar and Italy 1942-45, and was author of *The History of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment* published under the *Famous Regiments* series.

Association Branches

Norfolk

HQ The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Norfolk Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)
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 Tel: 01603-400290

King's Lynn Branch
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Gt Yarmouth/Gorleston Branch
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 Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PD

London Branch
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Suffolk

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 The Keep,
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 Tel: 01603-400290
 01284-752394 (Wednesdays only)
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 15 Rectory Road,
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 Suffolk IP29 4TE

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 Mr RE Sharpe
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Cambridgeshire

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 St Ives, Cambs PE27 3DY
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President: Col GCP Morgan OBE DL

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7th Eagle and Gun Regimental Association

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President: Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright
CB CBE DL

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President: Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE
DL

Wiltshire

Warminster Branch

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THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

Orbat for the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at April 2000

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col RJ Kemp MBE
Maj RJ Clements
Capt AHC Borgins
Capt PM Birch
WO1(RSM) Prime
WO2 Jones
WO2 Langley-Stevens
WO2 Mackness
Cpl Smith
Pte Knight

A (Norfolk) Company

Company HQ
Maj JMH Heap
Lt M Evans
WO2(CSM) Tate
CSgt Buff
Cpl Codling
Cpl Heal
LCpl Neal
Pte Brown
Pte Buckley
Pte Cartwright
Pte Sell

1 Platoon

2Lt M Nicholas
Sgt Clark 43
Cpl McMillan
Cpl Tinkler
LCpl Borgenvik
LCpl Canning
LCpl Foy
LCpl Frost
LCpl Gorham
LCpl Lilley
LCpl Rinder
Pte Buffoni
Pte Cranstoun
Pte Elliot
Pte Ewers
Pte Fletcher
Pte Gibson
Pte Hayward
Pte Jackson 88
Pte Penson
Pte Perry
Pte Riley
Pte Springall
Pte Turner 74
Pte Worthington

2 Platoon

Lt A Biggs
Sgt Main
Cpl Summerson
Cpl Wood
LCpl Browne
LCpl Stanton
LCpl Stewart
Pte Abery
Pte Boyer
Pte Cobb
Pte Duncan
Pte Freeman
Pte Gibbs 72
Pte Holmes

Pte Hill
Pte Irving
Pte Kelly
Pte Miller
Pte Rust
Pte Sayce 18
Pte Simmons
Pte Vasilakis

Drums Platoon

Drm Maj Self
Cpl Stevenson
LCpl Brown
LCpl Handley
LCpl Panter
LCpl Phair
LCpl Wilsher
Dmr Ansell
Dmr Eastwood
Dmr Friend
Dmr Gibbs
Dmr Goodship
Dmr Hadaway
Dmr Jarvis
Dmr Juniper
Dmr Mark
Dmr Marke
Dmr Meadows
Dmr Sinclair
Dmr Smith 59
Dmr Smith 07
Dmr Tischler
Dmr Tulit

B Company

Company HQ
Maj D England
Capt J Carnegie
Lt M Woodeson
WO2 (CSM) Shaw
CSgt Jewell
Cpl Bee
Cpl Penny
Cpl Ward
LCpl Cavaliero
LCpl Luckman
Pte Boyle
Pte Hopwood
Pte Litchfield
Pte Johnson 24
Pte Lewis 81

5 Platoon

2Lt G Allen
Sgt Granfield
Cpl Culshaw
LCpl Hartland
LCpl Lander
LCpl Martin
LCpl Morrison
Pte Back
Pte Cole 54
Pte Cowell
Pte Finney
Pte Hall
Pte Hare
Pte Hitchcock
Pte Lathangue
Pte McCluskey
Pte Petch
Pte Revell

Pte Sickland
Pte Terry

6 Platoon

Lt A Dart
Sgt Wright
Cpls Dykstra
LCpl Harris 56
LCpl Nudds
LCpl Surette
LCpl Ward
Pte Bryden
Pte Burgess
Pte Eggleton 41
Pte Fletcher 00
Pte Locks
Pte Marrison
Pte Moseley
Pte Ribati
Pte Urquhart
Pte Weaver
Pte Welch

7 Platoon

2Lt R Hitching
Sgt Cave
Cpl Atherton
LCpl Dodd
LCpl Macdonald
LCpl Rayfield
Pte Bye
Pte Ellis
Pte Gard
Pte Havis
Pte Hutton
Pte Jones 29
Pte Mair
Pte Matthews
Pte Mills
Pte Patterson 48
Pte Poole
Pte Rayner
Pte Robson
Pte Sherratt
Pte Weekly
Pte Young 88

C (Essex) Company

Company HQ
Maj J Harris
Lt P Muncy
WO2 (CSM) Hale
CSgt Buxton
Cpl Lorenz
LCpl Baxter
LCpl Willars
LCpl Winter
Pte Peters
Pte Sullivan

9 Platoon

2Lt J Hancock
Sgt Taylor
Cpl Rix
LCpl Butcher
LCpl Mitchell
LCpl Parker
LCpl Steel
LCpl Tawse
Pte Bushell

Pte Edwards
Pte George
Pte Hackett
Pte Hopkins
Pte Moulds
Pte O'Halloran
Pte Patmore
Pte Prior
Pte Robinson 54
Pte Sayce 52
Pte Trutwein
Pte Wildin
Pte Willcox
Pte Zimmer

10 Platoon

2Lt D James-Roll
Sgt Goodman
Cpl Hipperson
Cpl O'Halanon
LCpl Bygrave
LCpl Lewis 63
LCpl Piper
LCpl Rice
Pte Bullard
Pte Cross
Pte Frost 34
Pte Hunter
Pte Jellings
Pte Love
Pte Mulley
Pte Read
Pte Restall
Pte Sarling
Pte Stubbs
Pte Tuppen
Pte Wand
Pte Worsley

11 Platoon

2Lt R James
Sgt Ramm
Cpl Head
LCpl Bonham
LCpl Browning
LCpl Jones 64
LCpl Norman
LCpl Syer
Pte Atkins
Pte Boulton
Pte Cooper
Pte Dudley
Pte Everitt 89
Pte Goodchild
Pte Hornsey
Pte Meeking 93
Pte Nicolls
Pte Pudwell
Pte Taylor 42
Pte Turner 69
Pte Wyatt

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

Company HQ
Maj JA York
Capt PM Smith
WO2 (CSM) Athroll
CSgt Wilkins
CSgt Curtis
Cpl Bloss

1st Battalion Orbat

Cpl Bell
LCpl Morris
Pte Adderton
Pte Groves
Pte Field
Pte Paver
Pte Thain

Fire Support Platoon

Lt B Rayment
Sgt Waghorn
Cpl Deakin
LCpl Foster
LCpl Tremain
Pte Chambers
Pte Hewitt
Pte Keeton
Pte Law
Pte Lovitt
Pte Farrow
Pte Holvey
Pte Knight 18
Pte Matthews 38
Pte Martin 40
Pte Mitchell
Pte Wareham

Milan Platoon

Capt BM Allen
Sgt Keating
Cpl Hicks
Cpl Ratten
Cpl Snow
LCpl Blundell
LCpl Dennis
LCpl Walker
Pte Cook 31
Pte Compton
Pte Guy
Pte Manning
Pte Martin 14
Pte Petryszyn
Pte Price
Pte Purdey
Pte Rogalski
Pte Saunders
Pte Severinsky
Pte Toynton
Pte Wright 55

Mortar Platoon

Capt I Chance
Sgt Freeman
Cpl Evans
Cpl Fay
Cpl Rice
Cpl Shand
Cpl Woodrow
LCpl Gammage
LCpl Garham
Pte Anderson
Pte Brand
Pte Ferrand
Pte Greensmith
Pte Harris 37
Pte Martin 33
Pte Meekings 23
Pte Owen
Pte Postle
Pte Reilly
Pte Smith 81

HQ Company

Company HQ
Capt DJ Howson
WO2(CSM) Wright
CSgt O'Grady
CSgt Williams
Cpl Brown
Pte Jackson 46
Pte Johnstone 58
Pte Liddell
Pte Johnstone 35
Pte Skillings

Recce Platoon

Capt D Biddick
WO2 Skelton
CSgt Markham
CSgt Marsh
Sgt Appleton
Sgt Port
Sgt Wilton
Cpl Beer
Cpl Chamberlin
Cpl Duggan
Cpl Eccles
Cpl Faupel
Cpl Harrod
Cpl Hill
Cpl Kulkarni
Cpl McHenry
Cpl Merry
Cpl Quittenton
Cpl Shaw
Cpl Thom
Cpl Thurston
Cpl Willcox
LCpl Blackley
LCpl Carter
LCpl Cloughton
LCpl Glascodine
LCpl Hassan
LCpl Hoogendijk
LCpl Kearney
LCpl Livingstone
LCpl McGee
LCpl Marsh
LCpl Moore
LCpl Moxey
LCpl Owen
LCpl Ward
Pte Armon
Pte Cleaverly
Pte DeMierre
Pte Desbrough
Pte Fox
Pte Gammell
Pte Knights 87
Pte Langstone
Pte Ling
Pte Pimm
Pte Pinder
Pte Proctor
Pte Roberts
Pte Robnett
Pte Shropshire
Pte Smith 71
Pte Stow
Pte Thorne
Pte Tilbury
Pte Tilley
Pte Vickery
Pte Ward 71

Intelligence Platoon

Capt MG Powell
Lt NDB Charlwood
Sgt Woods
Sgt Roach
Cpl Morris
LCpl Franklin
LCpl Jenkins
LCpl Jowett
LCpl MacGrath
LCpl Nunn
Pte Blakemore
Pte Bishop
Pte Christie
Pte Clarke 24
Pte Eggelton 03
Pte Everitt
Pte Gill
Pte Hills
Pte Inglis
Pte Johnson
Pte Lewis
Pte McLoughlan
Pte Seaman
Pte Winstone

QMs Department

Capt RP Grenfell
Capt SJ Nye MBE
WO2 Blanchfield
WO2 O'Nions
CSgt Dade
Sgt Bevan
Sgt Cox
Cpl Chalkley
Cpl Hardy
Cpl Lennon
Cpl Lovett
Cpl Patrick
Cpl Richardson
Cpl Stewart
Cpl White
Pte Murton

Signal Platoon

WO2 Gridley
Sgt Baxter
Sgt Rackham
Cpl Carter
Cpl Magee
Cpl Stringer
LCpl Cole
LCpl Ellis
LCpl Fosker
LCpl Kendall
LCpl Mitchell
LCpl Naylor
LCpl Rumsey
Pte Bruce
Pte Cuthbert
Pte Russell
Pte Smith 90
Pte Wallace

MT Platoon

CSgt Sykes
Sgt Harrison
Cpl Ball
Cpl Pierce
Cpl Plant
Cpl Salmon
LCpl Kimble
LCpl McKenna

LCpl Morris
Pte Allen
Pte Andrews
Pte Cuningham
Pte Davies
Pte Dellow
Pte Forsythe
Pte Hutchinson
Pte Jones 63
Pte Molloy
Pte Scattergood
Pte Stevens
Pte Waters

Provost Staff

Sgt Patten
Cpl Barrs
Cpl Boreham
Cpl Dungate

Training Wing

WO2 Soanes
Sgt Ellis
Sgt Riley
Sgt Traves
LCpl Page

Families Office

Capt DJ Stefanetti
Sgt Collins
Cpl Buist
Pte Smith 63

Medical Centre

Maj RAC McAldin RAMC
Cpl Johnson 53
Cpl Milne
LCpl Baldwin
LCpl Mason
LCpl Peyton
Pte Debut
Pte Horn
Fus Muirhead

PT Staff

Cpl Johnson 80
Cpl Johnson 59
LCpl Lidlow
LCpl Woods

Officers Mess

Sgt Clarke 60
Cpl Allen 25
Pte Evans
Pte Risi
Pte O'Brien

WOs'/Sgts' Mess

CSgt James
Cpl Smith 73
LCpl Chandler
Pte Hatton
Pte Ranson

Army Boxing Team

Pte Castle 33
Ration Store
Cpl Nicholls
Pte Foreman
Pte Hubbard
Pte Castle 75

Orbat for the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at April 2000

Battalion HQ

Lt Col AJC Wild
Maj MH Wenham
Capt NA Johnson
WO1 PG Martin
Cpl Keeble CD
Pte Bonner DW

Signals Platoon

Capt SW Romilly
CSgt Grouse R
Sgt Weisford RD
Cpl Derbyshire CM
Cpl Hugill SM
Cpl Pearson S
Cpl Sumner ADW
LCpl Cooley J
LCpl Lang CL
LCpl Rawlins D
LCpl Rimmer M
LCpl Woollen S
Pte Cook SW
Pte Corstorphine AJ
Pte Drakes SC
Pte Francis CE
Pte Gale JS
Pte Gilbert D
Pte Latter AA
Pte Lockwood T
Pte Turner CJ
Pte Lyles ES
Pte Woodward B

QM Platoon

Maj AE Todd
Capt SN Pallant
WO2 Hazlewood 13M
WO2 Heycock MS
CSgt Mecklenburgh GS
C Sgt Thorpe M
Cpl Appleton TD
Cpl Bannon MB
Cpl Goodman AH
Cpl Jones MA
Cpl Rickman DJ
LCpl Blanchard DC
LCpl Green RJ
Pte Murray DF
Pte Otty AP
Pte Selby RJ
Pt Davis M

MT Platoon

Capt FA Ralph
Sgt Jones RD
Cpl Bonsall MC
Cpl Inglis MJ
Cpl Piper AD
Cpl Turner SJ
LCpl Bronsdon SR
LCpl Lawrinson CA
LCpl O'Leary S
LCpl Smedley IT
LCpl Walton MR
Pte Cooper BS
Pte Crozier D17
Pte Hunt WJ
Pte Jennings L
Pte Martin GJ
Pte Maskell ML
Pte Roberts KL

Provost Section

Sgt Urand MR
Cpl Sayers RH
LCpl Aigne DP
LCpl Gelder CP
LCpl Shields AR

RAP

Capt NB Fraser
Sgt Oxby KD
Cpl Parry AS
Cpl Pearson S
Cpl Van Den Heuval
LCpl Wright RJ
Pte Jubb PL

Training Wing

WO2 Bredin RJ
WO2 Brown SM
CSgt Cutts S
Sgt Doctor RP
Sgt Doucer VJ
LCpl Thompson R

Families Office

Capt TP Beighton
CSgt Pearce AR
Cpl Abreu JAA

Officers' Mess

CSgt Hall LF
Cpl Doherty M
Pte Mayers ML
Pte Oliver JR

Sergeants' Mess

Sgt Mutch AF
Cpl McCoutey SN
Pte Westley JJ
Pte Tornkins DM

Corporals' Mess

Cpl Sayers RH

Company HQ

Maj P Leslie
WO2 Keen KP
CSgt Hopkins NA
Sgt Evans D
LCpl Franklin SP
LCpl Pickett SL
Pte Connolly SJ

A (Lincolnshire) Company

Maj EEC Thorpe
Capt AF Hawley
WO2 Thompson PS
CSgt Limb JA
Cpl Bliss ND
Cpl Herron C
LCpl Hack KL
Pte Drew SJ
Pte Hinchcliffe N
Pte Price MJD
Pte Strong W

1 Platoon

2Lt GB Foden
Sgt Chillingsworth JB

Sgt Embleton K
Cpl Headland CD
Cpl Hills SP
LCpl Morgan DR
LCpl Musson AL
LCpl Turnell MJ
Pte Abbott SI
Pte Alderman R
Pte Aldridge J
Pte Borderick S
Pte Bostock MA
Pte Cook DJ
Pte Doughty NJ
Pte Finch JP
Pte Gratsa RT
Pte Harrell JL
Pte Haynes CL
Pte Hedger E
Pte Horton PS
Pte Llewellyn SJ
Pte Marland NM
Pte Mitchell M
Pte Newark DA
Pte Pegg ST
Pte Rooney PDH

2 Platoon

2Lt GE Osborne
Sgt Richards GC
Cpl Batty SK
Cpl Smart ST
Cpl Smith AG
LCpl Jones AL
LCpl Waquiropa P
Pte Bissell JJ
Pte Brocklesby SP
Pte Brooks DT
Pte Carter CM
Pte Cook CM
Pte Crate GD
Pte Holvey N
Pte Hough JG
Pte Morgan JM
Pte Peacock KM
Pte Phipps TO
Pte Quinn CST
Pte Robinson LP

3 Platoon

2Lt RH Whitham
Sgt King N
Cpl Collins AS
Cpl Perry RT
LCpl Beardsley LM
LCpl Eratt KM
LCpl Sutherland MJ
LCpl Tremain A
Pte Arrand RJ
Pte Burgwin DS
Pte Cook C
Pte Dreczewicz MJ
Pte Flemming RJ
Pte Freeman GC
Pte Gorski M
Pte Hartshome O
Pte Haydon RL
Pte Key JR
Pte Melody T
Pte Rawdon JL
Pte Riggs KW
Pte Staniweski D

Pte Trafford D
Pte Waters TW
Pte West OM
Pte Wilkinson MA

B (Leicestershire) Company

Maj N Nottingham
WO2 Robinson DA
CSgt Kyffin ET
Cpl Bradley M
Cpl Dyson SJ
LCpl Hewitt DM
Pte Atkins RA
Pte Hart CJ
Pte Ireland MY
Pte Latus G

4 Platoon

2Lt J Delph
Sgt Phillips JE
Sgt Colyer CC
Cpl Harris AP
Cpl Home A
LCpl Baird CA
LCpl McMillan G
LCpl Penrose T
LCpl Pett LD
LCpl Seymour MJ
LCpl Vandyback LD
Pte Berjawi S
Pte Bird DL
Pte Fawcett TR
Pte Fox M
Pte Gunn BJ
Pte Johnson MR
Pte Jones WL
Pte Knight DB
Pte Kowenburg CI
Pte Lambert JA
Pte Leach CJ
Pte Martin EJ
Pte Mercer R
Pte Stocks PE
Pte Walker SM
Pte Wheatley
Pte Wheeler DA

5 Platoon

2Lt CW Swallow
Sgt Jackson PG
Cpl Donovan K
Cpl Gadsden PN
LCpl Clark S
LCpl Day JD
LCpl Flitton AG
LCpl Kirk AJ
LCpl Laird MS
LCpl Potter ND
LCpl Sweeney PW
Pte Blackmun J
Pte Boddington RF
Pte Brawn I
Pte Brownsword JR
Pte Buckle JD
Pte Carter U
Pte Cousin R
Pte Gage AMJ
Pte James KB
Pte Johnson NJ
Pte Miller ARH

2nd Battalion Orbat

Pte Pattison P
Pte Presley JR
Pte Routledge D
Pte Styles DI
Pte Taylor J
Pte Tomkins DB
Pte Wardle KD
Pte Wileman M
Pte Wooley JM

6 (Drums) Platoon

2 Lt ML Melia
CSgt Huggins SG
Cpl Asker AL
Cpl Pearce LJ
LCpl Auckland MP
LCpl Brawn RM
LCpl Fleury C
LCpl Hardy DB
LCpl HumeSA
LCpl Riley JE
LCpl Towe SW
Pte Boswell PA
Pte Cook JL
Pte Davies JR
Pte Dunston DJ
Pte Eglin DC
Pte Hunt AJ
Pte Kilby CL
Pte Lang CF
Pte Lindsay CN
Pte McLatchie J
Pte McQueen
Pte Neilly SJ
Pte Owen JW
Pte Paddison JP
Pte Reid
Pte Smith NM
Pte Stephens P
Pte Swain DK
Pte Thomas GMA
Pte Whittle MA
Pte Wilkinson PE
Pte Wilkinson AP

C (Northamptonshire and Rutland) Company

Maj DGH Hunter
Capt Sparks
WO2 Adie D
CSgt Slater
Cpl Correa J
Cpl Morrissey MJ
Pte Cantle THW
Pte Mortimer CS
Pte Newland T
Pte Raynes PM
Pte Willey R

7 Platoon

2Lt RH Newmarch
Sgt Gray MJ
Sgt Lakey NB
Cpl King
Cpl Percival
Cpl Pulfrey SR
LCpl Gillespie SG
LCpl Jennings JPE
LCpl Marshall AL
LCpl Stow J
Pte Almond PK

Pte Baurain
Pte Bryl ST
Pte Butler MJ
Pte Devine
Pte Djemal OA
Pte Gedney C
Pte Hart CJ
Pte Jennings JPE
Pte Johnson MP
Pte Merrill RJ
Pte Paveley AC
Pte Peace KE
Pte Rook AJ
Pte SDS A
Pte Wells SJ
Pte Wolfe JC

8 Platoon

2Lt AP Wolfe
Sgt Heeley WL
Cpl Crabbe TAR
Cpl Dyson J
Cpl Farrell PA
Cpl Mackness NJ
LCpl Downey J
LCpl Graham SD
LCpl Kirk P
LCpl Reeder NS
Pte Bland WA
Pte Cripps CJ
Pte Fumiss DP
Pte Garbutt REA
Pte Garner DR
Pte Lucas SM
Pte McDonald IR
Pte Mitchell P
Pte Murphy SNP
Pte Payne NIJ
Pte Richardson D
Pte Tidswell AP
Pte Wareham G
Pte Weetham AS
Pte Young PAL

9 Platoon

Lt EJ Belderbos
Sgt Lewis BP
Cpl Elliott RAA
Cpl Forman JA
Cpl Johnson P
Cpl Roberts A
LCpl Ashworth PL
LCpl Greenhill JP
LCpl Mactavish SJ
Pte Boyall MS
Pte Brazier MD
Pte Burdass JC
Pte Campbell KJ
Pte Clarke D
Pte Cox CL
Pte Crawl P
Pte Curtain DJ
Pte Dimon AJ
Pte H-Bennett L
Pte Higgs MD
Pte Holod ST
Pte Honeyball AP
Pte Johnson C
Pte Knight DB
Pte Richman P
Pte Smith RJ
Pte Wakefield B
Pte West GJS

D Support (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company

Company HQ

Maj JJW Hart
Capt TB Mellar
WO2 Dunn RD
CSgt Walker VJ
Cpl Addison SJ
Cpl Whitehead AND
LCpl Somerton CR
LCpl Towler G
Pte Leeke BM
Pte Wilson NP

Sniper Group

Sgt Waghorn LA
Cpl Deakin
LCpl Ashpole D
LCpl Coulbeck I
LCpl Felstead MA
LCpl Frisby SJ
LCpl Lawrence MJ
LCpl Palmas MT
LCpl Taylor AA
Pte Broughton K
Pte Cass NJ
Pte Clarke SJ
Pte Manning
Pte Sims B
Pte Taylor S

Recce Platoon

Capt CD Davis
CSgt Philpott MJ
Sgt Hope MAG
Sgt Howard MJ
Cpl Caine AC
Cpl Mahoney
Cpl Marshallsay JR
Cpl Oldenburg F
Cpl Whiteley J
LCpl Mercer R
LCpl Piesse RF
LCpl Snook DJ
LCpl Steel
LCpl Wheatley
LCpl Wood MA
Pte Allen LG
Pte Buff DL
Pte Latham SA
Pte Lawson SP
Pte Mackness BD
Pte Martin WR
Pte Tambling MA

ISTAR Group

Lt JD Hughes
CSgt Beswick R
LCpl Smith SC
Pte Terry KJ

Milan Platoon

Capt NJ Haden
Sgt Chambers RRV
Sgt Rouget SR
Sgt Simpson GL
Cpl Auckland MNT
Cpl Gelsthorpe M
Cpl Hedge NC
Cpl Jackson AC

Cpl Sands SJ
Cpl Symon T
LCpl Bellamy AJ
LCpl Gallop SI
LCpl Gibson RG
LCpl Jack JA
LCpl Knowles DP
LCpl Matthews
LCpl Smith
LCpl Squibb M
Pte Blower C
Pte Crafer RD
Pte Day RJ
Pte Denton TI
Pte Good D
Pte Heppenstall SP
Pte H-Kerr TA
Pte Keeton
Pte Marrot MK
Pte Matthews L
Pte Peart SJ
Pte Plummer KR
Pte Thurman MD
Pte Waddington WA
Pte Elkington AA
Pte Shaw DL

Mortar Platoon

Capt SR Smith
Sgt Baker MJ
Sgt Bonfield RJ
Sgt Curtis PRW
Cpl Brammer MG
Cpl Colbourne MJ
Cpl Eaton D
Cpl Elliott RAA
Cpl Fox C
Cpl Guppy PJ
LCpl Broomfield LC
LCpl Borrill MJ
LCpl Rae SJ
LCpl Turner
LCpl Woad DA
Pte Almond PK
Pte Barfield MA
Pte Brown SM
Pte Chambers GS
Pte Cruddace MA
Pte Dodd DM
Pte Dutka RJ
Pte Elton MJ
Pte Ferrand TL
Pte Green U
Pte Grey JA
Pte Harrison AL
Pte Hughes GO
Pte Ireland P
Pte Jolly LA
Pte Lomas GJ
Pte Moore Mi
Pte Nanson KE
Pte Oliver LK
Pte Smith JR
Pte Tippling DR
Pte Vincent SR
Pte Vranck MJ

Births and Marriages

Vikings Marriages

CSgt Sykes to **Heather** on 14 February 2000
Sgt Riley to **Melissa** on the 11 December 1999
Cpl McMillan to **Michelle** on the 22 October 1999
LCpl Stewart to **Jitka** on the 23 October 1999
Pte Penson to **Vicky** on the 7 April 2000
Pte Riley to **Kay** on the 18 March 2000

Births

To Cpl and Mrs **Evans** a son Aidan
To Cpl and Mrs **McMillan** a son Callum
To LCpl and Mrs **Brown** a son Kyle
To Pte and Mrs **Riley** a daughter Jayden
To Pte and Mrs **Groves** a daughter Brittney

Poachers Marriages

Pte Burgwin to **Tetyana** on 1 January 2000
Sgt Chambers to **Ruth** on 24 December 1999
Pte Gray to **Mehaela** on 29 January 2000
Pte Webber to **Sharon** on 8 January 2000
Pte Wheatley to **Helen** on 27 November 1999

Births

To Elaine and Cpl **Bonsall** a son Todd Alan Ward on 12 January 2000.
To Emma and Pte **Boswell** a son Jack Philip on 12 December 1999.

To Kirstie and Cpl **Farrell** a daughter Lauren on 19 October 1999.
To Helen and Cpl **Goodman** a daughter Keelie Serena on 21 February 2000.
To Alison and Pte **Maskell** a daughter Yazmin Heidi on 24 December 1999.
To Joanne and Pte **Oliver 63** a son Lee Kevin on 11 January 2000
To Joni and Cpl **Pulfruy** a daughter Olivia Aimee on 30 January 2000.
To Linda and Pte **Smith 17** a daughter Imogen Storm on 19 January 2000.
To Maria and Pte **Woodward** a daughter Laura Kimberley on 2 October 1999.

East of England Regiment Marriages

Sgt AJ Rainey MC to **Claire Louise** on 4 March 2000.
Pte Lewis to **WPte Lucas-Clark** on 27 February 2000.
LCpl Wiseman to **Susan Lee** on 4 November 1999.

Births

To Maj Isobel and Capt **David Sommerville** a son, John George Thomas, on 14 January 2000.
To WO2 **Paul Hipperson and Jane** a son, Ryan on 20 January 2000.
To Cpl **Shaun Hindle and Nicola** a daughter, Megan Hollie Eve on 14 December 1999.

Notices

The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment 1688-1958

By *Richard Dinnin*

Price including postage £6

Available from: RHH Dinnin, The Horseshoes, 18 Castle Street, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7AN. Cheques made payable to: Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Museum Appeal. This is a pamphlet of 19 pages with 42 illustrations.

6(V) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner Club

Another successful dinner was held in the Officers' Mess in Bury St Edmunds on 18 March 2000.

The Dinner Club President, Col Charles Thomas TD, presented Maj Denis Haslam TD (who finally ran out of excuses not to attend!) with a framed print of Buckenham Tofts.

A fascinating and amusing update on the successors to 6 Royal Anglian, the East of England Regiment, was given by Maj Chris Vince TD.

The oldest member present was Maj Fred Ayers TD, 80 on 6 March 2000.

Particular thanks must go to Capt Keith Martin for the vast amount of work involved in despatching invitations, collating the returns, liaising with the caterers and setting up the Mess. It looked splendid.

Photographs of the 2000 Dinner may be accessed via the 6 Royal Anglian Officers' Dinner Club web page at:

www.sandawana.freereserve.co.uk

We have a vested interest in retaining the Dinner Club title. A member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has left us £500 in his will, provided the name remains the same at the time of his demise! The next dinner is on Saturday 3 March 2001.

Former officers of the Battalion, not on the mailing list, who wish to receive details, should inform the Dinner Club Secretary, Maj John L Raybould TD, Sandawana, 37 Long Street, Great Ellingham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1LN, tel 01953 452825, fax 01953 457930, e-mail raybould@sandawana.freereserve.co.uk

Review

The Boer War, South Africa 1899-1902

by *Martin Marix Evans*, published by *Osprey* - £19.99

This brutal war of attrition which devastated the South African economy and cost Britain dearly marked the end of the old wars of Empire with redcoats and advances in extended line. The Boers turned to guerrilla warfare and the British developed similar tactics. The introduction of concentration camps and a scorched earth policy eventually led to the defeat of the Boers.

The book draws on previously unpublished papers and features a number of previously unpublished maps and photographs from the period. If you saw the two television series late last year I recommend this book as it provided a very different perspective to that given there. It is well presented and readable and has many excellent photographs including a number of the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Feet of endurance!

OCdts Robert McNeil, who joins the Poachers in December, and Andy Dobbins, who joins the Vikings in December, recently returned from an expedition to climb Mt Meru (4,566m). OCdt McNeil joint-led the expedition to the remote mountain situated in Arusha National Park in northern Tanzania.

The arduous trek took four days to complete and involved an ascent of over 1,000m each day. The route encompassed savannah, thick forests, primary jungle and alpine desert. Due to its profile, Mt Meru is quoted as being a far harder climb than its neighbour, Mt Kilimanjaro. On descending the team experienced the splendour and abundance of game in both Lake Manyara and Nongorogoro Crater National Parks. R and R was spent in Zanzibar on the beautiful beaches and in one or two bars!

Both officer cadets are currently in their final term at RMA Sandhurst. The expedition was run as part of the Sandhurst adventure training programme, giving cadets the opportunity to either lead or participate in an expedition anywhere in the world. This provides a superb opportunity for cadets to experience the running of an expedition which will undoubtedly prove useful if given a similar opportunity with the Regiment.

See photograph back cover.

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Karen Foster is taking a PGCE at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education

Although I'd always thought about becoming a teacher, I decided to get some experience of life before doing my training. My first degree was a BEng in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Southampton University and after graduation I worked for four years in the aviation and space department of an insurance brokers in London. This was a good job but after four years I nevertheless decided to give it up and enrol on the PGCE programme in Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education.

In many ways, being a PGCE student is like being at work since so much time spent on the job. I was conscious that I was giving up my financial security for at least a year but I never had any doubts that I was doing the right thing. The school based focus at Cheltenham and Gloucester's PGCE was very attractive we spend 24 weeks in school, which is more than most PGCE's require - and I had no hesitation in moving from London to Gloucestershire to do so.

What's it like being a trainee teacher? First and foremost, it's exciting, with no two days the same. It's very satisfying to see children enjoying a lesson and it's just as gratifying when you see this leading to improved test results. After taking a class at a local grammar school, one of the pupils remarked that I had helped him understand the principles of moments and forces in a way that no one else had done. These are the moments in a trainee teacher's experience that make it all worth while. As a female physics teacher, I've got excellent job prospects and I'll be taking up my first appointment in September.

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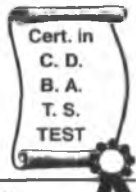
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For more information, please contact the Personnel Department,
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