



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT





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Denny End Road
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Cambridgeshire CB5 9QU
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Facsimile: 01223 441830





December 2000
Vol 11 No 4



Editor: Col AC Taylor

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Front cover

Op Basilica, Sierra Leone

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Training in Gibraltar

Regiment and Museum Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk



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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.

It is good to see the Regiment in such good form. Both Regular Battalions are well up to strength with officers and soldiers alike and are contributing significantly to the operational activities of the Army. Our companies in the East of England Regiment are healthy and declared operational. All three Battalions deserve congratulations on the tremendous efforts they have made to recruit and retain. Against an Army-wide eight per cent deficiency in manpower, an infantry shortage of more than 1,500 and across the board inflow of recruits not matching the target required to get the Army up to full strength by 2005, this is no mean achievement.

Both Battalions are in the public eye and are held in high regard for their operational competence and success. The Vikings have an excellent and thoroughly well-deserved reputation in Londonderry. They have been well supported by soldiers on attachment from the Poachers - demonstrating how the two Battalions can mutually support each other. The Poachers came back from Cyprus with

their heads held extremely high and found themselves on the first plane to Sierra Leone to train the Sierra Leone Army. Something of a surprise but a welcome one nevertheless. They distinguished themselves with a job well done and set the benchmark for that training task - which I suspect will be continuing and expanding for some time yet.

Elsewhere and wherever you look, individual members of the Regiment are well integrated into every aspect of the Army's business. Whether it is on operations, assisting others in far-flung places of the world, in the training world or in the Army's busy headquarters at home and abroad, Vikings and Poachers are at the heart of the Army's professional business. And that is just as it should be.

We must not be complacent - we must maintain these high standards. We must keep our ranks full. We must remain pre-eminent in the Army.

CASTLE



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 Sutherland CBE

2nd Battalion: Maj Gen 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

The Royal Gibraltar Regiment

Gibraltar

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:
 Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Chelmsford,
 Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham, Grimsby, Grays and Thurrock,
 Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Leicester,
 Lincoln, Lowestoft, Luton, Newham, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough,
 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/Colchester Military 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 Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

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

Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

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

Area Office Lincoln

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

Regimental Information Teams

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn (127 AYT)
 Tel: 01223-204216
 Goojerat Barracks, Colchester (160 AYT)
 Tel: 01206-782311
 North Luffenham (161 AYT)
 Tel: 01780 727806

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

(To Elizabeth Barracks
 Pirbright GU24 0DT May 01)

Lt Col PD Jones 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: Maj PD Bailey
RMA Sandhurst: Maj STH Andrews
Army Foundation College Harrogate: Capt BJ Rayment

Personalalia

Honours and Awards

CBE

Col JD Lacey OBE

Commissioning

The following were commissioned on 11 August 2000:

2Lt ASM Dobbin, 2Lt TW Gregory, 2Lt PC Moxey, 2Lt PA Harris, 2Lt JD Inch, 2Lt RJ McNeil.

The following were commissioned on 15 December 2000:

2Lt JMS Teare, 2Lt O Hartley, 2Lt PD Connolly.

Transfer In

Flt Lt M Ives from RAF Regt

Senior Appointment

Maj Gen JC McColl CBE was appointed GOC 3 UK Div on 8 November 2000.

Promotions

Lt B J Rayment	to captain	13 June 2000
Lt PJ Messenger	to captain	13 June 2000
Lt S T Otter	to captain	13 June 2000
Lt O C C Brown	to captain	13 June 2000
Lt JD Hughes	to captain	3 March 2000
AMaj P D Bailey	to major	30 September 2000
Capt A B Beart	to major	30 September 2000
Capt C S Calder	to major	30 September 2000
Capt P S Leslie	to major	30 September 2000
Capt R F L Lyne	to major	30 September 2000
Capt G Morris	to major	30 September 2000
AMaj T E O'Driscoll	to major	30 September 2000
Capt R W Wooddisse MC	to major	30 September 2000
Capt(LE) A E Todd	to major	30 September 2000
Lt Col SL Porter	to colonel	30 June 2001

Postings

Lt BJ Rayment	from 2nd Battalion to AFC Harrogate	10 July 2000
Capt AG Grinonneau	from ITC Warminster to HQ Inf	10 July 2000
Lt Col SPM Blythe	from NATO Def College to JHQ(S)	10 July 2000
Maj A Gosling	from JSCSC to 1 RRF	14 August 2000
Maj RJ Latham	from JSCSC to DASD	14 August 2000
Maj SJR Browne	from JSCSC to 1st Battalion	14 August 2000
Maj SW Carver	from JSCSC to DMO	14 August 2000
Maj RJC Goodin	from RMCS to HQ ARRC	21 August 2000
Maj RWT Pattison	from Bowman to CATC Warminster	August 2000
Maj ACE Marinos	from RMCS to CATC Warminster	August 2000
Maj DG Vincent	from HQ MND to NITAT	21 August 2000
Lt Col DJW Baylis OBE	from BMM Kuwait to AF South	4 September 2000
Maj MH Wenham	from 2nd Battalion to RMCS	4 September 2000
Lt Col SL Porter	from PJHQ to SHAPE Staff (BAE)	September 2000
Capt NA Johnson	from 2nd Battalion to DMO	6 October 2000
Maj CS Calder	from 16 Air Asslt Bde to RCB	6 October 2000
Maj JA York	from 1st Battalion to RMCS	November 2000
Capt ME Powell	from 1st Battalion to EER	27 November 2000
2Lt CW Swallow	from 2nd Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	December 2000
Capt TG Otter	from ATR Bassingbourn to 2nd Battalion	December 2000
Capt FJR Grounds	from ITC Wales to Army Presentation Team	December 2000
Lt Col RJ Kemp MBE	from 1st Battalion to NITAT	January 2001
Capt TB Mellor	from 2nd Battalion to HQ 39 Inf Bde	January 2001
Maj G Morris	from EER to ITC Catterick	January 2001
Maj AB Beart	from DRAC to 1st Battalion	January 2001
Capt OCC Brown	from AFC Harrogate to 1st Battalion	15 January 2001
Lt R H Whitham	from 2nd Battalion to AFC	22 January 2001
Maj AM Wylie	from OCE HQ LAND to 1st Battalion	31 January 2001
Maj RW Potter MBE	from Londons to ACA Essex	2 April 2001

Left the Army

Maj RL Gerrard Wright	11 September 2000
A/Maj MAL Lyne	29 September 2000
Maj RA Cook	11 October 2000
Maj GP Halewood	13 November 2000
Capt DJ Howson	December 2000

Regimental Matters

The Regimental Reunion

The Regimental Reunion will be held at Bassingbourn Barracks on Sunday 15 July 2001. The format will be similar to previous years:

1000	Gates Open
1130	Drumhead Service
1215	March Past
1230	Bars, Kiosks and Stalls Open
1330	Side Shows, Shooting Competition
pm	Band and Drums Display
1730	Bars Close

For 2001 we have reinstated the .22 shooting competition and, latest regulations permitting, also clay pigeon shooting. We expect the Drums from both Regular Battalions to be available together with the TA Band and Drums and the Minden Band of the Queen's Division.

We hope that as many as possible will attend. Packed lunches will not be available, you are asked to bring picnics or use the refreshment facilities on site. Entry passes will not be issued.

Hertfordshire Regiment Exhibition

On 7 November a reception was held to open a new exhibition of Hertfordshire Regiment artifacts in the Hertford Museum. The articles, including photographs, documents and silver were donated to the museum by the Trustees of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Militia and TA Trust. Brigadier AFFH Robertson, Col NH Kelsey and Col RA Shervington were present from the Trustees to receive the thanks of Chairman of the Museum Trustees Cllr Colin Harris. Two former members of the Hertfordshire Regiment, Cyril Austin and Dennis Corbett, were present resplendent in blazers and medals to bring to life the history of many of the photographs and artifacts with their own memories. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Col K Fitzgerald, represented today's volunteers.

The county and town were well represented by Cllr Mrs Hillary Burningham, chairman of Herts County Council, Cllr Derek Mayes from East Herts District Council and Cllr Colin Harris from Hertford Town Council. Their generosity, both financial and in time given, has helped to enable the museum to maintain its high standards of service.

The exhibition was the brainchild of Andrea George, the senior curator, and was timed to coincide with the build-up to Remembrance Day. The displays were executed by Rosemary Bennett who came out of retirement especially to put the exhibition together using her wealth of knowledge about the Hertfordshire



Opening of Hertfordshire Regiment Exhibition. From left: Cllr Harris (Chairman of Museum Trustees), Mr Dennis Corbett, Mr Cyril Austin and Col NH Kelsey.

Regiment. It is hoped that a special exhibition will be mounted each year in November to remember the service given and sacrifices made by the soldiers of the Hertfordshire Regiment.

Benevolence

Each year the Regiment and Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) provide financial assistance to large numbers of ex-soldiers from our Regiment and antecedent Regiments. While serving none of us ever imagines that such financial problems will beset us but sadly each year brings more requests, some from people who were serving with the Regiment until quite recently. There is no one reason for the requests, the financial hardship may have been brought about by sickness, injury, mental problems, or just bad luck. In every case, in partnership with the Royal British Legion and SSAFA, RHQ endeavours to respond quickly.

The funds which enable us to do this come from the money which has built up over the years from the Day's Pay Scheme.

We all hope that we will never be in a position where we need financial assistance, and therefore hope never to ask for help but it is your continuing Day's Pay subscriptions which maintain our funds in a healthy state, and enables us to respond quickly. So, if you are currently not subscribing see your RAO and sign up.

Last year RHQ received over 100 requests for assistance and paid



The Royal Anglian Regiment gathering at Bassingbourn, Sunday 23 July 2000.

out just under £25,000 in grants. In addition the ABF disbursed a total of £7,800 to past and present members and their families and a further £51,616 to members of our antecedent Regiments.

Recruiting

Throughout the summer, teams from the battalions have been in the counties supporting the efforts of our recruiters and keeping the Army and in particular, the Regiment, in the public eye. The photograph shows Sgt Darren Cole from the Leicester Careers Office signing autographs.



Diary Dates

February

24 Ladysmith Ball, Leicester.

March

18 Poachers 2001 Reunion, Spalding.

April

6 Spring Golf Meeting, Richmond Park.

May

4 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Lunch, London.
5 Cambridgeshires Officers' Dinner, Waterbeach.
13 5th Northampton Lunch, Barnsdale.

June

3 Cambridgeshires Reunion and Service Ely.
6 R Lincolns Officers' Reunion Lunch.
22 Summer Golf Meeting, Ely.
23/24 Royal Tigers Weekend.

July

7/8 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Northampton.
15 Royal Anglian Regiment Gathering.
22 Pompadours Eagle and Garter Dinner, Bassingbourn.
29 Minden Reunion, Bury St Edmunds.

September

14 Autumn Golf Meeting, Flempton.
29 1st Battalion the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Reunion, Leicester.

October

6 70th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Kettering.
13 4/5th Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dining Club.
20 Cyprus Veterans Reunion, Leicester.

November

2 Royal Anglian Officers Dinner, London.
8 Field of Remembrance.
11 Remembrance Sunday.

December

1 R Leicesters Officers' Dinner Club, London.

Mainly about People

Maj John Wooddisse, who was commissioned into the Royal Lincolns and subsequently served with the Royal Anglian Regiment, sent in a photograph of the Essex Regiment badge at Landi Kotal in the Khyber Pass. The photograph was taken by his younger son Patrick this summer and shows that the badge is in remarkably good condition.



Maj Gen JB Dye CBE MC DL retired in November after 17 years as the Chairman of the Regimental Investment Committee. Gen Dye joined the R Norfolks in 1940, won an MC towards the end of the war, commanded the 1st Battalion in the Radfan in 1964 and was Colonel of the Regiment from 1976 to 82. He has done a tremendous amount for the Regiment throughout its existence and we now wish him a happy retirement.

Maj James (Donald) Girdwood, who was Assistant Regimental Secretary for five years after leaving the Army, received the OBE

in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Now aged 83 he received his medal from the Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk at a reception given by Brig Angus Robertson, chairman of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association and ABF in Suffolk. The award was in recognition of **Maj Girdwood's** enormous contribution in the voluntary section in particular for his work for the Army Benevolent Fund in Bedfordshire and Suffolk.

Maj Frazer Macdonald has recently received a Certificate of Merit and cheque for £570 for his solution to a problem which has bothered soldiers for decades - how to avoid snagging the safety pin on grenades. He designed a simple plastic cap which fits over the protruding portion of the safety pin - and will not increase the cost of production.

The picture shows Gen Gilchrist, an executive director in the Procurement Executive, making the presentation.



A Christmas Message from the Chaplain

Priorities at Christmas



Long ago some shepherds left their fields and made their way to a stable. When they looked into the manger they saw a very ordinary baby wrapped in swaddling cloths. Whether the baby was sleeping, crying, or cooing, we are not told. But the shepherds saw something more, something which others who were gathered with Mary and Joseph apparently did not see. In this baby in the manger the shepherds saw none other than the One in whom all God's people find joy and peace, just as the angels had told them. The shepherds had heard the promise, had believed the promise, and in believing saw more than met the ordinary eye. In Jesus they saw the One in whom we have joy and peace.

Once more this Christmas Eve, we come to the stable. Once more we look into the manger. What do we see? A bit of straw and a boy wrapped snugly and warm, and nothing more? If this baby is not the Saviour, the Christ, the Lord, then we are destined to be in conflict, to be overcome by sorrow, to fall prey to despair, and to be silenced by death. But this baby is the Saviour, the Christ, the Lord.

In him we have peace with God and others. In him we have deep and abiding joy. Because of him we have hope for tomorrow. Through him we have victory over death.

So let ...

The bells of Christmas chime once more;

The heaven'ly guest is at the door

He comes to earthly dwellings still

With new year gifts of peace, good will

Charge It!

A certain grandmother took her little grand-daughter along with her on a Christmas shopping trip. The grand-daughter enjoyed all of the sights and sounds of the holiday shopping mall. She watched her grandmother choose and buy gifts all morning long, but the big event was the visit to Santa. She sat on Santa's lap and told him all that she wanted for Christmas. When she had finished she jumped down and Santa handed her some sweets. 'What do you say,' prompted the grandmother. The grand-daughter thought for a moment, then turned and, with a big smile that could win the world, said: 'Charge it!'

May God Bless you all, together with your families and those whom you love, This Christmas, and throughout the coming New Year 2001.

Letters to the Editor

From the Editor

Regular readers may notice that I have changed the style and content of the Deaths Notices. This is because as the years pass the deaths will inevitably include many who have served both with our former Regiments and with the present Regiment. Eventually sadly

all will be ex Royal Anglians.

So, from now on I would like to include all who have served both with the former Regiments and the Royal Anglian Regiment and have asked Area Secretaries and Association Secretaries to keep me informed.

EVERY YEAR WE HELP FIGHT 300,000 BATTLES.

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If you would like to know more, make a donation or become a member write to: The General Secretary, 48 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JY or phone 071 973 0633.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Dear Editor

I am missing one tie from a mounted collection I have put together for presentation - the tie of 2 East Anglian. I have them for 1 and 3 so I am sure that such a tie was approved and worn.

I would be grateful if you could publish this letter in *Castle* in the hope that one has such a tie which they would be prepared to part with.

Roger Ward, ACT
Pirbrook Court, Venny Bridge, Exeter

Can anyone help Mr Ward...Editor?



Dear Editor

I would like to see in the journal a page for finding long lost comrades. I have been trying to trace ex Ptes Raymond Alliss and Jerry Sadd since I left the 2nd Battalion in Cyprus in 1966.

Can you inform me who to contact as it used to be Infantry Records in Exeter?

Lawrence Peel
(Ex Cpl)
2 Stainsford Close, Westwood Park,
Nottingham NG5 5RJ
*Infantry Records has now moved
to Kentigern House, Glasgow...Editor.*

1st Battalion - The Vikings

Normal Life?

As always, the shifting political scene and those opposed to the peace process continue to keep the Vikings on their toes in Londonderry. We continue to fill a host of operational duties, both within 8 Inf Bde area and across the Province. Patrolling in the border area continues, as a deterrent against the dissident Republican threat and the normal ground defence area (GDA) or patrols are also a feature of daily life. The marching season provided the Battalion its operational focus during the summer months. While operational tasks remain our main effort, considerable time has been put into other activities, including overseas exercises, adventure training and sport. The unusually mild summer (for Northern Ireland!) has undoubtedly helped in these activities.

Marching Season

The marching season of 2000, the security operation for which was known as Operation Curzon, started with a period of build-up training run at Magilligan Training Centre for each of the rifle companies. The first part of the marching season during July saw a prolonged period of civil disorder across the province; and all four of the rifle companies were, at one time or another, deployed into the Loyalist estates in Londonderry to support the police. During these operations our soldiers were attacked by petrol bombs, acid bombs, paving stones and other missiles. Baselines were deployed and baton charges had to be conducted into the estates. HQ Company revived its 'Ops 5' role and took over the static duties at Ebrington and Clooney camps.

The Apprentice Boys of Derry march, held on 12 August, proved to be one of the quietest for many years. The dissident Republican factions did, however, attempt to make their mark. A few days before the parade, a vehicle-borne device of 500lb of home made explosive broke through an RUC checkpoint



The CO's Rover Group arrives in the Diamond in Londonderry city centre, early morning of the Apprentice Boys March.



Public Order training, Magilligan Training Centre.

and was later found abandoned just over the border in the Republic. The assessed target was either the parade itself or, more likely, our base at Masonic. The night before the parade a bomb call was passed to the RUC

stating a device had been left on the railway line. This caused severe disruption to those marchers planning to travel by train. The parade itself passed off relatively quietly and the Battalion was able to resume normal life quickly.

Normalisation?

The province is now at its lowest level of military deployment since the early 1970s, due to the process of 'normalisation'. This directly affected the Vikings with the announcement that Fort George base was to close. This did not come as a major surprise to the Battalion and procedures were put in place for the relocation of the Ops 1 Company back to Ebrington. A small force of soldiers was left to guard the base as the contractors moved in and after nearly five months the last soldiers left on 7 October. A (Norfolk) Company had the privilege of being the last soldiers out and in a feature shown on national television opened the whiskey bottle that had been left in the Fort since 1973. From 1973, some 16 battalions of infantry have used Fort George as an operational base, including 1 R Anglian on at least two occasions. The contractors are now finishing the demolition before handing the site to the Defence Estates Agency for disposal, almost



L/Cpl Gorehom and L/Cpl Foy on patrol in Londonderry.



The final guard of Fort George, Saturday 7 October 2000 - from left: Pte Cousetru, Pte Abery, Pte Alexander, LCpl Hill, Cpl Thorne, Pte Vasalahis, Pte Juniper, Pte Goodship.

certainly to the Port and Harbour Authority.

A Company also had the distinction of being the first troops back onto the streets of Belfast as the Loyalist feud erupted into violence in August. Working for 39 Inf Bde and with reinforcement from the Battalion, A Company worked hard to assist the police and restore a semblance of normality. They won the thanks of the people on the street and praise from Comd 39 Inf Bde. At the same time B (Suffolk) Company deployed into the Waterside area of Londonderry to prevent any linked upsurge in violence. As we go to press this deployment still continues, albeit at a reduced level. Although tension has remained high, no major violence has occurred in the estates, a fact that the police attribute to the military presence.

C (Essex) Company has also been deployed within the Brigade TAOR, providing an Airborne Reaction Force for the Brigade in Enniskillen and assisting in security for the demolition of the Fermanagh border bases which has now commenced.

A team of five JNCOs assisted the Poachers during their deployment to Sierra Leone.

New Arrivals

The Battalion's efforts at recruiting and retention have now paid off, and the Commanding Officer was able to formally announce in July that the Battalion was fully manned, one of only 11 infantry battalions to be in this position. This is the first time since the early 1990s that the Battalion has been up to strength. It is a result of the hard work in partnership by all members of the Battalion, the AYT in Colchester and the Recruiting Group staff. In particular, WO2

Richard Langley-Stevens has literally worked night and day as the Battalion Human Resources Warrant Officer to help achieve this goal. The next task is to become 30 over strength by the time the Battalion moves to Pirbright to take into account the increase in manpower required for the mech role. On current planning it appears this aim will be achieved, but all are mindful that recruiting and retention are an ongoing task.

Training and Sport

Although the hectic pace of operations and the unpredictable nature of life in Northern Ireland has kept us on our toes, the Vikings have managed to make time for other activities. B (Suffolk) Company deployed on a highly successful two-week exercise to Gibraltar, which has led to the running of an adventure training camp on the Rock in November sponsored by D (Cambridgeshire) Company. Soldiers have also taken part in exercises in the Slovak Republic, Jordan and Belize. The Battalion has also run a highly successful tactics cadre and PNCO cadre, with 23 of the students being promoted to lance corporal. Sgt Simpson has also run a snipers' cadre and is currently in the process of setting up the next cadre to provide the Battalion with its requisite number of trained snipers for Pirbright. The Battalion has been running a hard-fought inter-company competition. Boxing, squash, hockey, cricket and athletics have already been competed for. A (Norfolk) Company currently holds a commanding 10-point lead, but HQ Company is in a strong second place and the competition is by no means over with football, rugby, shooting, basketball, golf



Recruitment Potential Vikings on Viking Adventure.

and cross country to go.

The Battalion football team, led by Maj Simon Browne, OC C (Essex) Company, won the Northern Ireland six-a-side plate competition, which puts us in a strong position to retain the Northern Ireland Cup. Capt Dominic Biddick led the Vikings team to victory in the Northern Ireland half-marathon championships and the Northern Ireland Major Units cross country relay championships. Unfortunately the cricket team was unable to repeat its success of the last two years, having been knocked out of the Infantry Cup competition. Capt Ian

The Vikings

Chance and WO2 Tim Jones represented the Northern Ireland infantry squash team, finishing runners up in the Northern Ireland inter-corps championships.

The Battalion inter-company novice boxing competition was highly successful due to the hard work of all involved, in particular Capt Dean Stefanetti and WO2 Tim Jones. The high calibre of the boxers bodes well for the future competitions and a dedicated boxing squad has again been formed this year.

Visits

The Battalion has again hosted numerous visitors to Londonderry. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt Hon Peter Mandelson MP, attended a dinner in the Officers' Mess. GOC Northern Ireland, has visited on several occasions, as has Commander 8 Inf Bde. We had a most enjoyable visit in September from the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Maj-Gen Sutherell and Mrs Sutherell. The former world heavyweight boxing champion, Frank Bruno, came to see preparations for the inter-company boxing and enjoyed a large number of photo opportunities with the teams. Brig (Retd) Barnes OBE and Mr Frank Matthews of the Suffolk Regt Association visited for three days and presented roses at the Minden Day celebrations and we are currently hosting Col (retd) Badcock MBE and Maj (retd) Denson of the Cambridgeshire Regt Association.

Farewells

The Battalion was sad to say goodbye to WO1 (RSM) Steve Prime who asked to be released early from his appointment as RSM



Pte Urquhart (B Coy) with Frank Bruno.

for family reasons. RSM Prime has been succeeded by WO1 (RSM) Danny Mackness. We wish every success to WO1 Prime. Maj's James Harris and James York also departed on posting to be replaced by Maj's Simon Browne and Capt Bunny Nye, who steps into the breach as OCD Company. Capt's Tony Borgnis and Mark Powell have also departed, replaced by Capt's Mick Aston and Nick Charlwood. Finally farewell to Capt Dan Howson who has decided to leave the Army. We wish him every success for his future.

The Future

The last six months have found the Vikings in fine form and our sights are now firmly fixed on Pirbright. The training for our new

role has started already with general war role Saxons now a familiar sight around Ebrington Barracks. Soldiers are now automatically bidden for driving cadres, a change from the days of old when it took much pleading by the soldier to be offered a driving course! Soldiers have also been sent to train on CVR(T) in both Germany and the UK. D Company are also just about to start support weapon cadres. The Battalion has been holding study days for the command elements to refresh us on conventional war fighting and further activities are planned.

With still six months to go in province, however, we remain focused on our operational requirements here and the Lundy March in December is our planned next hurdle.



Hand over of RSMs - on the left WO1 (RSM) Steve Prime hands over the reins to WO1 (RSM) Danny Mackness on the right.

Viking Boxing

Capt D Stefanetti writes:

The Vikings opened their boxing season with the inter-company competition, the preliminaries being held on 8 and 9 August and the final being on 15 August.

The level of enthusiasm displayed by the companies in training and selecting their teams proved that the noble sport of boxing is now a firm favourite in the battalion. The preliminaries were all hard fought contests with the Secretary of Northern Ireland Army Boxing saying he had seen worse inter-unit contests!

On finals night the competition was wide open and it was with great anticipation the Battalion sat down in the Bubble Gym, magically transformed into Londonderry's version of Madison Square Garden, by WO2 Jones, Sgt Kirkwood and the Battalion PTIs.

The opening bout of the night between Pte Lomas (HQ Company) and Dmr Tulit (A Company) set the scene perfectly. Both boxers gave their all and after a hard-fought (mostly toe to toe) three rounds, Dmr Tulit was declared the winner. At featherweight, Pte Ellis (B Company) skilfully outfought a stronger opponent in Pte Anderson (D Company) while at lightweight, a very strong LCpl Phair (A Company) won by a knockout over a very brave LCpl Naylor (HQ Company). At light welterweight LCpl Canning (A Company) had to use all the skills learned while boxing for the Battalion last year to beat Pte Christie (HQ Company). At welterweight Pte Johnson (HQ Company) was just too strong for Pte Patston (C Company) while Pte Risi (HQ Company) very quickly disposed of Pte Nash (D Company) at light-middleweight. Next was the eagerly awaited middleweight contest. Pte Bye (B Company) and Pte Atkins (C Company) entered the ring determined to win. Three rounds of skill, passion and heart followed with Pte Bye narrowly winning the contest. Pte Atkins was awarded the most gallant loser trophy. At light heavy, Pte McLaughlan (HQ Company) put up a spirited defence but Pte Hornsey (C Company) was too strong. At cruiserweight Pte Meakin (C Company) was too skilful for a brave Sgt Harrod (B Company), while Cpl Head won the heavyweight contest by a walkover.

Saving the best for last, Sgt Patten (HQ Company), the 34-year-old provost sergeant climbed into the ring to fight Pte Tuppen (C Company) last year's Battalion Heavyweight champion. Both boxers gave their all and while Pte Tuppen was undoubtedly the more skilful, the Battalion was on the edge of their seats waiting for one of Sgt Patten's big bombs to land. At the end of three rounds a bloodied but unbowed Sgt Patten had to concede defeat to Pte Tuppen. The amount of skill and determination Pte Tuppen had to use was shown by his award of Commanding Officer's champion.

At the end of the night C (Essex) Company were the clear winners of what had been an outstanding boxing competition.

At the time of writing, the draw for the



Sgt Patten (HQ Company) and Pte Tuppen (C Company).

Army Novice Grade III Competition has been decided and the Battalion will have its first fight against the 7 R Irish in early December.

The Battalion squad has formed up under LCpl Muirhead with the aim of not only retaining the Northern Ireland championship Trophy but also of winning the final on 22 March 2001.

Inter-Company Champion Sporting Competition

Cpl Johnson writes:

The inter-company sporting competition involves each company battling it out, on the sporting front, over a 12-month period to win the coveted title of Champion Sporting Company. The 13 sports are: athletics, cricket, boxing, hockey, squash, cross-country, rugby, football, mountain biking, golf, orienteering, basketball and shooting.

The competition commenced with the cricket during the first week in July, this was won by A (Norfolk) Company off the last ball of the day, beating HQ Company into second place. Next up, two weeks later, was the athletics held on an unusually sunny Londonderry Sunday morning in St Columbs Park. After an enjoyable day, for both competitors and spectators, A Company again emerged victorious.

The competition then moved indoors for the novices boxing. The finals were held on Tuesday 15 August after two days of prelims. After a hard fought contest, C (Essex) Company emerged victorious over HQ Company.

HQ Company didn't have to wait too long for victory, however, with a comprehensive victory in the squash final over D (Cambridgeshire) Company.

The hockey was the next competition, held



The winning A (Norfolk) Company hockey team.

The Vikings

in the Bubble Gym at Ebrington, where again A Company emerged victorious over D Company, winning on goal difference. After the five sports, the current standings are: A Company 39 points; HQ Company 29 points; B Company 23 points; D Company 23 points; C Company 21 points.

With the next competitions on the calendar being the rugby and football there is still everything to play for.

Football Cup Comes Home

When Sgt Goodman, 1st Battalion football captain, was presented with the Northern Ireland Football Cup for victory in the 1999-2000 season, he was not aware that this same trophy had been in the hands of soldiers of one of our former regiments some 90 seasons earlier.

The Northern Ireland Football Cup is a very fine silver trophy, bearing an Irish hallmark. Presented in 1897 by 'The Officers on the Staff in Northern Ireland' as the 'Northern Ireland District Challenge Cup', it has been competed for in almost every one of the 103 years that have passed since then.

Although the Northern Ireland football competition was suspended for the duration of the Great War, the cup was awarded in two seasons during the second world war. The cup was first won in the 1897-1898 season by 2nd Battalion The Prince of Wales North Staffordshire Regiment, eight years after the formation of the Army Football Association, and nine years after the Army Football Cup was won for the first time.

As the champagne-filled cup was euphorically passed from player to player during the after-match celebrations in the Ebrington Barracks Naafi, our Battalion's 90-year-old link with the past came to light. And closer examination of the much-worn engraving further revealed that the cup had been in Regimental hands, and in the hands of our former regiments, for seven seasons of its long life.

First 'Regimental' holders were the 2nd

Battalion the Essex Regiment, who gained the title in the 1909/10 season, eight years after returning from the Boer War. As many of the Essex Regiment footballers would have known at the time, 1909 was the year that one of the county's leading football clubs, Colchester Town (later Colchester United), made the momentous move into the Layer Road ground. And of course Essex's military link with football had been initially established in 1868 when The 21st Essex Rifles, one of the nationally-renowned pioneering clubs of Association Football, had joined the recently-established FA.

The 1st Battalion the Norfolk Regiment, part of 15th Brigade of 5th Division, moved to Northern Ireland in November 1912, the year that the United Kingdom won the Olympic football in Sweden. Football fever also spread in the Battalion's new home at Palace Barracks, Belfast as the Battalion made an immediate impact upon the local football scene, winning the cup in the 1912/13 season. This was just one year before the Battalion sailed, in mid August 1914, from Belfast to Le Havre as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Many members of the victorious Battalion football team would almost certainly have been involved in the gallant rearguard action fought at great cost by the 1st Norfolks during the 200-mile retreat from Mons later in that same month.

The 1st Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment won the Northern Ireland cup in 1923/24, the year after the first cup match was played in Wembley Stadium, opened in 1923. Our former regiments then held the cup for two consecutive seasons: The 2nd Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment in 1935/36 and the 2nd Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1936/37. During this time, great changes were contemplated in the control of football matches, with the official 'two referee' trial being held in 1935.

Something under 30 years later, the cup was again in the hands of a former regiment. During their first year of a two-year tour in

Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion 3rd East Anglian Regiment won the cup in the 1962/63 season. The first Royal Anglian battalion to gain the title was the 3rd Battalion, who were holders for the 1978/79 season, during the second year of their tour in Palace Barracks. The 3rd Battalion had gained a formidable reputation in Army football, having won several other titles including the Northern Ireland six-a-side competition and the Infantry Cup.

Eighty-seven years after the cup had been won by the 1st Battalion the Norfolk Regiment, representatives of the Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, including Maj John Child, the last officer to be commissioned into that Regiment, watched the 1st Battalion win the match that brought the Northern Ireland Football Cup 'home' for the eighth time, in the year 2000. Although perhaps 'only' a football trophy, this cup now holds a special place in our affection. Representing the common themes of success and team spirit, it is one of the very few physical links that has been actually passed from hand to hand by soldiers in our regiments over a span of almost 100 years.

Minden Day

Capt RP Grenfell writes:

With dawn breaking, the first beats from the Corps of Drums are heard floating across the Maiden City, they emanate from the grounds of the Commanding Officer's garden as his family's wake up call for Minden Day 2000 begins.

With the sleep only just out of the eyes the morning celebration co-ordinated by the RSM, WO1 Mackness, begins in earnest. Troops are roused by the officers and SNCOs, with 'gunfire' and much noise courtesy of whistles and drums. Soon out of bed the Vikings burst forth into morning PT, to be followed by that great physical leveller the Minden Breakfast, taken in respective messes and the cookhouse.

Woken abruptly, worked physically and overfed, and with many families in attendance, the presentation of Minden Roses took place on the Battalion Square with the magnificent backdrop of Londonderry City. The guests of honour from the Suffolk Regiment Association, Brig Charles Barnes and Mr Frank Matthews, who was the youngest Suffolk Regiment platoon commander on D-Day kindly agreed, along with the Commanding Officer, to present Minden Roses to the Vikings.

The Colours were formally paraded, with the Colour Party consisting of Ensigns to the Colour, Lt Matt Woodeson (now Capt) and 2Lt Gareth Allen (now Lt) with WO2 (CSM) Rob Shaw, CSgts Tony Dade and Kenny James providing the escort. This was followed by a drumhead service conducted by Padre Tony Coslett leading into a presentation of sports colours and operational awards by the Commanding Officer. The morning's activities culminated with a Battalion photograph which has turned out to be excellent. The parade and



1st Battalion The Norfolk Regiment NI Football Cup winners 1912-1913, Palace Barracks Hollywood.

subsequent celebrations were complemented by the visit of six of the Viking Jarl Squad from the Shetland Isle.

The afternoon frivolities organised by the author took place in Clooney Base and kicked off with a family barbecue, to which the whole station was invited along with our civilian staff. The emphasis for the event was on fun. Professional fairground rides complemented by company stalls kept the mini-Vikings happy, and some of the not so mini. It is suspected if a breathalyser was used on the dodgems then there may have been a few red faces. The tug-of-war competition was won by HQ Company and the children's races for the Rout Trophy, in memory of Cpl Harry Rout, also won by HQ Company with Mrs Rout kindly agreeing to make the presentation. The event culminated in a Beating Retreat by the Corps of Drums with the Drum Major, Sgt Self, setting yet again high standards.

With tired children, and parents, it was home for a couple of hours' rest prior to an all ranks ball in the evening organised by OCD Company, Maj James York. This was a great way to culminate the festivities. With a disco and live band and many sideshows, a good time was had by all. The chefs produced an excellent curry which was washed down with a 'bevvy' or two. There were a few sore heads in the morning for the clean up operation.

It was nice to see many Royal Anglians from across the Province who were able to join us for the celebrations. Minden Day, as always is a traditional family day, with this year, despite our operational commitments, being no exception.



The CO addressing the Battalion, Minden Day.

AGC Vikings who went up a mountain and came down a cliff

Cpl NA Shelton writes:

Exercise Cold Finn was an exciting and challenging six-day expedition in the arduous Alps of the principality of Liechtenstein. The aim of the exercise was to develop basic leadership and military skills in the 'great outdoors' of the central European Alps. Team morale suffered a bit when they saw the steepness of the mountains that they were expected to climb. No morale problems were evident in Capt Dean Young, who led the

team up the mountains at best speed to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of Austria, Switzerland, Germany and any other country he managed to squeeze in during our overseas expedition.

'Paddy' Galloway and 'Taff' Patten (who quickly developed a taste for the local brew) didn't appear fully convinced by their leader's enthusiasm - they spent much of their time on all fours admiring the scenery of the rocks below them.

Two of our nights were spent in Alpine mountain huts discussing our near-death experiences over some very delicious 'apfel



LCpl Paterson, LCpl Skeiton, Cpl Galloway and Sgt Patten climb up the Schesaplane Mountain to reach the Swiss/Austrian border. The top of the mountain sits at 3,000m and offers a spectacular view down on the massive Lünensee.

The Vikings

stodel' and a stein or so of the local beer. It was in fact very close to death for Sgt Patten when he tried to follow the boss down a glacier; the boss was fine using the feature as a natural slide, but poor old 'Taff' almost caused an avalanche. Nonetheless, our time in the huts was great fun; we attempted some local dancing, but only 'Marion' Stroud could get the hang of it, which was some feat for a man who needed the encouragement of a shot of whisky to get on the cable car. The nights in the huts finished with climbing into one massive, whooping, giant big bed. Yes, it was the biggest bed in the world and enough space for all the climbers to find a space to sleep regardless of sex and nationality. But who do you think was doing the sniggering when the lights went out? Not the Germans, they'd just been beaten 1-0 by the English football team.

The trip was not just hiking from peak to peak, we also managed to squeeze in some swimming, volleyball and go-karting.

So that's a short summary of our fabulous adventure in the principality of Liechtenstein. It was, without doubt an extremely arduous and thrilling experience, where members of the group, including myself, really got to know themselves and the others. Being in the mountains is ten zillion times better than being stuck behind a desk in Derry, so thank you very much to all the generous organisations, who helped sponsor our meaningful expedition.

Exercise Marble Tor I - Gibraltar

Capt JD Carnegie writes:

During the last two weeks of April, B (Suffolk) Company, travelled to Gibraltar to take part in Exercise Marble Tor I. This exercise is normally given to TA units and runs over the summer months, but this year two slots were offered to 8 Infantry Brigade.

B Company began by conducting build-up training at Magilligan Training Centre on the north coast. The emphasis was on refreshing of conventional skills, in particular operations in built up areas and an introduction to tunnel warfare.

The company moved to RAF Aldergrove on 15 April in the early hours. An engine fault on the C130 Hercules saw us stranded at RAF Lyneham for the night and it was 16 April when we touched down at a windy and rain-swept Gibraltar. The company operations officer, who had foolishly been promising sunshine, escaped a lynching as everyone was still too busy recounting how Ptes Weaver, Marrison and Burgess had been unable to hold onto their lunches in the back of the aircraft.

The aim of the exercise was the promotion of junior command and development of the individual and team and the company immediately got stuck into safety briefs and preparation for training. A two-day build-up package included a tunnel tour by WO2 Soanes, which was likened to a Burmese death march only with military history thrown in. It was also the first introduction to the Royal Navy's Gibraltar Squadron who



B (Suffolk) Company soldiers at the refurbished Royal Anglian Way, Gibraltar.



B Company soldiers enjoy the Banana Boat experience in Gibraltar.

would assist us with gusto throughout the exercise. Other skills learned included abseiling, beach assaults and flotation packs which were, fortunately for Pte Petch and his amazing sinking GPMG, conducted in the local swimming pool. This was followed by a period of teaching and revision on Buffadero training area, with a series of physically demanding stands covering Obua, section attacks and tunnel fighting. With the temperature now well into the 20s and the hard terrain, even the most well practised section attack was a real challenge.

Day four and the company moved into the meat of the military training phase. A 52-hour section competition, excellently organised by WO2 Soanes, started to test the mettle of the NCOs and their soldiers. A series of eight stands, scattered around the

Rock, were designed to test the ingenuity and teamwork of the sections. The stands were as diverse as tunnel fighting, beach assault, Obua, hostage rescue and seizing a vessel *under way*. Assistance provided by the Royal Navy and the fleet supply ship *RFA Olna* gave the competition a distinct maritime air. The boat 'cross decking' while at sea produced several white faces and excellent theatrics from Cpl Ward and LCpl MacDonald, our resident 'drug runners'. Pte Welch took several paint balls in the back of the head as a stand-in terrorist and the CSM gave an excellent demo of what to do if your flotation pack loses the floating feeling while in Rosia Bay. The conclusion of the competition saw 1 Section, 6 Platoon under LCpl Surette as overall winners.

After a night off to reacquaint us with the town (the recuperative powers of exhausted soldiers is amazing when a night out is on offer!) the next task was refurbishing Royal Anglian Way. Built in 1963 by the 2nd Battalion, temptation to rename it 'Viking Way' was set aside and armed with shovels, bin bags and Sgt Granfield and his trusty paint brush, the company set to work. 5 Platoon suffered several seagull attacks, LCpl Martin receiving one direct hit, while 6 Platoon made friends with the thieving 'rock apes'. The apes provided much amusement ('They look just like little people, but with fur, sir'), but even they turned up their noses at the haverbag lunches. The paths received a much needed clean and new signs erected to replace the damaged ones.

The second week allowed us to sample some of the 'fun' side of Gibraltar.

A three-day period of 'cultural' visits and adventure training saw the soldiers travelling to Morocco and Spain to sample the local delights (or local frights in the case of Morocco), adventure training took in climbing, kayaking, scuba diving, windsurfing and the ever-popular banana

boating. The local media also took an interest and 2Lt Gareth Allen and his section had their five minutes of fame doing a beach assault for local TV. This provided excellent PR for the Vikings and was only slightly marred by the refusal of the minibus to go back uphill despite much wheelspinning. History does not record whether this was caught on camera!

The final uphill struggle was the infamous Gibraltar 'Rock Run'. The old sweats such as Cpl Ward and LCpl Cavaliero went particularly white and Signal Hill quickly sorted the men from the boys, or the knackered from the less knackered. Pte Gomes won in a highly impressive time of just over 31 minutes.

The final two days were a whirlwind of administration but included an opportunity to watch the Royal Gibraltar Regiment conduct the Ceremony of the Keys in Casemate Square and for Pte Raynor to get run over in Spain, fortunately without the serious injury first feared.

The exercise will prove to be the high point of many soldiers' careers and gave the company a new topic of conversation to bore the Battalion about apart from our previous trip to the Ukraine. The military training produced section commanders with greater initiative and skill base and tested the soldiers in a totally new environment. It was good to reforge the old links with the Rock and hopefully the Regiment will be able to return to the Rock before too long.

Regimental Association Visits

Capt JD Carnegie writes:

This year has seen the visit of our four county Regimental Associations. Each rifle company is linked to one of our recruiting counties and it was decided that each company would host its 'home' county Regimental Association.

The first to visit were Col Morgan OBE and Gordon Wren of the Essex Regiment Association, who spent three days in Londonderry, arriving on 23 March. The visitors were hosted by C (Essex) Company who took them through a very varied programme. The first day saw Col Morgan and Mr Wren visiting Magilligan Training Centre to watch C Company doing a range practice and public order training. With B Company acting as the rioters, an excellent evening's training was witnessed. Neither Col Morgan or Gordon Wren had seen anything quite like two rifle companies in a mock full-scale riot but it was certainly entertaining.

The second day of the visit involved a Battalion brief and a visit to the city. Tours of Fort George and Masonic were arranged and with the Civrep the visitors also walked the city walls. That night the Officers' Mess held a Regimental ladies' dinner night with Col Morgan and Mr Wren as guests of honour. The silver Essex Regiment Drums were in pride of place next to the Colours and for Gordon Wren this was very poignant as he had been responsible for the reformation of the Essex Regiment Drums



Visit by Brig Barnes and Frank Matthews, Drumhead Service, Minden Day 2000.

Platoon after the war. The highlight of the evening was when Gordon played one of his old drums, his memory not letting him down as he played the Drummer's Call and Regimental March.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association were the next to visit over 27/28 April. The Association was represented by Maj Child, the last officer to be commissioned into the Royal Norfolk Regiment, who was accompanied by Maj Reeve, the Regimental Secretary of the Royal Anglian Regiment. They were hosted by A (Norfolk) Company and spent a busy day at Londonderry.

After the Battalion and A Company briefs, Maj Child and Maj Reeve visited the Ops 3 locations around Ebrington camp before moving to Clooney West sports pitch to watch the NI football final between the Vikings and 1 RWF. After the game, Maj Child presented soldiers from A Company with their NI medals and officially opened the Royal Norfolk Regiment VC Commemoration which is housed in A Company offices. That night the visitors were entertained with an A Company ladies' dinner night.

B (Suffolk) Company hosted Brig Barnes OBE and Capt Frank Matthews of the Suffolk Regiment Association between 25 and 27 July. Frank Matthews was the youngest Suffolk Regiment Officer to land on D-Day. Both Brig Barnes and Capt Matthews had the opportunity to tour Ebrington and visit the military installations on the Cityside and to tour the city walls. This was Brig Barnes' third 'visit' to Londonderry having served a four-month tour in the city in 1973 and as a guest of the Battalion in 1985 in his role as the Divisional Brigadier. The highlight of the visit was the Minden Day celebrations, which were held early due to operational commitments. Both Brig Barnes and Capt Matthews presented the roses on the parade and then enjoyed the all ranks fete at Clooney in the afternoon. They then visited the all ranks party that was held in the Bubble Gym before enjoying a meal in a local restaurant.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association were the last to visit in October and were hosted by D Company. The Association were represented by Lt Col Badcock and Maj Denson. They visited the Battalion inter-company cross-country competition at Cam Forest, before officially opening the Milan and Mortars unit fire control trainer in Ebrington. They also visited the Close Observation Platoon before being hosted in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to a dinner with the D Company officers and SNCOs. The next day had the by now obligatory visit to the Masonic and tour of the city walls followed by a go on the small arms trainer. Lunch was held in the Officers' Mess where Lt Col Badcock expressed his thanks to the Battalion and the Commanding Officer pointed out the fine silver figure that the Cambridgeshire Regiment have kindly loaned to the Battalion. The day finished with a D Company parade for the handover of command between Maj York and Capt Nye and dinner 'at home' with the Commanding Officer.

The Vikings have been honoured by these visits and very grateful that the Association members who visited made time in their busy schedules to come and see us in Northern Ireland. The opportunity for us to brief our visitors on what the Battalion is doing and how we operate will now be passed back to the Associations and for us to hear how the Associations are still working hard for our former soldiers and flying the flag for 'their' Battalion back in our recruiting area was interesting to hear. The strength of the relationships between the Vikings and the Associations has now been cemented and reciprocal visits have already taken place, most notably B (Suffolk) Company providing a Colour party for the Suffolk Regiment Minden Day celebrations this year. Other visits are planned and the Associations have assisted in battlefield tours and recruiting. Great stock is placed in our relations with our forebear units and it was a privilege to have them visit.

The Vikings

Vikings return to West Belfast

On 23 August 2000, A (Norfolk) Company again became the Ops 2 Company. The previous few months had been long and hard, the company having seen operational deployments in South Armagh and Londonderry, as well as a demanding summer due to the marching season. All ranks were understandably looking forward to the chance to ease springs slightly, with plenty of sports, adventure training and recreation planned.

Sure, the Ops 2 Coy may be the Battalion reserve, and this month had also picked up the Brigade reserve commitment; but how often had the Brigade reserve actually been deployed? At the same time those who had been following the news over the previous days would have been watching the developing situation in the Loyalist Shankill area of West Belfast with interest. Certainly those in A Company who had been paying close attention may have started to anticipate that it was not going to be as relaxed a spell on Ops 2 as had been planned.

The situation in the Shankill had been deteriorating over the summer, and came to a head in mid August. Several prominent Protestant paramilitaries (PPM) had been inciting trouble between the UDA/UFF, who control the lower Shankill, and the UVF, who generally reside in the upper/mid Shankill area. To say the situation was that simple is to massively understate the mix of personal vendettas, power struggles, intimidation, 'ethnic cleansing' and a drugs related turf war that had been conducted under the screen of a paramilitary feud. The tensions continued to escalate. On 19 August, following an assault at the Rex Bar (UVF) during a UFF parade, three men shot the bar up, injuring four people. There followed more shootings, attacks on premises and general disorder. This culminated 48 hours later in the murder of two known UFF associates on the Crumlin Rd. Again this triggered public disorder, and later in the day the RUC were shot at while making arrests. At this point it was felt that the RUC could not prevent the situation from escalating, and military assistance was requested.

Initially the 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets deployed to deal with the situation. This was the first time, outside of the marching season, that troops had deployed onto the streets of Belfast in two years. At the outset they deployed a company of troops to occupy static vehicle check points in five locations on the main roads accessing the Shankill, in order to monitor movement of known persons and interdict the transit of weapons. With only two companies available, this would not remain sustainable for long; the success achieved through the element of surprise would also be limited as ways around the VCPs would soon be found. A more mobile deterrent was required, which in turn would require more troops. To cap all the developments, the UDA leader Johnny Adair, a convicted terrorist who had been



released under the Good Friday Agreement, was arrested on 22 August. This led to fears that the Shankill would degenerate into open warfare between the Protestant paramilitary groupings. Therefore two further companies were committed to the Shankill, 3 Squadron RAF Regiment and A (Norfolk) Company, 1 Royal Anglian.

A Company handed over the Ops 3 (guards and duties) commitment on the morning of the 23rd, and with barely time to draw breath were made OPCON 39 Inf Bde (responsible for Belfast) and found themselves deployed to Long Kesh as a staging base. That night another murder occurred, this time of a UVF man. By the following afternoon A Company were OPCON 1 RGJ, and that evening Viking soldiers were once again deployed to the streets of Belfast. Initially A Company manned the VCP locations, which gave an ideal introduction to the ground and situation, before assuming patrol responsibilities.

By the end of the weekend, the static VCPs had been lifted, and each company was patrolling with foot and mobile patrols, having at least five patrols out at any one time. Due to the rotation with the other companies, A Company would switch between day and night patrolling, working a

maximum of 12-hour shifts.

As the patrols continued, the important names and faces, cars and locations started to be recognised. Working in conjunction with the Divis Flats observation post, which was an excellent asset, a detailed intelligence picture was built up over a very short space of time. This was a blessing for the intelligence cell, which had received virtually nothing for the previous two years. As time went on, more and more intelligence tasks were given and completed and the Company rapidly became able to 'shape the battlefield', being able to monitor, predict and intercept any attempted criminal activity.

The time spent in the Shankill was an excellent experience for all involved. For those who had not served in province before it was good training in urban patrolling, in an often hostile environment. For the junior commanders it was an excellent chance to develop their command and leadership and apply the skills of urban patrolling.

A (Norfolk) Company was finally released from Belfast on 4 September, having spent nearly two weeks patrolling the Shankill Estate. At the time of writing the Army is still patrolling the Shankill, but on a smaller scale than during August.

Op Coral in South Armagh

Lt MA Nicholas writes:

From 20 May to 2 June 2000, A (Norfolk) Company deployed to South Armagh under the banner of Op Coral, to support 1 RRF based at Bessbrook Mill. Of the five multiples deployed, three worked directly from Bessbrook Mill, while another went to Crossmaglen and another to Forkhill.

Bessbrook Mill, as those who have served there will understand, is a unique place. A former Quaker Mill, the original building is home to not just 1 RRF but the ARB Ops Company at the time from 1 Kings and various other attachments too. Nearly 800 troops work from there. The attached heliport is supposed to be the busiest in Europe and one can see why with a Lynx or Puma inbound or departing pretty much constantly. Living in the Mill was like being on a huge ferry, with the distant hum of air conditioning and strategically placed groups of fruit machines being prominent. The small memorial garden next to the Guard Room is a testimony to the soldiers who have lost their lives serving in South Armagh.

For two weeks 1 (Almanza) Platoon worked on an operational cycle rotating between patrol programmes, providing QRF and a small amount of guard. Perhaps the most significant change from our own pattern of life in Londonderry was the significantly increased tempo of operations. The patrolling element demanded local base plate patrols to be conducted around the clock ensuring the security of the low-lying base as much as humanly possible.

The small town of Bessbrook is an undistinguished settlement with a mixed population slightly in favour of the Catholics.



Members of 1 Platoon await a heli pick-up in South Armagh.

Most of it is centralised around the Mill that sits in a depression. The Republican orientated estates were often surrounded by fences, making them slightly more difficult to patrol. The fences and house walls were daubed with all the usual graffiti such as 'Snipers at Work' and 'Brits Out'.

Most of the patrolling consisted of framework or rural patrols. A patrol is given grid co-ordinates in which to work and tasks

from the Company Ops Officer responsible. Due to the nature of South Armagh many of the tasks included providing protection for the RUC for general house to house enquires. Deployment for the patrols was almost always by helicopter as there is no green vehicle movement at all. An Eagle VCP Op was always very popular with the soldiers, one team covering the VCP on a road while protection is provided from a team in the air as 'top cover'. The possibility of a vehicle chase was very real due to the high amount of smuggling in the border area. During our deployment one Lynx damaged its tail after hitting an obstacle while chasing a suspect vehicle.

The multiples in Forkhill and Crossmaglen carried out a high level of patrolling from their bases too. Indeed a multiple from 2 Platoon, based at Forkhill, was involved in the follow up operation after a failed mortar attack on the G30 Tower by the Real IRA.

Life at Bessbrook had its more relaxing moments too. The troops could use a well-equipped gym or just relax in the Naafi and 'mong' in front of Sky TV.

The deployment to South Armagh was enjoyable largely because platoons were able to operate as independent multiples, focus on operations without being distracted by menial tasks. The demands of patrolling in South Armagh were soon realised with the tempo of operations carried out and the realisation of the dissident threat, especially when G30 was attacked. Soldiers who had barely been in their platoons for a month were now on operations countering a very real threat. Patrolling past the site where LBdr Restorick was murdered or moving close to Thomas 'Slab' Murphy's farm complex will not be forgotten in haste.



Members of 1 Platoon in Bessbrook Mill with stray dog 'Lady Almanza'.

The Vikings



LCpl Butcher, Pte Sayce and Pte Bushell on the helipad in Eniskillen.

C Company goes mad in Fermanagh

Lt J Hancock writes:

Picture the scene; the pilot of a Puma helicopter brings its engines up to full power and lifts off from the field in which it had landed only seconds before. The loadmaster waves to the troops they have just dropped off as the aircraft disappears over the trees. The patrol commander consults his map only to realise that the RAF have done it again and dropped the patrol in completely the wrong place! Suddenly it became all too apparent why the loadmaster had been grinning so broadly.

This incident, which resulted in a fairly rapid speed march against the clock to make an RV, was just one of several that men of C (Essex) Company had to endure during a recent deployment in Fermanagh. Throughout the months of September and October platoons and multiples deployed down to Eniskillen to support 4 Royal Irish as either their airborne reaction force (ARF) or as part of two border operations. As part of the Brigade Reserve Company soldiers drawn predominantly from 9 and 10 platoons, packed their kit into their bergens and set off from Ebrington Barracks as formed 12-man multiples. The ARF task was not too taxing, with the majority of time spent waiting around on the off-chance that an incident might necessitate a deployment. Occasionally the multiple would also be

tasked with mobile patrols around Eniskillen or an Eagle VCP operation in Southern Fermanagh. However, there were also a number of opportunities to conduct rural patrols in support of 4 Royal Irish's routine operations. In these cases 4 Royal Irish would step up two teams to cover the ARF allowing the Vikings to take to the cuds. Initially the learning curve was very steep.

In Londonderry the patrolling skills we concentrate on are based more on vehicle borne urban patrolling rather than foot based rural patrolling. Indeed for many of the soldiers this was their first chance to conduct a proper foot patrol. As a result the first patrols were almost revision and teaching sessions for everyone. Skills and drills such as working with helicopters, the RUC and rural navigation were among those revisited. The whole experience was excellent for morale and the satisfaction of conducting worthwhile patrols within spitting distance of the border was immense. Morale in one particular multiple soared even higher when it was discovered that someone had managed to slip two large rocks into the bottom of the platoon commander's daysack! Thank you Pte O'Halloran I know where you live.

The second, and more demanding task in Fermanagh, involved the deployment of a complete platoon to reinforce a border operation to be conducted by a company of the Highlanders. It was interesting to note that the Highlanders company that we reinforced had already had to be reinforced.

prior to deployment, by a multiple from 1 QLR! It served as a timely reminder to all that having a fully manned battalion is infinitely preferable to ending up in a situation like that.

For this deployment the platoon was deployed onto the ground as two separate multiples for a total of three days and two nights at a time. Routes had to be cleared and then having set up patrol bases the multiples would send out teams to dominate these cleared routes. Once again we found that a little 'on the job training' was required. For many skills such as having to set up a basha, brewing up and personal administration in the field had not been visited since training. However, and despite some appalling weather, it was good to see that everybody came through what was sent to 'test' us through a combination of determination and good teamwork.

All in all these deployments to Fermanagh represented an outstanding opportunity to relearn all the skills required for rural patrolling. By the end of the operation, patrolling techniques had reached levels of slickness that are hard to achieve given the lack of operational opportunities that present themselves in Londonderry. The positive effect such an opportunity had on morale was also notable. However, perhaps the most important thing that we learned was that satellite navigation in helicopters is absolutely no guarantee of an accurate drop-off!

2nd Battalion - The Poachers

The Commanding Officer writes:

It seems like just a few minutes since I last put pen to paper for Castle. Our deployments to Sierra Leone, summer leave and Northern Ireland Training have ensured that the last few months have passed by pretty fast. We are now well and truly settled in England and, on current plans, it seems that we will be in Chepstow until mid-2003. At the moment we are coming to the end of our NI training package and will send D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company plus a platoon to Belfast in mid-November with the remainder of the Battalion on standby. Next summer will see us re-rolling for conventional operations and then in early 2002, we will conduct three company-level exercises in Belize to ensure that we are fully prepared to assume our specialist role as a jungle battalion. With plenty of adventurous training and sport on the horizon, the Poachers continue to offer the challenge and variety to make infantry service attractive. The following articles are vignettes of what we have done over the last six months. I hope that you enjoy reading them.

The last six months in the Poachers

The end of April saw the Battalion safely return from its post-Cyprus disembarkation leave. The month given to most members of the Battalion gave everyone time to get used to the change in the pace of life and perhaps



Members of C Company listening intently to another Range Safety Brief.

more significantly, the change in weather. There were also some peculiarities associated with Chepstow, most noticeably the fact that some of the families were located in Crickhowell, which was over an hour away from camp.

As soon as the Battalion returned to work

it started the slow build-up towards the Battalion's main effort for 2000, which is the assumption of the role of the Belfast Roulement Battalion (BRB) in November. The plan was to have a quiet period between April and July, which would consist of low-level training, designed to slowly get the



Parading the Colour at the Queen Mother's birthday parade.

The Poachers

Battalion back into the Northern Ireland frame of mind. The low-level training was to be interspersed with some interesting RAAT tasks. At the end of this training programme there were going to be Support Weapons Cadres, which were going to be run at Otterburn. Of course, this plan had changed completely within a month.

Two weeks after the Battalion returned to work the majority of the Milan Platoon deployed to Canada to take part in the first Medicine Man exercise of the year with the Queen's Royal Hussars Battle Group. The deployment was the result of taking advantage of a signal that was sent round the Army and meant that six new members of Milan Platoon spent a month on exercise and fired an average of four live missiles each within their first six weeks in the Platoon. C Company, supported by elements from D (Sp) Company got to play Hunter Force for the final exercise on the combat survival instructor's course. It proved to be one of the more interesting RAAT tasks and gave the keener members of the company something to think about.

At the end of May, A Company, with an element from Battalion Headquarters, deployed to Norway to take part in a multinational Nato exercise. The exercise provided members of the Battalion with a useful insight into the strengths and weaknesses of multinational operations. The most noticeable example of this was when the Italian troops taking part in the exercise landed in the wrong country.

The biggest event in the last six months was when, after watching the events unfold on the news, the Battalion was warned off to go to Sierra Leone. There was a brief period of waiting, while the deployment was confirmed and then, in late May the CO, OC B and the QM disappeared off on a recon of Sierra Leone. Other articles in the journal cover the period of this deployment.

The troops that deployed to Africa had all returned to Chepstow by the beginning of August and the Battalion went on a well-earned three weeks leave. On the return from leave the effort of the Battalion focused on preparing for the deployment to Northern Ireland. The training started with unit presentations by NITAT followed by a very relaxing week for the soldiers left in camp as the Battalion's command element completed their commander's cadre. September was spent completing in-barracks training in preparation for the CPTA training package in October. The Battalion assumed the role of BRB on 15 November.

There have been two major cadres run in the last six months; a tactics cadre and a PNCO cadre. The tactics cadre was based in Sennybridge Camp and on the training area and gave all the Battalion's potential SCBC candidates a chance to get up to speed on conventional tactics. The sudden deployment to Sierra Leone meant that the PNCO Cadre was stretched over three months; this was not continuous and it meant that the students had a long break before completing the final exercise on Sennybridge training area, which



WO1 RSM Tim Beighton hands over to WO1 RSM Phil Martin.

is fast becoming the Battalion's second home.

On the social front the Battalion held a very successful 'Welcome to Chepstow' cocktail party at the end of April. This gave the Battalion a chance to introduce itself to the people who will be directly and indirectly influencing our lives over the next few years. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess came over to the Officers' Mess for a very civilized dinner to celebrate the battle of Talevera. The dinner also gave the Officers' Mess a chance to show an example of being noble in defeat after narrowly losing the Officers' v Sergeants' Mess cricket match.

The Officers' Mess held a very successful summer ball in early September. It was the first realistic chance that most Mess members had had to bring their friends to a social event since 1998 and the opportunity was not wasted. By all accounts the dodgems went down particularly well.

Finally, on the sporting front the both Battalions' rugby and football teams have started to play some local fixtures. The rugby team in particular has played Chepstow 1st team on several occasions and is improving all the time. The following articles give a further insight into some of the events mentioned above.

The Poachers

Re-rolling back to armour - Milan Platoon In Canada

Capt NJ Haden writes:

The original signal looked innocuous enough but it was to provide Milan Platoon with not only a golden opportunity for training but also a legendary paperwork exercise. The Queen's Royal Hussars, who were based in Sennelager in Germany, were trawling for a Milan Platoon that they could take to Canada with them. The message was simple, 'come with us and fire lots of missiles'. As the annual missile entitlement for Milan is one missile per firing post per year, the opportunity to fire in excess of 27, which worked out as seven missiles per firing post was too good to miss. The other bonus was that the Milan Platoon in BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) is equipped with Warrior. Altogether, the chance to spend a month on exercise in Warrior coupled with the opportunity to fire plenty of missiles was one that no Milan platoon commander could afford to miss.

There were, of course a few drawbacks in the plan. The first drawback was that it had been two and a half years since any member of the Battalion had touched Warrior, and some members of the platoon had never even seen it. The second drawback was that the platoon commander had to give up two weeks of his disembarkation leave to go to Germany and take part in CAST and SIMNET. The second drawback was the easiest to overcome; the first required a mountain of paperwork and some very quick refresher training in Canada.

The platoon had been to Canada an average of about six times each and almost all had a working knowledge of both Crowfoot Camp and Medicine Hat, which was the nearest town. Medicine Hat is most famous for the Assinobia Hotel, which is a sedate and



Ptes Strong and Latham assisting the local fire service - before.



Ptes Strong and Latham assisting the local fire service - after.

civilized drinking establishment that is occasionally visited by soldiers. Everything about BATUS seemed slightly larger than life; there were enough vehicles there to form the largest Battle Group formation that the British Army uses. As space is not really at a premium the camp spreads out over a massive area and still seems small in comparison to the scenery around it. Even the meals served in the cookhouse are huge, and biased towards junk food.

The exercise itself was a set piece exercise that is designed to last about a month and has been in existence for about the last 15 years, although the introduction of TES and Challenger 2 has resulted in major changes in recent years; for the better. The exercise is called Medicine Man. BATUS is set up to run up to six exercises a year. This year there was only one large Battle Group exercise programmed and so a lot more resources were available to us than normal. The exercise consists of three phases: The first phase gives each unit a chance to practise its individual skills on a series of pre-planned ranges. For Milan this was the best part of the exercise as it allowed the platoon to train by itself. The second phase of the exercise involved a gradual progression from platoon to Battle Group field firing. This proved to be the hardest learning curve for the platoon, as we had to switch from low level dismounted warfare to high intensity armoured operations. This was something that caused a lot of lost tempers and confused

expressions among the platoon, but we came through it to achieve a good standard by the end of the phase. Phase three was the Tesex (Tactical Engagement Simulation Exercise) phase. Unfortunately the Milan WES (Weapons Effects Simulation) equipment had just been upgraded badly and it proved to be extremely unreliable. This caused a lot of frustration among the platoon but the TES phase still proved to be very challenging and there were some good moments, like when the platoon was forced to make real flotation packs before crossing a simulated river (or muddy ditch as the layman would call it).

The deployment of a large part of the Battalion to Sierra Leone meant that the rest and recuperation period that traditionally follows the month-long exercise was reduced to two days and the platoon was happily back to work with the Battalion within one day of returning to Chepstow.

The chance for members of a light role Battalion to deploy to BATUS as part of an armoured Battle Group was a rare one. We could only do it because we spent so much time with armour in both Germany and the UK. It is not easy to adapt in two weeks from light role operations to high intensity operations but, with perseverance, a reasonable standard can be achieved. The benefits, both to the standard of operation and the experience of a platoon in completing a tasking like this is huge and BATUS can only be recommended to someone who has never been there.



The author experiencing the variety of weather conditions on the prairie.

The Poachers

Battalion Football 2000-2001

SSgt Evans APTC writes:

The Battalion players left Cyprus on a high after the garrison team, containing ten members of the Battalion, won both the Island League and Cup (for British service teams). At the end of the season in Cyprus CSgt Limb was awarded the 'player's player' prize and Cpl Farrell was presented with the 'most improved player' award. Shortly before leaving Cyprus the Battalion entered the all-island Carter Cup competition. The Battalion eventually finished fourth in the competition, which was a respectable result. A special mention goes to Sgt Phillips who gained the 'golden boot' award for scoring 18 goals in six matches.

As soon as the Battalion had completely returned from block leave the football team started a selection process for the new team. Over 40 people turned up for the first selection, which bodes well for the future. At the end of August the Battalion joined with a local fire service team to play a charity match against Chepstow Town. The eventual result was 4-2 to Chepstow but the game was most noteworthy for a goal attempt that Sgt Richards inadvertently made when the ball bounced off the back of his head as he was running away from the goalmouth. In the first week of September the Battalion played its first game in the Western Services League against RAF Innsworth. The eventual score was 1-1. Sgt Phillips scored for the Poachers. The second game in the Western Services League proved to be more rewarding as the Battalion won 4-1 against

RAF Lyneham in an away fixture. Sgt Phillips and both Ptes' Wheatley scored the goals for the Battalion. In a fit of generosity Cpl Farrell scored for RAF Lyneham with a nicely positioned own goal.

Working With The UOTC/CCF 'A New Experience'

Lt GB Foden writes:

Picture the scene, a young officer is given the choice of organising a week's adventure training for his company (in sunny Wales of all places!) or alternately helping out on Loughborough Grammar School's CCF camp. My loathing of paperwork ensured that I plumped for the latter. The second event was at a 'Welcome to Chepstow' cocktail party where I had the pleasure of bumping into Maj Price SG who is the training major for Bristol UOTC. He informed me that he was looking for a young subaltern to help out with their summer camp. Much to the chagrin of my fellow subalterns I had volunteered before they even had a chance to plead their cases. As it turned out both these events helped to entertain me while the majority of the Mess were deployed to Sierra Leone.

First off was Bristol UOTC's summer camp. The University Officer Training Corps are TA units whose aim is to give students the opportunity to experience Army life. They cater for students who are planning to embark on a career in the Army, be it with the TA or the Regulars, as well as those who have no intention of joining the forces. The

theory is that even those who do not pursue a military career will leave with a good view of the Army. The staff are a mixture of TA and Regular with each company generally commanded by a TA major ably assisted by a Regular sergeant major. The officer cadets had already completed a week's special to arm training and had concentrated down at CPTA by the time I joined them. Maj Price had designed a fairly intensive range package based around an internal security scenario.

Running ranges for students who have very limited training on the rifle can be quite an interesting and occasionally dangerous experience. I constantly had to remind myself that I was not dealing with professional soldiers but rather with students and I freely admit that it took me a couple of days to acclimatise. If you think that soldiers ask random and occasionally difficult questions then you should try working with students.

The students were a complete mixture of the very keen and the very laid back. The latter group was largely made up of those planning to join some of the more fashionable cavalry regiments. Some of the very keen were quite frankly scary while the laid back occasionally required some motivation!

The last night was reserved for the inevitable party. I was well prepared for the gangster theme as I had brought with me one of my louder 'made in Cyprus' suits. I was only outdone by the PSIs who had all decided to dress up as gangsters' molls (not a pretty sight I can assure you). Altogether, a memorable time was had by all.

After a few weeks back with my platoon I was off again, this time to help on Loughborough Grammar School's CCF camp. As an Old Boy myself this brought back some memories. As it turns out CCF camps have changed little since my day. There is a day of adventure training, a day on the ranges, a tactics day and so on. This time the adjustment from leading Poachers to teaching cadets was equally noticeable. Having just finished live firing with my company I had to constantly calm myself down as I chased after the cadets with their cadet GP rifles.

The cadets themselves were great fun to work with but I had to keep pointing out that I was not some sort of horrible teacher but rather them in a couple of years' time. They did require a fair amount of supervision as they have had even less weapon training than the OTC yet despite this they were a credit to themselves and their staff. It should not be forgotten that many serving Poachers are ex ACF and it would be nice to think that a significant amount of cadets on the camp will be appearing in the Battalion in a few years.

Once again I had another good week and it was great to be able to give something back both to the school and the CCF. Once again many thanks to the dedicated staff ably led by Lt Col(V) G Beazley for making me so welcome.

PS LGS CCF is about to be joined by a former Poacher, Simon Vincent, who has taken up a post as a teacher at the school.



The Poachers

Exercise Co-Operative Banners 2000 A (Lincolnshire) Company In Norway

Lt GB Foden writes:

Exercise Co-Operative Banners 2000 was a Nato/PfP exercise held in southern Norway running from 29 May to 8 June. This period was split into two parts. The first week consisted of preparatory multi-national training and the second week was taken up with the exercise itself. The exercise involved over 6,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen from 17 different nations. At sea there were over 40 ships, including two submarines; ground forces consisted of a three-battalion brigade and Norwegian reserve forces; aircraft numbered more than 30. A (Lincolnshire) Company provided the UK ground force element.

The original plan had included the Battalion deploying a Battle Group HQ led by the Commanding Officer, however due to the Battalion being warned off for Sierra Leone neither he nor the QM deployed. This meant that the OC, Maj Eddie Thorne, stepped up to command the multi-national Battalion, with CSM Thompson stepping up to fill the QM's shoes. At company level this meant that the 2IC, Capt Alex Hawley, became the company commander.

The company spent the first week teaching the other national components the intricacies of VCPs (Lt Wilson and 2 Platoon) while the touchy subject of engagement was taught by yours truly and 1 Platoon. Teaching soldiers for whom English is not their first language was quite an experience, although most nations' English put our ignorance of their language to shame.

The reaction to our lessons was extremely good with most of the Americans falling in love with the peculiar charms of Cpl Batty. It was certainly the first time that Lt Wilson and myself have been given standing ovations after giving lessons (I even had a HIP helicopter land 30 feet behind me during one of mine). Cpl Hills was particularly amused to hear his demonstration section described as special forces by a Norwegian brigadier. It was after one of the many long days teaching on the area that the highlight of the exercise occurred.

Now when our two female personnel went for a shower we placed a guard on the door of the communal showers to keep away any prying eyes. When the Swedish female conscripts wanted a shower they just piled in without apparently a care and it so happened that on this occasion we happened to be taking a shower. Apparently this was the highlight of Pte Hedgers young life and I have to admit I quite enjoyed it as well.

In the second week we deployed to our TAOR for the exercise itself. The exercise was based on a multi-national Peace Support Operation. After establishing our patrol base we set about the scenarios, the first of these involved a pro-SF demonstration at our front gate. The OC wondered why the platoon

commanders spent the rest of the day down at the front gate until it was pointed out that the original demonstration had included the local female handball team. Enough said!

The exercise itself provided the company with a new challenge as the majority of the soldiers had never been in a peace support environment before. The host nation support was truly excellent and there was no limitation on the use of private land. Despite this, Cpl Headland managed to scare a Norwegian pensioner when his presence in a bush in her garden convinced her that World War Two was still on!

Overall it was an excellent exercise that managed to both test and amuse. The Norwegians were the perfect hosts. I would recommend to anyone the benefits of such an exercise. We certainly enjoyed ourselves.

The Badminton Horseless Trials

Capt Nat Haden writes:

The Badminton Horseless Trials event is a race round the grounds of Badminton House in Gloucestershire, taking in many of the horse jumps that are used during the world famous Badminton Horse Trials, except as the name would suggest, the event that we were to take part in does not involve any horses. The horseless trials is a charity event that is held in aid of the Weston Spirit, a charity that was founded by Simon Weston and aims to help 'youth projects' around the country. The course is nine miles long and takes in about 20 jumps and a lake (twice); the going is mostly on grass with the occasional muddy track. There is an option to complete a five-mile circuit which is designed to attract more people to the event and to provide an easier way to participate. Just over 1,000 people entered the event this year ranging in age from 10 to 60 and in ability from serious athletes to small groups of reluctant schoolchildren. The event had a separate military category, which had its own prize. There were around 14 military teams at the event, coming from all three services, reserves and ACF.

The Poachers team consisted of Capt Nat Haden, LCpl Leach, LCpl Laird, LCpl Seymour and Pte Burdass with LCpl McMillan coming along as a reserve. The Northern Ireland training had severely limited the amount of training that the team had been able to do. The first time that all members of the team were together was on the start line. The effectiveness of the team was also probably slightly affected by the pre-race technique of socialising as much as possible on the evening prior to the event, which had been adopted by most members of the team the night before. Despite all this the team was on the start point ready to go with a reasonable amount of optimism about the potential result.

The race was started by Simon Weston himself and after a sprint start, to separate the athletes from the fun runners the Poachers managed to keep to a reasonable pace near the front. Our strategy on the run was the normal simple but effective one favoured by

physical training instructors everywhere, we started and we ran as fast as we could towards the finish line. The only additional obstacle that we encountered during the race were the small groups of meandering children in fancy dress who insisted on walking in the middle of the path, causing the occasional swift admonishment from other runners.

The last member of the Poachers crossed the finish line one hour and one minute after the race had started, a credible time, which won the military category and ranked us third in the event overall. Generally the event was very enjoyable as well as rewarding and it was good to take part in an event that was designed for civilians to participate in because the atmosphere seemed a lot more lively than at most military sporting events, although this could have been more down to the Britney Spears look-alike entries in the fancy dress competition.

Jungle Warfare Instructor's Course

2Lt Wolfe writes:

On 16 March 2000 Sgt King and I set off from Heathrow to Brunei, South East Asia. We were about to embark on the Jungle Warfare Instructor's Course run by the Jungle Warfare Wing (formerly Training Team Brunei). Twenty hours of travelling later we arrived at Medicina Lines and the course started immediately with an introduction to the course and the jungle. Sgt King and I had no prior jungle experience and there was much to learn.

The initial acclimatisation took the form of steady exercise and a jungle fitness test (ie the old BFT). The extreme heat and humidity was, at first, quite oppressive, but this was soon overcome and the first exercise took us into the jungle. We worked on the basics at first and the exercise was very much a teaching phase, mainly non-tactical. Under the 190ft canopy the climate was slightly cooler but we sweated through CTRs, section routine drills and individual jungle skills. This was an extremely useful phase as I tested the issued kit and everyone experimented with their equipment. Immediately after the exercise I abandoned both the issue hammock and issue lightweight poncho. The standard northwestern Europe poncho is much better. The 'Thai' hammock is much simpler and does not involve six metal poles, a builder's spirit level, tape measure and a team of scientists to erect.

We returned from the jungle and moved directly onto more instruction and days in the field, section routine drills, river crossings and boat operations. This was something different and had the unpleasant side effect of inducing chronic cramp. Boat operations are fine right up until the point where you need to operate and react to a contact. The boats swing into the bank and everyone storms off the boat, already dehydrated from two hours in the sun, as the river has no canopy to provide shade. On arriving on the bank you are met by dense jungle. Riverine and estuarine jungle is something else.

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Primary jungle is a good place to operate...operating in riverine jungle is a different story.

We were the Battalion's pioneers on this course as many more subalterns and JNCOs will be trained next year in order to provide a backbone to take on our jungle specialisation.

CO's afternote: Congratulations to Sgt Nick King for being awarded a distinction and a JW instructor recommendation.

The Corps Of Drums, 6 Platoon, B Company

DMaj S Huggins writes:

It has now been six months since the Battalion arrived in Chepstow from Cyprus. Many of the Battalion's successes from the Cyprus tour have long since been forgotten. However, the Drums Platoon is undeniably one of those successes and is still going strong. During the Cyprus tour the Drums grew in numbers and ability, gaining an excellent reputation on both military and civilian circuits.

The move to Chepstow saw a number of changes take place. The reforming of the company groups meant that cuts in other areas had to be made. The Drums were moved to B Company to reform as 6 (Drums) Platoon. Initially there was confusion from within the platoon with what role the drummers would be expected to play within the new structure. All questions were quickly answered and by the start of the Battalion's leave in March the platoon knew exactly what would be expected of them. The platoon was to remain together and 'double hat' as riflemen and drummers. The GPMG-SF role would be passed to the manoeuvre support sections within the company. Soldiers remaining from the old 6 Platoon took on the manoeuvre support section within Drums.

It took very little time for the platoon to fit in with the company. The drummers got on with what they had to do, knuckling down very well to the task in hand. Drums engagements began to filter in on arrival in Chepstow and any doubts about B Company's support to the musical commitment of the platoon soon disappeared.

The only real hurdle for the platoon came in May on return from B Company's live firing package at Dartmoor. The company returned to jump straight into training for deployment to Sierra Leone. B Company command group would deploy with two platoons to support the training team that was being raised by the Battalion. Drums were to remain behind to fulfil their musical commitments and to support the KAPE tour that would be touring the Battalion's recruiting area. This was a blow to most of the platoon who took the news of being left behind quite badly. However, this bad feeling was short-lived and overcome by a packed six weeks of drums training and engagements. Our engagements included the Cardiff Royal Salute (never before done by



The Drum Major assisting on a KAPE Tour.

a Corps of Drums on its own), the Usk Balloon Festival, the Aldershot Military Museum and the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn. We had two weeks of KAPE that included parades at Northampton, Hinkley, Grimsby, Wellingborough and Dunstable. It was then onto Catterick for a music concentration week that saw the Corps performing pass out parades for a Parachute Regiment company and a Guards company.

On the Battalion's return from overseas it was straight on leave for all. It is now business as usual in B Company with everyone concentrating on Northern Ireland Training. Engagements continue to come in steadily. Straight after the Northern Ireland package the Corps will be preparing for a busy Christmas period including the Lord Mayor's Show and the Lincoln Christmas Market. As for now B Company is back to normal

Sierra Leone Deployment - Operation Basilica

The Commanding Officer writes:

It was with much surprise that I received a telephone call on a pleasant May afternoon inviting myself and the QM to go on a reconnaissance visit to Sierra Leone some 36 hours later. Once the RMO had found his anti-malarial tablets and after much to-ing and fro-ing, we left with OC B Company to darkest West Africa. To be involved in a mission from the very outset was a pleasure. Although 1 Para and 42 Commando had been in the country, they had not been where we were to be based so everything from infrastructure to logistics had to be set up from scratch. All of a sudden, we found ourselves operating Battalion to LAND and PJHQ level, which was quite an education.

The following articles are written from the perspectives of various members of the Battalion and should provide an insight into what we did. It was an experience that few of us will forget and, dare I say it, a deployment that we got absolutely right. While every single soldier made a major contribution, I would like to single out the

outstanding contributions made by Maj Nick Nottingham (OC B Company) and Alf Todd (QM), WO2 Rich Bredin (Trg WO) and Cpl Brammer and his mortar section. What has happened since our tour has proven how completely unpredictable Sierra Leone can be. I did offer our services for further training teams but Belfast called! Please read on.

The private soldier's view

Pte Boddington, 5 Platoon, writes:

I joined for the same reasons as most...challenge, danger, travel and security. I wanted these in the extreme so I chose the infantry, the knife-edge of soldiering. During Phase 1 training at Bassingbourn and Phase 2 at ITC Catterick, whenever morale was low the training team would boost our determination and motivation with reminders that soon we would be in our battalions and on operations. They were right, within a few months of joining B Company I was on an operational tour in West Africa.

In Sierra Leone I was part of a platoon providing security for the training team. It was a good role as I was always on different tasks: out on patrol in the WMIK Land Rovers, at the RFA ship *Sir Percivale*, providing escort to convoys or to the 'Mexi Float', and of course doing my share of staggung on.

The climate made patrolling tough, but the presence of a real threat made this the least of our worries. Much of our time was spent meeting the locals, gaining their trust and gathering low level intelligence which we achieved by being friendly but professional, traits which I doubt they have seen before in previous visiting troops. The Browning 0.5 mounted on the WMIKs represented our capability to react to any situation; the locals seemed to be reassured by our presence, the children more so when a pack of boiled sweets was produced. The WMIKs proved invaluable with their ability to get us out to isolated villages in the jungle, over roads that could be well placed in the Camel

The Poachers



Rangework with the new weapons system.

Trophy! It is interesting to see the change from the shantytown near Benguema to the mud/straw hut villages that we found out in the sticks.

It was a challenging tour, and proved to be very hard work, but I feel much more confident in my drills and skills now that they have been put to the test in theatre. I am looking forward to my next operational tour with the Poachers.

Pte Jones, 4 Platoon, writes:

I joined the Army not really knowing what to expect because I didn't know anyone who had joined before me. My main reasons for joining up were wanting a challenge and a chance to prove myself two things I don't think I could have done as a civilian.

The first few weeks of training were hard and the Army way of doing things took some getting used to. As my training progressed things got easier and to my horror I started to enjoy it! After passing out of training I had three weeks' leave before joining the 2nd Battalion in Cyprus; this was the light at the end of the tunnel that the instructors were on about all those weeks previously.

It took a few weeks for me to find my feet and adjust to life after training as I guess everyone knows. After a couple of months we moved back to England; much to the relief of some of the lads as they had been in Cyprus for two years. Our new home is Chepstow, a little far from my home town but getting away at weekends is a real bonus.

Shortly after arrival in Chepstow, B (Leicestershire) Company went on operations in Sierra Leone - my first tour and the challenge I had wanted from the start. The days there were long and we got little time off but every effort was made to make us as comfortable as possible. On occasion we got a few days down at the supply ship, it was a chance to wash our kit, take a hot shower and grab a few beers! I just hope the rest of my time in the Army is as good as the first six months.

An African Adventure

Sgt Nick Lakey writes:

It had been a long and cold week in Scotland on Exercise Pilgrim's Progress. The OC, Maj Hunter, called us all into a tent and informed the company that we could possibly be deploying to Sierra Leone. At this time it was all he knew.

He was, however, one step ahead of myself, as I didn't really have a clue where in Africa Sierra Leone was! An air of anticipation stayed with us on the long journey back to Chepstow. After a day of admin back in camp it emerged that the Battalion would be providing a training team of sorts for the West African country. After much haggling and wrangling 42 SNCOs, JNCOs and officers were announced as the chosen few who would accompany B Company on this unique trip. WO2 Rich Bredin headed up the instructor team and he was thrown into

the deep end to start the task of getting the operation off the ground.

Initially, everything went at 100mph, the problem being that no-one knew how long we had before deployment. Once the recce party returned, however, things calmed down and we started to tailor the two weeks that we were now given to prepare us for the package ahead. Medically and logistically everything went well. The training syllabus, though, was another matter! The slightly shocking news from the CO was that he required us to prepare for 1,000 recruits of the Sierra Leonean Army (SLA). Rich Bredin set about sorting out the team Orbat and the programme while the rest of the team under the SNCOs spent the next week and a half rehearsing BLs and learning a new weapon system, the SLR!

As with most pre-deployments the time flew past and within a blink of an eye we were touching down in Lungi airport near



One of the many visits prior to departing.

The Poachers



Sgt Phillips receiving instruction on the 50 Cal.

Freetown after a 15-hour flight, and stepping into the world's media. It was like stepping into a sauna with the heat and humidity. After a short night chopper ride we landed at Benguema camp, a training establishment used by the SLA, which had been fought over many times before, the last being 28 days ago. It transpired that up to 4,000 rebels had steamrollered through the area on their way to the capital, Freetown. It was a shell of a place with just a few kids and regular SLA soldiers around... hardly Bassingbourn! We settled into our tents and spent the next four days preparing for the tidal wave of recruits to arrive.

It was about 1500hrs on the Tuesday when a couple of trucks with about 100 bedraggled looking Sierra Leoneans pulled into camp. They were all ages up to about 50! They had only scruffy rags as clothes, few had any sort of shoes and none had any possessions. They did, however, bring smiles, and plenty of singing! They were processed with alarming ease by the SLA and sent to finish off helping the engineers and ourselves to erect their camp. The arrivals kept coming for the next 24 hours until we had 1,000 men. Unfortunately the SLA logistics did not match up to their manpower and it was obvious that this would be an ongoing problem for the next six weeks. Luckily we managed to get a couple of insiders deployed down to Freetown and they provided an invaluable link.

Day one came and it became evident that all the recruits had served in the Army before and most had only been out in civilian street for 18 months. We had all sorts - RMPs, navy, infantry and even a pastor! Our initial expectations had been that the men would be new to the services so this news was welcomed. The rest of the week was spent squadding and drilling the troops. Each team

of four men received 100 recruits. This made a set up of one team leader and three instructors for three platoons... a ratio of 33-1! And people whinge about being at the depot! The three guys with myself, Cpl Tom Crabbe, LCpl John Stow and Fos Foster, a Royal Engineer sergeant, set about giving the men a rank structure and began the training.

Week two began after an epic Sunday in which Sgt Wayne Heeley constructed the 'bridge over the river Kwai' which would allow us to travel to the range without getting too wet! Basic infantry engineering was used - chainsaw, a tree down and bridge the gap! The first lesson of the morning for the next two weeks was PT. A steady plod of 3-4 miles with the recruits singing their heads off. Quite a spectacle! The rest of the day was taken up with weapon lessons and basic fieldcraft. The highlight of the week was a battle inoculation range for the men, which the CO rather sportingly tried out and was followed down by two shell-shocked SLA majors who, prior to training, had a rather imperial view of the British officer! This was followed by a firepower demonstration with all the normal kit - grenades, small arms, RGGs, claymores and a spectacular fly past by a Chinook and its mini-gun. The crowd went wild! We had our first range day, which was testing to say the least, and week three saw the introduction of platoon tactics. Kit had also started to arrive for the men such as uniforms, ponchos, berets and trainers. Our main training problem now was how to keep Africans happy in the rain. And boy, did it rain!

We had now identified our potential leaders and of course, our good old 15-year privates (service, not age!) and it was decided to change the orbit to a complete unit. Two battalion groups were formed with four rifle

platoons, a recce platoon, mortars and a QM's platoon. Training for GPMGs and RPK was given to the gunners and Cpl Dickie Elliot got to grips with the 'drop-shorts'. More core skills were taught and practised such as anti-ambush drills, platoon attacks and ambushes. Each platoon received a platoon commander, as did the companies. We had a promotion session and a full complement of rank was issued.

Week five was now upon us and it took the form of a confirmatory week. The men had 10 stands to complete, in each of which they were tested on the skills they had been taught. This gave the officers a chance to command their men, the seniors and section commanders a chance to grip their platoons and the privates the chance to create problems and dramas. But isn't that nearly always the case(!)? It also gave the teams a chance to sit back and assess what kind of progress had been made.

Benguema was now regenerated. In six weeks it had come alive again. The small market was full, the school was packed and there were families back in the houses. Happy faces were all around where before there had been ghosts. The recruits were now trained into some sort of fighting force. Problems still came up and the logistics were a complete nightmare but the training team had achieved a great deal in a short time out of very little. Luckily the students had been keen to learn. They had sat through lessons with malaria, illness and all on one bowl of rice a day and no pay! Now, compared to the rest of the country's army they looked like a professional unit.

Our final week arrived and it gave us the opportunity to lift the men up before they deployed on operations. Competitions for the best shot and the best student were conducted and a champion company was

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nominated. After a final parade it was now time to say farewell to our new African friends. If their country gets Sgt Si Cutts to get to grip with their logistics, well, they will clean up in a week! But deep down we all know that life in Sierra Leone is not that simple.

A Platoon Commander's Perspective

2Lt Johnny Delf writes:

My first real glimpse of Sierra Leone, a country blighted by poverty and war, was from the back of a Chinook as it thundered through the night over the small villages and towns that glowed like fireflies in the darkness below. Around me the faces of 4 Platoon B (Leicestershire) Company were illuminated only by the dim green lights of the helicopter's interior; many were still unfamiliar to me and I wondered what they were thinking as I did my best to put on an expression of relaxed confidence.

My expectations of Africa were a clichéd mix of images of Ethiopia, with endless grasslands and mud hut villages, or, the dense and impenetrable jungle of Tarzan fame. In reality Sierra Leone is neither of these, yet it is both a fascinating and often tragic country. Roughly equivalent in size to Northern Ireland, the north and east half of the country is dominated by near mountainous terrain and it is here where the source of much of its mineral wealth can be found. Government control in this region is often tenuous if not non-existent, and as such serves as a base for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), led by the now incarcerated Foday Sankoh. They are the key antagonists in the country who carried out many of the atrocities and mutilations that shocked world opinion earlier this year.

As you progress towards the east the terrain flattens out, becoming a mix of mangrove swamps or marshland that surrounds the major rivers and dense undergrowth which forms beneath vast areas of palm trees. This land is crisscrossed by thin sandy footpaths that interlink the villages and towns, and by fast flowing streams which, after periods of heavy rain, can quickly swell into rivers.

The Freetown peninsula is the only high feature in the west, with Freetown itself a sprawling shanty town on the northern edge backed by hills of 1,500m in height to the south. Benguema Training Camp is a few miles south of the town of Waterloo and the main road route which links Freetown with the rest of the country. It was in this area that our own camp was situated, effectively a camp within a camp. Conditions here were remarkably good and within a few weeks of our arrival BFBS televisions, radios, welfare phones, showers, cookhouse, RAP and laundry facilities made life more comfortable despite the high humidity and often-daily downpour. The QM, Maj Alf Todd, had played another blinder!

The climate made health and hygiene one of the top priorities during our time in theatre. Even superficial cuts and abrasions could quickly downgrade a soldier if left untreated

and the risk of disease was a constant threat, the most serious of these being malaria, which is extremely prevalent during the monsoon season. Sympathy for those laid low by diarrhoea or 24-hour fevers however was typically lacking - Pte Fox, whose face blew up to resemble an angry hamster after a cut was infected, was quickly nicknamed Popeye while Cpl Dyson, the RSDC, was rarely to be seen without a toilet roll clutched in one hand and a face of pure discomfort as he hurried to the latrines.

The system of work in camp was divided between the training team who had the challenging task of training the 1,000 SLA recruits in basic infantry skills in just six weeks; the force protection element made up of 4 and 5 Platoons B Company; and a section of the Mortar Platoon. The whole camp was supported by attached arms from the RMP, R Signals, RLC, RACHD, RAMC, AGC, REME, RE, and Intelligence Corps. As OC 4 Platoon my task was to provide security to British Forces personnel and equipment both within BTC and the local area. While at first glance such a mission seemed deceptively simple, it required a considerable degree of flexibility as priorities and tasking changed from day to day. Beyond guarding the camp itself and patrols by day and night, convoys also had to be escorted, a guard provided for RFA *Sir Percivale*, in-theatre training to be continued and R and R to be included. While all this might be achieved relatively easily elsewhere, the unstable situation in Sierra Leone inevitably disrupted any timetable.

Daily orders groups helped to provide an overall view of what each element of the company group was doing and hoped to achieve in the near future. As our role in theatre and rules of engagement dictated that we could defend ourselves only if fired upon, patrol states and their frequency and duration would often be changed at short notice depending on the perceived threat. Intelligence briefs were our first indication of future events that might affect camp routine and were considered carefully in true Mystic Meg fashion as we tried to discern what was happening in the country. While our own patrols helped to provide low level intelligence in our immediate area, it was also important to look further afield at the situation overall. RUF movement 50km away, the arrest or capture of key protagonists or a sudden influx of refugees might affect the operation within hours.

From my own perspective patrolling was the most interesting facet of our role in Sierra Leone. Not only did it give us the opportunity to see much of the country, but also it allowed us to interact with the people themselves. The majority of patrols were conducted using two WIMIK Land Rovers armed with GPMGs and .50 Browning machine guns. A typical patrol would utilise the road or wider tracks to reach the towns in the immediate area, and from these locations a patrol would move on foot to the smaller villages and hamlets whose tracks radiated outwards like spokes on a wheel. Each group of villages

has a chief, while a headman or section chief represents individual villages. While many people speak a little English, the majority speak Creole which often sounds very similar to English: for example, 'Ow di bodi?' means 'how's your body?' or 'how are you?'. Nevertheless I spent a good 15 minutes trying to work out if one village had a chief or head man only to realise, after some confusion, that his name was in fact Chief No - No. Problems could also arise due to the many villages in the same area having the same name or one village having two or even three different names. Patrol commanders therefore had to be quite specific when asking people the name of a nearby village chief, or the best route to take to avoid hurtling around the countryside with confused expressions and maps held at varying angles. As a platoon commander I, of course, never got lost; either the map was incorrect or the track wasn't where it should have been - which is quite different.

Routine within the camp itself, while not always as interesting as the patrols, nevertheless had its moments. The difficulty for me was in maintaining a high standard in terms of skills, hygiene and professionalism in a hot climate with long periods of relative inactivity. Time spent off guard duties was broken down into training, such as a live-firing package with an abundance of ammunition including LAW 94mm, RGGS and Claymores. There was also the opportunity to visit RFA *Sir Percivale* for a much-needed air-conditioned break with an R and R trip to a 'wish you were here' style beach. Even 'staggering on' on guard was not without incident with soldiers being dive-bombed at night by some formidable looking crickets. Most of these terrifying creatures (which would think nothing of crawling under your mosquito net to peer at you) seemed to think that LCpl Pensrose's balding pate was in fact Runway 1, much to his annoyance and our amusement.

While Operation Palliser and our role as part of Operation Basilica have both been relatively short in duration it is abundantly clear that Sierra Leone cannot have a 'quick fix' solution. After many years of war and civil unrest much of its infrastructure lies in ruins. None of the amenities that we often take for granted exist - such as public transport, a health service, or even a reliable power grid or phone system. The poor state of roads and the dilapidated condition of most of the vehicles creates major logistical problems for the population and few will think twice about walking for miles with little or no footwear. Despite these problems, or perhaps even because of them, the people of Sierra Leone still have a remarkable endurance and optimistic outlook. Wherever we went people would smile and wave, and often if we gave sweets to the children of a village in thanks for their parents' help as guides or as sources of knowledge, we would return to camp laden down with coconuts.

In military terms there were numerous difficulties in operating in an environment such as Sierra Leone with considerable

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reliance placed on using HF communications equipment, and a good knowledge of the local area key to planning operations. The prevalence of small arms held by militias such as the Civilian Defence Forces (CDF) or West Side Boys meant that the smallest incident could potentially turn ugly in a very short space of time. Many of these groups had only a loose command structure and were often made up of young men with little discipline; their intentions were therefore not always clear.

In summary Operation Basilica was both a near vertical learning curve and invaluable experience for me personally. As a platoon commander those faces that had seemed unfamiliar as we arrived by Chinook are now real and the country of Sierra Leone is no longer an alien world of darkness. Finally we were also able to practise that almost unique infantry task: filling sandbags. Lots of them.

'Larium Days'- The Poacher's Operation Basilica Deployment to Sierra Leone

Maj Paul Leslie writes:

'Gold and diamond smuggling, and an endless guerrilla war between soldiers, rebels and foreign mercenaries, makes Sierra Leone one of the poorest, most corrupt, dangerous...and exciting countries in the world.' Extract from *Once A Pilgrim* by Will Scully.

On 24 May the Poachers were busy establishing themselves in their 'new' home at Beachley Barracks, Chepstow. The freight from Cyprus was still arriving and the Battalion was making initial plans for the start of Northern Ireland Training. This would be followed by an Operation Banner deployment to West Belfast in November. Those with a sense of humour laughed at the ironic prospect of what was supposed to be a 'jungle battalion' training for Northern Ireland. The Battalion had returned to the UK after the heat and dust of Cyprus and was now on 90 days' notice to move for operations. Ten days later (on 3 June) the Battalion advance party, led by the QM, Capt Alf Todd, arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone,



Working with the Sierra Leonian Army.

West Africa. By 11 June, B Company Group, led by Maj Nick Nottingham were occupying a training camp in the jungle at Benguema Training Centre (BTC) Waterloo approximately 30 miles south east of Freetown. The QM had quickly established a well-equipped and functional camp (not unlike one he had prepared earlier in Jordan for a joint FTX). By 15 June NCOs from the Poachers, under the direction of WO2 Bredin, were training soldiers from the Sierra Leone Army (SLA). Prior to deployment the period between being 'warned off' and embarking had been busy.

A training package sponsored by UNTAT had taken place while at platoon level, patrolling, weapon skills and tactics were practised. For the majority of JNCOs a new weapon system was studied - the SLR. Never has the lantern been swung so much and the smell of 'old sweats' been so prominent in the Poachers! Operation Basilica would be exactly the type of deployment many soldiers had joined for...overseas, unknown, exciting, challenging, and with a distinct element of risk. The Poachers' mission emerged and evolved and we soon learned that we would be responsible for training a brigade of SLA 'soldiers' (1,000 men) while also ensuring that a visible and capable British presence remained in the area once the Amphibious Ready Group and 42

Commando departed.

The mission was challenging. We would form the key LAND element for Operation Basilica. Our tasks were, by necessity, wide-ranging. Primarily, we were to establish a secure environment in which to conduct training for 1,000 screened SLA trainees over a six-week period. However, given the operationally uncertain environment in which we would operate we would also prepare contingency plans for a range of options. These options included the protection of the airport and peninsula if required as well as the reinforcement of the British presence. Plans were also made to assist with future training and advice to government forces.

The physical and operational environment dictated the establishment of an orbit that was both lean and pragmatic. The basis of this structure was B Company Group at BTC. The Company Group numbered approximately 250 and included the instructors (largely NCOs from C Company), the security platoons (B Company), as well as combat and logistic support from the Intelligence Corps, RMP, RE, signals, medics and RLC (this included RLC drivers and a RM Mexeflote). In many ways the Company Group was more akin to a mini Battle Group. This Orbit was further enhanced by naval support from HMS Argyll as well as logistic support from RFA Sir Percivale (co-ordinated by WO2 Brown 'the bearded one') both ships operated under the overall umbrella of Operation Basilica. Outside of BTC and based at HQ BRITFOR Freetown the CO took on the role of Deputy Commander BRITFOR with Maj Paul Leshe as Chief of Staff and Capt Steve Romilly as the ever busy SO3 Ops.

The training mission took place within an operationally volatile environment which proved challenging for all. The focus was on providing realistic, functional training that would significantly improve the combat effectiveness of SLA troops within six weeks. The arrival of the recruits, many without footwear, blankets and eating utensils, quickly established that this would not be an easy task. The methods adopted were simple, flexible and progressive.



Cpl Dennis meeting the Secretary of State for Defence.

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Starting with drill and basic weapon handling designed to improve cohesion and individual skills, the programme developed to include patrolling, VCPs, platoon-level ops, first aid etc as well as instruction on the Geneva Convention, leadership and man management. The task was soon identified as being two-fold: to train individual troops and enable them to fight in a coherent manner at sub-unit level while simultaneously identifying and training the command structure.

The results that were achieved in only six weeks were a credit to both the SLA soldiers and the Poachers alike. Our initial impressions changed as we saw daily improvements in the SLA recruits. While it was easy to find fault in the SLA we soon realised the individual and collective problems that they faced. How would we cope if we had not been paid for several months, were being fed one rice meal a day (later increased to two meals) and had not received boots, uniforms or basic equipment? This lack of basic provision was compounded by not knowing where they would deploy to and how their families would be provided for. For many Poachers the abiding memory of Sierra Leone will be a combination of Larium, (the anti-malarial medicine), early nights in the jungle, and most memorably the spontaneous, cheerful singing of the recruits while marching (which despite training remained a hybrid jog/shuffle).

The operational nature of the tour was highlighted by the fact that the government forces only held the ground around the Freetown peninsula and Lungi Airport. This was known colloquially as 'the horseshoe'. This precarious position would become apparent later on by the capture of some of our successors from 1 R Irish by the well-armed, though largely criminal force known as the West Side Boys. Their captivity only ended as the result of a tri-service military operation which resulted in casualties on both sides.

Training, aside the tour was not without incident. On several occasions soldiers experienced incidents with both government and coalition forces on transit routes, patrol or at various UN checkpoints. The physical proximity of the RUF and the fighting was highlighted by the collapse of the SLA at Masiaka in June. With RUF rebels only two hours' march away and the roads invaded by refugees this led to a heightened state of security around BTC with defence measures and increased patrolling put into effect.

The government forces' continued fear of RUF attack was often given momentum by rumour and led to occasional panics by local civilians, military and UN alike. As a result throughout the tour many incidents took place that required prompt decision-making and proportionate responses by commanders and soldiers alike.

On 22 July the mission was complete. 4 Bde SLA passed out at Benguema Training Camp (under the watchful eye of the RSM). This Bde was made up of 1st Battalion 'The Steelbacks' and 2nd Battalion 'The Tigers'.

By 27 July the Battalion had returned to Chepstow and was celebrating the battle of Talavera. CSMs were already looking for platoon commanders still wearing their jungle boots and exaggerated tales of life in the jungle had already started. The legacy of Sierra Leone remains, future generations of soldiers and young officers will once again have to endure tales of the SLR, snakes, Larium and mosquito nets.

However, soon after arrival back in Chepstow the conversation turned once more, as the 'new sweats' asked 'so what's Belfast all about then?'

Life as a Liaison Officer in Sierra Leone

Capt Brian Rayment writes:

The humidity and heat was a shock to the system as I stepped off the Hercules at Lungi airstrip on Saturday 10 June. It was only five days previously that I had arrived back in England after an attachment with the 1st Battalion in Londonderry.

My new role was to be liaison officer between B Company Group and any local forces local to the area of Benguema Training Camp, where the training of 1,000 Sierra Leone Army recruits was taking place. There were many different groups that required contacting, including Jordanian, Nigerian and Indian United Nations forces as well as the various factions that made up the civilian defence forces, and the locally based Sierra Leonean Army checkpoints.

To make life easier for myself a Sierra Leone Army officer (later to be captured along with the R Irish personnel) was attached to me who, with his extensive local knowledge, was invaluable to me in finding out accurate information quickly. It did not take long before I had built up good relationships with all of the local United Nations forces and local village chiefs within a 30km radius of Benguema Training Camp. The United Nations obviously were better equipped than ourselves and proved to be helpful on a number of occasions when we called for assistance.

One of the great benefits of my job was the opportunity to travel that it presented; I was able to visit parts of the country and meet groups of people that others were not able to. One of the most interesting places that I

regularly visited was the West Side Boys' camp, the West Side Boys being a faction of the Sierra Leone Army who broke away and went into the jungle. Originally fighting with the Revolutionary United Front they have only recently switched sides and now fight alongside the Sierra Leone Army. I never really knew how they were going to react when I was there, although my tasking was normally threat driven and there were periods when I kept well clear of their locations. On the other end of the scale, but equally interesting, was the local displaced persons camp, which housed about 14,000 refugees from surrounding villages. The inhabitants ranged from orphans through to children under the age of 18, some as young as 12 who had been taken from the front line and accommodated with everyone else either side of a disused airstrip in makeshift shelters.

The situation throughout our time in Sierra Leone was unstable and this often manifested itself in confusion between the local forces. One such occasion was when soldiers from the local civilian defence force manning a road check point arrested and detained two West Side Boys. However with our neutral relationship between all sides I was able to secure the release and take the detainees back to safer and more secure surroundings.

Working closely with the United Nations was vital as they had troops further forward than us and were able to provide good intelligence as to what was happening at the front line. Having worked with the Jordanians while based in Cyprus I found immediately that we had something in common and we quickly established a good rapport with them. On one occasion they had managed to capture a Revolutionary United Front soldier who obviously held good information with regard to enemy strengths and weaknesses as well as information relating to an attack that had been damaging to the local forces. With a bit of persuading they allowed us to question the soldier and take a copy of a diary that he had on him for our own analysis.

During my time in Sierra Leone I had a busy and occasionally hazardous routine, and I will take away from it a sense of achievement in hopefully doing a little bit to enable the war-torn country to start to rebuild itself.



Interface with the Indian UN contingent.

East of England Regiment

Regiment supports Regular Army exercise in Germany

The Regiment provided both Regular and TA staff for Exercise Rhino Spear from 26 June to 7 July in Germany. 49(E) Bde was required, as a Regular Army Assistance Table (RAAT) task, to act a lower control for the I(UK) Arm'd Div command post exercise and the Regiment's contribution to filling the shortfall in the Bde staff Orbat were Maj (Adj't) Gary Morris, Lt Chris Panton, WO1 (RSM) Abbs, Sgt Lamb and Sgt Starrie. They all very much enjoyed the experience and took the opportunity to top up their truly duty free supplies for those long English winter nights.

Training goes on with successes

At the TA Skill at Arms Meeting in June, the Regiment achieved a highly creditable sixth place overall with Sgt Gorski taking second place in the SNCOs individual category.

Our success at ITC Catterick continues. Pte Lawrence from HQ Company achieved best recruit on the TA infantryman's course, Pte Dennison from D Company secured best shot and Pte Lake secured an award for best endeavour. A great start for them all.

Training in July centred on Exercise Lincoln Dash at Stanford over the weekend 14-16 July. The exercise practised advance to contacts, river crossings using flotation packs, company deliberate attacks and Fibua (fighting in built-up areas) assaults. The event was visited by Brig Donald Wilson late BW, the new 49(E) Bde Commander and included support from 73 Engr Regiment's Jersey Squadron.

Over the same period, the Band moved to Bournemouth for their annual 15-day training commitment. The musicians spent the first week practising their scores and the second entertaining the tourists from the bandstands around the holiday resort. It was deemed a great success and an excellent way to publicise the Regiment outside East Anglia.

Geoffrey Hoon meets the Regiment

The Secretary of State for Defence dropped into our Mansfield TA Centre to inspect training on 16 June. He was welcomed by the Commanding Officer and had the opportunity to hear, at first hand, the views of soldiers about the post-SDR TA. He appeared to have enjoyed his short time with us.

The Summer Ball Season

This year's Officers' Mess Summer Ball was held on 10 July at North Luffenham thanks to the generosity of 1 RRF who were away on a roulemont tour in South Armagh. Their Mess was put entirely at our disposal and, with the co-operation and support of their QM(T), Capt Dan Taylor, late of the Vikings, an event to remember was organised.

Overlooking the glorious Rutland

countryside, this former RAF Mess, with a ballroom large enough to seat the 150 revellers with ease, was the ideal setting for the Regiment's first grand occasion. It was an excellent opportunity to gather a large number of former officers from 6 R Anglian, 7 R Anglian and 3 WFR under one roof. Lt Col and Mrs Tony Powell came from as far as Sennelager! We also took the opportunity during the evening to welcome three newly commissioned officers - Ian Sackree, Bob Rogers and Tristan Griffin, into the Regiment.

Two weeks later in the TA Centre at Leicester, and under the watchful eye of WO1 (RSM) Abbs, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held its own summer ball. It was well attended and lived up to expectations.

Arrivals and Departures

In June we welcomed Capt Ty Smith back into the bosom of the Royal Anglian family. He took over as permanent staff administration officer (PSAO) at the Leicester Company following the retirement of our style guru, Capt Mike Cunningham. We said farewell in July to WO2 (NRPS) Bedding from the band and SSgt (NRPS) Bracey from the RAO. Both leave the Army on retirement.

Annual Training Commitment

August is a traditionally quiet period in the TA as officers and men spend time with their families and try to make up for the weekends spent training during the remainder of the year. This August was no exception and, other than a series of company administration weekends to prepare for annual camp, only Maj de Planta and his officer cadets were foolish enough to venture outdoors to train.

Over the weekend 8-10 September 2000, the East of England's five rifle companies and its HQ deployed to Sennybridge on

Exercise Millennium Bear, the 49 (East) Brigade annual concentration from 8-22 September 2000. Over 300 soldiers moved into Cileni Fibua village for a week before deploying into the field for the second week. The first seven days were devoted to a range of specialist cadres; from driving to mortaring and leadership. The aim was to raise standards across the Battalion's specialist platoons and to give soldiers the opportunity to gain skills not normally possible over a single weekend.

The potential officers' cadre, run by Maj Frank de Planta, focused on Military Training Qualification 2, an essential prerequisite for TA Sandhurst. East Midlands UOTC was tasked with producing the exam. Ten of the eight officer cadets, seven passed. The results were very satisfying and have provided a pool of potential officers for the future.

The command and leadership cadre, run by Maj Mike Googe, aimed to improve skills across all ranks. It achieved its aim while Lt Bob Rogers ran a recruit cadre for 27 troops in preparation for their combat infantryman's course at ITC Catterick.

Following three days' work-up training on company advances to contact and reserve demolitions, the Battalion moved seamlessly into the Brigade exercise which had three phases; security of Divisional Rear Area, company reserved demolitions and a Battle Group attack. Throughout we were supported by attachments from 307 (SNH) Bty RA, 211 AD Bty RA, the Jersey Fd Sqn RE and 254 Fd Amb. The opportunities for all arms training in today's TA are very limited and the availability of combat support and combat service support assets during the exercise allowed all ranks to gain a great deal from the exercise.

The difficulties of operating as a Battle Group in the new post-SDR TA were highlighted throughout the five days. The lack of RSO, IO, Ops Offr appointments and a fully established Signal Platoon made



Members of B (Lincolnshire) Company on Exercise Millennium Bear.

The East of England Regiment



Debrief after a Company attack circuit by Maj Brothwood on Exercise Millennium Bear.

running the battle extremely demanding. Maj de Planta, Maj Alun-Jones and Maj Morris in Battle Group Main each dredged the depth of their knowledge to dig out headquarters skills that they had parked long ago. Even Capt Morris managed to tune a 353 and erect an 8m mast without the help of a signaller! Maj de Planta should be especially congratulated for managing to fit his military activities around his constant trips to the mobile bath unit.

The exercise was visited by DCinC, the GOC 4 Div, Brig TA and Col Robin Drummond, Deputy Honorary Colonel for Lincolnshire. The fuel blockade in the first week reduced a normally busy visitors' programme to a mere trickle, however, we were fortunate to be visited by Honorary Colonel B Company, Col Drummond in week two, who saw the Battalion in good fettle.

The exercise tested all aspects of the

Battalion, which illustrated beyond doubt its ability to operate in many different and demanding environments. It is not often that the TA spends over seven days in the field in typical Sennybridge weather! To a man the soldiers endured the weather and still produced the goods when asked. The exercise was without doubt excellent build-up training for the Battalion's new focus - Cyprus Exercise Lion's Pride 01 in June 2001.

One aspect of the camp which deserves a special mention was the outstanding job done by the chefs. The troops were never let down and it was surprising to hear that the soldiers praised the efforts of the chefs, who produced fantastic meals throughout the exercise. Well done!

We said a sad farewell to CSgt 'Headley' Cox after a two and a half year tour, first with 7 R Anglian and then EER. His calm, relaxed and unique approach to training was just the tonic for TA soldiers. He served his

two companies loyally and will be sorely missed. He retires to run safety training for a firm in Loughborough and everybody wishes him all the success in the future. We also welcome back WO2 (SPSI) Brown for another tour with the TA. He is reunited with Maj Godfrey Shaw at the Leicester Company and the two are already inseparable!

What Next?

Our focus for the next nine months' training will be Exercise Lion's Pride in Cyprus. Supported by elements of 73 Engr Regt, 254 Fd Amb and 100 Regt RA, the EER will spend two weeks at Bloodhound Camp near Episkopi. If it is anything like the 7 R Anglian experience in 1998, it promises to be a memorable fortnight for all.

I know what I will be doing from 9-24 June 2001. Do you?



The CO congratulating LCpl Jeffree as the best student on the Command and Leadership Cadre.

The East of England Regiment

Exercise Rhino Spear 1 (UK) Armd Div CPX My part in its downfall!

Sgt M Starrie writes:

'Ah! Sgt Starrie', says the Adjutant one Wednesday evening. 'How would you like to go to Germany for two weeks as a watchkeeper on Exercise Rhino Spear?' I think to myself: Germany eh? I haven't been there, the land of lager, sausages and all that. Plus, looking after a watch doesn't sound much like hard work! 'Yes sir,' I say in my ignorance of all things radio wise. 'That sounds all right to me, I'll do that'. So three weeks later the Adjutant, RSM, Lt Panton, Sgt Lamb and myself found ourselves in a minibus en route for Harwich, where we boarded the Stena Line catamaran for our super-fast crossing to the Hook of Holland.

After a tortuous five-hour coach ride, we arrived finally at Sennelager, probably the worst lager in the world as they say. The aim of the exercise was to assist 1(UK) Armd Div on their CPX, by acting as the Rear Ops Bde. At this point it strikes me! Wait out Starrie, you haven't ever worked at company CP level let alone brigade! Oh my god, what have I let myself in for? Best I get my coat!

So, after the RSM had calmed my fears (I still have the bruises) and explained my job (NBC/Intelligence Cell) I felt better...only slightly though!

Having arrived at Sennelager gates I couldn't help but notice the 'strip'. A straight road outside of the camp lined with beer barrels and more - all calling for me to attend. However, as I was dreaming of that first German pint, the RSM's steely gaze told me that I would have to wait a while yet. I am pleased to report that he did relent later!

The next couple of days were spent listening to various briefings, reading the handouts that contained among other phrases the immortal line 'bluff is not good enough'. It seemed to me though, that if you could understand the abbreviations of EAs, NAIs, TAIs, IPB, DSOs (decision support overlays that is!) etc that you were probably bluffing anyway!

On day four the exercise began, with the planning phase putting into effect the information absorbed during the aforementioned IPB lectures. Ahead were three days of detailed planning, map marking and trace making for which the RSM and Sgt Lamb became quite adept! I was getting to grips with my allocated task, by brushing up on NBC plotting, downwind hazards and

reports. Yes, I was the assistant Brigade NBC officer!

It is worthy of note that after years of ensuring that any area that I worked from in the field was properly camouflaged, the largest CP 'set-up' I had ever come across, consisted of what can only be described as a large rubber tent with sixteen 432s backed into it! This will give the reader an idea of the size of this beast. No cam nets are required as for real this set up would be located in disused factories etc.

The exercise itself ran through to its conclusion without any major fuss, SOP really! Blue forces routing the Reds. Most departments ran a 12-hour shift system that enabled time away from the HQ to get our heads down properly. During these phases of inactivity, I managed to get a drive in a 432, be shown around Challenger 2 and receive a full brief on AS90, all run of the mill for the PSIs, but for me, a TA platoon sergeant, it was an opportunity not to be missed. Overall, it was a very interesting exercise where we all learned much. It is run every two years and I look forward to getting the chance to participate in the next one. Now then where was I? 'Non persistent nerve agent vapour, wind speed is... 'Capt Law, sir...help!'.



Exercise Rhino Spear - Sgt Starrie, Capt Morris (Adj), Sgt Lamb and WO1 (RSM) Abbs.

1st Battalion - The Vikings



Cpl Thorne with the Whisky bottle - closure of Fort George, 7 October 2000.



LCpl Richard Phair and 'Shetland Vikings' Minden Day.



B (Suffolk) Company soldiers about to board *HMS Trumpler* from an Arctic RIB inflatable, Ex Marble Tor.

The Vikings



1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment NI Football Cup winners 1999-2000, Ebrington Barracks Londonderry.



Pte Tuppen (C Coy) receives the awards for best boxer from the CO.



Cpl Barnes, Sgt Patten, Cpl Boreham - Tug of War - 8 Bde Sports Day



LCpl Phair (A Company) ready to do battle.

The Vikings



LCpl Handley, Dmr Tischler and Dmr Friend on the HLS prior to rural patrol.



Cpl Quittenton.



LCpl Hill, A (Norfolk) Company on patrol in the Shankhill, Belfast.



LCpl Panter - Beach landing, Ex Marble Tor I, Gibraltar.



2Lt Alex Biggs, A (Norfolk) Company on patrol in Belfast.

2nd Battalion - The Poachers



Maj Nick Nottingham and WO2 Bredin running the SLA through their drills.



Sgt Rouget telling fishing stories to Brig JC McColl CBE.



A WIMIK patrol interfaces with the SLA.

The Poachers



Sgt Colyer pauses during an instructional period in Sierra Leone.



The CO inspects D (Sp) Company on Talevera Day.



Cpl Harris makes a new friend.



Sgt Lewis and Cpl Roberts posing for a catalogue shot during the N Training.

The Poachers



LCpl Seymour takes a moment out on the range.



The 4 Platoon frontage, led by Cpl Harris.

The East of England Regiment



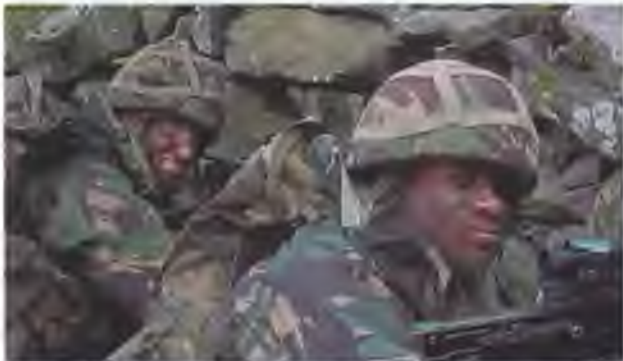
SF in action on Match 9 where both EER SF P1 came first and second.



Sgt Taylor B Company.



Cpl Hunter C Company in action.



Pte Omang, C Company.



A Recce section with a new toy!



2IC C Coy Capt David Sommerville at another training conference!

The East of England Regiment



Drummers on parade.



CSgt De Meyer.



Cpl Duffy, E Company.



Visit of Secretary of State.

158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V)

The Regiment had a busy couple of months preparing for the annual exercise, Millennium Bear. This involved several FTXs and CFXs in the local area and it was on one of these exercises that the Regiment was visited by the Duke of Westminster. He was given a tour of the Regiment in the field and later had an informal get-together with key Regimental personalities. He was suitably impressed with everything that he saw and it seems that the Territorial Army has a staunch supporter in the Duke.

Other notable events have included the inaugural Regimental cocktail party and beating retreat which took place at Burleigh House, home of the Honorary Colonel, Lady Victoria Leatham DL. Many of the local dignitaries attended the event and the salute was taken by Brig Dalby-Welsh. It was a great success and it is hoped that this will become an annual event in the Regimental calendar.

RHQ also took part in a clay pigeon shoot against the Mayor of Peterborough and his team. It was a close call but the Regiment was just beaten in the team event although the Adjutant, more by luck than judgement, saved face by winning the individual event.

Exercise Millennium Bear took place at Caerwent over the period 9-23 September. The first week was spent qualifying soldiers on much needed courses while attempting a major outload of RAF Welford. The second saw the continuation of this outload as well as a major role in the Brigade exercise at Sennybridge. The Regiment performed



WO1 RSM A Cross, Lt Col P Kirkbride and two Canadian Warrant Officers (Nicolle and Vincent).

exceptionally well. The Regiment outloaded more commodities from RAF Welford than any other TA Regiment in the given time span which helped to maintain its excellent reputation both in the Regular and Territorial Army.

The Regiment deployed 250 personnel onto the exercise and these numbers were swollen by 23 Canadians from our 'sister' Regiment, the 23rd (Hamilton) Service Battalion, as well as 5 Estonian Infanteers. The Canadians had an excellent time while on exercise and also while on R and R in London. The Estonians, on the other hand, were overcome

with the cost of living in this country! All in all, the exercise was a success. Our thanks go to the Poachers who made available their facilities at Beachley Barracks at short notice whenever required with the minimum of fuss.

October saw Lt Col Peter Kirkbride moving on to his new post at Northwood. The Regiment wishes both him and his family every success in the future. His successor is Lt Col Jeremy Smith.

The Regiment can look back with some satisfaction at the level and standard of work that has been achieved so far this year. Christmas will bring a well-deserved break.



Members of 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V) and 23 (Hamilton) Service Battalion.

Regimental Sport

Golf Spring Meeting

7 April Richmond Park, Watton

A total of 23 played on what was one of the nicest days this year. There were no complaints or suggestions, and those present enjoyed themselves at this popular venue. It was nice to see a couple of non-playing visitors in the shape of Ron Leatherland, ex Poacher, and Mick Smith ex Pompadour.

Results: Medal: 1st Ev Leyland Nett 67, 2nd Tony Jones Nett 72. Stableford: 1st Mick Abbs 37 pts, 2nd Gordon Halewood 34 pts. 4 B BB: 1st Steve Horton and Les Greenaway 44pts (on countback), 2nd Rod Allen and Tony Jones 44 pts. NP: Stan Bullock. LD: Mick Abbs.

Queens Div Triangular Match 26 May, Canterbury

On an extremely wet and windy day, the Regiment was represented by Messrs Wilcox (Capt), Potter, Wharton, Woodcock, Allen, Leyland, Fox, Abbs, Greenaway, Jones. At the halfway stage, the team trailed the Fusiliers by just one and a half points. Regrettably in the afternoon round, conditions were so poor with the greens becoming unplayable, that the match was abandoned, and the Fusiliers, having the most points at that stage, were declared the winners, with the Regiment coming second. Gentlemen well done and hard luck! Let us hope the year 2001 will be ours.

Summer Meeting 23 June, Ely

On a rather overcast day 25 members of the society with one guest, took to the field at this change of venue, heralded as very good and which will host next year's summer meeting. (Ely is geographically about the centre of the East Anglian area). We welcome WO2 Stuart Robinson as a new member, and hope we will see more of him!

Results: Isham Salver (Scratch): 1st Pete Woodcock. 2nd Geoff Peck. Pompadour Cup (Medal): 1st Chris Kett, 2nd Kevin Brett. Suffolk Cup (Stableford): 1st Paul (Chalky) Whight, 2nd Dave Wharton. Ponsonby Cup (Foursome): 1st George Boss and Mick Abbs, 2nd Gordon Halewood and Peter Barnes. NP: P Whight. LD: Paul Fox. Ball Draw: Les Greenaway, Shack Shailes, David Goude, G Halewood.

Autumn Meeting 15 September, Flempton

The show still went on, despite POL shortages and desperate weather. Regrettably the toll was that only seven managed to turn up, five playing only nine holes. Thanks go to John Grouse for running the day.

Results: Nine Holes: 1st John Grouse, 2nd David Knight. 18 Holes: 1st Ron Templeman, 2nd Steve (Boris) Davis. (The lengths some people will go to for such prestigious prizes!).

For next year's venues and dates, see Regimental Diary.



Summer Meeting 2000 Ely City Golf Club. Standing, from left: Maj C Kett, RSM M Abbe, G Boss, Maj G Halewood, D Wharton, P Woodcock, Maj P Barnes, G Peck. Knelling, from left: WO2 Whight and K Brett.

Special Features

'To Inspire, to Achieve' (Motto of the Army Cadet Force)

Col G Newmarch, Former County Commandant Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force, writes:

The Army Cadet Force, the national voluntary youth organisation sponsored by the Regular Army, is changing rapidly. It is an organisation, which has developed 'attitude'. The slogan 'Get Some Attitude' is one that you might have heard of during the last year, and it one that is very apt for the modern day cadet. Take a closer look at these cadets, because they have a great deal to offer.

Cadets of today have 'attitude'. They are intelligent, confident, self-assured and ambitious. They expect to be entertained and challenged at every opportunity, they have a desire to learn and are eager to achieve. More importantly, they want to be inspired.

The Army Cadet Force is not a recruiting organisation for the Regular Army. However, the Regular Army has quite rightly identified the Army Cadet Force as fertile ground for potential recruits. Indeed, there has never been a better time to interest cadets in a military career with the Armed Forces gaining such a high profile in the media in its operations in the Balkans and Sierra Leone. Why else do these young adults join if not to gain a flavour of the Army?

The distinctions between the ACF and CCF are becoming blurred. Gone are the days when the Army looked to the CCFs for its potential officers and the ACF for the NCOs and other ranks. Now many cadets stay on at schools and colleges to take A levels and go on to university. A number of 16-year-olds are accepted into Welbeck College, the Army's sixth form college in Nottinghamshire. The competition for places at Welbeck is fierce indeed.

Colleges of higher education have formed partnerships with county ACFs in running 'pre-uniform' courses. These 'closed detachments' sponsored by the ACF are outstandingly successful. The syllabus concentrates on future careers in all the uniformed services including commissioned rank. Colleges in Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds and Stamford are pre-eminent in this field. Local TA units actively support these detachments and encourage many student cadets to become potential officers in the TA. In Lincolnshire we have 18-year-old cadets who are also in the TA awaiting their Territorial Commissioning Boards, such is the quality of these cadets. In 1999 two former student cadets at Stamford College who achieved A levels passed out in first and second place in their intake in basic training with the Royal Marines.

The East of England Regiment has not been slow to recognise to potential of senior cadets. A number have joined the Regiment and

have served with the Regular Battalions on full time Regular service or voluntary mobilisation attachments.

The importance of the Army Foundation College in considering a career in the Army is now widely known among cadets. They know that entry standards are high and only the best are accepted so they are conscientious at school to achieve as many GCSEs as possible. A 16-year-old cadet who has eight GCSEs knows that three years' experience in the ACF should count in his or her favour.

So what have these cadets to offer the Regular Army? Well, to start with there are a lots of them, over 44,000 nationwide. Over 6,000 highly committed and dedicated adult leaders, many of whom are ex Regular soldiers, administer them. Cadets can join at 13 but must leave at 18 years nine months. Many stay the five years so consequently gain much experience in military, sporting and adventurous training activities.

The best have been promoted to Cadet CSM or even RSM. The courses they attend between 16 and 18 years include leadership, methods of instruction, fieldcraft and tactics up to platoon level. These courses are run over six days by the Regular Army Cadet Training Teams and the standards are very high indeed.

Cadets are also offered the opportunity for adventurous training overseas in places such as the Himalayas, South Africa and Bolivia. If accepted on these expeditions they are expected to raise all their own finance. To raise the over £2,500 needed for these trips requires a great deal of application. Resourcefulness is certainly a quality these cadets have in abundance.

Much has been talked about the relationship the ACF has with Regular Army, particularly in terms of a reservoir for recruiting. The Regular Army is as busy now as at any time since the war but fundamental to its future is recruiting. Regimental affiliations to the ACF are extremely important and valuable to the ACF, and the support and assistance it receives is appreciated greatly. The effort put in to assist the ACF is most probably at a sacrifice, but in the long term it is worth it.

When Regular soldiers come into contact with cadets it is a wonderful opportunity to 'sell' the Army and its way of life. They yearn for information, knowledge, and yes, inspiration. For with that inspiration, will come achievement. The cadet of today has 'attitude' and I would suggest it is exactly the right attitude the Regular Army is looking for. Take a closer look.

The Way Forward? The Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000

Capt JD Carnegie writes:

The introduction of the Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000, which came into force on 2 October 2000, has given the Battalion the opportunity to review how it conducts summary dealings. The Act covers the legislation that brings the Armed Forces into line with the Human Rights Act 1998. This gives soldiers various new rights,



Summary Dealing the Viking way. Clockwise from left, Commanding Officer, Adjutant, witness, RSM, accused, accused adviser, company commander.

such as the right of appeal, the right to select court martial at the beginning of orders, rather than the end and changes in the rules for holding a soldier in custody.

The Vikings, who have spent the last two years working towards a fairer system of summary dealing, have embraced the new legislation. The simple way to sum up our change is that OC/CO's orders are not part of the punishment and the soldier must understand what is going on and what his rights are. The change to summary dealing, while maintaining the gravity and seriousness of the orders process, is quite logical. The accused is no longer 'beasted' around the square before going on orders. He is dressed in working dress, not No 2s. He marches into the orders at normal pace and does not have his belt and beret removed. Apart from when speaking to the CO, the accused is allowed to sit next to his adviser and make notes. The whole process is explained and the accused has the opportunity to question witnesses and 'sum up the case' to the CO. If found guilty, the accused has all mitigation explained to him before sentence is announced.

Some 'Old and Bold' may feel that this demeans the value of CO's orders, but nothing could be further from the truth. Many other units have reacted with absolute horror to our proposals and are no doubt eagerly awaiting the complete collapse of discipline within 1 R Anglian! The facts are that the chain of command and

Special Features

the soldiers have wholeheartedly welcomed the change. Summary dealings are now held on average once or twice a month, as opposed to once a week, due to the low rate of offences. Soldiers who are found guilty feel they have had a fair hearing and as yet I have still

to meet a soldier who actually looks forward to going on orders!

Although only time will tell the full effect that the Armed Forces Discipline Act will have on the Army, the Vikings feel that this is a change for the better.

Sustainable Full Manning

by Lt Col RJ Kemp MBE, CO 1 R Anglian

In mid-1998, our forecast manning levels indicated that we would start our resident tour in Londonderry in May 1999 about 130 under-strength. Analysis of past and present Battalion manning trends showed that it would take us 37 years to get to full manning. That was not good enough for a Battalion deploying on operations, where full manning is not a desirable state of affairs but a vital necessity.

The Colonel of the Regiment's direction that we be reinforced for

the tour by a Poacher platoon bought us time and headroom, but we nevertheless had to take immediate action to sort out our manning. This was not going to be easy against a background of Army-wide under-manning, initially at a constant level, but with an eventual downward trend which continues today!

A further consideration was current societal trends, which served to reduce eligibility in our target age groups: under 18s are now responsible for one in three violent crimes; one in five men has



committed a violent crime by age 25; one third of all 16-19 year olds are using illegal drugs on a regular basis. Our task was made more difficult by the nature of our recruiting area: relatively low unemployment, and a widespread population, plus one of the highest asthma rates among young men in the UK!

We aimed not only to bring the Battalion back up to full manning, but also to create a process with a supporting infrastructure that would be robust enough to sustain full manning perpetually - wherever the Battalion is based, and whatever its commitments - and remove the prospect of such corrosive undermanning in the future. We devised and implemented a manning strategy in four interlocked phases:

- * Phase 1 - Recruitment.
- * Phase 2 - Retention in training.
- * Phase 3 - Retention in the battalion.
- * Phase 4 - Re-enlistment.

The strategy worked. Having deployed to NI 130 men under-strength in May 1999, we were at full manning just over one year (not 37 years) later. And it continues to work. At the time of writing we are heading for projected over-manning by at least 33 in April 2001; and at that time we will be one of only two non-nationally recruited infantry battalions that are over strength (the other is 1 DWR)².

Phase 1 - Recruitment

Viking Encounter is a two-day event that takes place in Colchester every fortnight, sometimes once a week. Run by 160 (Royal Anglian) AYT, it consists of a series of military activities and is intended to give an insight into life in the Vikings to young men who are considering joining the Army. This is the cornerstone and pivot of our recruiting operations. In tactical terms, it is the manning main effort. And all of our other Battalion recruiting activities have the primary aim of getting potential applicants onto Viking Encounter.

All potential infantry recruits are sent on Viking Encounter by Viking recruiters in AFCOs throughout our area. Every soldier in 1 R Anglian is periodically exhorted to book his brother, cousin or friend onto Viking Encounter. We try to maximise newspaper and other media coverage of Battalion activities, and where possible include a plug for Viking Encounter. School visits under the Regiment's Project Rapport initiative, and visits to youth and cadet groups also include the opportunity to book onto Viking Encounter. We conduct youth football coaching sessions periodically in Colchester, during which footballers are encouraged to return for Viking Encounter. We also run an inter-college military challenge day (Viking Challenge) and a two-day military activity event for pre-uniformed Service courses and professional football club youth programmes (Viking Fusion) with the same aim.

Fundamental to our efforts to encourage attendance on Viking Encounter is direct recruiting on the streets of the towns and villages in our recruiting area, known as Viking Call. Organised at battalion or company level, and directly led by me or company commanders, we surge a number of three or four-man teams, in uniform, into a town. Time and place are decided through a form of IPB. Each team is led by an officer, warrant officer or SNCO and includes young soldiers of a similar age and background to our targets. These teams approach likely members of the local population and suggest a career in the Army, providing key details. Individuals are booked onto Viking Encounter there and then, and where possible also escorted direct to the local recruiting office for an immediate interview with a Viking recruiter.

I have not yet, however, mentioned the single most effective means of gaining attendees for Viking Encounter. This is word of mouth by those who have previously attended, and it is no accident. Every individual who attends is told to suggest to his mates or family members that they should also attend, and application forms are provided. The astonishing success of this aspect of the scheme suggests that those who take part thoroughly enjoy the experience. And that highlights the fundamental basis of Viking Encounter. It does not seek to select or train. It seeks to attract, encourage and motivate, with enjoyment and satisfaction as the main goals. It is surprising how many misapprehensions about Army life can be totally dispelled during this two-day event, and the extent to which

it is possible to transform the level of interest in a military career, even among those who were hitherto only giving vague (or no) thought to the prospect.

Some of those who attend Viking Encounter and are keen to join are deferred from doing so for various reasons. These may include age, remediable medical or fitness problems and minor criminal activity. For these young men, we try to consolidate and maintain the seeds sown on Viking Encounter through Viking Future, a club aimed at keeping in touch and sustaining interest; and in some cases through Viking Adventure, a one-week adventure training exercise for selected individuals.

The final element of Phase 1 is called Viking Gateway. This scheme, also run by 160 AYT in Colchester, is a one-day event designed to help prepare candidates for the Recruit Selection Centre. They are taken through some of the physical tests, and provided with advice on areas for improvement.

Phase 2 - Retention in Training

Fewer than 50 out of every 100 potential applicants for the Vikings actually enlist and start training. Those who do, therefore, represent a substantial recruiting effort and it is critical that as many as possible get through training and join the Battalion. Current infantry average wastage in training (Phase 1 and 2) is 30 per cent. The average wastage among 1 R Anglian recruits is 17 per cent. Much of this difference can be attributed to the efforts that we put in to support the training establishments in the fight for retention.

The Viking retention ethos is that retention begins when we first make contact with a potential recruit. Our initial approach emphasises the fact that those joining the Battalion will be rapidly integrated, treated well, looked after and given maximum opportunity for personal development and challenge. This approach is then demonstrated to them at every opportunity as they progress through the application and training process. In many cases, we have gained their trust prior to actual enlistment, and this itself serves as a motivator during the training process.

The RSM and I both write personal letters to every Viking recruit as he enters training and when he commences Phase 2 training. Together with the Battalion HRO and young soldiers who have recently completed training, we also visit ATR and ITC at least once a quarter, which enables us to meet every recruit while he is at each establishment. The Battalion produces fact cards and information brochures covering Army and Battalion life. The main aim of this activity is to show the recruit who may be wavering that there is 'a light at the end of the tunnel', and that life in the Battalion is not like life in training.

Viking training staff at ATR, ITC and AFC Harrogate are also briefed in advance of posting on the Battalion ethos that I wish them to project to our recruits. We monitor progress through training of every recruit so that we can react, in close co-ordination with the training establishment staff, to any potential difficulties which could lead to discharge.

Our retention in training efforts are underpinned by quarterly RHQ-sponsored Regimental gatherings at ITC Catterick. These are attended by key personnel from both battalions, recruits in training and Royal Anglian permanent staff. They are extremely successful in helping to generate Regimental spirit at an early stage, and indeed are now being emulated by other regiments.

The scope of our efforts throughout the application and training phase go beyond a wastage rate that is 13 per cent better than the infantry average. Regimental *esprit de corps* is strongly inculcated through contact which remains a constant in the new soldier's turbulent life spanning application, recruit selection, Phase 1 training and Phase 2 training. Soldiers joining the Battalion have an extremely positive and enthusiastic attitude. Their arrival is marked by a unique confidence, not by apprehension. They are already Viking soldiers. Together with our reception policy, this helps them to settle in rapidly, and initiates the process of retention in the Battalion.

Does all this mean that we are taking in a lower standard of soldier? The answer is a definite no. We gained a total of 159 new soldiers in the Battalion between January 1999 and the time of writing. Not one has failed to meet the required standard, although

Special Features

this is also due to skilful leadership and development of the new arrivals, by company commanders and the Battalion's junior commanders.

Phase 3 - Retention in the Battalion

Retention in the Battalion is given as much priority as retention in training. The aim of Phase 3 of our manning strategy is a low termination rate. At the time of writing 25 soldiers in 1 R Anglian have terminated, and a similar level has been stable for some time. I do not have access to data on termination rates in other battalions, but from discussion with several Commanding Officers, it appears that our rate is relatively low. Of course, many external factors also affect retention, often to an extent that defies the most strenuous internal action.

It is not our desire to concentrate on turning around those who have applied to terminate: the need for action at this stage in many ways reflects failure of retention measures. However, although we try to maintain an environment in which the soldier does not wish to leave, there will always be cases where this does fail. To help counter such cases, in addition to the standard interview process, we hold discussion groups for those individuals who apply to terminate, programmed according to service remaining. These include a short talk by a soldier who has re-enlisted following a recent period outside the Army. We also issue a locally-produced booklet entitled *So You Want to Leave the Army?*, the principal aim of which is to highlight the advantages of continued service compared to civilian employment and conditions.

As mentioned, Viking retention begins at first contact during the recruitment phase, and continues throughout training. The start point for retention in the Battalion is the reception of the new soldier. There is no apprenticeship period and no form of initiation is tolerated. Instead, the Battalion's culture is to immediately assimilate the new soldier into his platoon, company and battalion, so that he increases in confidence and quickly becomes a useful asset. This process is led by commanders. Every new arrival is allocated a mentor, who guides him through the initial stages of Battalion life.

There is no place in 1 R Anglian for the 'bollocking culture', which is an all too common approach in the infantry. This mentality is seen by us as weakness of leadership; the preferred form of leadership includes encouragement and motivation. This does not mean that no-one is ever 'gripped': they are, but only when it is necessary and not as an automatic reflex. Soldiers are treated as human beings and their interests, well-being and self-esteem are regarded as paramount.

We hold focus group sessions for each rank, conducted by myself and the RSM. This provides me with an opportunity to deliver key messages direct to the soldier, and gives them the chance to ask questions and bring issues to my personal attention. The results have been significant in improving understanding and quality of life for soldiers, and on several occasions swift action has been taken to remedy nagging problems. This process does not undermine the chain of command, it reinforces it; and a similar concept is employed at the highest level through CGS's briefing team.

These areas are merely examples of the overall culture that I believe necessary to maintain high morale and thus retention (and operational effectiveness) in the 21st century. Some leaders in the Battalion have had to adjust their thinking to accommodate this culture; however, the effectiveness of this approach has been hard to dispute. Current AWOL statistics (a total of one has been a constant figure), low sick parade attendance, high FE levels (among the highest in NI), and good retention (already mentioned) are some indicators. And rather than a total disintegration of the fabric of Battalion discipline, we enjoy one of the best discipline records among all units in NI.

Phase 4 - Re-enlistment

There are two target areas for re-enlistment. First, those who leave the Battalion on termination. We target individuals we want back, and periodically send out a colour leaflet giving a SITREP on the Battalion, specifying current terms of service and pay, and providing instructions on how to rejoin. Second, those who have



New arrivals.

left the Army during Phase 1 or Phase 2 training. After liaison with the training establishment that discharged the individual, we write suggesting re-enlistment. We have achieved a number of re-enlistments, particularly among those who left from training, although so far this has not been the most productive phase of our manning strategy. This (fairly obviously) suggests that a policy that prevents soldiers from leaving rather than attempts to regain them is much more likely to be effective.

Conclusion - Ethos and Infrastructure

Our strategy has been implemented on the basis of three principles. First, each of the four phases is fully integrated into a dynamically-managed, single overarching process. Second, given the extent to which most of our activities overlap ATRA core functions, we have worked in close partnership with recruiting group staffs as well as the staffs of training establishments. Third, we maintain full flexibility and responsiveness to changing situations and new opportunities, and every element of our strategy is under constant review in pursuit of best practice.

Our strategy has also called for some changes of mind-set. These include acceptance that recruiting is a chain of command responsibility that requires strong leadership by example, as for any other military operation. It was also important to get away from the 'it happened to me so it will happen to you' mentality, especially for recruits in training and new arrivals. And, in Phase 3 in particular, it has been essential to look to the future in priority over the past; and this has sometimes required an acceptance that when traditions become part of the problem it is time to discard them. Or, to adapt Burke's dictum, 'a battalion without the means of change is without the means of its conservation'.

Finally, two vital elements have enabled the Battalion's manning strategy. These are a full time HRO (with assistant), who is responsible for the whole process, and whose sole focus is on manning; and an AYT made up of around 10-12 Viking soldiers. Without this investment, we would probably still be heading towards full manning in 2037. By maintaining the HRO team and the AYT, I am quite certain - irrespective of the Battalion's future roles, commitments and deployments - that we will be able to sustain the present manning trends indefinitely.

¹ There has been a net reduction of 243 in the strength of the Army during the period April - August 2000.

² HQ Inf figures.

KAPE Town 2000



John Teare (left) and Peter Connolly showing off the flag near the top of Taffelberg Mountain, Cederberg Wilderness.

OCdts Jon Teare and Peter Connolly, who are joining the Regiment in April, have returned home following a summer expedition to the Cederberg Wilderness, South Africa. They led a group of 10 officer cadets on a six-day arduous trek across one of South Africa's last real wildernesses. Over this period they climbed the three major peaks in the area, the largest being 1900m and covered 20km a day.

The route followed the Cederberg ridge - a 1,000m high feature which rises out of the South African savannah which in the first few days offered spectacular views of the vast surrounding plains. This glorious weather was not to last and the cloud and fog rolled in, accompanied by driving rain (more reminiscent of the Brecon Beacons than Africa). This reduced visibility, forced the group to negotiate a lower route and also meant that climbing the final 120m block of the Taffelberg Mountain could not be achieved. This new route allowed the group to use some of the mountain shelters found on the slopes, though it also meant sharing them with baboon spiders. What followed was several wet days, but the group was still able to gain the final 1,900m peak. The final day was spent navigating through thick fog, across the recently burned woodland of the western slopes. Occasional glimpses of burnt stumps on craggy ridges allowed us to identify the route to the forest station, and a welcome pick-up bound for Cape Town.

Despite the Welsh weather and several of the group going down with food poisoning, it was a great opportunity that all enjoyed. Though this did not mean that we were not happy to see Cape



Picture of the Taffelberg during a brief break in the weather.

Town. The following week of post expedition R and R was spent relaxing in the famous Turkish baths, devouring South African steaks measured in pounds not ounces, and enjoying the hospitality provided by the inhabitants of Cape Town.

'Hiya Sybille, Long Time No Sea!'

It appears that it has taken members of the 1st Battalion the best part of three tours in Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry to notice that they have a link with one of the camp's most famous residents. On a walkabout of the barracks the Commanding Officer noticed that the ship's figurehead that stands near the armoury came from a ship called *HMS Sybille*, most famous for its part in the battle of the Taku Forts in 1858. After some discussion with the RSM the Commanding Officer made a connection between the ship and the 44th (Essex) Regiment from which you can now trace a direct lineage to 1 R Anglian's C (Essex) Company. So a few answers

about Sybille, namely what the link was and how did she come to rest in Ebrington Barracks in the first place...?

The battle of the Taku Forts took place during the China War of 1858. Twenty-seven officers and 913 other ranks of the Essex Regiment fought at the Pehtang River where they stormed the Shinho entrenchments. During the same day the Regiment was also involved in the storming of the heavily fortified Taku Forts and in doing so the Regiment was awarded two VCs. As a result of this action the Essex Regiment was awarded the battle honour *Taku Forts* which can still be seen on the Regimental Colour of the 1st

Special Features

Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Members of the Essex Regiment were also awarded the China Medal and 1858 Bar for their part in the campaign. It would appear that the crew of *HMS Sybille* also received this medal having been involved in the movement of troops from India to China for the campaign and her subsequent part in the battle where she was responsible for bombarding the Taku Forts.

Londonderry, and Ebrington Barracks in particular does have strong historical links to the Royal Navy. In 1943 the site was handed over to the Admiralty who named it *HMS Ferret*! At its height *HMS Ferret* and other sites in the city were home to 12,000 Royal Naval personnel and 5,000 American Naval personnel. In 1947 *HMS Ferret* was renamed *HMS Sea Eagle* and became a joint anti-submarine school. Then in 1970, as the Navy withdrew from the city, the site was handed over to the Army and renamed Ebrington Barracks.

However, despite these links it has proved impossible to explain why the figurehead ended up where it has. The first ship to bear the name *Sybille* was a 5th rate 44 gun ship captured from the French in 1794: the French connection explaining the spelling of *Sybille*. However, this ship was sold off in 1833. The next ship to use the name was a 5th rate 36-gun warship. The ship was built in 1847 and was the *HMS Sybille* that was present at the battle of Taku Forts. However, this ship was decommissioned and broken up only eight years after the battle in 1866 so it is unlikely that she ever visited Londonderry. Two more ships bore the name. A cruiser that sank off of the South African Coast in 1901 and a destroyer which was built during the First World War but was decommissioned and sold off in 1926. So again it is unlikely that either ship visited Londonderry in the recent past.

There are several legends surrounding the figurehead but none of which tie in with the historical facts. So while the descents of *Sybille*'s former colleagues are happy to reacquaint themselves with this old lady they remain perplexed as to how she got here in the first place. Does anybody out there have a plausible answer?



The Queen's and Regimental Colours with the figurehead from *HMS Sybille*.

Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

The Priory CCF - The Birth of a New CCF

WO1 (SSJ) Alan Ralph of the Priory CCF writes:

The Priory CCF is part of the Lincoln School of Science and Technology (LSST) and is the first CCF ever to be formed in Lincoln itself. The school has over 1,400 pupils and is a state school.

I had in the past worked with a Cadet Training Team (CTT) and therefore knew of the type of work involved and had always fancied it, so was delighted to be offered the post of SSI (School Staff Instructor) at the rank of WO1.

Getting a new CCF up and running is a mammoth task and to this end a lot of behind the scenes work had to be done, like recruiting enough teachers and other personnel to form the contingent's officer

corps. With a few changes along the way, we had managed to form a strong team that hopefully will stand the test of time. The next thing was to determine when and where and for how long the cadets would parade. Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.30pm was agreed, and we were allocated an area within the 6th form part of the school to be our CCF office and stores.

It was decided that we would only have an Army and an RAF section to start with, and reconsider after one year for a Naval section, for which we already have two potential officers identified. The initial strength was to be: Army section 61 cadets; RAF section 36 cadets. All this was done while I was still serving, and attending



Some of the cadets taking part in the indoor Exercise Tornado Down.



Weapon Training - some cadets from 1 Platoon during weapon handling.

Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

at the school for one day a week.

On 10 April 2000, my Commanding Officer agreed to release me from the Battalion early, and I could begin my 'gardening leave', which meant that I could now start in earnest with the CCF and my new life as a 'civvie'. I was also employed at the school as a trainee IT technician, and would try to learn the complex life of a 'techy'. I also had the extra task of running a homework club after school, which was called 'supervised study sessions'.

Training to Date

The contingent started life doing 'drill' and then some more drill followed by some command tasks and then just a little drill. Badges of rank, sizing parades and lots of words of encouragement. We filled the slots available for each section within three to four months, but the figures radically increased when we started to get uniforms, and the school was awash with little green and blue jobs, cutting around the place every Wednesday. The school allowed the cadets to turn up all day at school dressed in their uniforms and this was the key to success as it did exactly what we had hoped for. It advertised the CCF to every member of the school, and within four weeks I had no more uniforms left to issue.

With the help of 13 CTT, the cadets began to learn weapon handling and it was felt that we needed to get hands on the goochy things, in order to keep the cadets interested. It is hoped to form our nucleus of regular attenders from mainly the year nines. Training programmes were made, forecasts of events produced for both sections, and recruit cadres were formed. The main lessons to be taught were weapon training, first aid, fieldcraft, map and compass and of course drill.

All officers of the initial start-up period took part in an adventurous exercise called 'The Priory CCF Ebor' which was held in the Lake

District near Ambleside over the weekend 19-21 May 2000. The exercise was designed to allow all officers and the SSI to get to know each other in less formal surroundings, which proved to be a resounding success. All those who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience, the weather was kind and the headmaster even paid for the hotel, and nearly all the meals.

Future Training

In order to complete the recruit cadres, there will be a term exercise, which will be held at 'Prince William of Gloucester (PWOG) Barracks' in Grantham, and will be run by 13 CTT, called Exercise First Step and will be held over the weekend 10-12 November 2000. So far we have 65 cadets from both sections going. The type of training will include learning to live in the field, blank firing exercise carrying out low level section attacks. Live firing on a 25m outdoor range, lots of potted sports and command tasks. The contingent will also take part in this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade at PWOG Barracks.

The Priory CCF has already confirmed that next year we will be going on annual camp to Wathgill Camp (what a classic) over the period 1-7 July 2001. It is hoped to have some JNCOs and more senior cadets by this time. The CCF is lucky to have a few cadets who are members of local ACFs and this will prove invaluable in the long run.

All of the Army section officers have now attended a 'pre-Frimley course' in October in preparation for the basic officer qualifying course in early January 2001. Capt Denise Savage and Plt Off David Holford have already completed their respective courses to qualify them to begin training in earnest. The SSI will attend a CTT briefing course in January 2001. So, the Priory CCF is now very much up and running.

King Edward VI CCF, Chelmsford

King Edward VI CCF continues to thrive. Annual camp took place at Wathgill and culminated in a 36-hour exercise on Catterick Training Area. The Corps of Drums has performed on a number of

occasions around Essex and continues to be in demand.

Easter Camp 2001 will take place at Longmoor and summer camp at St Martin's Plain.



Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

Cambridgeshire Army Cadets in action at home and overseas

This has been a very demanding and busy year for Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. It began with cadets taking part in expeditions on Dartmoor and caving in the Pennine Way organised by our county adventure training officer, Capt Mel Owen and RSM Turner. During the School Easter break all companies deployed with 1 Company at Waterbeach, 2 Company to Barnham and 3 Company to Beckingham. The main effort was on star testing and basic military skills. Some 400 cadets and 90 adults deployed which was very encouraging and apart from the traditional English monsoon all went well. Maximum activity was achieved along with star passes.

We have received visits from all arms of the Service at detachment level, including one from the 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Cambridgeshire ACF made their mark winning the regional first aid competition and is now competing at national level. Maj David Denson and his team managed a very creditable fifth during Exercise Combat Cadet 2000. Cadet RSM Rice achieved an overall first place on the national cadet leadership course - an outstanding result. Cadet Reverchon of 2 Company won the javelin at the Cadet Millennium Games and is now the new national junior champion.

Summer camp this year took us to St Martin's Plain and 314 cadets remained for the full two weeks. We received assistance from both 2 Cadet Training Team and the Royal Anglian Regimental Information Team. Their professionalism, advice, enthusiasm and assistance were a credit to them all. All three companies took the opportunity to visit Ypres in Belgium and the highlight of the visit was the opportunity to parade in uniform at the Menin Gate led by the Corps of Drums and lay a wreath of remembrance on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. Cdt Nick Routledge took the opportunity to visit his great-grandfather's final resting-place.

Twenty-seven cadets from across the county have enlisted into the Army since April of this year. The county strength at present is a total of 681 cadets male and female, 47 officers and 97 adult instructors.

With Easter and summer camp just around the corner we are looking for ex-Servicemen and women of all ranks who live in and around the County of Cambridgeshire to join our team. Most of the duties are on a volunteer basis but some paid training days are available including travel expenses. Those that are interested in



gaining adventurous training qualifications or wish to continue with the skills you have been taught while serving, please call 01223 862 949 now!

Norfolk ACF - 2,000 miles in an hour

Maj JL Raybould TD, Norfolk ACF writes:

It has been a year of continued success. Norfolk ACF Commandant, Col Mike Mizen, presented a cheque for £1,558.44 to Eastern Daily Press's We Care appeal chairman Paddy Seligman and received his certificate for participating in the five-mile walk. 400 cadets and adults walked a sponsored five miles within an hour. (Hence the theme of '2000 miles in an hour'!).

We have had many successes in competitions. Catherine Greenhough, from Diss Troop, Cadet Norfolk Engineer Squadron, won the Norfolk County Royal British Legion Junior Standard Bearers Competition. In the regional cross country, James Meier from Sandringham Det Brit Company and Norfolk won the boys' team cross-country trophy.

At the regional athletics Charlotte Utting, Aylsham Rd Troop, CNA Bty won three gold medals, James Doughty Dereham Det Brit Company, three gold medals, Gemma Bird, Attleborough Troop CNE Squadron, two gold medals. In all, Norfolk cadets won 29 regional gold medals and 20 regional silver medals, giving first place to the junior and intermediate boys, intermediate and senior girls teams. Norfolk won the overall championship, 100 points ahead of Lincolnshire.

At the ACF Millennium Games, Norfolk produced four national champions, all from Cadet Norfolk Engineer Squadron - Claire Cavanagh from Thetford, twins Paul and Barry Scott, both from Thetford Troop and Jo Anderson from Long Stratton Troop.

The Norfolk junior soccer team won the regional final and the

senior boys were runners-up, both against Suffolk - the same as in 1999!

At annual camp 2000 at Folkestone we hosted a party of cadets from Trinidad and Tobago and welcomed HM Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk, Sir Timothy Colman, to the Officers' Mess guest night. In 2001 we send a return party to the Caribbean.

Simon Ground was a young cadet tragically killed in a road traffic accident in 1991. His parents, June and Tony Ground (formerly HQ, A and F Company 6 R Anglian) of Old Costessey, decided to keep his memory alive by giving something back to the Norfolk Army Cadet Force, which Simon loved. A memorial cup was commissioned, to be presented annually to the most outstanding cadet in Norfolk.

The 2000 winner is LBdr Bradley Hatch of Asylum Road Troop, Cadet Norfolk Artillery. He has represented Norfolk and Eastern Region at cross country and also represented Norfolk at 400m in the regional athletics championships 2000.

We have set up a website at <http://www.norfolkacf.fsnet.co.uk>. The aim has been to make it active, easy to access and interesting with over 160 colour photographs of cadet activities and achievements.

Any pupils or students, male or female, aged between 13 and 17, interested in joining Norfolk Army Cadets or adults who wish to become instructors should telephone Maj David Whitehead on 01362 694515.

The Associations



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

Death of President

Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE CVO, president of the Association, died after a short illness on Easter Sunday 2000. His funeral service on 29 April was for family and friends which meant Framlingham Church was full and the thanksgiving service in Norwich Cathedral on 21 July was also immensely well attended. Addresses were given by Gen Sir Michael Walker, Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment and Helen Tridgell of the Commonwealth Society.

His successor, Maj Gen John Sutherell CBE, whom Gen Thorne appointed, is currently Commandant at RMCS Shrivenham and has a distinguished career as a Royal Anglian.

Chapel

Arrangements are in hand to honour those who died in Cyprus and Korea with the introduction of a Roll of Honour book to be placed in the wooden case in the Regimental Chapel.

Regimental Garden

The joint project to create a Regimental Garden with Easton College to honour those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country has gained the approval of the Old Comrades who have to date contributed £5,776 towards this venture. The college has agreed to maintain the garden in the future and plans for its opening by the Bishop of Norwich are in hand for Saturday 2 June 2001 at 1530.

Regimental Benevolence

In 1999 some £6,300 was spent from Regimental Funds to assist the 60 cases dealt with. In addition, £28,908 was received from other Service charities towards these cases.

Regimental Homes These are all currently occupied. A re-roofing programme is in progress and two of the cottages have had this work completed. New tarmac had been laid at Kings Lynn and Norwich and the Cottage Committee is currently studying a refurbishing programme.

Regimental Museum

The 10th anniversary was celebrated with

free entry to all visitors and a birthday cake provided by 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment who also supported the occasion with some modern soldiers to complement those representing past times. The occasion was completed by a celebratory party at the Norfolk Club for those who have given so generously of their time to the museum prior to and since its opening.

A project to document all the archives has now received funding of £40,000 from the Town Close Estate charity. This will allow for a website education project to eventually be achieved.

Around the Branches

Gorleston and Great Yarmouth District
The Gorleston and Great Yarmouth District Branch held the 2000 Christmas Dinner and Draw on Saturday 2 December.

The branch meets on the last Wednesday of the month at The Albion, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston at 8pm. Anyone visiting the area is most welcome to visit the Gorleston and Great Yarmouth District Branch and have a yarn. You never know, you might meet an old friend!

Telephone: Ray Pillar (Chairman) 01493 601131.

King's Lynn Social and Welfare Club

The branch sadly lost one its founder members, Bert Grimes on 25 February 2000.

We held a successful spring buffet at The Park View Hotel in April, organised by our chairman, Henry Futter. The Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Regt Social and Welfare Club meets every third Sunday at The Royal British Legion Club, 33a Tower Street, King's Lynn, commencing at 10.30am. Telephone: Mrs G Slater 01553 840712.

London Branch

Our last meeting of the year was held on 4 December but unfortunately our numbers are dwindling no doubt due to *tempus fugitius*, weather and travel distance.

Our branch membership of 40, widely dispersed over the country are kept informed of branch and Regimental Association functions by newsletter so we are not despondent over meeting attendances.

Four branch members attended the Founder's Day Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 8 July 2000, conducted by HRH the Duke of York. We had an interesting tour of the premises and met ex-Royal Norfolk in-pensioner, Cpl Long.

Bill Seymour represented the branch at the service of thanksgiving and Remembrance for Maj Gen Sir David Thorne in Norwich Cathedral on 21 July 2000. The branch was well represented at the Association Dinner in Norwich in September and several members attended the 2 Div Kohima Reunion in York in July.

We sadly report the death of our members Charlie Overton and Frank Young.

We congratulate our member Ron Perrie and his wife Violet on the occasion of their diamond wedding on 4 April 2000.

The branch now meets four times a year at The One Tun, Saffron Hill, EC1.

For details of the next meetings, likely to be on a Monday evening in March and in June, telephone: Bill Seymour 020 8669 6632.

Norwich and District Branch

Norwich and District Branch members continue to meet monthly with a good attendance at the Norman Centre in Bignold Road.

A good number attended the Royal Anglian Gathering at Bassingbourn in July and Minden Day in August. Alex Barr kept a 'Black Watch' on times!

At the October AGM the following appointments were made: Chairman/Secretary Paul Boxall; Vice-Chairman John Slaughter; Treasurer Maj John Raybould; Information Officer Lt Col Paul Garman.

A branch dinner was held on Sunday 26 November in the Officers' Mess, Aylsham Road.

We sadly report the deaths of our founder members Maj Gilly Banthorpe on 19 October 2000 and our branch President, Col Dick Flower on 25 October 2000.

The Branch meets at 11am at the Norman Centre on 4 Sunday of the month, except in April and September when the Regimental Chapel Services are held.

Telephone: Paul Boxall 01603 744136.

The Associations



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

News from the Branches

Throughout the summer and autumn of 2000 Branches have pursued their individual and very varied programmes. Membership of the Association has remained strong. A number of new members signed on at the Minden Day Reunion.

The Ipswich Branch summer outing to Great Yarmouth proved very popular and Leiston's fete went well despite poor weather. The Leiston Committee worked hard to sell draw tickets early in the afternoon knowing that purchasers would be tempted,

despite the rain, to stay to the bitter end hoping to win something! Beccles Branch put in a great deal of work throughout the summer to promote awareness of the Suffolk Regiment. They arranged a display of Regimental memorabilia in Beccles Town Hall in July and then worked hard running a bottle stall at Beccles annual three-day carnival.

Among its members, Beccles Branch has one who is very famous. He is Martin Bell, formerly of the Suffolk Regiment and then a BBC TV war correspondent and now a

Member of Parliament. Martin has kindly agreed to arrange a visit to Parliament for his branch members. No doubt we shall hear more of this anon!

Minden Day 2000

The annual Regimental Reunion to celebrate the Battle of Minden was held this year on Sunday, 30 July at Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds. The order of events took the usual form and bigger crowds than ever turned up to enjoy the day. The organisers estimated something over 3,000 but it felt like more! It always gives members of the Regiment a very warm feeling to spend one day every year in what remains of the Regimental 'home' and The Keep, which holds so many memories, forms a fitting backcloth for the occasion. Long may it continue to do so.

To organise a reunion for so many people is an enormous task. The Suffolk Regiment OCA is very lucky to have someone like Maj Stan Bullock, MBE to take on this work. We are all very grateful to him for his drive, his enthusiasm and his willingness to serve the Regiment.

Minden Day in Londonderry

Brig Charles Barnes and Capt Frank Matthews had the great good fortune to be able to go to Londonderry to celebrate Minden Day with the 1st Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment. Brig Barnes was invited as Chairman of the Suffolk Regiment OCA and Capt Matthews as an Honorary Vice-President of the Association and as a platoon commander with 1 Suffolk on D-Day in 1944. They joined the Commanding Officer in presenting Minden Roses to all ranks on parade and were in every way made to feel perfectly at home.

Sam Harvey VC

An interesting ceremony took place in Ipswich Old Cemetery on 29 September when a headstone for the above soldier was finally and formally dedicated. He actually died in 1960.

Sam Harvey served in the York and Lancaster Regiment in the First World War and won his VC at the Battle of Loos in 1915. He was an Ipswich man but did not serve in his county Regiment. However, The York and Lancaster Regiment can trace its descent back through the 18th and 19th centuries to the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Foot.



OCA Branch Standards on Parade at Gibraltar Barracks for Minden Day 2000.

The Associations

Brig Deller, Chairman of the Association, represented the Regiment at the ceremony and Standards from Association branches were also in attendance.

The Regimental Chapel

Mrs Anstice Gilson Taylor has retired as Chairman of the Chapel Committee after serving in that capacity for many years. She followed, in this appointment, in the steps of

her late husband, Hugh, who also served for a very long period.

The residents of Coleville-Montgomery in Normandy, who worked so closely with the late Col Eric Lummis in the creation of the 'Hillman' memorial, have asked if they might erect a plaque in the chapel in Eric's memory. This is to be completed in the near future and a suitable date for it to be unveiled will be decided.



The Cambridgeshire Regimental Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

Capt Paul Leach writes:

Numbers visiting our principal displays at Duxford have been well maintained undoubtedly helped by publicity given to them by the Imperial War Museum Special Battle of Britain Exhibition. Martin Boswell continues to maintain a keen interest and the Guardians are grateful to him for his day-to-day stewardship.

Our relations with local museums in the county continue to develop. The 'Collection' has co-operated with the curator of Ely Museum in producing a display which has been aptly entitled *Lest We Forget*, a Remembrance of two world wars. Our Patron, the Lord Lieutenant, was present at the preview and was able to deliver a few well-chosen words. Members of the Regimental Council, local Old Comrades, the Mayor of Ely, the Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council and local councillors were also present and enjoyed a glass of wine with the trustee of the museum.

The Guardians are now proposing to the Council for its consideration and approval that the Freedom Scrolls to the Borough of Wisbech be offered on permanent loan for display at Wisbech. It seems only right that these historic items be in a place where they can be seen to record and cement the historic links of the Regiment with the borough.

We continue to be grateful to the Old Comrades and their families for their interest in our museums. We are always pleased to receive items that may be displayed in the growing number of local museums that we are now mounting or proposing to mount displays. The Cambridgeshire Regiment after all, has an important place in the county's local history which should be cherished and preserved for future generations to see and understand.

The Dinner

A very successful dinner of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Officers' Club

was held on Saturday 29 April at the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Centre at Waterbeach by kind permission of the Commandant, Col Colin Elsdon. Lt Col WF Badcock MBE presided and the guests of honour were Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CBE, and the Mayor of the City of Cambridge, Cllr R Smith. The Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden K St J, Patron of the Association was present.

The President welcomed the guests of honour and Maj Gen Sutherell replied outlining his connections with the county and his upbringing in Chatteris. The Toast of the Regiment including the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force was replied to by the Commandant, Col Colin Elsdon, who outlined the success of the force and gave details of the current healthy numbers well supported by a team of adult instructors.

Apologies were received from Col Pat Macdonald, Maj Bob Brashaw, Maj James Forsythe, Maj Dennis Haslam, Maj Alan Smith and Col Walter Page, Patron of the Association.

Centenary Celebrations

The Regiment was represented at the special service held on 4 August at Ely Cathedral to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother. A telegram was sent to the Queen Mother congratulating her on her 100th birthday on behalf of the Regiment and the following reply was received...

'I send to the President and all members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, Territorial Army, my warmest thanks for your kind message of loyal greetings on my 100th birthday'.

Ely Commemoration Service and Reunion, Sunday 4 June

This year we were blessed with perfect weather. We were honoured to have with us the Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden K St J JP, Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CBE, a Vice-President of the Association and the Mayor and Mayoress of the City of Ely.

The New Regimental Museum

The appeal fund is now close enough to its target of £100,000 for plans to go ahead though it should be remembered as the Association President, Brig Deller, said on Minden Day, that costs have a habit of escalating as things progress. He firmly announced therefore that the appeal would remain open!

There was a good turnout in the cathedral for the service and the Dean welcomed the congregation in his usual warm manner towards the Regiment. The lesson was read by the President, Lt Col WF Badcock MBE, and the address was given by the Rev Canon Fred Kilner, the Vicar of Ely. The President laid the wreath in the Regimental Chapel and the *Last Post* and *Reveille* were played by the City of Ely Military Band. After the *National Anthem*, the Band played the *Regimental March* during which the Colours and Standards marched off. The parade was led by the City of Ely Military Band supported by the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force Pipes and Drums. The salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant who addressed the parade afterwards.

The tea in the Hayward Theatre, kindly supplied by the staff of the cadets, was very well done. They were thanked by the President. Mrs Bunkall then presented to the Association a very fine silver peacock which was willed to the Association by the late Maj Derek Bunkall.

The Association

At the Annual General Meeting in September 1999 it was unanimously agreed to invite Gen Sutherell to become a Vice-President and he has now confirmed that he will be 'honoured and delighted to accept' and hopes to give the Association the support 'it so richly deserves'.

Grants made on behalf of the Association to ex-Cambridgeshires amounted to some £1,900, to which the Association contributed £1,000. The Association is committed to fund up to £1,000 per year to meet future claims of ex-Cambridgeshires, or their dependants, processed through the Area Secretary, Maj Reeve. Col DH Bristow has kindly agreed to act on behalf of the Association.

After much correspondence with the CWGC and the Ministry of Defence they have acknowledged that their records of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, particularly relating to the Regiment's title and casualties of World War Two, are incorrect both in

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paper form and in their database.

The CWGC has undertaken to make the necessary amendments to some 750 individual records and to update their internet website at the earliest possible date.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Mrs Mary Dawson was held at All Saints Church,

Horseheath on 21 July. Mary Taylor, as she was then, was serving with the Red Cross on Singapore Island in 1946 and was the person who found the drums which had been lost during the battle. She arranged for them to be returned to England where they have become one of the Regiment's most treasured

possessions, and are displayed in the Regiment's Collection at IWM Duxford and at the Museum at Ely. The thanks of the Regiment for her actions in returning the drums, known ever since as 'The Singapore Drums', were included in the address given by Sidney Taylor.



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

Benevolence

The General Committee of the Association during 1999/2000 considered 41 cases for benevolence. With the assistance of the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion and many other ex-Servicemen's charities, a total of £22,880 was disbursed by the Association to ex-members of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and their families who had fallen on hard times.

Regimental Reunion

The annual reunion held in Lincoln on the weekend 30 September/1 October was a huge success. On Saturday the 53rd annual dinner and dance, held in Sobraon Barracks, was very well attended with over 100 members and their guest sitting down to dinner. The

President of the Association, Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL, presided

On Sunday members formed up behind the TA Band and marched to St Nicholas' Church where family and friends met them before attending the annual church service. The Rev David Yabacombe took the service during which the Lincoln Branch Standard was dedicated. Afterwards they marched back to Newport Drill Hall before returning to Sobraon Barracks to continue the reunion. Mrs Jean Key laid on an excellent buffet and the usual liquid refreshments were available.

Our sincere thanks from all those who attended the Regimental weekend go to the company commander, Maj Atkinson of B Company, the East of England Regiment for allowing us to use the facilities of the TA

Centre, also to both the bar staff and the caretaker, David Metcalfe MBE, whose contributions ensured the success of the event.

Malaya Reunion

The annual Malaya Reunion was held in the TA Centre, Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln on Saturday 7 October. Over 200 attended the function travelling from far and wide to take part in what has become a very popular event. Guests began to arrive at the barracks at around 7.30pm and it wasn't long before the familiar yarn or two were being told over a pint or two. No doubt these tales of long ago became more elaborate as the night wore on. Our thanks go to the organiser; Colin Coggan, whose hard work ensured everyone



Regimental Reunion - members of the Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regimental Association marching to St Nicholas Church led by the Association Standard carried by Mr Wally Hibbard.

The Associations

had a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Officers' Reunion Lunch

The Officers' Reunion Lunch was held in the Officers' Club in London on Wednesday 14 June. Over 70 officers, wives and widows attended including David Newton, who travelled all the way from Canada to be with us. It was a wonderful day and those who made the journey enjoyed a splendid lunch and were able to renew friendships in a very cosy atmosphere. Details of next year's officers' luncheon, being held in the Officers' Club in London on Wednesday 6 June 2001, will be sent out in due course. Anyone not on the mailing list should write to Capt John Lee at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln.

Lincoln Branch

The Branch continues to flourish with a membership now well over 260. Being the largest branch in the Association sometimes has its cross to bear and we were once again asked to organise the Regimental Reunion Weekend. Our reward came in the knowledge that there was an increase in numbers attending. It also enabled us to have our new Branch Standard dedicated during the service.

A variety of social events have been organised throughout the year such as visits to Chatsworth House, the Nene Valley Railway, the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn and the Branch Christmas Draw which was held in Sobraon Barracks on Saturday 4 November.

Grimsby Branch

A dedication ceremony to dedicate the new Branch Standard, funded by the National



The new Grimsby Branch Standard, from left: Capt Lee, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright, (Branch Chairman) Mr Arthur Carroll, Capt Richards, The Mayor Cllr Jane Hyldon-King, Col Dymoke, The Mayors Consort, Mr Bernard Welbourn (Standard Bearer), Mr Wally Hibbard (Escort) and the Rev David Peacock.

Lottery Charities Board, took place at St Peter's Church, Cleethorpes, where the old Standard was laid up. The parade, led by the TA Royal Anglian Band and several Branch Standards, marched to and from the church. The Association President, Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL, took the salute accompanied by the Mayor of Grimsby, Cllr Jane Hyldon-King. Other guests included Mrs Gerrard-Wright, Col and Mrs Dymoke, Capt and Mrs Richards and Mrs Stella Willing MBE. The service was conducted

by the Rev David Peacock and was followed by a buffet lunch held in the St Peter's Church Hall.

The Grimsby and District Branch annual luncheon will be held at the Beachholme Holiday Centre, Hunberston on Saturday 7 April 2001, details will be distributed in due course. Tickets can be obtained from the Chairman or Treasurer at a cost of £9.50 per head. People requiring accommodation at the Beachholme should ring 01472 812219 or 812666.



The Royal Tigers Association and

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)

Royal Tigers' Weekend

Royal Tigers' Weekend this year was held on 24-25 June. The reunion started as usual with the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and it was a great pleasure to have in-pensioners Myles Foster and Moshe Freedman from the Royal Hospital with us again. The 75th annual dinner was then held at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. It is most pleasing to report that once again attendance was good, with 160 people sitting down.

Guests were Maj Mike Cunningham (lately PSAO C Company), Capt Ty Smith (PSAO C Company) and Mr Matthew Richardson (author of *The Tigers - a History of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions in the Great War*). The President of the Association, Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE DL, presided. The caterers excelled themselves again, with

another first class dinner and plenty of wine.

In his speech at the conclusion of the dinner, the President thanked Maj Cunningham for his wonderful support to the Association, the General Committee and the Regiment for the last ten years, and presented him with a silver tankard. He explained that a total reorganisation of the Colours in the Regimental Chapel had been completed. 14 Colours were now hanging on refurbished or new fittings and 25 had been finally laid to rest in a new specially-made mahogany casket placed below the altar. He reported that the old memorial at Ladysmith had been refurbished for the centenary of the Relief of the Siege (attended by Regimental visitors) and that a new memorial would be dedicated at Le Havre on 10 September 2000 (the 56th anniversary of the 1st Battalion's assault).

The President concluded his address by

thanking C Company of the East of England Regiment and the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire ACF for all their help with the arrangements for the weekend. After the General had proposed the Loyal Toast and the toast to the Regiment, the reunion continued, both bars trading happily into the night.

The Sunday was a very special day as it was exactly the 175th anniversary of the day when HM King George IV awarded the figure of the 'Royal Tiger' to the Leicestershire Regiment as a 'lasting testimony of its exemplary conduct' during its service in India 1804-1823. It was also exactly the 50th anniversary of the Sunday when the North Korean army crossed the border into South Korea and started the Korean War, in which the 1st Battalion the Royal Leicestershire Regiment fought with

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great distinction. We welcomed to the service the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and the Hon Mrs Brooks, the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Lady Mayoress and the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and Mrs Howard, the Chairman and many members of the British Korean Veterans Association. We were also particularly pleased to welcome 13 members of the Rolfe-Smith family.

The Chancellor of Leicester Cathedral took the service, and the Bishop of Leicester preached a very moving sermon. The Standard of the Association was carried by Mr RE Jones. After the sermon, the Bishop and clergy, accompanied by the distinguished visitors and the Rolfe-Smith family, moved to the Regimental Chapel while the Bishop rededicated all the Colours of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and then dedicated a bronze plaque in memory of Lt Col SA Rolfe-Smith OBE.

After the service, the civic dignitaries supported the Lord Lieutenant when he took the salute as the Association marched past which was, as always, a very moving spectacle. After the usual march to the town hall and dismissal, members returned to the TA Centre to continue the reunion. It was another very enjoyable weekend, the weather was kind to us, and it gave us much pleasure to entertain so many guests. The successful weekend would not have been possible without so much support from C Company of the East of England Regiment and their willing assistance is very much appreciated by us all.

National Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen Mother

The Association was represented at the

National Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 100th Birthday on Horse Guards on 19 July 2000 by Brig A Fisher, Col FAH Swallow, Maj MW McD Cairns and their wives. The Colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment were on parade and participated in the Service units' march past.

Col JC Barrett VC TD DL FRCS

When he died in 1977, Col John Barrett left to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in his will his Victoria Cross and other medals, although his wife retained them until her death last year. It is wonderful to record that the Regimental Museum now has all the VCs won by members of the Regiment.

Royal Anglian Gathering

This year another bus was arranged to take Association members to Bassingbourn for the Royal Anglian Regiment Gathering on 23 July, and several other carloads arrived in time for the drumhead service. It was pleasing to see so many Tigers and, as all those who attended enjoyed a wonderful day, it is hoped that attendance will continue to increase each year. The weather was kind and the arrangements splendid, so we send our thanks to all the organisers for another most enjoyable Reunion.

50th/8th/1st Battalion Reunion

The annual reunion of the 50th/8th/1st Battalion was held on the last Saturday in September. Sadly, a number of familiar faces were missing, especially some who had long distances to travel. Nevertheless those 17 stalwarts who braved the weather had an excellent evening. Again, they expressed

their sincere thanks to C Company for use of the TA Centre, and to the barman and caretaker who provided first class service and arranged an excellent buffet. They both contributed enormously to the success of the evening. Next year's reunion will be on 29 September 2001.

Cyprus Veterans' Reunion

The fourth reunion of 1st Battalion veterans who served in Cyprus 1955-57 was held in Leicester on 14 October 2000. Over 180 people attended and had a very enjoyable evening. Next year's reunion will be on 20 October 2001.

Royal Tigers' Wood

Royal Tigers' Wood continues to thrive, and every visit there raises one's morale. Anyone needing a map of how to find the wood should ask the area office for one.

Ladysmith Ball

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of C Company the East of England Regiment will hold the annual Ladysmith Ball at Ulverscroft Road on Saturday 24 February 2001 (1945-0100). The entertainment will be the Regimental Corps of Drums and Fifes (by kind permission of the Commanding Officer), a disco, dance music and a raffle. The food will be to the same standard as last year. Tickets remain at £10 per head and can be obtained before 27 January 2001 from Mr Trevor Taylor at the TA Centre Ulverscroft Road (during working hours 0115 9573917) or 0116 2433925. Cheques should be made payable to C Company East of England Regiment. Dress - Mess dress/black tie, lounge suit, blazer and flannels. It is requested that ladies be suitably attired.



The Royal Anglian Regiment and

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association

The Chairman of the Association, Brig Angus Robertson, sent loyal greetings to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on the occasion of her 100th birthday on behalf of the Regiment Association.

The Association Dinner and Dance

This was held at 'Castle Hall', Hertford on Saturday 13 May and attended by some 180 members and their friends. The evening commenced with Branch Standards being marched in to our old Regimental March *Mandolinata* and as a tribute to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment marched off to *The Lincolnshire Poacher*, played by the Essex Yeomanry Band.

We were pleased that this year our President, Maj Gen Ward-Booth and Mrs Ward-Booth were able to attend, also Col Morgan of the Essex Regiment Association and Mrs Morgan.

With the return of the 2nd Battalion from Cyprus this year we had the pleasure of inviting not only Lt Col ASC Wild, Commanding Officer and Mrs Wild but also WO1 PG Martin and his wife Dianne, WO2 SM Brown and Kyla and WO2 D Hazelwood and Karen. As usual a group of friends from the Essex Regiment Association attended.

An excellent dinner was served during which the Essex Yeomanry played to their excellent high standard, after which our Chairman, Brig Angus Robertson welcomed everybody present and gave a brief report on the activities of the Association finishing as usual with a joke.

In his reply Lt Col Wild gave us up-to-date news of his Battalion and stressed the bond that exists between the serving soldiers and the Association.

With speeches over, all present got down to the serious business of dancing. A very

successful raffle was held and the evening finished up as usual by marching round the hall to our Regimental March.

All agreed a very enjoyable evening but it was a pity that Maj Donald Girdwood could not attend because of ill health, the first dinner he has ever missed, we wish him well.

The Royal Anglian Regimental Gathering - Bassingbourn

The Association had a very good turnout for the Gathering, which was an enjoyable day despite the damp and chilly start to the day. Again, this year with all our Branch Standards leading, the Association's marching contingent was the largest.

This great day ended with the combined Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and the East of England Regiment giving a fine display of music and marching.

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The Goslar Officers' Reunion

On Saturday 29 July 2000 some 27 members of the Officers' Mess at Goslar in 1956/58 gathered at the home of Maj and Mrs David Page in Sussex. Greetings were received from Maj John Salazar who was unable to attend.

Suez Veterans Year 2000 Reunion

Around 100 members, wives and guests attended a gathering at Arlesey Town Football Club function suite to celebrate the first reunion of this century on Saturday 2 September. A minute's silence was held in memory of Suez veterans who were no longer with us.

The guest speaker was the Association Vice-Chairman, Maj Robin Medley, who spoke of the role of the National Servicemen after World War Two, the part they played, their contribution during the difficult times in the 1950s.

An excellent buffet was provided and this year's cake was decorated in the form of the mask of the boy Tutankhamen. A raffle was held and £50 was donated to the Regimental Museum Appeal.

The Investiture of the OBE to Maj 'Donald' Girdwood

On Sunday 19 August 2000, friends of 'Donald' Girdwood assembled in the spacious surrounds of the house of our Chairman at Kettlebaston, Suffolk for the investiture of 'Donald' Girdwood's well deserved OBE, for services to the Army Benevolent Fund, by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lord Belstead PC JP.

The Lord Lieutenant presented the medal and spoke briefly on the work Maj Girdwood has carried out for the Army Benevolent Fund in Bedfordshire and Suffolk, and for several other charities. Brig Robertson then thanked the Lord Lieutenant and added his own compliments to 'Donald'.

In all 40 guests attended the ceremony after which Maj Girdwood was toasted in champagne. This was followed by a magnificent meal laid on by Mrs Gillian Robertson.

Dunkirk - The Final Pilgrimage

Members of the Association, some of whom had served with the 2nd Battalion at Dunkirk in 1940, attended the last pilgrimage. One of

these was Maj Medley who on the Sunday, the big day when HRH Prince Charles was taking the salute and meeting many veterans including himself, lost his voice and was confined to bed. However the BBC did mention him and his experiences with the 2nd Bedfords. All attended the march the following day at De Panne and the service at Le Paradis, where the SS shot 90 Royal Norfolks after capture.

The *Welsh Mirror* of Tuesday 16 May 2000 devoted most of its middle two pages to an article on Maj Robin Medley's experiences at Dunkirk plus photographs of him now and aged 20.

News from the Branches

On Sunday 13 February representatives of the Bedford Branch with their Standards attended a service at Elstow Abbey which was organised by the Children of Far East Prisoners of War. The Royal British Legion and Burma Star Association with their Standards were there, along with other ex-PoWs and their families. A tree was planted by the Bedfordshire Lord Lieutenant, Sam Whitbread, and a memorial stone was dedicated to the Far East PoWs. Also present were Mr Terry Waite and Air Marshal Sir John Baird, both patrons of the Children of Far East Prisoners of War. The Abbey was packed.

Members attended the Association Dinner at Hertford and had a great time. Forty members and wives attended the London International Tattoo at Wembley for the afternoon performance when the Branch Standards were carried on the Parade. In June members attended two Army Benevolent Fund fundraising events, the first at Marston Vale, Bedfordshire, at which the Minden Band was present and the second in Hertfordshire at Haileybury were the Lord Mayor of London was present with the Pikemen and Musketeers, Band and Drums of the Honourable Artillery Company and the 100-strong Royal British Legion Youth Band from Brentwood which was a truly excellent performance. Members attended a damp and chilly Bassingbourn. A good day and well done the Drums!

The Hertford Branch, which organises the Association Dinner, hopes that all those who attended enjoyed it as much as they did. Sixteen members of the Branch attended the

Essex Regiment Association dinner and dance at Chelmsford and were made most welcome. A full coach of members attended Bassingbourn and although the weather could have been better, all enjoyed the day. Two members were lucky enough to get tickets for the Chelsea Pensioners' Founders' Day - a grand occasion.

The St Albans Branch has 33 members, most attending the monthly meetings at the Harpenden RBL Club. Seventeen members attended the Association Dinner on 13 May and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Due to illness, holidays and family reasons only 12 branch members paraded at Bassingbourn and although a dull wet day all went well.

The Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch held a race night on 10 June and a total of £350 was raised for the museum appeal and a good time was had by all. Several members went to Haileybury on 25 June to the Beating Retreat. On 9 July seven members of the branch went to the Royal Military Tattoo 2000 which proved to be a truly spectacular display of 2,000 years of military history in the Defence of the Realm. A firework display lit up Horse Guards Parade to bring a memorable evening to a close. Thirty members travelled to Bassingbourn and met up with old friends.

The Hitchin Branch is attending all the Association's events as well as organising trips to the Chelsea Army Museum and trips on the River Thames.

A great blow to the Luton and Dunstable Branch was the death of its President, Jack Leech MM, who died on 1 June 2000. Jack had been a staunch member for many years and had during these years also held the office of Chairman. He had joined the Regiment as a boy soldier in the mid 1930s and was with the 2nd Battalion in France in 1940 at Dunkirk. He then volunteered for the Army Commandos where he won his MM and Bar. He finished his time in the 1st Battalion as CSM. He was a member of the Association Management Committee and did great work on the Museum Committee. He will be greatly missed.

Four members of the Suez Canal Veterans paid a return visit to the Egypt and while there laid wreaths on the graves of ex-Bedfords. Members attended both Bassingbourn and the Minden Day Parade at Bury St Edmunds.



The Hertfordshire Regiment Association And

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Hertfordshire)

As there were no Hertfordshire Regiment Association notes in the last issue, these notes cover the period from September 1999. The autumn fish and chip supper was held at the TA Centre on 11 September 1999 which

was well supported and enjoyed by members and their wives.

Several members and wives went to the Royal British Legion holiday at Prestatyn, North Wales which all enjoyed. This year

they are all looking forward to October for the Scarborough holiday trip.

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at the Mayflower Place on 7 November 1999 and was again supported by members and

The Associations



Hertford Museum Exhibition, from left: Col R Shervington, Mr Dennis Corbett, Brig AFFH Robertson, Mr Cyril Austin and Col NH Kelsey.

friends, some comrades meeting again after many years. The 2000 Reunion is being held at the same venue on 5 November.

The Annual General Meeting was held on

5 April 2000 when the election of committee members and other business took place. Col Kelsey sent greetings to Her Majesty The Queen Mother on her 100th Birthday on

behalf of the Association.

The Royal Anglian Day at Bassingbourn was once again well attended by members although the weather was not so good.



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

The Annual reunion of the Essex Regiment Association took place at Warley on Sunday 25 June. Once again we welcomed Maj Gen John Sutherell CBE to the saluting base. We were pleased to see our two Padres, Maj Martin Franks and the Rev Ken Belben at the service, Rev Franks giving the sermon. Unlike previous years we were not threatened by the weather and the whole programme, masterminded by our 'part-time' Regimental Secretary, Maj David Thorogood, went off without a hitch. The Deputy Colonel spoke to the comrades before tea and to the great surprise and pride of three members, presented them with certificates for their work for the Association. They were Charlie Meekins, Ted Hazle DCM and Gordon Wren. After the regulation strawberries and cream all repaired to the Mess gardens for a chat and the display of the Corps of Drums of the King Edward VI School Chelmsford.

Our annual dinner and dance, held at the Marconi Club, Chelmsford, on Saturday 15

July, was a great success and once again the club put on an excellent meal. We were well supported by the Royal Naval Association and the Royal British Legion. The future of this function is under review and the possibility exists that in ensuing years it may well become a lunch rather than a dinner.

We were sorry to hear that Maj James Harris, OC C (Essex) Company the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, was on the move. Our relationship with the company has prospered under his command. However we have been very pleased to welcome Maj Simon Browne in his place who we are confident will carry on the links with the Association which we value so much. During his visit, Col Geoffrey Morgan and the Editor took the opportunity to visit a number of recruiting stands manned by C Company members at sites throughout Essex.

A memorial was dedicated at North Weald Airfield where nine young soldiers of the

Essex Regiment were killed in an air attack on 24 August 1940. Dedication was on 3 September when Col Geoffrey Morgan read the exhortation and laid a wreath. Maurice Armstrong carried the Association Standard.

As part of the Millennium Badge Project, Col Geoffrey Morgan OBE DL, unveiled a replica of the Essex Regiment Badge at the Balke Gate, Colchester on 24 September. At the same time a replica badge of the Essex Yeomanry was unveiled by Maj Gen Richardson CB MBE. A short address was given by Mr Bob Russell, MP for Colchester.

On the initiative of Messrs Terry Smith and Charlie Wakeling, formerly of 1st Battalion the Essex Regiment, a reunion was arranged and took place on 16 September 2000 of National Servicemen who served with the Battalion in Korea. James Kelly reported a very successful gathering of over 40 members of the Battalion who enjoyed Adams ale and Suffolk ham which they found somewhat more palatable than 'rations

The Associations

USA'. Evidently they all enjoyed their trip back to the Kansas line and spent a few memorable hours looking at photographs taken nearly 50 years ago.

On Sunday 8 October a party of Association members attended morning prayer at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Around the Branches

Chelmsford

The branch meets every two months and the committee would like to thank Mr Meekins for the welfare work he continues to undertake. Most of the 5th Battalion the Essex Regiment are now in their late 70s and early 80s and they much appreciate keeping in touch when not actually being able to attend events. Our highlights are the annual reunion in June, the dinner and dance in July and the Bassingbourn Gathering. The Trigno Night is an important part of our calendar as is the monthly attendance at the Regimental Chapel.

Thurrock Branch

We still require two additional committee members.

A full programme of events has been undertaken starting with our annual buffet/dance in May. The Regimental Reunion was attended by many members and guests who very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet and chat and to listen to the entertainment on the lawn.

There were two events in July, our own Association dinner and dance at Chelmsford and the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn. The dance was well attended but as all good things have to come to an end and we look forward to the new lunch arrangement for next year. The main comment from those who went to



Ted Hazle DCM receives his certificate from Maj Gen John Sutherell.

Bassingbourn was that it was a pity that the bands did not know our Regimental March.

A few from the branch attended the AGM and dinner of The 49th West Riding Division in York during August, visiting the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on our journey. We also attended the Normandy Veterans service in York Minster where a stone memorial plaque was dedicated.

We remain an active branch although obviously age and travel prevents many from attending functions.

4th Battalion Comrades Association

The Association is in good heart despite the inevitable 'casualty list' of members passing

away. We are fortunate to have been recruiting new members steadily through the year, many from the post-war TA Battalion and from the 2/4th Battalion formed in 1939. These new members are most welcome and their experiences enrich our understanding of the history of the Battalion.

Our AGM was held on Friday 28 April, with Maj Gen Beckett, Col Morgan and Lt Col Brewer in attendance. As attendance, other than members of the Comrades Council, was low, copies of the minutes were distributed to all members with the following issue of 'knife, fork, spoon'.

Three of our Council members have now become holders of the Certificate of Appreciation from the Colonel of the Regiment, addition to George Green and Peter Giggins, Ted Hazle DCM received his at the reunion from the Deputy Colonel, Maj Gen John Sutherell.

Our garden party at Warley in July was a great success despite having to withdraw to the shelter of the TA Centre during heavy rain. A full programme by the girls of the Brentwood Ursuline School Orchestra and the Essex Corps of Drums made for a very enjoyable afternoon and our thanks must go to our ladies for the superb tea that was laid on.

Members have attended the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn, the Regimental reunion, the Regimental dinner at Chelmsford and The Queen Mother's Birthday Parade in London.

We have been contacted by United Productions, a television company, with regard to a new series of documentary programmes to be made on World War Two. The battles to be covered are Cassino and El Alamein and lists of surviving veterans of both battles were supplied to them. George Green has already been interviewed about Alamein and we look forward to seeing the content of these programmes in due course.



Charlie Meekins with his certificate.

The Associations



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

Annual Reunion 2000

The Association Annual Reunion was held on 8 and 9 July. The various Regimental meetings and the dinner were held on the Saturday and the Comrades' church parade and reunion on the Sunday. After the AGM, the dinner was held in the TA Centre with 205 members in attendance. Gen Sir John Akehurst presided and proposed toasts of 'The Queen', 'Our Colonel-in-Chief' and 'Princess Alice', Deputy Colonel-in-Chief. Gen Akehurst said telegrams of good wishes for a convivial evening had been received from Her Majesty The Queen, from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and from HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, in reply to loyal telegrams sent to them earlier. The General ended a short speech by proposing the toast 'The Regiment'.

The next day the weather just kept fine for the church parade. The turnout was as good as ever and the march, headed by the Royal Anglian Regiment TA Band, was enjoyed by marchers and spectators alike. The church service was well attended and, as usual, stimulating. The service was taken by the new vicar of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Rev Neil Purvey-Tyrer and a most excellent address was given by the Rt Rev Michael Mann KCVO. After the service the parade returned to Gibraltar Barracks for dismissal, en route giving an 'eyes left' to the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, who took the salute, and to the Deputy Mayor of Northampton and to our President.

The centre of attention then moved to Clare Street where there was the 'all ranks' reception, at which the officers and their guests joined the usual throng. The rain started coming down quite hard as everyone gathered for a very happy occasion and more reminiscences.

Another Reunion

Another very successful reunion was held on 1 July 2000 by members of the Northamptonshire Regiment who had mainly served with the 1st Battalion (especially the Signals Platoon) in Germany and Hong Kong, although there were some from other stations/years. This reunion was held at the Royal Navy and Marine Association Club at Lorne Road, Northampton, but not quite as many attended this year for many reasons. An absolutely splendid buffet was provided by Mrs Gwen Fleckney and Mrs Viki Ricketts which satisfied the most ravenous of appetites. A great deal of thanks to these ladies as well as

those who assisted in setting it out and presented it so well. A small group provided 'our kind of music' which was enjoyed by all the club members. A raffle was run very successfully and the 'sales patter' of Bill Brown had to be heard to be believed!

5th Battalion Reunion

The 12th annual reunion of the 5th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment was again held at Barnsdale Lodge, near Rutland Water, on Sunday 14 May 2000. Before the start of an excellent lunch, Maj Richard Hill, on behalf of Donald Girdwood, who was unable to attend, welcomed the ladies and gentlemen and gave each of the ladies a lovely buttonhole. He also read out apologies from those unable to attend for various reasons. A minute's silence was held in respect of those comrades who had died since the last reunion. This reunion was another very happy and enjoyable occasion.

70th Battalion Reunion

The 9th annual reunion of the 70th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment took place on Friday 6 October 2000 at the Conservative and Unionist Club, Kettering. Mr Jeffery Brown chaired the proceedings and the Battalion was pleased and honoured to entertain as its principal guests the Mayor and Mayoress of Kettering, Cllr John and Mrs Lillian Coleman.

On Saturday 7 October 2000 The Mayor kindly entertained 70th Battalion members and their ladies and friends to a buffet luncheon in his new parlour at the municipal offices. In appreciation, members organised a raffle for the Mayor's Charity which raised a very satisfactory sum. Col Peter Worthy, Chairman of the Comrades' Association, on behalf of all present, most eloquently thanked the Mayor for his kindness and generosity.

Peterborough Branch

A busy and, as ever, most enjoyable summer and autumn again. As in previous years our Chairman, Terry Edge, organised a Royal Anglian Day at the TA Centre in London Road. This was very well attended and included the majority of the Headquarters Company commanders since 1967. We were treated to a fine display of marching and drumming by the East of England Regiment Corps of Drums, and our President, Maj Richard Hill, took the salute.

The branch was entertained at the joint summer barbecue with our friends in the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades at Childers in Whittlesey which was a very

successful gathering.

The branch year's highlight was our Millennium Reunion Dinner at Peterborough on 21 October. Over 120 people attended the dinner and were entertained by our Cambridgeshire Lord Lieutenant, James Crowden, who spoke after the dinner and gave very amusing recollections of his late father who had commanded the 1st City of Peterborough Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Home Guard in the last war and his own personal memories of the drill hall as 'one of the best ballrooms in the vicinity of Peterborough', where in his youth he and his brother had danced and partied on many occasions. It was a very happy evening and we were particularly pleased to have the Band of the East of England Regiment play for us after an absence of several years.

To get all our branch news please visit our website at <http://www.go.to/steelbacks>.

Finedon Branch

The branch has had a very full programme since the last notes were published. We hold regular meetings and functions and the ladies play an active part in the branch activities, so much so that they are now busy organising the first function for the New Year. In addition to the monthly meetings the branch has attended an evening in support of the Macmillan Appeal, held a ten-pin bowling competition, held a games night against the Conservative Club in Finedon, had a strong turnout at the Regimental weekend in Northampton, organised another very successful canal boat trip and attended the Poachers' Gathering at Felixstowe.

For the immediate future the branch is arranging a buffet for the committee and members of the Conservative Club in Finedon as a way of saying thank-you to the club for being host to the branch for its monthly meetings. On 8 December the branch will be holding a formal Christmas dinner at the Emporium Restaurant in Wellingborough.

We are now very well established in the area and in particular in Finedon where we are based. The branch is now in the final stage of designing its own Standard. We are in consultation with Area HQ and by the time of the next edition I hope to give you news of a dedication parade.

Northamptonshire Regiment Museum

All the property and funds have been handed over to Northampton Borough Council, the new sole trustee of the Northamptonshire Regiment Museum. Behind the scenes an

The Associations

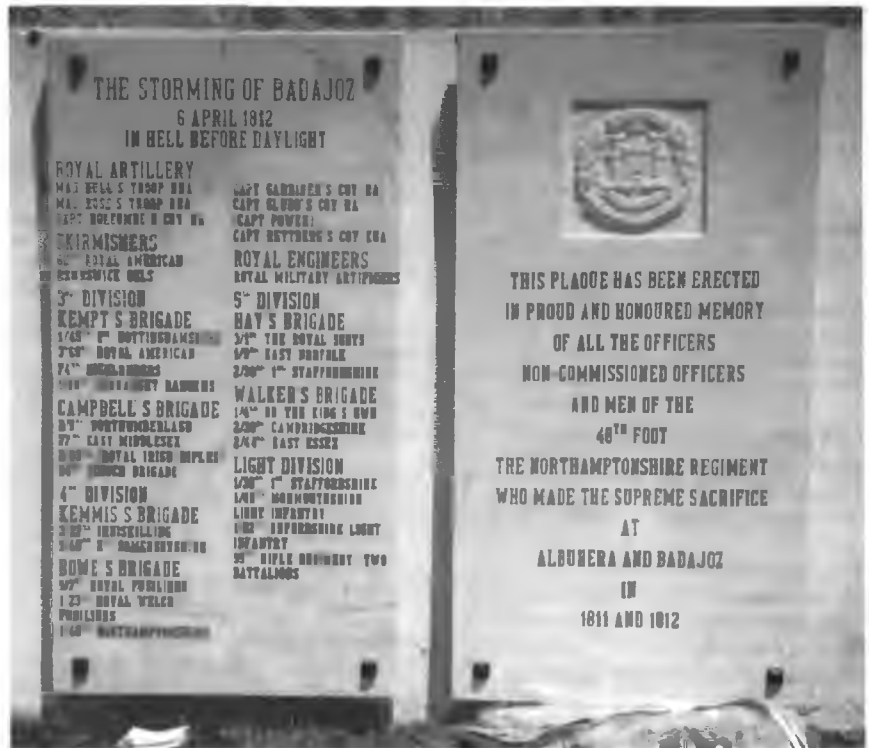
enormous amount of work is still going on, listing and recording on a computer all the items in the Regimental collection. Liaison with the borough is regular, and their storage facilities for the items not on display is excellent. The Association remains very pleased with all the work being undertaken by the borough council. A briefing by the trustee for the former trustees and Friends of the Museum is being organised in November. The future of our Regimental collection is in good hands.

Albuera and Badajoz

On Sunday 14 May 2000, in the British Cemetery in Elvas, Gen Martins Barento, Chief of Staff of the Portuguese Army and Sir John Holme, the British Ambassador, unveiled memorials to the British and Portuguese regiments that fought at Albuera and Badajoz. Although these battles were fought in Spain, the only marked graves of all the thousands who died are in the British Cemetery.

In addition to the main plaques listing the regiments, there are four plaques erected by individual regiments, including one by the Northamptonshire Regiment. Local residents were represented by the British Historical Society and the Friends of the British Cemetery. However all the work involved in bringing the cemetery to the very attractive state it is now was undertaken by the Portuguese Army. The walls have been replastered and whitewashed. The whole area has been landscaped with gravel paths winding through turf lawns. The chapel has a new roof and is whitewashed.

The Northamptonshire Regiment



Plaque unveiled by Col P Worthy on 14 May 00 in British Cemetery, Elvas, Portugal.

Association was represented by Col and Mrs P Worthy. Col Worthy unveiled the Regimental memorial and laid a wreath. Later he also paid a special visit to Talavera, where the 48th won its finest battle honour.

Sale of Regimental Silver

It is likely that the Northamptonshire

Regimental Trustees will be arranging a sale of surplus Regimental silver. Anyone who might be interested in buying one or more pieces should telephone the area office (01604-635412) for a list and full details. Viewing at the TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton is expected to be 3 January - 30 March 2001.

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Association Branches

Norfolk

HQ The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Norfolk Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)
Britannia House,
TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road,
Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2AD
Tel: 01603-400290

King's Lynn Branch
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Sandena, Old Mill Road,
Roughton, Norwich NR11 8PE

Gt Yarmouth/Gorleston Branch
Mr RC Pillar,
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Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PD

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Mr MJ Frances,
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Hendon Avenue,
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Norwich Branch
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Suffolk IP33 3RN
Tel: 01603-400290
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President: Brig WC Deller OBE

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Ipswich Branch
Mr R Garner,
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Secretary: Maj MA Jarvis
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Col DE Latchford,
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Ely Branch
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Wisbech Branch
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Sutton, Cambs CB6 2RA
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Essex CM13 3BN
Tel: Brentwood 01277-213051
President: Brig AFFH Robertson CBE

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St Albans Branch
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Herts AL1 5AE
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Bedford Branch
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Luton and Dunstable Branch
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Essex CM13 3BN
Tel: 01277-213051
President: Col GCP Morgan OBE DL

4th Battalion Comrades Association
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Tel: 0181-5083232

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Thurrock and District Branch

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Lincoln LN1 3PY
Tel: 01522-525444
President: Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright
CB CBE DL

Lincoln Branch

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Grantham Branch

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Grantham, Lincs NG31 8DZ
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Spalding Branch

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Boston, Lincs PE21 0DY
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Midlands Branch

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Radford, Coventry CV6 3EY
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Stamford Branch

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Tel: 01604-635412
Chairman: Col P Worthy

Corby Branch

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Northants NN17 2JD

Finedon Branch

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Northants NN9 5ET
Tel: 01933-681525

Peterborough Branch

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Milking Nook,
Peterborough PE6 7PP
Tel: 01733-810311

Leicestershire**HQ The Royal Tigers' Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)**

TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road,
Leicester LE4 6BY
Tel: 0116-2622749
President: Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE
DL

Wiltshire**Warminster Branch**

Mr E Wilson,
23 The Heathlands,
Warminster,
Wiltshire BA12 8BU
Tel: 01985-219273.

Deaths

We have been informed of the following deaths:

Banthorpe: On 19 October 2000, Maj WG Banthorpe (Gilly) aged 82. He joined 4th Norfolks (TA) in 1939, was demobbed in 1951, rejoined in the TA and eventually transferred to the ACF in 1983. At aged 65 he persuaded someone to extend him and he eventually moved out of ACF duties in 1986 aged 78.

Batchelor: On 30 August 2000, Mr RJ (Jim) Batchelor aged 70. He served with 3rd East Anglian and 3rd Royal Anglian. He retired in 1972 as a WO2.

Dallimore: On 15 July 2000, Mr J (Daily) Dallimore aged 67. He joined the 1st Beds and Herts in the Canal Zone in 1951. He also served in Goslar, Malaya, Berlin and Aden. After the Army he joined Norfolk ACF as their Quartermaster and finally put away his uniform in 1998.

Flower: On 25 October 2000, Col WD Flower TD DL aged 85. He commanded 4R Norfolks 1959-62, was Commandant Norfolk ACF 1972-76 and later Deputy Honorary Colonel for A (Norfolk) Company in Norwich. At the time of his death he was President of the Norwich Branch of the Association.

Gaffer: On 27 May 1999, Mr T (Thomas) Gaffer. He served with

1 R Norfolks, 1 East Anglian and 1 Royal Anglian in Berlin, Aden, Celle, Northern Ireland, Aden and Cyprus.

Hegarty: On 15 March 2000, Mr Danny Hegarty aged 66. He was an MT corporal with 1st Beds and Herts in Goslar.

Leech: On 1 June 2000, Mr J Leech MM aged 79.

Luff: On 14 May 2000, Mr W Luff aged 92. He served with 5th Battalion Beds and Herts and was a PoW.

Moody: On 6 April 2000 in Zimbabwe, Maj L Moody TD who served with 6th Battalion Beds and Herts during the war.

Row: Mr W (Bill) Row who was a sergeant in 1 Beds and Herts in Salonika.

Slaughter: On 7 June 2000, Mr CS Slaughter aged 86 - ex-RQMS Essex Regiment.

To their loved ones we send our condolences. We realise that this is not a complete list of deaths since the last edition and hope that, in future, Association Notes editors will inform us of deaths among their members.

East of England Regiment

As at 1 October 2000

Regimental HQ

Lt Col CA Newell PWRR
Maj PHG Alun-Jones WFR
Maj FMG De Planta
De Wildenberg R Anglian
Maj G Morris R Anglian
Capt PC Whitehead (Padre)
W01 (RSM) Abbs MJ R Anglian

HQ (Suffolk) Company

Capt GW French
CSgt Marriott D

QM Department

Maj A Jones R Anglian
Capt GA Hitchings
W02 (RWMS) Tunstall BP
W02 Kelly W
CSgt Moffat DI
Cpl Plume SC
LCpl Stokes MU

RAO

Maj CP Vince AGC (SPS)
Capt PG Mann AGC (SPS)
Capt KR Martin AGC (SPS)
W02 Coleman R AGC (SPS)
SSgt Russell MJ AGC (SPS)
Sgt Alderton KN AGC (SPS)
LCpl Perkins KE AGC (SPS)

MT Platoon

W02 (MTWO) Laidlaw R
CSgt Cummings D
Cpl Hunt WJ
Cpl Lawrence D
Cpl Lemay DW
Cpl Street MA
LCpl Branch CJW
Pte Beckham MCW
Pte Griffiths S
Pte Milne KM
Pte Scales SL

REME Section

SSgt Carter RWE REME
SSgt Mulligan J REME
SSgt Hopper GR REME
SSgt Smith AG REME
LCpl Ryder PJ REME
Cfn Graham MJ REME
Pte Young RJM

Signals Platoon

SSgt Shand G
Sgt (PSI) Lamb AB
Sgt Greenwood I
Cpl Randal UK
LCpl Wells CA
Pte Lanaway GD

RRTT

Capt SR Watson
Lt RG Rogers
W02 Emms M
LCpl Blackburn MA

Medical Section

Maj IKM Sommerville RAMC
Maj R Sutcliffe RAMC

SSgt Archer MJ RAMC

Catering Platoon

Sgt Stoker E
LCpl Rogers AK

Suffolk Platoon

Lt C Panton
Sgt Starie MFG
LCpl Betts KJ
LCpl Fallon JV
LCpl Hazell CG
Pte Atwell LJ
Pte Bell GT
Pte Britton BJ
Pte Clarke DJ
Pte Cole M
Pte Crotty PEM
Pte Finch PW
Pte Fitch AD
Pte Gow FAG
Pte Linton-Clowes MA
Pte McLaren NB
Pte Neep A
Pte Padley CM
Pte Sampson KJ
Pte Smith AM
Pte Smith DM
Pte Sweeting CR
Pte Versteeg L

A (Norfolk & Suffolk) Company

Company HQ

Capt (PSAO) PL Smith
Capt AJ Debenham
OCdt CM Collins
W02 (SPSI) Kerton P
W02 (PSI) Knights S
W02 (CSM) Steele T
CSgt (QPSI) Gedge TP
CSgt Mills SC
Cpl Ireland JL
Cpl Jones LD
Cpl Rolph DG
Cpl Stone ML
LCpl Feaks JE

MT Platoon

Sgt Green JA
Cpl Hindle SA REME
LCpl Bunn SE REME

Catering Detachment

SSgt Bissett GA RLC
Cpl Baldwin CM
Pte Lake MEMC

RRTT

Sgt Knight G
Sgt Rushmere G
Cpl Hall MC
LCpl Colledge MEE
LCpl Palmer DN
Pte McMurtry JE

Signal Detachment

Cpl Adams E

1 Platoon

CSgt De Meyer GJ
Sgt Lunn SD
Cpl Antill SJ
LCpl Ellis SN
LCpl Staines GB
Pte Allen PD
Pte Ambrozevich JM
Pte Baker SL
Pte Beddar PV
Pte Fitt DM
Pte Gardiner AL
Pte Goodall M
Pte Harris MR
Pte Hatton RJ
Pte Hayes DO
Pte Jones S
Pte Ling NJ
Pte Logue SE
Pte Mooney SC
Pte O'Brien PLD
Pte Sharpe M
Pte Sheekey JA
Pte Smithson SJ
Pte Strange NS
Pte Walker DM
Pte Walter ND
Pte Waterfield DF
Pte Williams PJ
Pte Woollard JD

2 Platoon

Lt M Quinn
Sgt Roe IP
Cpl Brown JL
Cpl Sherlock M
LCpl Casey VM
LCpl Pluck A
Pte Fincham SN
Pte Fisher GM
Pte Henderson CJK
Pte Hind J
Pte Hitter RC
Pte Humphreys RP
Pte Jones SG
Pte Kershaw SL
Pte King DG
Pte Mellor WL
Pte Pickess JK
Pte Self MJ
Pte Turner PJ
Pte Waller ALJ
Pte Watkinson CA

Mortar Platoon

Lt RJ McCullough
W02 Hipperson P
Sgt Fuller PJ
Cpl De Kretser MW
Cpl Hatch SP
Cpl Pollard KL
Cpl Stone RA
LCpl Beavis CW
LCpl Boardman
Pte Burrows P
Pte Chambers KJ
Pte Coleman SN
Pte Cooper MC
Pte Harvey MJ
Pte Sayer DE

East of England Regiment

Pte Wade JJ
 Pte Warner S
 Pte Wilkinson JG
 Pte Zachariades GM

B (Lincolnshire) Company

Company HQ
 Maj RG Atkinson
 Capt (PSAO) JC Sayers-Pratt
 Lt IM Sackree
 WO2 (SPSI) Munroe SA
 WO2 (CSM) Redhead S
 CSgt (QPSI) Osman MW
 Sgt Brotherton PM
 Sgt (PSI) Clarke M
 Cpl Finlay FA
 Cpl Day MT
 Cpl Smith PJ
 LCpl Henderson KP
 LCpl Long CPA
 LCpl Spence PMJ
 Pte Scorer AJ
 LCpl Spence SAJ

Medical Section

LCpl Siddle TA

Signals Platoon

Cpl Beard DT
 Pte Meadows SP
 Pte Tasker M

RRTT

WO2 Hudson P
 Cpl Cook MR
 Cpl McCurdy AJ

Recce Platoon

Capt NJ Sutherland
 Sgt Mann PA
 Cpl Baines RJ
 Cpl Dolby MR
 LCpl Buswell SC
 LCpl Dawson TET
 LCpl Kelly A
 LCpl Sibbons WR
 Pte Beatty AC
 Pte Bisset AD
 Pte Brown RH
 Pte Ding JM
 Pte Jenks GA
 Pte Kane S
 Pte Killingsworth RK
 Pte McCarry SFS
 Pte McLaren SC
 Pte Ruddlesdin WN
 Pte Russel PA
 Pte Wayne J
 Pte Wearmouth B

4 Platoon

2Lt S Lowther
 Sgt Taylor JLG
 Cpl North CJ
 Cpl Sheils W
 LCpl Capindale PI
 LCpl Davidson KM
 Pte Burnett AM
 Pte Carter BW
 Pte Clover RA
 Pte Cornish SC
 Pte Devan N

Pte Downs SC
 Pte Fagg DS
 Pte Flint MJ
 Pte Fyfe SPR
 Pte Gurney BD
 Pte Hardy MG
 Pte Hotchin BA
 Pte Lamberton G
 Pte Light SJ
 Pte Martin AH
 Pte McClellan JE
 Pte Newby K
 Pte Pullan DW
 Pte Roney PS
 Pte Shorter PF
 Pte Siddle P
 Pte Topliss NP
 Pte Wells BJ
 Pte Wells CW
 Pte Wilmot PM
 Pte Wilson R
 Pte Winter C
 Pte Wood SA
 Pte Fitz-Simon MA

Catering Detachment

Cpl Jones AI
 Cpl Metcalfe DE
 LCpl Bannon M
 LCpl Willey N
 Pte Leggett D

5 Platoon

CSgt Thompson B
 Sgt Hamer DN
 Cpl Dovey IP
 Cpl Whiting AS
 LCpl Willcox DPA
 Pte Bolland AM
 Pte Bulmer DJ
 Pte Buxton MR
 Pte Cochrane J
 Pte Fleeting EJ
 Pte Green WM
 Pte Hillary SJ
 Pte Jackson SP
 Pte Johnson DM
 Pte Joseph GA
 Pte Newberry AJ
 Pte Norie BL
 Pte Pearl WF
 Pte Plumtree DJ
 Pte Powell T
 Pte Shields GJ
 Pte Squires CG
 Pte Wheatley KA

C (Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) Company

Company HQ
 Maj GB Shaw
 Capt (PSAO) T Smith
 Capt DJ Sommerville
 WO2 (CSM) Warren PV
 CSgt Buzzard SN
 Cpl Nagra AS
 Cpl Coleman RA
 LCpl Woods GA

Signal Detachment

Cpl Robinson I
 LCpl Fleming SA

MT Detachment
 Pte Smith AP

Catering Detachment
 Sgt Tayler GR

Medical Detachment
 Cpl Wheatley K

Assault Pioneer Platoon

Capt Thompson TC
 CSgt Webber IW
 Sg (PSI) Shaw SA
 Sgt Nagra BS
 Sgt Sharp DR
 Cpl Ball NT
 Cpl Hague P
 Cpl Hunter AJ
 LCpl Dore CE
 LCpl Burnett R
 Pte Alden MC
 Pte Campling WR
 Pte Derry WM
 Pte Evans APD
 Pte Hurst DO
 Pte Jenkins GJ
 Pte Marsh R
 Pte Overton P
 Pte Smith DC

7 Platoon

OCdt Ginns IJ
 Sgt Askew CJ
 Cpl Baillie MJA
 Cpl O'Toole DP
 Cpl Thompson RJ
 LCpl Gillan PA
 LCpl Holmes MA
 LCpl Phillips DA
 LCpl Pittams GM
 Pte Allen SS
 Pte Bell AJ
 Pte Bentley IJ
 Pte Brockwell BC
 Pte Clarke TP
 Pte Craddock C
 Pte Dalrymple TRRK
 Pte Faulkner RLI
 Pte Gormley A
 Pte Hamilton AJ
 Pte Hart RV
 Pte Harvey SJ
 Pte Hind RH
 Pte Holland D
 Pte Humphrey GJ
 Pte Kitching SD
 Pte Lamberth W
 Pte Montrose BJ
 Pte Neighbour DJ
 Pte Parker MDE
 Pte Payne GB
 Pte Payne L
 Pte Pritchard GHF
 Pte Roberts SC
 Pte Robinson HP
 Pte Smith M
 Pte Tew MN
 Pte Thomas OD
 Pte Turley PS
 Pte Ward J
 Pte Wooldridge D
 Pte York MR

East of England Regiment

Drums Platoon

WO2 Bradshaw J
Sgt Nightingale P
Sgt Clarke B
Cpl Coakes G
LCpl Howe A
LCpl Cheetham M
Dmr Bottomley PD
Dmr Clark I
Dmr Eames M
Dmr Gibbons S
Dmr Hunter D
Dmr Morgan RD
Dmr Nixon DM
Dnr Reed DJ

8 Platoon

Lt Copeland RJ
Sgt Short ME
Cpl Coleman IF
Cpl Cardall S
Cpl Sharp M
LCpl Craig RJ
LCpl Seymour J
LCpl Wragg A
Pte Astin S
Pte Beale AS
Pte Brown GEW
Pte Blythe AN
Pte Cole RJ
Pte Cook D
Pte Corda AF
Pte Coyle KA
Pte Davis TP
Pte Dyer SA
Pte Elson N
Pte Fowler AR
Pte Fox CS
Pte Haldane GL
Pte Hill MJ
Pte Gaskin DE
Pte Lucas DP
Pte McLeod PM
Pte Omang JA
Pte Raja D
Pte Shortt PJ
Pte Skinner CD
Pte Smith LA
Pte Spence MA
Pte Trowell DM
Pte Wellborn D
Pte White PJ
Pte Wells JH

RRTT

WO2 Bevin MJ
Sgt McConnell SC

E (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company

Company HQ

Maj M Googe
Capt (PSAO) PD Thurston
Lt AS Davies
WO2 (CSM) Denyer M
WO2 (SPSI) Jolly D
CSgt (QPSI) Anderson VA
CSgt Butler C
Sgt Moffat CS
Sgt (PSI) Wildney M
Cpl Crawley PE
Cpl Diss KW

Cpl Green DE
Cpl Parks M
Cpl Swann S
LCpl Degnan GD
LCpl Green DJ
Pte Brayshaw TD

RRTT

WO2 Brazier MD
Sgt Dawson AG
Cpl Haward CG
Cpl Tibble PC
LCpl Bygrave DP

Catering Detachment

Pte McMurray J

MG Platoon

WO2 Brown MJ
Sgt Dunningham MJ
Cpl Cavedasca
Cpl Collinson N
LCpl Instance N
Pte Connell RG
Pte Hacker S
Pte Hawkins PR
Pte Higginson NP
Pte Kenyon J
Pte King RW
Pte Kirby T
Pte Mabley L
Pte Mortimer LR
Pte Needham SR
Pte Plait SR
Pte Reeve KS
Pte Smith MC
Pte Thomas DW
Pte Westgarth SR
Pte Whiteley MS

13 Platoon

Lt TJ Irwin-Parker
Sgt Head CJ
Cpl Marns J
Cpl Porter RF
Cpl Pugh I
LCpl Jeffree JP
Pte Bissell MJ
Pte Brayshaw MD
Pte Brown MJ
Pte Bussy PE
Pte Butler S
Pte Campbell AP
Pte Chissel JA
Pte Collinson S
Pte Cox CJ
Pte Donald L
Pte Efstratiou TJ
Pte Holder M
Pte Jeffcott SJ
Pte Johnson DWR
Pte Lancaster CH
Pte O'Connell JMB
Pte Pellington J
Pte Pimm JN
Pte Schramm U
Pte Thompson D
Pte Watkins W
Pte Wiggins P
Pte Williams AJ
Pte Wright SJ
Pte Wright TB

MT Detachment

Cpl Cain PF
Cpl Lelliott SW REME
LCpl Wiseman JG REME
Pte Lucas-Clarke P REME

Medical Detachment

LCpl Andrews A RAMC

14 Platoon

Lt DHJ Litjens
Sgt Low B
Cpl Duffy JG
Cpl Homer AJ
LCpl Bird BJ
LCpl Kelly JJ
LCpl Mason P
LCpl McLatchey DP
LCpl Stratton RJ
Pte Alderson JM
Pte Avey SF
Pte Brown NR
Pte Bullock P
Pte Byron PL
Pte Cockerell MJ
Pte Ellerbeck MF
Pte Greenhill S
Pte Harrison G
Pte Hatt CA
Pte Hatt J
Pte Kelson RW
Pte Kovacs IR
Pte Lawrence L
Pte Lewis W
Pte Mason TO
Pte Mear MJL
Pte O'Shea M
Pte O'Sullivan TP
Pte Overton PS
Pte Robins JB
Pte Roy T
Pte Storey ID
Pte Taylor CD
Pte Tobin JM
OCdt Whittaker DA

The Royal Anglian Regiment (TA) Band

WO1 Hudson PCH
WO2 (PSI) Ainley MJ
WO2 Hall PA
Sgt Gardner M
Sgt Petch JM
Sgt Taylor P
Cpl Fraser RN
Cpl Harrison J
Cpl Hookway RW
Cpl Jordan AM
LCpl Auffret MR
LCpl Carey NJ
LCpl Fletcher HS
LCpl Thompson RG
LCpl Williamson FG
Bdsm Bain AM
Bdsm Elvin MJ
Bdsm Hobson JC
Bdsm Hobson SF
Bdsm Jinks EC
Bdsm Lock JR
Bdsm McKeown C
Bdsm Pearce D

East of England Regiment

Bdsm Proudfoot TD
 BdsM Richardson LBC
 BdsM Roberts PL
 BdsM Temple JD
 BdsM Thompson DG
 BdsM Wallis RE
 BdsM Wyatt CJ
 BdsM Wyndham JD

**Those serving with
Regular Army**

Capt Carnegie - E Coy
 2Lt Dart - B Coy
 Sgt Lovett - C Coy
 Cpl Pollard - A Coy
 Cpl Randall - HQ Coy

Cpl Whiting - B Coy
 LCpl Dawson - B Coy
 LCpl Phillips - C Coy
 LCpl Percival - C Coy
 Pte Byron - E Coy
 Pte Chissel - E Coy
 Pte Sweeting - HQ Coy
 Pte Turner - E Coy

Births and Marriages**Poachers****Births**

Hardy: On 29 June 2000, to LCpl and Mrs Hardy, a daughter, Shauna Jade.
Hume: On 3 August 2000, to LCpl and Mrs Hume, a son, Declan Patrick.
Jones: On 14 August 2000, to LCpl and Mrs Jones, a daughter, Leah.
Nottingham: On 16 May 2000, to Maj and Mrs Nottingham, a son, Michael Cato.
Presley: On 20 April 2000, to Pte and Mrs Presley, a son, Ieuan Thomas Alfred.
Vendyback: On 12 May 2000, to LCpl and Mrs Vendyback, a daughter, Ella Jane.

Marriages

Elgin: On 19 August 2000, Pte Elgin to Kerry Louise.
Heaton: On 12 August 2000, Pte Heaton to Penny May Battett.
McLatchie: On 19 August 2000, Pte McLatchie to Beverley Denise.
Smith: On 2 August 2000, Capt Smith to Lt Lucy Caroline Hurn.

East of England Regiment**Births**

Brazier: On 27 April 2000, to WO2 and Lesley Brazier, a son, Scott Lewis.
Cavedasca: On 28 September 2000 to Cpl and Helen Cavedasca, a daughter, Oliva Sophia.
Chambers: On 25 April 2000, to Pte and Sharon Chambers, a daughter, Lauren Amy.
Clarke: On 23 October 2000, to Sgt and Michelle Clarke, a son, Euan.
de Planta: On 29 October 2000, to Maj and Suzie de Planta, a son.
Mooney: On 1 June 2000, to Pte and Amanda Mooney, a daughter, Kyra Saffron.
Trott: On 13 June 2000, to Maj and Louise Trott, a son, Miles Henry.
Wood: On 8 September 2000, to Pte and Claire Wood, a daughter, Kimberley Phyllis

Marriages

Hazell: On 16 September 2000, LCpl Hazell to WPte Griffiths.

Notices**Are You Going to Settle In East Anglia?**

If you are leaving the Army and plan to settle in East Anglia, do consider making use of the East Anglia Resettlement Advice Centre based in Napier house, Napier Road, Colchester. During recent months the Centre has helped a number of Vikings and Poachers as they made the transition to civilian life.

Advice is readily available from the resident Individual Education and Resettlement Officer, Service Leavers' Support Team and a consultant from the Career Transition Partnership. The centre has a large reference library and computer suite and holds details of current local job vacancies.

Any member, or ex-member of the Regiment, who is interested in making use of the facilities in the centre is welcome to visit at any time during normal working hours. Contact telephone/fax number: Civil - 01206 782560 or Military - 94651 2560.

Poacher Reunion 2001

Over 300 guests attended the Poacher Reunion 2000 so it has been decided to make it an annual event. Poacher 2001 will be held at Springfields Exhibition Centre, Spalding on Saturday 17 March.

Poacher 2001 is open to all past and present members and their partners of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, the East Anglian Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment

The inclusive cost per head is £10, admission by ticket only.

For further details contact: Brian Willoughby, Springfield (Enterprises) Ltd, Camelgate, Spalding PE12 6ET. Tel 01775 724843, or Trevor Snell, Association Chairman, 29 St Thomas's Road, Spalding PE11 2XX. Tel 01775 762847.

Swingy Brass Five

Ex WO1 Milgate (Big John) has set up his own brass quintet, jazz band and brass band who are travelling the country playing at

dinners, fetes and weddings. They have recently played the London Palladium and other major venues. John can be contacted at 15 Vicarage Road, Catterick, North Yorkshire DL9 4TA. Tel: 01748 832411, Fax: 830776.

The Eagle and Garter Club

The Eagle and Garter Club held its 8th Salamanca Dinner Night on Saturday 22 July (Salamanca Day) in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Basingbourn Barracks. Seventy-two members sat down to dinner in boisterous mood, reminiscing and catching up on lost years and news. Brig Colin Groves could not attend this year, Col David Clements was an admirable President for the evening and addressed the members with all his normal panache and charm.

The golf tournament held in the afternoon was won by Stan Bullock, who gets younger every year. He now proudly holds the authentic purple Pompadour athletic vest (donated by John Fisk) for a year along with the trophy he will suitably inscribe. This is now an integral part of the day's activities, and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

Thanks once again must go to RSM of the Basingbourn Mess, the Secretary of the Club, Maj Bob Potter MBE and the Treasurer, RQMS Jim Thumwood who are the major players in the organisation and administration of the evening.

To all those Pompadours who didn't make it this year, you missed a great night, and to all those who did attend it was great to see you, and we hope to see you all and many more next year. The date will be Saturday 14 July 2001, so make a note now in your diaries.

If you require more details regarding membership or want details about the dinner then you can contact Maj Bob Potter MBE on the following:

Tel: 01206 573498;

E-Mail: bobandkathleen@hotmail.com

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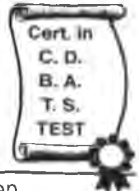
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Have you ever heard of the Army Benevolent Fund?

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:



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.

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.

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

