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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT





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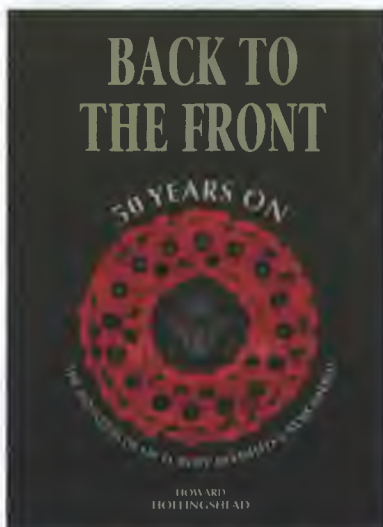
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Public Order Training - Exercise Judgement Finn.

Back cover

The Ulster Ash Grove.

Regiment Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk



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From the Colonel of the Regiment

During the last six months the Regiment has continued to progress and thrive. The 1st Battalion's considerable contribution to the fielding of the Bowman communications system has been recognised, they have attained operational readiness at battle group level and are now turning their attention to their deployment to Iraq in April 2005. The 2nd Battalion are excelling in meeting the considerable challenge of their tour in Ballykelly – subject to a continuing threat, yet a low operational profile but with a heavy load of grinding routine duties. They welcome the prospect of operations in Afghanistan in 2006. Our companies in the East of England Regiment continue to provide individuals and formed groups for operations in the full range of theatres while developing their capability for civil contingencies at home.

The Regimental Day on 12 September was a great success, and I was particularly pleased to see the strong attendance not only from our county associations but also our county cadet contingents. On 21 September, the Service of Dedication at the Ulster Ash Grove to the 18 members of the Regiment who died as the result of terrorist action in Northern Ireland, gave us the opportunity to renew and sustain the links with their families as well as reflect on their sacrifice and the contribution that all members of the Regiment have made to that campaign.

In November we learned with great sadness of the death of our Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. Gen Sir John Akehurst, who, of all our Regiment, knew Princess Alice best, writes in tribute:

'Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester gave the greatest pleasure to The Northamptonshire Regiment on 11 May 1937 when becoming the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief. This pleasure was soon enhanced when it became clear that the Duchess would not only take close interest in the Regiment and its battalions but also make frequent visits, a characteristic that continued until, in her late



Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, on 5 July 1987, prior to the march past of the Comrades of the Northamptonshire Regiment. The Princess is accompanied by Gen Sir John and Lady Akehurst.



Maj J M Woodham, OC C (Essex) Company with the Colonel of the Regiment – Minden Day 2004.

eighties, the Duchess had to reduce her commitments because of increasing physical frailty;

'The Northamptons always considered that they had the perfect Colonel-in-Chief. The Duchess brought not only beauty, dignity, grace, elegance, poise and a keen sense of duty to her appointment but also a close concern and empathy to her Regiment. Although shy and reserved and a lady of few words she always asked the right questions and somehow conveyed her personality to all ranks and was truly loved by everyone. Discussion about their Colonel-in-Chief has always brought many a tear to old soldiers' eyes.

'In due course, after the Duke's death when she took the title Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and the Royal Anglian amalgamations occurred, she became Deputy Colonel-in-Chief and, in due course Colonel-in-Chief. For as long as she was able she continued to fulfil with grace every possible commitment in those appointments.'

Finally, I must address the issue of the impact on the Regiment of work on Future Infantry Structures to meet the requirements of an era where there will be no arms plot moves, and greater reliance on individual postings to enable people to develop professionally and meet personal preferences as well as Service needs. This has been my main focus of military effort since the early summer as I have been acting Colonel Commandant Queen's Division while Lt Gen John McColl has been in Iraq. Until late October it seemed to be accepted that the way the Queen's Division could best meet the criteria for success identified by the Executive Committee of the Army Board (ECAB) was to retain three regiments each of two battalions but to adopt a more developed divisional approach to appointments and career management, probably from when NCOs reach the rank of

sergeant and officers the rank of captain.

This may well still be the case, however ECAB have found considerable difficulty in identifying the fourth infantry battalion of four to be disestablished as part of the overall process of re-balancing the Army and Defence, and, on 27 October, directed the Queen's Division to submit further evidence on sustainability and representation issues as well as organisational options for a Division of five battalions. The last month has seen considerable work by Division and Regimental staff, and strong logical arguments have been submitted. On 26 November Colonels PWRR, RRF and I went to see CGS to explain the serious implications for the Army as well as the Regiments and individuals of a decision to reduce the Division and require it to reorganise without proper consultation, particularly in the light of our experience of previous reductions. There are other options for finding the fourth battalion, and a decision will be taken by ECAB on 6 December. Lt Gen McColl, along with other Colonels Commandants, will be present to give evidence in person to ECAB. I am confident that our case has been and will be represented strongly and effectively. The decision is likely to be announced by the Secretary of State in the middle of December.

Should ECAB decide, despite our evidence, to reduce the Division, because of our manning record I do not expect a Royal Anglian battalion to be selected. However, the subsequent Divisional reorganisation would not leave us unaffected. If faced with that challenge, my priority will be to seek to ensure that we retain the core values articulated in our ethos, continue to deliver military capability, and meet the aspirations of the serving members of the Regiment and the needs of our veterans. I will keep you informed of developments and, wherever possible, engage members of the Regiment in the decision-making process.

CASTLE



The Regiment

Colonel of the Regiment
Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CB CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment
The Rev MD Franks MBE

President of the Regimental Association
Brig CMJ Barnes OBE

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment
1st Battalion: Brig RM Brunt CBE
2nd Battalion: Lt Gen JC McColl CBE DSO
TA Sub Units: Col NH Kelsey OBE TD

Honorary Colonel to the East of England Regiment
Brig AJK Calder OBE

Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk, Suffolk	Col PJS Child
Lincolnshire	Col GWC Newmarch
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire	Col JBC Prescott
Essex, Hertfordshire	Col CAF Thomas TD DL

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Pakistan	First City Regiment
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 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: 01206-752026/Colchester Military 5124
 Email: chief-clerk@anglian.army.mod.uk

Regimental Secretary: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Maj RJ Gould
Regimental Careers Officer: Capt A Biggs

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,
 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
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Area Secretary: Col AC Taylor

Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

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

Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
 Tel: 01604-635412
Area Secretary: Maj JAB Borthwick

Area Office Lincoln

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

Regimental Information Teams

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 Tel: 01206-782311
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Regimental Museum

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Regimental Attendant: Miss Cathy Smart
 Email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freereserve.uk
 Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion

Elizabeth Barracks,
 Pirbright,
 Surrey GU24 0DT

Lt Col EEC Thorne MC
(Des Lt Col SW Carver)

2nd Battalion

Shackleton Barracks,
 British Forces Post Office 802

Lt Col DP O'Driscoll

East of England Regiment

TA Centre, Blenheim Camp,
 Newmarket Road,
 Bury St Edmunds,
 Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Maj CD Davies
 Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Capt SR Poulter
 RMA Sandhurst: Maj IRF Johnstone RRF
 Army Foundation College Harrogate: Vacant

CASTLE

Personalia**Commissioning**

The following were commissioned on 6 August 2004:

2Lt AJ Griffiths
2Lt GJR Hudson
2Lt GE Osborne

The following was commissioned on 10 December 2004:

2Lt DN Broomfield

Promotions

The following have been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel in 2005:

Maj SJR Browne MBE
Maj SW Carver
Maj NFC Nottingham
Maj AM Wylie

Postings

Lt TGBP Coleman	from ITC Catterick to 1st Battalion	June 2004
Lt APT Wilde	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	June 2004
Col AJC Wild MBE	from HQ Land (Afghanistan) to ICSC	June 2004
Maj DSJ Biddick MBE	from 1st Battalion to 16 Air Asslt Bde	July 2004
Maj PM Birch	from JSCSC to DSTL Sensors	August 2004
Maj I Couch	from ITC Catterick to HQ RG	August 2004
Maj DA England	from ITDU to COS(W) Warfare	August 2004
Maj DGH Hunter	from DCC JPT to ITC Wales	August 2004
Maj PM Smith	from JSCSC to HQ BF Cyprus	August 2004
Maj SC Worthy	from HQ 12 Mech Bde to D Strat Plans	August 2004
Capt BM Allen	from 1st Battalion to OPTAG (Ops)	September 2004
Lt EJ Bland	from 2nd Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	September 2004
Capt PD Connolly	from ITC Catterick to 2nd Battalion	September 2004
Capt DH James-Roll	from OPTAG (Ops) to 1st Battalion	September 2004
Capt AF Hawley	from 2nd Battalion to ICSC(L)	September 2004
Capt AF Houchin	from ITC Catterick to 2nd Battalion	September 2004
Capt CW Swallow	from 1st Battalion to TM(ISG)	September 2004
2Lt OI Faruque	from 2nd Battalion to ITC Catterick	September 2004
Col RM Chisnall OBE	from IMATT Sierra Leone to JSIO	October 2004 (pending retirement)
A/Maj AG Grinonneau	from ATR Bassingbourn to CJT F7	October 2004
Brig DJ Clements MBE	from 107(Ulster) Bde to OST Iraq	November 2004

Retirements

*The following have left the Army.
We hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions!*

Capt PA Harris	July 2004
Brig AP Deed OBE	September 2004
Maj RC Gould	September 2004
Capt SD Wilson	September 2004
Brig RM Brunt CBE	October 2004
Maj MG Powell	November 2004

Regimental Matters

Death of our Colonel-in-Chief

It was with great sadness that the Regiment learned of the death of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, on 29 October 2004.

The Regiment's association with HRH Princess Alice went back to 11 May 1937 when she honoured the Northamptonshire Regiment by becoming its first Colonel-in-Chief since it was raised in 1741. In 1964 she became Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment and Colonel-in-Chief on 10 April 2002.

HRH Princess Alice always maintained a very keen interest in the activities of the Regiment and made frequent visits. Her last visit was in March 1992 when she visited 5th Battalion at Peterborough on the occasion of the Battalion's 25th anniversary.

Assistant Regimental Secretary

Maj Dick Gould has succeeded Maj John Fisk as the Assistant Regimental Secretary. Maj Gould, who was commissioned into the 3rd Battalion in 1971, is no stranger to RHQ having served as the Regimental Careers Officer for seven years, from 1994-2001.

Maj John Fisk retired in September 2004 having been Assistant Regimental Secretary since 1998. The Regiment is extremely grateful for his contribution over the years and we wish him every happiness in his well-earned retirement.

Regimental Benevolence

During the six-month period 1 April-30 September 2004 the Executive Committee of the Regimental Benevolent Charity dealt with a total of 41 benevolent cases disbursing a total of £14,305. The Regiment made a donation of £12,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund in 2003/4 and during the same period received £12,647 from the Army Benevolent Fund to assist members of the Regiment deemed to be in need.

The value of the Regimental Benevolent Charity on 30 June 2004

stood at £848,521.

Contributions made by serving members of the Regiment under the Day's Pay Scheme during 2003/4 amounted to £57,552, an increase of £2,560 over the previous year.

The Regimental Association

The Royal Anglian Regimental Association now has its own official website which can be viewed at www.royalanglianassociation.co.uk. The webmaster, Noel Muncey, to whom the Association owes a considerable debt of gratitude, can be contacted at noelmuncey@ddmc.org.uk.

All Branches of the Association are requested to submit details of future events so they can be advertised on the site.

The active membership of the Association continues to grow with events taking place all over East Anglia. The Regimental Day, which this year attracted 2,500, remains the annual centrepiece and it is at this event that the Association holds its Annual General Meeting.

Regimental Shop

The Regimental Shop is run by the staff at RHQ. Details of items for sale can be found in the enclosed leaflet and a selection can be viewed on the Association website.

Regimental Uniform Shop

RHQ operates a shop selling second hand officers' uniforms. More details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Maj Dick Gould.

Next Edition of *Castle*

Contributions for June's issue of *Castle* should reach the Editor no later than 15 April 2005. As always, any letters and articles will be most welcome.



Maj John Fisk hands over the reins as Assistant Regimental Secretary to Maj Dick Gould

Mainly About People

Lt Gen **John McColl** took up his new post as Commander Regional Forces in November 2004 having safely returned from his six-month tour in Iraq as Deputy Commander of the Coalition Forces. With him in Iraq were **Capt Rupert Witham** (ADC) and **Cpl Sanders** (driver).

Three officer cadets were commissioned into the Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade on 6 August 2004 - 2Lts **Adam Griffiths**, **Gavin Hudson** and **George Osborne**. 2Lt **David Broomfield** was commissioned into the Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade held on 10 December 2004.

Col Terry English is congratulated on the award of the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for Services to the Royal British Legion. **WO2 Bill Dowling** is also congratulated on the award of the MBE for services to the University of Wales OTC.

Followers of National Hunt racing may have noticed that **Maj** and **Mrs Tim Young's** five-year-old gelding 'Sabraon' has already won twice and is looking a useful prospect. The picture shows Julia and Tim Young with jockey **Tony Dobbin** after 'Sabraon' won at Carlisle.



Maj John Woodisse wrote to the Editor enclosing a copy of *Two Months with Mortar Platoon* which he has recently written. It is an account of the Mortar Platoon 1st Battalion, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment during the period March to May 1958 when the Battalion was operating in East Johore, Malaya.

Lt Col Nick Nottingham has been selected to command 4 R Irish in September 2005.



The Regiment has its first Chelsea in-pensioner. **Mr Ronald Green**, who served in the 1st East Anglian Regiment and 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, entered the Royal Hospital Chelsea in October 2004.

Maj Bill Burford has let RHQ know that life in the south of Spain is agreeable. Near neighbours are Lt Cols **Brian McDonnell** and **John Ross**.

Maj Peter Ferrary, who left the Army in September 2003, went to France to live. The new life was obviously too tranquil for him so in March 2004 he set off for Afghanistan to take up a post based in Herat in the Western region. His role as a regional manager was one of political analyst/IO/LO and logistical expert all in support of the UN's efforts in conducting the Presidential elections.

Lt Col Mike Beard, as SO1 Queen's Division, has made the most of his travel budget during the past year. Pictured patrolling off Gibraltar he is in the company of **Maj Simon Etherington** (Queen's Division Desk Officer at APC Glasgow) and **Maj Adie O'Shea** (Adjutant Royal Gibraltar Regiment and OC HQ Company the Poachers from January 2005).

LCpl Stephens (2nd Battalion) and **Dmr Goodrum** (1st Battalion) sounded *Last Post* and *Reveille* at the occasion of the funeral of our Colonel-in-Chief at Windsor on 5 November 2004.

Brig Roger Brunt, who retired from the Army in October 2004, has agreed to stay on as one of the Regiment's Deputy Colonels.

Lt Col Tony Powell is attempting to resurrect the Regimental Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Past and Present Dinner Club. The plan is to hold the Dinner at Wretham Camp, Thetford on Saturday 7 May 2005. Attendance will be limited to 250 and further details will be announced shortly. Anyone interested in attending should contact: Lt Col A Powell on 01842 855233, WO1 KC Jones on 01842 855361 or WO1 TP Gedge on 01842 855329. Address: West Tofts Camp, Thetford, Norfolk IP26 5EP

Minden Day 2004



The Salamanca Eagle carried by Capt J Delf being marched off the parade.



A brace of Drum Majors! Vikings' and Poachers' Corps of Drums join together to celebrate Minden Day.



Colonel of the Regiment inspecting Pte Roberts, C (Essex) Company.



LCpl Buff uncasing the Regimetal Colour – Minden Day 2004.



The Salamanca Eagle captured once again by three ex-Pompadours - Derry Maher, Nat Adey and Capt Danny Mackness at the 1st Battalion's Minden Day.



Col Robin Drummond and the Rev Jim Symonds with the father and stepmother of the late Pte Paul Wright.



The Contingent Commanding Officers lay their wreaths to commemorate the dead from our former Regiments, who fell in the Battle for Singapore, or who died as prisoners of war.



Adventure training at Capel Curig.



Happy Bedfordshire cadets in the back of a four-tonner.



Exercise Viking Lima - Pte Smith makes a new friend.



Exercise Viking Lima - Capt Moxey, QMSI Warwick, CSgt Garvie and Dmr Boyle take a dip.



Cpl 'Tiger' Gardner taking a short break from walking the Kakoda Track in Papua New Guinea while on Exercise Long Look.



Pte Jackson and LCpl Hartshorne trying to look cool on Exercise Panorama Finn.



Ray Jones with a big one!



Visiting The Suffolk Regiment's Past On The Battlefields of France: The Tour Party – (from left to right) Dmr Goodrum, Maj Grounds, Sgt Snow, Pte Mann, Maj Wilson, Brig Deller, Capt Trollop, LCpl George, WO2 Kerton & Rev Reeve.

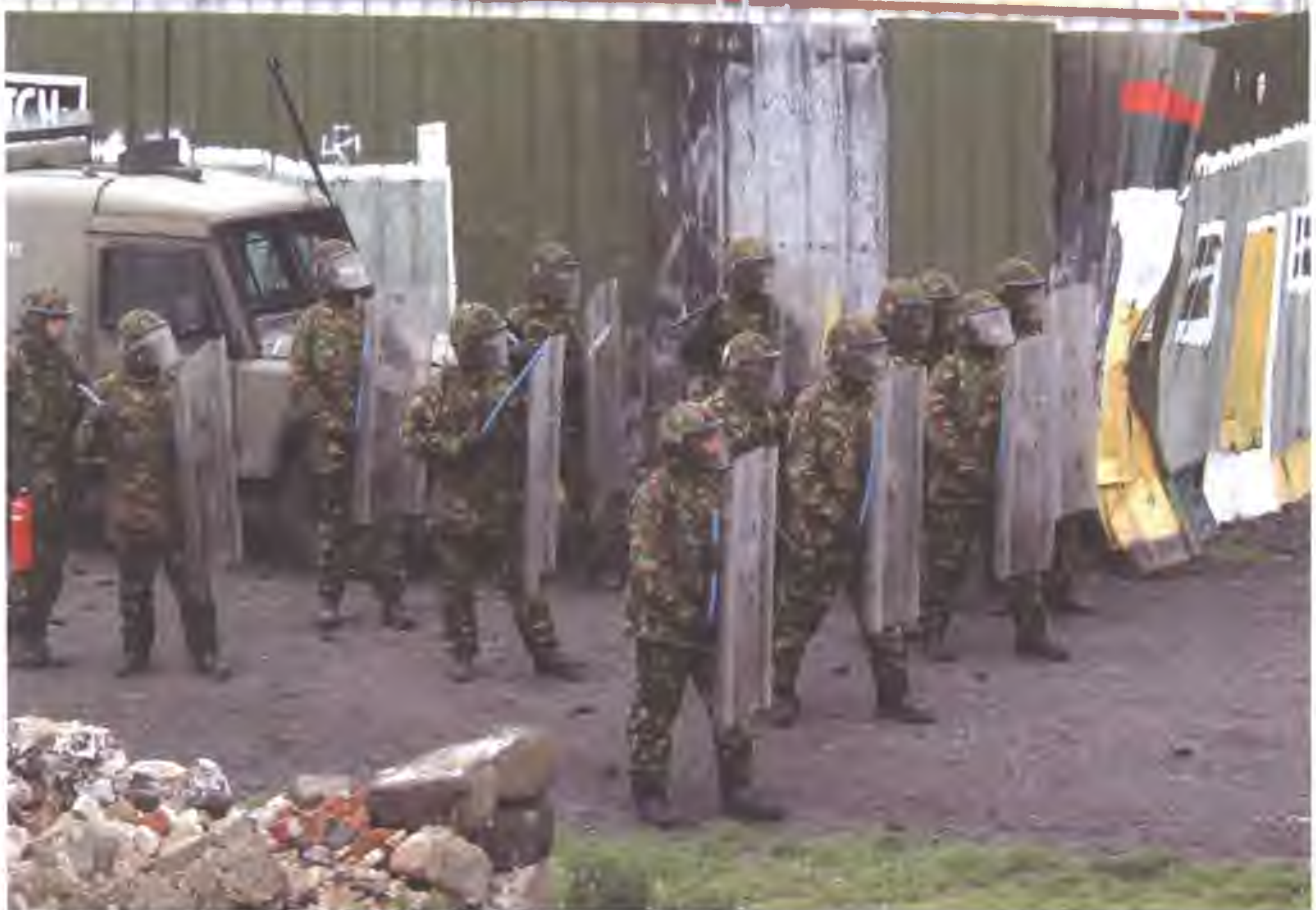


Poachers' PT.

Exercise Judgement Finn - Public Order Training



A scary bunch of thugs out looking for trouble.



Ready and waiting!



Pte Smith at the helm during Exercise Viking Longboat – June 2004.



The C (Essex) Company yacht running down to Lymington on Exercise Viking Longboat.



Ely Parade...Colours and OCA.

The Regimental Museum

Cathy Smart, our Regimental Attendant, has had a busy period since the last *Castle* notes were written. The photographic display showing the part played by the five of our former Regiments who took part in the D-Day Landings was much admired by the visitors to the Land Warfare Hall. The display had only just been dismantled when work started on the display depicting the 40 years of the Regiment since 1964. Again this drew much praise from those attending the Regimental Day.

The conversion of our audio-visual equipment from analogue to digital has, for a number of reasons, been delayed. We have taken advantage of this time to review our film footage and, hopefully,

by the time the change is made we will have a greater number of films to show. Work on *What is a Battalion* continues, but it will be some time before we are ready to go out to tender.

The raffle in aid of the museum that was drawn at the Regimental Day raised a total of £1,739.45 which will be used to fund future projects. The Trustees wish to thank everyone who supported the museum by buying tickets and in particular Mr Nat Adey who donated a prize of a weekend for two in his hotel in Devon.

The winners of prizes were: Mr JE Hanser - £500; Lt Col PE Garman - Weekend for two in Devon; Maj N Richardson - £100; Pte D Turner - £50.

Diary Dates 2005

February

- 11 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment
National Servicemen's Reunion
- 18 5th Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment Officers'
Dinner - London

March

- 5 6th Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment Officers'
Dinner - Bury St Edmunds
- 14 Royal Anglian Regiment Council Meeting
- Bury St Edmunds

April

- 15 3rd Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment Officers'
Dinner Club Cocktail Party - London
- 22 4th Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers'
Dinner Club - Norwich
- 23 4th Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment Old Comrades
Association Dinner - Gorleston
- 24 Royal Norfolk Regiment Commemoration
Service - Norwich

May

- 7 Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess
Past and Present Dinner - Thetford
- 7-8 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Reunion - Lincoln
- 7 Cambridgeshire Regiment Officers' Dinner - Waterbeach
- 8 5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Luncheon - Barnsdale
- 11 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Luncheon
- London
- 14 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association
Annual Dinner and Dance - Hertford

June

- 4 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club - Norwich
- 4 Cambridgeshire Regiment Sergeants' Dinner
- Waterbeach
- 5 Cambridgeshire Regiment Service of Remembrance

and Reunion - Ely

- 5-9 Essex Regiment Association, Memorial Service - Bayeux
- 25-26 Royal Tigers' Weekend - Leicester
- 26 Essex Regiment Association Reunion - Warley
- 29-30 Regimental Tent at Royal Norfolk Show - Norwich

July

- 9 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion - Northampton
- 10 Second World War 60th Anniversary Event - London
- 31 Minden Day Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

September

- 4 Royal Anglian Regimental Day - Duxford
- 24 Royal Norfolk/Royal Anglian Assoc Reunion
Dinner - Norwich
- 25 Royal Norfolk/Royal Anglian Assoc Church
Service - Norwich
- 30 3rd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment Dinner
Club Luncheon - Warley
- 30 70th Battalion Reunion - Kettering

October

- 22 3rd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment Dinner Club
Curry Lunch - London

November

- 4 Royal Anglian Regiment Council Meeting - London
- Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner - London
- King's Lynn Branch Dinner - King's Lynn
- 8 Essex Regiment Cathedral Service and Salamanca
Luncheon - Warley
- 10 Opening of the Field of Remembrance - Westminster
- 20 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment
Association Wreath Laying and Reunion - Kempston

December

- 3 Gorleston and Gt Yarmouth Branch Dinner - Gorleston
- Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner
Club Luncheon - London

Can You Remember?



Visit of the Colonel of the Regiment, January 1965. Back row from left: Lt Ambler (RAPC), 2Lt Pearce, Lt Baldry, Lt Burnham, 2Lt Voy, Lt R Conder, 2 Lt Hawkins, Lt E Conder. Middle row: Capt Rowsell, Capt Stone, Capt Mather, Capt Jefferson, Lt Keep, 2Lt Steward, Capt Ross, Lt Child, Capt Horrex, Capt Cupples (RAMC). Front row: Maj Holman, Maj Fleming, Capt Barnes, Lt Gen Denning, Lt Col Dye, Maj Hughes, Col Denny, Maj Deller, Capt Norman.

40 Years Ago

The first issue of *Castle* went to print, and was published in April 1965. The 1st Battalion spent the year in the Radfan and Aden, carrying out internal security duties. The then Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Sir Reginald Denning visited the Battalion in January 1965. The 2nd Battalion moved to Cyprus and took up residence in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area, to ensure the integrity of the base. The 3rd Battalion was based in Wavell Barracks, Berlin. In December 1964 Lt Col Norbury handed over command to Lt Col Leng. The 4th Battalion, based at Watchet, instead of going to Libya on exercise at the beginning of 1965, suddenly moved to Aden for a six-month tour.

35 Years Ago

The 1st Battalion moved from Catterick to Sennelager for some concentrated training, where they were put on standby for a tour in Northern Ireland, which didn't materialise. The Battalion subsequently returned to Catterick for Fitness For Role inspections. The 2nd Battalion moved to Colchester and a life in Hyderabad Barracks. The Battalion undertook exercises in both Malaysia and Kenya. The 3rd Battalion found themselves in Cyprus undertaking UN operations, following widespread fighting between the Greeks and the Turks. The 4th Battalion was in Bahrain, having deployed there in August 1969.



Watched by Brlg Green, Deputy Colonel, the Colonel of the Regiment examines the new range of combat dress undergoing troop trials by C Company. In the background are Maj John Tadman, RQMS Bird and CSgt Greenfield.

Can You Remember?

30 Years Ago



Sennybridge - the Adjutant at war... 'I've got 16 down!

The **1st Battalion** was well into its AMF (L) Role and exercised in Norway, Denmark, Italy and Turkey. The **2nd Battalion** found themselves busy preparing themselves for another tour in Province, by undertaking individual and specialist training cadres, ahead of a **Battalion exercise** and transition to Northern Ireland training. The **Poachers** also saw a change of command with Lt Col Thorne handing over to **Lt Col Barnes**. The **3rd Battalion** completed their tour of Londonderry, before returning to BAOR, in time to prove themselves on the **sports field** by winning the BAOR and UK Infantry Football Cups, amongst other successes.

25 Years Ago

The **1st Battalion**, having returned from filling the Operation Banner roulement commitment in Belfast, set about developing their **mechanised capability** through an intensive cadre period and subsequent exercises and an inter-platoon competition. The **2nd**

Battalion found themselves in Berlin, where they swept the board in the Berlin Field Force inter-platoon competition, taking the first six places. Numerous cadres and the Poacher's Review followed prior to field firing in March and April. The **3rd Battalion** was by now in Colchester, with the prospect of quality training, including a six-week exercise in Kenya.

20 Years Ago



Dmr Wildney (1st Battalion) being presented with the match shield for the highest score in the GPMG (SF) Pair.

The Tercentenary saw the Regiment undertaking numerous parades and exercising the freedom of various towns and cities throughout the recruiting area. The Vikings found themselves in Ebrington Barracks Londonderry for a two-year residential tour. The Poachers were based in Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, from where they travelled to the US as part of a joint exercise with the US Forces. The Pompadours, based in BAOR, were thus in a position to enjoy the delights of Soltau Training Area during the big freeze.



Sgt Alf Todd and 7 Platoon setting the pace in the inter-platoon competition.

Can You Remember?

15 Years Ago

As if the Vikings would be anywhere else but Northern Ireland! This time it was the delightful setting of South Armagh, returning to their friendlier home in Colchester in February. Lt Col Sutherland handed over command to Lt Col Phipps in January 1990. The Poachers in Celle, were finding themselves regularly at Soltau training area which became a regular holiday resort for the Battalion throughout the year. The Pompadours were again in Colchester undertaking numerous internal cadres and training exercises prior to company group deployments to the South Atlantic.



10 Years Ago

The 1st Battalion took part in Exercise Trumpet Dance in the US, prior to being presented with new Colours at Duxford, and assuming the spearhead role between October and December 1995. The Poachers completed a thoroughly successful tour to Bosnia, and paraded through the streets of Celle to mark their return. A busy cadre period followed ahead of their deployment to Batus.

The Poachers' patrols competition at Celle.



Presentation of new Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford on 29 April 1995. The Colours were presented by the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Margaret.



Can You Remember?**5 Years Ago**

Viking football team celebrates winning the NI Cup.

The Vikings again found themselves in the familiar confines of Ebrington Barracks Londonderry.

A few alterations to the guard room by some of the 'local tradesman', ensured the Battalion were very much focused on the operations to hand. However, the opportunity to participate in some highly competitive sport saw the Vikings win the NI Novice Boxing

Competition, the NI Football Cup, the NI Rugby Union League, and the Infantry Cricket Cup.

The Poachers enjoyed the sunshine post of Cyprus. A busy tour saw the Battalion send a company to the Falklands and enjoy three exercises in the midst of the Jordanian Desert, which culminated in a Battalion-level live firing exercise.



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

1st Battalion The Vikings

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

The pace of life over the last six months has picked up and looks set to stay high for the forthcoming year. A successful Tesex was followed by a cadre period during the summer months, supplemented with a large dose of drill in preparation for Trooping the Colour as part of the Minden Day celebrations. Drill, not being a favoured pastime of mine, meant I was unable to appreciate the spectacle as much as those watching but the credit for achieving such an excellent performance clearly lay with WO1 (RSM) Tate, whose pet project it was. Sun shone on the afternoon's fete and the day reached its climax with the All Ranks Ball, which went better than anyone could have hoped and defied the doom merchants' fear that it would turn into an All Ranks Brawl!

Back from a well deserved leave the Battalion has split to the Four Winds. C Company disappeared off to Turkey for a two-week exercise. B Company plus a platoon of A Company are in Canada for two months, as part of the Opposition Force (Opfor) and providing additional foot soldiers for 1 Staffords. Finally, Battalion HQ plus 35 extras disappeared to Singapore for a Command Post Exercise as part of the Five Power Defence Agreement. Not wishing to be upstaged by our Antipodean cousins we entered into the spirit of the exercise partaking fully by day and night.

The Battalion has been warned off to deploy on Operation Telic 6, which will see us in Iraq for six months next year over the summer period. The preparatory courses have already begun and many more are lined up to follow. The Battalion 2IC is working hard at deciphering the mass of paperwork descending on us from on high and everybody is itching to switch focus from Bowman to Iraq once the second Brigade-level trial is complete in November.

A(Norfolk) Company An Overview

*Maj JD Hughes, OCA Company
writes...*

Since taking over A (Norfolk) Company in August 2004 things have been a little hectic. Battalion life, as always, is extremely busy and A Company's commitments are no different to those of other Infantry units. Since the last *Castle* instalment the 'Big Red A' has completed a week's field firing package, had a platoon attached to the King's Royal Hussars Battlegroup on Exercise Medicine Man in Canada, provided a platoon to backfill the 1st Battalion, the Coldstream Guards and the 1st Battalion, the Staffords on Salisbury Plain and supported the Regimental Day at Duxford.

In conjunction with these many and varied tasks the Drums Platoon has moved from A

(Norfolk) Company to D (Sp) Company in a well-planned and executed operation. This reorganisation provides three balanced rifle companies within the Battalion allowing a greater degree of operational flexibility. The flipside has been the influx of new soldiers to the company (27 at last count) direct from training. This new blood ensures there is never a quiet moment for the JNCOs as they train, integrate and mentor the latest additions to the family.

Operation Telic 6 continues to provide a very clear focus for all our preparations and as greater clarity is offered the training requirements are further refined. The rotation of personnel continues with 2Lt Gavin Hudson joining us from PCBC in November, 2Lt Tom Youngman enjoying Viking hospitality during his gap year and Sgts Fordham and Shand due prior to Christmas. This will allow us the relative luxury of a stable Orbat throughout predeployment training and the operation.

The ongoing Bowman conversion continues apace with each upgrade exercised and tested in preparation for operations next year. A (Norfolk) Company will deploy to Salisbury Plain in early November for a week's exercise before joining the Battalion for the operational field trial during the remainder of the month. In December, as we wind down to Christmas, the Basic and Advanced Fitness Tests are programmed to ensure we catch the last of the training requirements prior to a well-deserved period of leave. January will see the company fully immersed in the Optag package with a new Orbat, equipment and focus as the mid-year deployment rushes towards us. In conclusion A (Norfolk) Company continues to go from strength to strength and I look forward to commanding a company of the Regiment's finest on operations in Iraq.

BATUS – An Attachment to the King's Royal Hussars

*Lt A Maclay, 1 Platoon Commander,
writes...*

1 Platoon, A (Norfolk) Company are currently backfilling the Staffords' Company as part of the King's Royal Hussars (KRH) Battle Group. The platoon has been split and fire teams integrated within the Staffords' sections. The thought behind this was to integrate the Vikings into the company and ensure that there was some experience in the back of each Warrior.

When we arrived we expected to be thrown into the deep end and sent directly out onto the Prairie for three weeks. This has not been the case. The BATUS fleet was being 'bowmanised' and there were delays. This annoyed all those lacking experience of the Bowman conversion process. However, we resigned ourselves to the fact that the exercise was delayed and there was not a lot we could do about it. Fortunately, the

company to which we are attached is using Clansman, so we have not been affected.

This hurry up and wait ethos has led to two weeks off however, the time has not been wasted as the company has organised adventurous training for the majority of the lads. This was set in Camp Trails End in the Rockies with activities including mountain biking, hill walking and horse riding (we are, after all, in a Cavalry Battle Group). The soldiers really enjoyed the experience, and came back tired but looking forward to a week of R and R. Most enjoyed the attractions of Leftbridge which is a large university town.

We have done some soldiering! The company deployed on a four-day shake out exercise. The aim was to integrate the Vikings with the rest of the company and also teach us the basics of Warrior tactics. After realising that the only time they left the wagons was to fight through the objective I had several transfer requests from soldiers who did not see the point of leaving the vehicles in a Zulu muster and tabbing to the objective. I was impressed by the simplicity and lack of subtlety when it came to the use of Warriors. Using them 'up the middle' and debussing on the position saves on a certain amount of planning time.

We are looking forward to deploying on Exercise Medicine Man on 24 October. The special to arm live firing will be interesting, and a very good experience for the younger soldiers. I am looking forward to the battle inoculation range, and testing the blokes with wire obstacles and a lot of bangs. Whether we have a combined arms exercise is dependant on Bowman. At the time of writing this article there is only one tank working however, I am sure there will be more by the time the combined arms exercise starts. We hope for the best.

An Explosive Start in the Battalion

*2Lt DAW Jaggard, 3 Platoon
Commander, writes...*

August held an explosive start to Battalion life for 18-year-old Pte Richardson. In August A (Norfolk) Company spent a week field firing on Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA). The week started with some introductory shoots and progressed through fire team and section day and night ranges, ending in a platoon attack range on the final day. His first week in the Vikings was spent with the company away on the field firing package on SENTA - and with his father!

Pte Richardson is the son of Sgt Richardson, the pioneer platoon sergeant. Sgt Richardson spent the week with A (Norfolk) Company providing explosive and pioneer skills in support of the range package. You don't have to spend a lengthy amount of time with Sgt Richardson to realise he is a man who is extremely passionate about his job.

The Vikings

At one point while we were setting up some of the field firing ranges he said to me: 'I want to set off the 'bangs' and make a big impact so that my boy can say, that's what my dad does.'

Sgt Richardson is a Viking with a good deal of experience and time served – recalling the days of issued tin helmets. Time spent in the company of Vikings and growing up around members of the 1st Battalion strongly influenced Pte Richardson to join up: 'I had always wanted to be a part of the Battalion...I saw what they got up to and that made me want to join them.'

The field firing on SENTA was a unique opportunity for Pte Richardson to demonstrate his soldiering ability to his father. As he said, 'Now I actually got to show him, most people will never get that chance.' His only reservation about field firing was not being able to fire as he went through the ranges because there was not the opportunity for him to zero his rifle in the tight schedule. With regard to the 'bangs' that his father had provided for the platoon attack range on the final day he commented wryly: 'They were good but he could have made them louder!'

In Pte Richardson's limited time in the Army he has already managed to be involved in several activities. While in training, Pte Richardson most enjoyed the adventurous training on offer: pot holing, hiking and rock climbing. The highlight of his time at ITC Catterick was an airborne attack from Chinook helicopters. Now that he has joined the Vikings, Pte Richardson has been field firing, helped at the Regimental Day and is currently undertaking training with Warrior armoured fighting vehicles on Salisbury Plain. In the future Pte Richardson hopes to qualify as a sniper and is looking forward to Battalion sport, particularly rugby.

B (Suffolk) Company An Overview

Maj FJR Grounds, OC B Company,
writes...

This report comes all the way from sunny BATUS where the company, along with members of the Anti-Tank and Sniper Platoons, is providing the infantry increment to the Opfor, attached to 2RTR for Exercise Medicine Man, which I am sure you will hear all about in the next edition of *Castle*. The period got off to an ideal start with three weeks on Salisbury Plain experiencing the training benefits of Tesex. It continues to provide an outstanding, challenging and realistic training opportunity and the company, many of whom had joined since the new year, learned a tremendous amount during the exercise and it set us up nicely for what is to follow during the remainder of the training year, leading to Operation Telic training in January.

Tesex was immediately followed by a return to Salisbury Plain for the company to provide the exercising troops during the

FIBUA phase of the CATAK Course, and handed us with yet another great training opportunity. In late June the company deployed to Brecon for a week of range work in preparation for the field firing package planned for after summer leave, both of which were extremely successful. In June Sgt Snow took a handful of our best "drill pigs" to be part of the celebrations in Gibraltar. I am yet to be convinced that this was a particularly hectic ten days, but I am assured that their drill prowess was much appreciated. At the start of July, five members of the company had the very great privilege of travelling to the battlefields of France with four members of the Suffolk Regimental Association to bury the remains of two unidentified Suffolk soldiers who had lost their lives at the Battle of Wancourt during the Great War.

Members of the company have achieved considerable success on the various courses that have been run throughout the Battalion and externally. LCpls Mason, Ryan, Shenton and Tower were all promoted at the end of the PNCOCadre in the summer and Ptes Ashby and Wanja both passed the cadre and are awaiting promotion. LCpls Smith, Jackson and Perkins came second, third and fourth respectively on the tactics cadre. Lt Glover and Cpl Miller both successfully passed the Jungle Warfare Instructor's course in Brunei and LCpl Havis performed well on his RSJ Course. Finally, Sgt Hartland spent six weeks instructing on an international jungle warfare course in Belize.

Adventure training has played a major part in our programme over the summer period. In June Lt Robinson planned a particularly successful adventure training expedition to trek the northern section of the GR 20 route in Corsica, involving 30 members of the company. In September Ptes Alford, Rogers and White took part in Exercise Viking Lima trekking along the Inca Trail.

More recently as many as 30 members of the company took the opportunity of getting stuck into a number of adventure training activities (horse riding, free falling, canoeing and climbing) at Trails End Camp in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains while the company was in Canada.

Finally, we said farewell to a number of key personalities over the period. 2nd Lt Ed Clough departs after a gap year commission, having made many friends and earned the respect of all who worked with him. We wish him all the best for his studies at Durham University and very much hope he will rejoin the Vikings in four years' time. Sgt Major French hands over the reigns of CQMS and moves to be CSM of HQ Company, on his return from a short-term training team appointment in Bahrain. Sgt Collins finishes his time with the company, for now at least, to take up a colour sergeant instructor appointment at RMA Sandhurst, and Cpl Miller heads to ITC Catterick as an instructor.

B Company Field Firing

Lt DJ Robinson, 5 Platoon

Commander, writes:

On Sunday 22 August, B Company deployed *en-masse* to Sennybridge in order to complete a three-day field firing package after successfully completing a transition week up to pairs fire and manoeuvre the previous week under Lt Ormiston. With soldiers deployed on the advance party to BATUS and others on courses it was around half of the company that deployed on the field firing package designed to bring those taking part up to platoon level field firing standard.

Day one consisted of a fire-team casualty evacuation under fire. Although the day started off well with fine weather it soon deteriorated to a typical Brecon summer's



Pte Dowd during a fire-team casualty evacuation range.

The Vikings



Pte Ashby ensures the enemy position is destroyed.

day, horizontal rain and all. The weather helped to make what was a demanding range even more difficult and all those who took part were suitably tired by the end of the day. Pte Tollerson deserves a special mention for losing his footing while carrying the dummy casualty along a river before proceeding to drift down stream, losing the casualty in the process. A range fail but 10/10 for effort and style!

With a busy day of section, day and night attacks along with a fighting in woods and forests battle lesson and exercise run by Cpl Miller to look forward to, the company started the second day in fine form. The introduction of grenades and tank targets caught the imagination of most and enthusiasm was high during another wet day. The night attacks proved a real challenge due to a complete lack of ambient light, and that helped all to relearn lessons of appropriate use of light and application of weapons ranges at night.

On the final day a strong platoon was formed to conduct an ambitious platoon attack range. Orders were given in Sennybridge Camp, followed by a helicopter pick-up by two Pumas and drop off in Village 1 at the back of A Range. The platoon then tabbed onto the range to conduct an attack along the valley bottom. A Company should be much praised for adding to the scenario of a refugee camp under attack, with their base of operations for field firing in Village 1. After a successful range under Lt Gardner, the platoon then re-ran the range under Lt Ormiston with the addition of indirect fire at the end, resulting in a platoon casualty evacuation.

Overall B Company had a successful week, taking the opportunity to bring around half of the company up to platoon field firing standard, which will inevitably prove to have been valuable preparation for BATUS in September.

Exercise Maquis Viking, 30 May – 11 June 2004

Lt DJ Robinson, 5 Platoon

Commander, writes...

Exercise Maquis Viking was B Company's adventurous training expedition for 2004. The aim was to take 30 soldiers away from the company for £100 per man in order to complete the northern, most demanding section of Corsica's GR20 route. The name Maquis comes from a local rugged grass-like plant that resides in the mountains and by which the Corsican resistance were nicknamed during the Second World War. It seemed an appropriate title for B Company's attempt to launch virgin mountaineers into what is labelled 'Europe's most demanding trek'.



The challenging route out of the Cirque de Solitude.

Fresh off the back of Tesex and with a long minibus, tunnel and ferry journey complete, the group were more than glad to arrive in Calvi, a port town in the north-west of the country which was to be the base of operations throughout the trip. This fine old town with its plush marina and adjacent sandy beaches won over the hearts of the men immediately and it proved hard to separate ourselves from these surroundings the next morning in order to venture.

The initial walk into the mountains was steady but warm due to the low altitude. During the evenings we camped outside high altitude refuges that served both food



CSgt Garvie administrating outside the refuge on the end of day one.

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Pte Davis relaxing on the way down from the Cirque de Solitude.

and drinks at a reasonable price and proved ideal sites to administer ourselves in the evenings. As the group got higher into the mountains the terrain became more severe and we also came into contact with the last of the winter snow located in isolated spots along our route.

On day three we married up with our ground team for rations replenishment at the ski resort of Ascu Stagnu. After a well-earned cheese and ham baguette delivered by CSgt French the team rested in preparation for the biggest challenge of the route so far, the Cirque de Solitude. This consisted of a steep-sided horseshoe valley which, when entered, one was committed to continuing due to the steepness of the climb in. With fixed chains and ladders on route as aids the group worked hard on the route, which everyone found both exhilarating and demanding.

The penultimate day saw the group forced back from climbing Corsica's third highest peak, Paglia Orba. With very steep ground and thawing snow all around the group made the decision to turn back in a steep snow chute that was in the process of thawing. Everyone had a full view of the summit by this point however and morale remained high on the walk to the final refuge before a long walk down to meet the ground crew the next day.

All members were happy to return to Calvi for two and a half days' rest and relaxation after what had been a challenging route for all. No-one wasted the opportunities of Calvi with Pte Haldenby and others taking up the challenge of jet skiing, Pte Reynolds and LCpl George discovered an interest in snorkelling and CSgt Garvie continuing a long running interest in bird watching!



Group 1 after backing off from Paglia Orba, Corsica's 3rd highest peak.



Pte Reynolds and others on the steep climb into the Cirque de Solitude.

When the two-day package in Calvi ended all too soon B Company's intrepid team then settled in for a long journey back to England having had a successful trip that was enjoyed by all.

Instructing at ITC Catterick has its Benefits

*Cpl SP Martin, 5 Platoon Section
Commander, writes...*

After finishing SCBC in December 2001 it wasn't long before I was promoted to corporal and after four months in Afghanistan I returned to Pirbright to find that I was being posted to ITC Catterick as a section commander. My first concern was whether I had the experience to handle the pace of life training recruits, as I knew from talking with mates who had done the job that the work rate involved would be massive. I didn't have to wait long to find out, as within a week of returning from post operational tour leave, I reported for duty.

I arrived at ITC Catterick with a positive attitude and determined to improve myself as an instructor. Even so it was hard trying to find my feet working with three other



The author posing!

instructors, a new platoon commander and sergeant, not to mention 40 young recruits. I was lucky enough to be placed in a training team with senior instructors, so from them I learned how to behave and act, which I soon found to be different from back in the Battalion. I found that being in the field quite a lot of the time was useful to me as I often got the chance to practise orders and patrol action. On most exercises we were doing section and platoon attacks over ground that was just as new to us as it was to the recruit, which tested our ability to use the combat estimate.

Life back in camp was just as useful as paper work always needed to be completed. Reports for each recruit had to be written accurately showing position within the section, performance over that reporting period, personality and potential. I felt like I was having a lot of input and I enjoyed the responsibility of painting a picture for the platoon commander so he knew what the blokes in the platoon were like.

Towards the end of my two years our platoon sergeant was posted out early which meant I got the chance to fill in until he was replaced. This gave me the opportunity to find out how easy it was being a platoon sergeant (how wrong I was!). The amount of paperwork involved was a steep leaning curve and I spent most of the time behind a desk which, although stressful and sometimes frustrating, was a valuable experience.

In a nutshell my confidence as an instructor grew while I was at Catterick, which also sharpened up my leadership qualities. I thoroughly enjoyed the responsibility and job satisfaction that went with the posting and the opportunity to broaden my horizons, especially working with so many other capbadges.

Welcome to the Jungle

*Lt DJ Glover, 6 Platoon Commander,
writes...*

Earlier in the summer I was given the opportunity of attending the renamed Jungle Warfare Instructor's (JWI) course in Brunei. This was to be the first time in my short career to date where I was getting the chance to go and sample life overseas, so it was with real excitement that I departed Pirbright with Lt Maclay, Cpls Lilly and Moore (all from A Company) and Cpl Miller from B Company.

This was to be the first time that the jungle course has trained NCOs alongside officers, and given the response of all those attending the course, this is going to be a huge improvement. As a young platoon commander I would be the first to admit that at times I have fallen into the trap that I know many have made before me - we become so involved in planning and conducting the training of our soldiers, we sometimes allow our own drills and skills to drop in standard. Being given the opportunity to be a soldier again was a fantastic experience and allowed me the time to concentrate on and improve

The Vikings

my own basic soldiering.

The Viking contingent soon developed a reputation for being very effective operators in terms of our personal drills and skills, as well as developing close working relationships with all the other students on the course. The jungle is still regarded by many as a black art because it remains a hard environment in which to operate, but not as some would believe, an impossible environment.

Much of the course has been recently rewritten and is now about three weeks shorter than its predecessor. The course structure is fluid, allowing the flexibility to make alterations depending on the level of knowledge and skills of the students. The course follows the format of acclimatisation and classroom theory in camp followed by a ten-day teaching package in the jungle. This is followed by an intensive range package, which also incorporates river operations and more jungle theory.

The course culminates with a final two-week tactical exercise going through the phases of war. This process can be fairly intense on Salisbury Plain, but with the added complications of heat, vegetation, dead fall, flash floods and unusual wildlife, not to mention some challenging navigation and the inevitable communication problems, this exercise can prove somewhat testing but immensely rewarding.

I would personally recommend the jungle leader's course to all new officers and NCOs. It is both challenging and professionally rewarding and provides an extremely effective tool for developing personal drills and skills to a high standard in an unforgiving environment.

Visiting the Suffolk Regiment's Past on the Battlefields of France

*LCpl GC George, 7 Platoon Section
Commander, writes...*

At the beginning of July I was asked by my OC if I would like to go to France to bury the remains of two unknown Suffolk Regiment soldiers from the Great War, which had recently been uncovered during a road improvement project near Wancourt. Before meeting the members of the Suffolk Association that were due to accompany us, I had visions of grandfather figures who one would listen to out of respect. Little did I realise how naive I was being, and in fact they were more like mobile libraries, all packed full of knowledge that was second nature to them.

The journey to Le Cateau was quite long, however written accounts of the battles, combined with stories from our older comrades helped to pass the time. We eventually ended up at the first military cemetery, which was immaculate, with freshly cut grass and pure white tombstones. We laid Crosses of Remembrance on all



The author places a cross next to a Suffolk Regiment soldier's grave at Le Cateau.



Sgt Snow pays his respects at Le Cateau.

of the graves of Suffolk Regiment soldiers. With plenty of time on our hands we were able to wander around the cemetery which included a number of German graves. To my surprise there were often three or four bodies in the same grave. It then hit me that they were tank crews, and when they were found their bodies were so close and disfigured that it was impossible to make out which parts came from which soldier.

We then moved onto the second memorial, which was sited close by, overlooking the town of Le Cateau and the battlefield. The

members of the Suffolk Association began to talk about some of the accounts that I had read about earlier. The conversations started to paint a picture, and it all became quite real. As I was looking out over the area to our front I saw a very open landscape with lots of dead ground to the front and far right. Having recently completed the section commander's battle course I was able to identify that tactically the positions seemed badly sited. This was where a battalion of Suffolks were sited defensively to try and slow down the German advance towards

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Above: The author at the grave of the unknown Suffolk Regiment soldiers.



Above right: OC and CSM B (Suffolk) Company at Wancourt Cemetery.

Right: Members of the party read the list of names on The Suffolk Memorial at Le Cateau.

Paris. They were told not to withdraw and to stake their claim on part of the ground. They were not even halfway dug-in before coming under German artillery fire. They had to try to take cover in five-inch deep trenches. This had all now become very real.

After a night out in Cambrai, the next morning we began to move to our final destination at Wancourt, where we would bury the two soldiers. As I was standing listening to the last post, and putting these men to rest, it became very clear what these men had been through, and how they were truly worthy of a hero's burial.

The ceremony was finished and the two Suffolk boys had had their well-deserved farewell. We were thanked by the Suffolk Association members and told how delighted they were by the fact that we had turned out in uniform. It was a good end to a very interesting and moving visit. I thank the Suffolk Association for opening my eyes to it all and accompanying us on the trip.



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C (Essex) Company An Overview

*Capt JP Delf, 2IC C Company,
writes...*

Having a notoriously short memory I thought it best to look back at the last issue of *Castle* to see where we 'left off'. At first I was somewhat confused; where were the reports from Tesex, Minden Day, another Bowman trial, sailing in the Solent or Lt Martin's trip to the French Alps...how did we omit mentioning our success in the inter-company boxing competition or our trip to Turkey? I demanded to see the most recent issue! I was informed I had it in my hands. Surely not, how has all this been crammed into the period since the last edition of *Castle*?

In this issue Lt Martin's article on his expedition to the French Alps gives an insight into some of the challenges faced with conducting an adventurous training expedition on foreign soil. Pte Facal, newly arrived in the Battalion, gives us his first impressions of boxing as part of the winning team in the inter-company novice boxing competition and his part in our overseas training exercise in Turkey – Exercise Tunuk Warrior. Exercise Tunuk Warrior has proved to be one of the highlights of our year and gave a real insight into operating with a foreign army and I have included my article on the subject.

A number of key personalities have left C (Essex) Company moving onto greater things. As I write this article, Maj Woodham moves to command 12 Mechanised Brigade's Surveillance Company which has been specially formed for our forthcoming tour in Iraq and WO2 (CSM) Jewell has just started a tour as operations warrant officer, leaving C Company for the final time, having first joined as a private soldier 17 years ago. He is replaced by WO2 (CSM) Granfield. WO2 Taylor has left the post of CQMS for the mosquitoes of Sierra Leone with CSgt Hopkin filling the chair. Meanwhile Lt Hicks has made a dash for far flung shores in Bosnia handing the reins of 11 Platoon to 2Lt Taylor. Sadly Sgt McMillan has made the decision to leave the Army and take up the opportunity to work in the security business in Iraq. Sgt Ielden has joined us and takes up the appointment of platoon sergeant with 10 Platoon.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all members of C Company's boxing team for their efforts in winning the Battalion inter-company boxing championship.

Exercise Tunuk Warrior

*Capt J Delf, 2IC C Company,
writes...*

With every man and his dog seemingly determined to get away from Pirbright for September, C (Essex) Company joined the exodus with Exercise Tunuk Warrior, a two-week deployment to the home of the Turkish



LCpl Mulley and a Turkish pal.

1st Armoured Brigade, at Hadimköy near Istanbul. For most people Turkey conjures up memories of holidays by the beach or at least staggering home, kebab in hand, after a good night out. The aim of this exercise, however, was to gain a better understanding of how we can operate with a fellow Nato army, overcoming the barriers of language and differences in our approach to military tasks.

With CSgt Hopkins already in country preparing for our arrival the main body flew from RAF Brize Norton and landed at Istanbul on 12 September to clear skies and glorious sunshine. As we were soon to

discover the Turkish focus on hospitality knows no limits as we settled in to excellent accommodation and were plied with copious quantities of 'çay', or tea without milk.

The first few days revolved around equipment familiarisation as commanders and soldiers alike got used to operating with the Turkish armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and radios. The importance of learning Turkish vocabulary for 'stop, go, left and right' became immediately apparent as APCs hurtled past in great clouds of dust with commanders gesticulating wildly to the bemused expression of their Turkish drivers. Lt Meddings really got into the



Pte Langridge receives some instruction on a Turkish light anti-armour weapon.

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Pte Mayer being briefed on the finer points of the Turkish Advanced APC.

spirit of things and, picking up on some of the Turkish radio chatter, tried out some of his newly found language skills. He could not understand the apparent mirth of the Turkish soldiers, however, as he continued to finish every conversation with 'OK, Over'. Meanwhile back in camp the Turkish Admin NCO 'Tonga' and 'Mr Chreees' (CSgt

Hopkin) were having an equally bemusing discussion as to the role of the laundry bin mistakenly identified as a rubbish bin.

With a smattering of Turkish and equipped with Miles kit (the Turkish equivalent of our TES system) C Company progressed onto the exercise proper. This was to take place on a local training area and was to be in the format of a Battalion advance to

contact, which coincided with distinguished visitors' day and media event. The Turkish Army went to considerable lengths to deploy their full admin chain including field showers, laundry and even a bakery. The Commanding Officer and the RSM visited the soldiers of C Company during the evening as the final battle preparation took place before the very sociable H Hour of 0900hrs. After a short delay as the assembled media settled down, the cry 'Fly Eagle' echoed across the radio net and, with the accompanying battle simulations, C Company flew across the area to be swallowed by the carpet of scrub and bushes. Lt Martin's wagon appeared to be driven by someone off the *Fast Show* and with a shout of 'Let's off road!' proceeded to hurtle down the nearest bank to the astonishment of all (not least Lt 'Gripped' Martin).

The second phase consisted of a range day with the Turkish officers and soldiers firing the SA80, LSW and Minimi, while we fired their G3 rifle and MG3 machine-gun. The recoil of the G3 proved a surprise to many but, with the exception of a few bruised shoulders, the morning passed without incident.

Having successfully completed the Exercise phase it was time to get competitive with some inter-nation sporting events. The Vikings laid down the gauntlet with a comprehensive 5-2 victory in the football ably led by Pte Adlington. However, the Turks came back with a close run game



Members of C (Essex) Company at a Turkish Gun emplacement overlooking V Beach at Gallipoli

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of basketball, which they narrowly won despite the exertions of LCpl West's team. The decider fell to a volleyball match (not exactly our national sport but apparently very popular in Turkey). Despite Maj Woodham sporting a dashing slick Turkish haircut (no doubt the phrase 'just a trim' being lost in the translation) the Turkish won two sets to nil.

The final phase of Exercise Tunuk Warrior saw C Company divide into two groups for a cultural tour of Istanbul and a battlefield tour of the Gallipoli peninsula. Istanbul proves to be a cosmopolitan and bustling city of some 16 million. Visits to the Hagia Sophia (one of the oldest churches in the world) and the famous 'Blue Mosque' were included as was a trip to the Grand Bazaar, an indoor market consisting of around 40,000 shops. 2Lt Taylor did his utmost to charm the young women of Istanbul but an error in his note taking meant he only succeeded in calling them 'beautiful bananas'. The evening saw an excursion to a local town called Buyukcekmece; soon known as 'tape measure' – the Turkish version more or less unpronounceable – for drinks, escorted by the ever present Turkish 'secret' security service, or as we called them, the *Men in Black*. One lucky group had an impromptu performance by Sgt 'Jimi Hendrix' Henderson (our translator and guitar player) with Cpl Fordham on tambourine and Pte Roberts on drums.

The battlefield tour to the Gallipoli Peninsula was to be a sobering experience for everyone. Our guide, Mr Bill McQuade, helped to bring the crevasse covered landscape to life as we reencountered the steps taken by our forefathers of the 1st Battalion the Essex Regiment who landed at W Beach on 25 April 1915. We have all seen old newsreel footage from the Great War or have read accounts of those who were there, but to actually see where the soldiers of the 29th Division (of which the 1st Essex Regiment were a part) and their allies literally clung to the cliff face is an astounding sight. As we walked the flat fields that cover much of the peninsula, then devoid of any cover or shelter from fire, we enthusiastically found spent rounds, the remains of shrapnel or broken rum bottles. Such enthusiasm was quickly spent as realisation dawned that increasingly such finds were more disturbing; human remains, fragments of shattered bones began to outnumber shards of pottery. I noticed that a great collection of these pottery and shrapnel finds, no doubt collected by us as mementoes of our visit, were left carefully on the edge of the field. I think there was a silent agreement by all that they were better left undisturbed. Although the 29th Division was on the peninsula for only 259 days it suffered 34,011 casualties, enough to renew it four and a half times over.

After a short ceremony wreaths were placed by both groups, one at the Helles Memorial that honours the Turkish soldiers who lost their lives during the battle, and one at a war grave where Lt Col Fawcett DSO,

the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, the Essex Regiment, now rests.

Exercise Tunuk Warrior has been a fascinating experience as personnel of all ranks and responsibilities have learned to overcome the obstacles of language, and to understand that the Turkish Army and its people have a different way of doing and perceiving things. Such experience will doubtlessly be invaluable as we work in a multi-national environment in Iraq among a population who will equally have their own traditions, culture and attitudes quite different from our own.

Exercise Viking Trek - The Tour Du Mont Blanc

Lt PM Martin, 10 Platoon

Commander, writes...

Exercise Viking Trek took place between 14 and 20 June. It involved completing the French part of the Tour du Mont Blanc. The participants were members of C (Essex) Company of the 1st Battalion. A total of 12 soldiers took part in the Exercise. The route involved climbing up to a maximum height of 2,500m and walking over 80km in just four days. All instructors were generated from within the Battalion.

The exercise idea came about after being tasked to organise adventurous training for my platoon. The lead-time was over nine months so I had plenty of warning. Initially I had wanted to complete the whole tour, which would have taken 11 days. It would also have involved trekking through three different countries. I was unable to obtain a Winter JSMEI qualified instructor and so had to move onto the back up idea of the tour within France. Two summer JSMEIs were found within the Battalion, QMSI Warwick

and CSgt Garvie.

Day one began with a very early start. 0400hrs. After a quick brief, final kit issue and kit checks we set off. We made good time all the way to Dover and having arrived early we were put on an early ferry. Upon arrival in France we began our long, gruelling road journey. It took 12 and a half hours to get down to Chamonix in a very cramped minibus, drivers were swapped over every few hours and frequent breaks were taken. Les Houches, a town just outside Chamonix, was the destination. However, no campsites were open (we were about a week too early), so we continued into Chamonix and found a campsite which was also nearer to a number of watering holes. The tents were pitched and then everyone set off into the town centre. This gave everyone the opportunity to go out and experience the local 'culture'; some were more successful than others! The instructors and I then got together and planned out the next few days.

Day two, and after about two and a half hours of admin, breakfast, food shopping and clearing the campsite we set off. The route was going to take us from Tre le Champs to the refuge at Lac Blanc. The route was steep in places but was short enough to provide a gentle break in for what was to follow. We started in forested areas and moved into rocky, mountainous terrain with patches of snow by the mid afternoon. A pleasant night was spent on top of Lac Blanc (2,362m). After a really good evening meal and a few drinks everyone settled down for a peaceful night's sleep. Some of us stayed up and tried chatting up the girls who worked in the refuge, without much success. Everyone awoke refreshed and ready for the next day's walk. Our aim was to get to the Col du Brevent and possibly the Brevent summit at 2,553m.



Another up hill stage during Exercise Viking Trek!

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Day three...during the walk from Lac Blanc (2,362m) the weather closed in on the Brevent summit and it was decided to descend onto the campsite. It was a long winding descent which took its toll on everyone's knees. The views were amazing and breathtaking. By early evening we were able to sort out our admin and QMSI Warwick, CSgt Garvie and I set about planning the next two days. It was decided to walk from Les Houches to Les Contamines by the low route and then return via the high route.

On Day four the low route from Les Houches to Les Contamines seemed to have a steady profile. Unfortunately the hills never seemed to stop. In fact it seemed like the whole journey was uphill. Pte Kent said that he would never complain about Heartbreak Hill at Pirbright again. The weather was incredibly good and it wasn't long before the boys were topping up their tans. The scenery was a welcome change to bare rock and mountains as we were walking through idyllic alpine villages with great views of the Alps. The walk took most of the day and it seemed like a long 20km. Les Contamines was a small village, which was only just gearing up for the summer mountaineering season. Cpl Kearney had gone ahead to book the campsite. It had been a long sticky day meaning that everyone was glad to be able to have a shower. That evening England played France in the World Cup, so we found a watering hole to rehydrate and watch the game.

The high route from Les Contamines back to Les Houches on Day 5 had some very steep climbs along the way. It was a hard walk, but again the scenery was excellent and the weather remained constant. There were also some long rope bridges that crossed some of the glaciers. We had set off early and arrived in Les Houches around 1600hrs. Admin was sorted out and then we went back into Chamonix to have a final meal together.

The final day was spent packing the kit and then the group was freed up to do any final shopping and sightseeing in Chamonix. At 1800hrs everyone was rounded up and we began our journey home.

The trip was executed in a flexible manner and adjusted according to the conditions on the mountains, because of this the aims of adventurous training were met. It also made the trip very enjoyable. Some of the soldiers had never been outside the UK before and it was great to see them immersed in a slightly different culture. The training conducted was both enjoyable and rewarding (there was a lot of complaining when going uphill though!). Everyone seemed to enjoy the snow, and at 2,500m the boys from C Company created the 'high altitude sledge team' (minus sledge). The planning and execution of the trip seemed daunting, but once I had been through the process I found it to be fairly straightforward. If you are planning an adventurous training expedition at the moment keep going: it really is worth it in the end.

A Personal Perspective of a Private Soldier on Joining 1 R Anglian

Pte Facal, 10 Platoon, writes...

I am going to be writing about my experiences since joining the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. I found it weird and slightly different having just completed basic training, while the same time I was quite excited, because I didn't know what to expect. I was disappointed with the accommodation here at Pirbright as I felt that the accommodation at Catterick was much better, though it was really nice to have the NCOs calling me 'mate' for a change. Very quickly I found the general atmosphere to be so much better than in training. I found I got more respect from everyone, especially if you are just yourself and you try not to act cool or show off.

The platoon that I am in is really good - everyone seems to like it and everyone knows each other's personalities. I tried to learn what everyone's personality was and gradually they learned what I was like. The best thing to happen to me was when I joined the company boxing team. I got a lot more respect from everyone. There was a lot of support from C Company for all the boxing team and they helped build my confidence prior to the fight. The support I received really helped to encourage me. When the day came to prove myself, I stepped into the ring and the atmosphere was incredible. Everyone was chanting my name and this made me want to win. It was great after the fight as I could see in everyone's faces that they were proud of me. This is only the second time in my life that I have been so proud, the other time was when I passed out of training. As soon as the boxing competition was over preparations began for Turkey.

The first exercise that I would take part in with the Battalion was going to be in Turkey. Everyone was really looking forward to it. The flight took about four hours in an RAF TriStar. When we arrived it was strange to see armed guards accompany us everywhere with loaded rifles. The accommodation in Turkey was great. Everyone stayed in three-man rooms, the camp was pretty good as well with a swimming pool, gymnasium and tennis court. Before the exercise began it was great to see the Turkish weapon systems.

The exercise was strange, not like any I have been on in the UK. The Turkish Army had erected tents and provided shower facilities, toilets and a bakery. The catering in the field was excellent - apparently the Turkish army don't use ration packs! We conducted some training in the day before the final exercise. The Turkish conscripts were looking at us wondering what we were doing. The night before the attack the company slept in a large ditch and tried to be as tactical as possible. The Turks were putting up lights all over the place for us as they did not understand that we don't use lights at night. The attack the next morning

was delayed as we had to wait for the media to turn up. Our section was reserve section during the approach to the enemy position. It was very confusing, even though we were using Miles kit. The Turkish soldiers wouldn't lie down when they were shot. The observer controllers would reset people who were shot almost immediately. Our section didn't really do too much; we attacked a position that turned out to have no enemy in it. We then provided fire support for another section to attack some more enemy. We won in the end but I feel that the Turkish soldiers weren't really playing the game at times. One of our snipers told me he had killed about 11 soldiers during the night. Everyone was happy when the attack was over.

After the exercise it was time to relax. We went down town and visited some nice places in Istanbul. We also had a sports competition. We beat the Turks at football 5-2. We then lost at basketball and volleyball, but it was very close. It was good fun and I enjoyed playing basketball. We went on a visit to Gallipoli to see some World War One battlefields and pay our respects to all the soldiers who died there. The place we stayed was really luxurious and relaxing, I could have stayed there much longer. After a cultural tour of Istanbul which lasted two days we made preparations to fly back. We returned on a Hercules. It was nice to be back in the UK, but I think I will miss Turkey.

Minden Day 2004

Maj JM Woodham, OC C (Essex) Company, writes...

The Commanding Officer decreed that Minden Day 2004 would be celebrated by the Vikings in style. And so we did! We celebrated Minden Day 2004 on 22 July (rather than 1 August) which, by fitting coincidence, is the anniversary date of the Battle of Salamanca.

The dawn broke to the sound of the Corps of Drums waking the Battalion and the sickly smell of the rum in the gunfire hung in the air. Having donned ridiculous costumes and a fair amount of Lycra the Battalion took part in early morning PT - aerobics this year! Even though it was a relatively easy session there were members of the Battalion who proved that co-ordination was really not their thing.

The main event of the day was the Minden Parade. WO1 (RSM) Tate made the brave decision to Troop the Colour and with two weeks of practising he managed to get the Battalion to an acceptable standard of drill. With music provided by the band of the Life Guards, the Battalion marched on to the drill square at the ATR (Pirbright). The Troop went very well and was made all the more poignant by the presence on parade of the Salamanca Eagle, captured by the 44th Regiment of Foot. The salute was taken by the Colonel of the Regiment and we were joined by families, friends and by many members from the Regimental Associations.

Following the pomp and ceremony of

The Vikings



The Vikings do aerobics! Minden Day 2004.



Members of the Cambridgeshire Regimental Association enjoying an ice cream during the Minden Day Fete.



HQ Company tug-of-war team being encouraged by WO2 (CSM) DJ Marsh – Minden Day Fete.

the morning's parade, the afternoon fete was, by comparison, an informal affair with the soldiers, their families and our guests enjoying the childrens' rides, stalls, competitions, bars and barbecues. The central arena was kept busy with a programme of sporting events such as the tug-of-war and children's races. The afternoon was brought to a fitting close with an outstanding performance by the Corps of Drums from both the Poachers and the Vikings during a Beating Retreat. The salute was taken by Col Geoffrey Morgan, President of the Essex Regiment Association. An all ranks ball was held in the evening at the nearby Lakeside venue.

The event was a huge success and brought to a close, a very long but outstanding day during which the Vikings celebrated Minden Day in style!



The Vikings' Corps of Drums being led by Drum Major Howlett – Minden Day Beating the Retreat.

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Guard from C (Essex) Company marching past in slow time



WO1 (RSM) CJ Tate – The architect of the Vikings' Minden Day Trooping the Colour

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

An Overview

*Maj JA York, OC D (Cambridgeshire)
Company, writes...*

The period between Easter and summer leave has been a challenging and busy period for D (Cambridgeshire) Company. The first week back from leave consisted of a Battalion CAST in Warminster, which involved the core elements of the company. This was followed by a week at the CATT for the ISTAR Group (Recce, Snipers, Mobile Milan, MFCs), which was to practise SOPs prior to the Tesex commencing the week after.

Tesex proved a gruelling challenge for the Battalion and company, not least because it was the first integration of the TES equipment with Bowman. The first week was mainly set at platoon level, while the battle group staff worked on their procedures. The company then grouped together during the second week before the Commanding Officer's exercise. This consisted of an advance to contact with an unopposed river crossing, followed by an attack on Imber Village. The exercise was a good test of the ISTAR Group, with the Recce and Sniper Platoons working well together. The final week of Tesex, Exercise Wessex Warrior, started with a defence mission where D Company created a static observation post matrix complemented by mobile tagging teams and anti-armour teams. This was then followed by an attack on to Copehill Down, where, during darkness, the Sniper Platoon infiltrated the village, identified all of the enemy positions and dismantled the bar mine booby traps, relocating them under the enemy warriors. They then disrupted and confused the enemy, allowing freedom of movement for the Recce Platoon to locate and set up RVs, hides and the FUP. This enabled the rifle companies to achieve, in the words of the exercise controller 'the fastest break-in I have ever seen!' The final



Maj Barry and Capts Stamm, Moxey and Gregory relax after the final mission.

mission was another advance to contact culminating in an attack on to Weather Hill Firs. The ISTAR group, Milan Platoon and Mortars combined extremely well and all but destroyed the Opfor before the rifle companies had fired a round.

Following the D Company's success on Tesex, each of the four platoons then conducted their own specialist training. The Anti-Tank Platoon ran its Milan Numbers Cadre over a four-week period culminating with the final exercise in Brecon and a live firing battle exercise at Lavington Folly. The platoon started the cadre with 20 students, 15 from the rifle companies, and five from the platoon who were not yet qualified. Fourteen students completed the cadre and became Milan qualified. The top student was Pte Owusu from B Company. The platoon has now been reinforced with seven of the rifle company soldiers who passed the cadre to bring it up to full strength.

The Sniper Platoon also ran a cadre over the period 7 June – 16 July. There were 13 soldiers on the cadre including three from 1 Grenadier Guards and 1 from 1 Staffords. The cadre consisted of a week in-camp learning map reading, weapon handling and air photography, a week on Bisley ranges finishing with the badge test shoot, three weeks in Brecon learning fieldcraft and conducting badge tests, and a



Pte Cater prepares to take his shot.

final week conducting continuation training in Pirbright. Of the 13 that started, LCpls Ferrand, Tischler and Hadaway (all from the Sniper Platoon) were badged, and Pte Hawkins from A Company was awarded top student. The platoon also competed in the Bisley Sniper Match 101-104, where Pte Restall won top individual shot, the team won the short range match and was also placed first overall. This is the second consecutive year that the team has won in this event.

The Mortar Platoon has engaged in live firing in support of the Royal Artillery's 3 Division Exercise Highland Archer on Salisbury Plain. The platoon provided 1 section and 2 MFC parties for the FOOs in their fire planning exercises over three days. The platoon, having not fired for a considerable time, performed very well indeed producing accurate mortar fire which drew the praise of the CO 19 Regiment RA. The platoon then went on to the main effort of the post Tesex period, the Mortar Cadre, which ran for three weeks, with one week in Pirbright learning the basics and two weeks at Otterburn. After a busy period of getting up to the required standard, there were three days of live firing using both small arms and 81mm, with over 600 HE rounds being fired in two days of live firing. Unfortunately, due to the lack of illumination rounds (all being

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Cpl Heal and LCpl Cowell relaxing after the Singapore Half Marathon.

used in Iraq), no night firing was conducted. The new members of the platoon performed well and the platoon was rewarded with some well-deserved R and R in Newcastle. On return to Pirbright the platoon was involved in the cadre clean up and support to the Minden Day parade, before some well-earned summer leave.

The Recce Platoon returned from Tesex to say farewell to Capt Woodeson, as he handed over the platoon to Capt Dobbin. After some fast planning, the platoon then began a busy period of cadre training, in order to convert from Land Rover to CVR(T) Scimitar, prior to summer leave and prepare for its proposed live firing package in September. The first part of this period was a four-week driving and maintenance cadre, conducted by Cpl Ling and LCpl Eggleton, which saw six young drivers qualify at the first attempt, after successfully completing their Cat H testing in Bovington. This was followed immediately by a three-week gunnery cadre, conducted by Cpl Shropshire and Sgt Browning (formerly of Recce Platoon, now in A Company). The aim of this cadre was to train the new gunners to both handle and maintain the 30mm Rarden cannon, the coaxially mounted L37 machine gun and the



The grave of Captain Neave MC of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

multi-barrelled smoke grenade discharger (MBSGD) prior to becoming fully qualified after a period of range work. All eight new gunners successfully completed the weapon handling and maintenance testing, prior to

the platoon participating in the Minden Day celebrations and going on summer leave. The platoon subsequently converted its already qualified CVR(T) Sabre commanders and gunners to the Scimitar diesel engine and L37, in preparation for the live firing camp, in September.

Since returning from the summer break, elements of D Company looked forward to Exercise Suman Warrior in Singapore. This took place over the period 22 September to 7 October, and is a Five Power Defence Agreement joint exercise between Singapore, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. Battle group staff conducted a CAST type exercise based on the defence of Singapore, while soldiers carried out cross training to familiarise themselves with the other nations' capabilities. After our 48-hour journey (thanks RAF!) including stops in Bahrain and Colombo, the UK contingent had three days to acclimatise before competing in the first major activity – the Singapore Half Marathon. The aim of the event rapidly changed from being competitive to just making it round in one piece. With temperatures hitting 35C during the day, and with near 80 per cent humidity, this was no mean feat. Everyone in the two 15-man teams made it unscathed, with LCpl Soar running the fastest time among the company at 1hr 43mins.



Maj Andrew Price, Battalion 2IC, at the Singapore Memorial.

The Vikings



Vikings, Diggers and Kiwis during the service.

The following day was spent recuperating before the wargaming exercise began. The exercise involved the armies from Singapore, UK, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. It was run over a three-day period utilising a computer simulation, was set at brigade level and concluded with a resounding victory.

During the second week the UK, Singapore, Australian and New Zealand contingents visited the Kranji Commonwealth Cemetery, where many soldiers of the Royal Norfolks, Suffolks, Leicesters and Cambridgeshires are buried alongside 4,458 Commonwealth soldiers. Within Kranji War Cemetery stands the Singapore Memorial, bearing the names of over 24,000 casualties of the Commonwealth land and air forces who have no known grave. This memorial contained names still familiar in our Regiment today, bringing home to everyone the links we have with our predecessors. Of particular note, is the ill-fated 18th Division which was, with the exception of one battalion, entirely composed of Royal Norfolks, Suffolks and Cambridgeshires. We also saw that a member of the Lincolnshire Regiment, serving with the Malay Civil Service was buried at Kranji, emphasising the importance not just of the units that served during the Singapore Campaign, but also the individuals.

A short service was held to commemorate the dead from our former Regiments, who fell in the Battle for Singapore, or who died as prisoners of war in three and a half years of captivity. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Thorne, read Kipling's poem 'Tommy Atkins' and this was followed by Maj York who read a short excerpt from the Cambridgeshires' Regimental history prior to the act of Remembrance. The final words of the extract are, in part, what we seek to achieve through our Regimental Ethos... 'there are some things that should never be forgotten, the cheerfulness in adversity, the comradeship, unselfishness and bravery, the strong doing their utmost for the sick and the dying.' Standing among the graves of the fallen, the Kohima prayer was particularly moving for the young soldiers from the contingents, with *Last Post* and *Reveille* being played by LCpl Eastwood and Dmr Goodrum. The ceremony



LCpl Cowel and fellow Suman Warriors at the Specialist Training Centre.

closed with a gentle Maori hymn, sung by the Kiwis, drifting across the cemetery prior to wreaths being laid on behalf of the national contingents and our Regimental Associations.

Later in the exercise the Battalion 2IC, OC D Company and our armoured representative, Maj Tom Mallinson KRH, went in search of signs of the Cambridgeshires' time in Singapore. The rapid expansion of Singapore has changed the terrain beyond recognition, but the officers located the approximate site of 'Hellfire Corner', mentioned in the Cambridgeshires' history of the campaign. This is particularly poignant for our Regiment as it was the area of the final positions of battalions from the Royal Norfolks, the Suffolks and both battalions of the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

The soldiers' exercise, although jam-packed with various activities, was well organised by the Singaporean Guards Battalion. It started with weapon familiarisation, their weapon being the SAR 21, a sturdy and accurate weapon. Having passed a simple weapons test, the Vikings spent the rest of day in international teams war-gaming with a Singaporean version of TES equipment. A day was then spent on the ranges during which the Vikings surprised the locals with their accuracy using the SAR 21.

All Vikings had to try the Guards Battalion

speciality which was abseiling, as well as their obstacle courses culminating in their high confidence course. Also visited was the main training establishment where depending on the individual's ability a Singaporean could, within one year, go from private to sergeant first class.

Part of the exercise was meeting the other contingents and we were hosted impeccably from start to finish by the Guards. Relations between the contingents were always good due to the evening activities in the mess. The Singaporeans and Malaysians enjoyed demonstrating their passion, if not skill, for karaoke, the Kiwis and Aussies liked to show how much they could drink, while the Vikings reminded our southern hemisphere cousins which nation is current rugby world champions and, on the odd occasion, sang worse than everyone. This was most apparent during the Suman Idol Competition where, after a fantastic Elvis rendition from the Drum Major, a few unnamed Viking officers (including OC Recce) appeared dressed as the Village People, under the group name of 'The Australian Army Male Voice Choir' and performed that all time classic - YMCA!



'The Australian Army Male Voice Choir'

After the serious exercise play had ended, four days' R and R was then enjoyed in the city itself. Most members of the Battalion stayed at one of the many hotels and many took in the sites. Raffles Hotel was one of the main attractions for those requiring some culture and the finer things in life, while the many bars and clubs were also frequented. The journey back proved to be rather long, this time with stops in Brunei and Bahrain, completing the Viking Far East Tour. On the whole it has been a most enjoyable exercise.

At the end of the period Maj Chris Barry handed over to Maj James York prior to departing for Australian Staff College (via a four-month tour in Iraq with 1 Mechanised Brigade) and WO2 (CSM) Reilly took over from WO2 (CSM) Robinson as Company Sergeant Major. Over the last four months D Company soldiers have been to Peru, Turkey, Morocco, Singapore and Canada. With numerous cadres, courses and exercises it has been a busy and testing period. With CAST and another OFT before Christmas, and pre-Iraq training on the horizon another busy period is forecast with more challenging times ahead.

The Vikings

Exercise Jebel Sahara

Sgt Thorn, 2IC Sniper Platoon, writes...

On return from summer leave it was confirmed that myself, Cpls Shropshire and Pindar (from Recce Platoon) would be supporting the Gibraltar Regiment's Exercise Jebel Sahara from 15 September until 2 October in Morocco.

I arrived in Gibraltar on 6 September and the next day I got to meet all of the G Company personalities and start to sort out the training programme and the resources required to run the cadre. When Maj Alman (OC G Company and exercise director) discovered that I was GPMG (SF) instructor qualified he asked me to run the introduction to GPMG (SF) cadre - not what I had in mind and I needed to get my head in the books.

On 15 September G Company and attachments flew from Gibraltar to Marrakech for the beginning of Exercise Jebel Sahara 2004. This was the start of a new experience for unlucky me! I was on Chalk 2, which contained all the weapons and most of the stores. The Moroccan authorities are so strict that they checked every single weapon serial number, but then they started counting every single drill round of 7.62mm, followed then by 5.56mm! Three hours later, (spent standing on the tarmac next to the C-130 with no shade and a lovely temperature of 38C), we finally departed - welcome to Morocco. The journey from the airbase to Ram Ram Camp took 20 minutes, on arrival the experience continued, Ram Ram Camp made Nanyuki Showground (Kenya) feel like Westdown Camp. The conditions were basic and the temperature hot especially from 1300 to 1800 hours (on the heat stress index it would normally be red high).

The GPMG (SF) Cadre started off with 14 Gibraltar Regiment students and four Moroccan students (not one could speak English). The programme was simply skill at arms lessons, weapon handling tests, three days' live firing, culminating in a three-day final exercise. We lost five students through



Cpls Shropshire and Pindar during Exercise Jebel Sahara.

a variety of injuries, from a severe case of piles to the more serious - a casevac back to the UK of a soldier with heat exhaustion (core body temperature was 42C). Overall we finished the FTX phase with 11 students. All students, less three, completed the cadre including the live firing phase, with high standards achieved by most students.

Cpls Shropshire and Pindar had to wait to finish their gunnery camp before departing for Gibraltar on 17 September. Next day they flew into Marrakech from London Gatwick, unknown to them they were deploying into the mountains of Anzi Training area the following day. Once I met them at the

airport, I briefed them or should I say told them the not so good news. Cpls Shropshire and Pindar then started their exercise helping with the Recce Cadre, due to this we would only bump into each other now and then.

The Recce Cadre began with an observation post phase run by CSgt Martinez and Capt King. Cpls Shropshire and Pindar began by digging in demonstration observation posts, one surface and one sub surface. Having seen how it was done the Gibraltar Regiment soldiers began their own. As the terrain in the mountains was much like Afghanistan, sub surface observation posts were challenging - as they found out after



Vikings on R&R sponsored by Oakley.



Exercise Jebel Sahara - GPMG (SF) Live Firing.

The Vikings



From Left: Cpl Pindar, Sgt Thorn and Cpl Shropshire at monument in Gibraltar



Osama bin Shropshire!

many hours of sweat and tears digging into bedrock. The Recce Cadre then moved by Puma to the final exercise phase which included all the skills learned over the past weeks, including Close Target Recce, patrol technique and reporting.

On two occasions all three Vikings managed to go to the medina market known as the Sokous, a maze of small alleys where you can buy pretty much anything. Outside on the main square is the nightly entertainment of snake charmers, fortune tellers, food stalls, and more! Overall, it was a good military and social experience for all the Vikings and we also made new friends with people in the Gibraltar Regiment and Morocco.

Headquarter Company An Overview

WO2 (CSM) DJ Marsh writes...

Since the last issue, HQ Company has remained extremely busy. The day the company arrived back from leave they deployed to the local ranges to fire the APWT. The Bowman conversion is still in full swing with a retro fit package beginning in mid-September and the company remains committed to high class support to the remainder of the Battalion. Members of HQ Company have deployed regularly with the rifle companies in the jaunts across the UK and abroad in Gibraltar, Canada, Singapore and Turkey.

Another bout of Operation Fresco also stepped up the pace and gave CSgt (CQMS) Neal the opportunity to administer the entire training package including the other units that visited Pirbright for their fire fighting training. The CQMS and his team put in a considerable amount of effort to ensure that all went smoothly. RAAT tasks have also continued to come in fast and furious with a number of the company deployed to support various 12 Brigade Tesexes on Salisbury Plain.

Since the last *Castle* edition HQ Company has remained active on the sporting front and secured the first inter-company competition by winning the recent athletics meeting. It was a well-fought competition for both the competitors and the supporters but the company came through on both accounts. Unfortunately, the company's boxing team did not fare so well but all fighters gave a good account of themselves in true HQ Company fashion. Many members of the company have been involved with various battalion adventurous training expeditions in Peru, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Egypt and the UK.

It is expected that HQ Company will remain busy for the foreseeable future with CAST, a CFX and another Bowman Operational Field Trial on the radar screen.

Priming Equipment Packs (PEPs)

Maj SJ Nye writes...

I was sitting in my office one morning, when the phone rang. On the other end was the Battalion 2IC (Maj Andy Price). 'Bunny, pop down and see me as I have a job for you.' ... 'Oh dear, I thought, what next?' I soon found out as Andy started to explain... 'The CO has agreed that we (you) will host the HQ Land PEP trial in June and by the way, there will be a visitors' day at the end of it which will include C-in-C Land, Commander Field Army and the COS HQ Land.'

'Delighted,' I said, as I left his office to tell the troops the 'good' news.

Looking at me as if I was going mad, the RQMSs both said: 'What is a PEP?' I then started to explain that wartime kit shortages could soon be a thing of the past, if a radical new supply system is adopted. The move would involve stockpiling a month's-worth of combat equipment to see frontline troops through the opening stages of a war. The idea could end the kind of shortages that dogged Operation Telic. Frontline troops complained of a lack of body armour, desert clothing and ammunition and were labelled 'The Borrowers' by US Forces who were approached for handouts.

Backers of PEPs say that the idea would involve scientifically predicting and stockpiling the kit needed for a range of battle settings. This would involve detailed studies of soldiers' requirements, with precise data gathered during previous wars and training exercises. A more ambitious plan under consideration could see hardware crated in massive cargo containers, ready for instant deployment. Individual tailor-made PEPs for jungle, desert, mountain and arctic conditions would be held in a warehouse for future operations. Critics of the present system claim Quartermasters face a frantic scramble on the eve of war and are often forced to guess the kit needed, with no guarantee it will reach troops in time. The Army has experienced these shortages in successive operations.

The aim of the trial was to establish if a company, battle group or brigade would be able to deploy to an operational theatre transporting the 30 days of stock contained within the PEP on their own integral transport. After a series of meetings to plan the trial, 19 ISO containers filled to the roof arrived at Elizabeth Barracks over a two-day period. The contents of each container were counted and placed into a particular order and, once we had taken into account what each soldier would be issued to wear or carry, we placed the rest onto our echelon vehicles. This was completed in the first six working days of the trial. We (QM, RQMS (M) and

The Vikings

RQMS (T) then spent two days putting the final touches to the visitors' day. The visitors' day was a great success for the Vikings and 30 senior officers from across the Army were able to see us put on a good performance. It was agreed by all who attended the trial that the PEP concept could work in the future. The successful trial was, for the most part, a reflection of the efforts of the Vikings Quartermaster's Department.

Tesex 2004

Capt RJ James, IO, writes...

Tesex is a three-week training package which is broken into three phases each lasting approximately a week. It takes place on Salisbury Plain Training Area and is the best training opportunity available for a battlegroup utilising both direct fire and indirect fire simulation. The exercise is run by the Battle Group Training Unit (BGTU) who are based in their high-tech headquarters in Westdown Camp.

The first phase concentrates on the issuing of, training on and practising with the TTS equipment which offers a step change in capability over the kit the Battalion had previously used. The Battalion found that the improvements in the equipment, such as being able to replicate indirect fire and NBC effects, further increased the realism of the training experience offered by BGTU. During the remainder of the first week the Battalion was able to train in a series of specially designed exercises aimed at developing the rifle companies, the RISTA

group, Battlegroup HQ and the echelons. In addition, the battlegroup ran an obstacle crossing TEWT (the highlight of which saw the CO take command of a bridgelayer), a FIBUA and an NBC planning exercise.

The second phase gave the rifle companies the opportunity to fight against each other during a rotation involving company in defence and company in attack while the third rifle company conducted an advance to contact and an urban training exercise. In addition, the RISTA group conducted an advance to contact exercise with Battlegroup HQ. The second phase was concluded by a 36-hour CO's confirmatory exercise during which the battlegroup practised an obstacle crossing and an urban attack onto Imber Village.

The third and final phase of our Tesex was Exercise Wessex Warrior which is the brigade commander's test exercise. This consisted of three missions during which we were pitched against the Black Watch.

Mission 1 - Defence

The first mission involved the battlegroup in defence of crossing points over the River Berril. The companies were dug in and awaited the arrival of the Black Watch (who incidentally almost did not show up having been notified that they were to go to Iraq to meet an urgent operational requirement). The Black Watch were complemented by a squadron of Challenger 2 from the RTR which was of particular concern for the Vikings as we had no armour support due to the ongoing difficulties of fitting Bowman to

Challenger. The Black Watch sent their **recco** elements to probe our defences for most of the second day and night, with a concerted feint and then an attack on the dawn of the third day. The particularly misty morning did not help the Vikings and enemy **recco** elements were able to penetrate our defences although they were quickly **destroyed**. Although many of the enemy were **destroyed** during their attack, the line of the River Berril was breached and hence this **mission** was technically a mission fail.

Mission 2 - Attack on to Copehill Down Village

The second mission saw a more **rapid** planning phase with the objective being the defeat of the enemy in Copehill Down Village. At last we had the support of armour with the arrival of two **troops** from the RTR who had come across to us with full enemy markings (causing some concern amongst the Defence Platoon and medics as they arrived at BG HQ). This mission involved a strong **recco** screen going forward to identify the **forward** enemy positions and observation posts, followed by an attack from East to the West focusing initially on the area of the village where the enemy concentration among the civilian population was the greatest. The companies had to deal with both **friendly** and distinctly **unfriendly** civilians and the battery commander had to cope with some last minute critical information (managing to stop a fire mission onto the friendly church at the very last minute). This mission was



The Commanding Officer addresses the Vikings' Battlegroup at the end of Tesex.

The Vikings

a success with the enemy defeated and the mission accomplished.

Mission 3 - Obstacle Crossing and Deliberate Attack

The planning for this mission had been conducted during the final stages of the attack onto Copehill Down and was finalised while the battlegroup rested in the village. The mission was an attack onto the area of Weather Hill on the far east of Salisbury Plain where the enemy had withdrawn in order to consolidate and it crucially involved a crossing of the River Avon. The move towards the objective took place at night and the companies found their way to their respective hides. Battlegroup HQ Light found the going somewhat harder when a rogue enemy tank destroyed most of their vehicles. Confusion reigned for a while as the tank could be heard rumbling around the area, occasionally appearing to pick off another vehicle (it eventually threw a track and sat impotent). The enemy commander had chosen to defend in depth covering some 6km deep by 4km frontage and with his tanks in the fore. Eventually B and C Companies approached the enemy positions to the rear of the area to find very few enemy troops, most having been killed in the forward battle. This again was a successful mission.

BGTU followed the progress of the battlegroup throughout the exercise and gave detailed debriefs at company level and battlegroup level. The reviews, conducted in purpose built theatres, relied heavily on the use of clips from the computer generated depiction of where troops and vehicles were on the ground. They were able to fast forward to show general trends or drill down into the detailed data captured from every soldier and vehicle. It was possible to show exactly who had fired and at who - which was very valuable in showing the detail of blue on blue engagements. There was also much use of video footage showing some very good infantry skills as well as the occasional mistake!

Texex has proved to be an extremely important and useful exercise for the Vikings Battlegroup. The new TES equipment and its ability to accurately simulate the effects of indirect meant that low level skills were being constantly revised and plans were developed with an eye on mitigating the hugely destructive effect of the artillery. While the Saxon vehicle is far from perfect, Texex proved that in order to maximise the advantages it provides the battlegroup, we must become more practised in its tactical use. Similarly, the exercise highlighted the importance of planning for the all arms battle and ensuring that the advantage gained through the use of armour, artillery and engineer assets is optimised during the planning phase. But perhaps the most important lesson from Texex was that it proved, yet again, the importance of small bands of determined men who often held the key to the successful outcome of a mission.

Bowman Operational Field Trial 1a - 5-16 July 2004

Capt MA Nicholas, RSO, writes...

The Battalion has now been involved in three Operational Field Trials (OFT) since conversion to Bowman began in September 2002. OFT 1a was conceived on the back of OFT 1 (March 2004) as an opportunity to rectify the failings in capability that were supposed to be delivered with the In Service Date (ISD) upgrade of software. After OFT 1 problems were identified with the stability of the Common Battlefield Application Toolset (ComBAT) the primary data application used by Bowman and limitations with the system architecture that supports the passage of data around the network. The reader may recall that Bowman (the radio part of digitisation) was declared In Service, but CIP (ComBAT Infrastructure and Platform) fell short of the user requirement.

OFT 1a took place on Salisbury Plain Training Area with the CIS Platoon and a number of other driver operators committed. This smaller scale trial allowed the trials organisers to concentrate on running trials without battalion signallers having to worry about supporting G3 training as had been the case on previous OFTs.

The first part of the OFT consisted of the largest HCDR (High Capacity Data Radio) trial ever carried out. Some 62 HCDR platforms deployed across SPTA (simulating a brigade level deployment) in order to form a successful two-tier network. Problems were identified with the reliability of the HCDR and in particular the failure of hub batteries.

Exercise Bowman Challenge 2a allowed Battalion HQ and other detachments to deploy and use ComBAT to its greatest extent to date. Two key objectives were achieved. Firstly, the passing of an Op Order from Brigade HQ to Battalion HQ over a RF path. The success in passing a data message of this size was considered a breakthrough by CSDC. Once the Op Order was received, Battalion HQ was able to pass it around to all staff who used a data terminal to work on producing a Battalion Op Order and passing it over a RF path to Company HQs - this too was broadly a success. Secondly, the ability to generate situational awareness from assets on the ground to Battalion HQ with GPS, regularly updated and passed up to Brigade HQ was another success. Although not wholly reliable, the work of the signallers and staff technically and procedurally proved these two elements of capability. It was satisfying to see 1 R Anglian blue icons moving across the displayed map screen at Brigade HQ towards the red enemy objectives.

Although there was some success on the OFT 1a it was not enough for CIP to be declared In Service. If anything it really brought home to many that there is still a lot of work to be done before CIP and hence ComBAT can be used as a stable and

reliable application. We now look forward to further drops of software and hardware improvements before OFT 2 planned for November/December 2004.

Exercise Skywave

WO2 DR Curtis, RSWO, writes...

Since we converted to Bowman in late 2003, the CIS Platoon has been looking for an opportunity to train on the new system and to see just what it can do. Narrowing down the options we decided it would be novel to run an HF Skywave exercise with the new Harris 5800 radio, issued to replace the old Clansman HF radios. Skywave communications had not previously been achieved to any great extent with Bowman so the idea of trying to communicate over long distance seemed an ideal opportunity firstly and foremost to train our signallers and secondly to see what the kit could do.

In early September, eight members of the Platoon deployed to Gibraltar as the Forward Link Detachment leaving those left in Pirbright to run the Rear Link Detachment. To provide technical support to the exercise, personnel from GD UK and Harris Radios Ltd also deployed to Gibraltar. After much pain in getting the RAF to move the radios, packaged as freight, to Gibraltar we started executing the main events list of the exercise which started with a STICICs phone patch to RAF Kinloss in Scotland. STICICs is a service provided by the RAF which allows you to communicate over HF from anywhere in the world and then links you to a landline or mobile phone. We were able to speak to personnel back in Pirbright and at Warminster too - some a little surprised to have to use voice procedure during an unsuspected telephone call from Gibraltar!

Having proved communications with STICICs, the main part of the exercise was to communicate back to Pirbright using different antenna and power combinations. With Skywave the height and angle of the antennas at both ends of the link will determine whether you will communicate or not. HF antennas are quite simply a length of braid or copper wire suspended from two



RSWO WO2 Curtis and HF specialist Cpl Rumsey talking to Pirbright.

The Vikings



Ptes Mavin & Bailey along with LCpl Warner get some instruction on HF communications from John Lockert of Harris Radios Ltd.

masts, known as a dipole or a length angled from a mast to the ground – the sloping wire. The length of the antenna is then adjusted according to the frequency being used. The power settings varied between 1 watt and the maximum of 20 watts that can be used to power the man pack radio. The majority of attempts to communicate were successful including using one home-made antenna by Cpl Hogston. The highlight of the exercise was using a mode of the radio that automatically selects the best frequency available known as 3G ALE. To achieve this, radios at both ends of the link must synchronise with each other before you can communicate. The Platoon learned much about frequency management. HF is prone to atmospheric interference at certain times of the day and frequency prediction is critical to success. Other users can also have an impact; one frequency could not be used as most of the ships in the Strait of Gibraltar were using it to send their data transmissions.

Apart from training hard, those deployed to Gibraltar had a good time as well. For me it brought back many memories of the Battalion's posting to the Rock in the late 80s. For the junior soldiers, they worked hard and were able to enjoy the delights of the Rock when off duty.

In summary, Exercise Skywave was a great success, giving us further confidence in Bowman. The Platoon is now better trained in HF and is looking forward to a repeat exercise soon.

Ptes Mavin and Bailey along with LCpl Warner get some instruction on HF communications from John Lockert of Harris Radios Ltd.

CIS Platoon Adventure Training

Cpl D Bonner, CIS Platoon, writes...

After a year centre stage of conversion to Bowman and the digital world, the CIS Platoon deployed on the age old tradition that is adventurous training.

The trip was organised by our adventurous training guru, CSgt Garvie ably assisted by Sgt Magee. The week long trip consisted of hill walking, rock climbing, abseiling and



RSWO WO2 Curtis found wanting during rock climbing.

mountain biking as well as some relaxation in local hostelrys. The destination: Newquay, the 'surf's up dude' capital of waves and general place for having fun. Twenty one members of the Platoon deployed along with five of the REMELAD and Sgt Baxter from the Intelligence Cell as our resident driver.

The journey to Newquay from Pirbright took about five hours with the RSWO, WO2 Curtis, leading the way in a fleet of minibuses. On arrival at Penhale Camp (our accommodation) Sgt Carter had to be careful not to be mistaken for one of 300 ACF cadets that had descended on the Cornish Coast along with some nurses from Haslar. The first mission on that Sunday afternoon was to explore Newquay and settle in.

Monday morning brought the first activity of hill walking. 15km as the crow flies, I briefed CSgt Garvie, taking more like 22 miles as the soldier walks. As we were taking in the sights and improving our map reading



Members of the CIS Platoon enjoying the Camel Trail on bike.

The Vikings

and an opportunity to forget about Bowman, the RSO, RSWO and CQMS planned our next Bowman exercise. After walking over some splendid scenery on the north Cornish Coast we returned to camp at about 1730hrs exhausted by the sea air and unreal feeling that we really had managed to get away from Pirbright. CSgt Garvie took great care to brief us all on the wildlife we had seen that day including a number of nudists from the local nudist beach.

On Tuesday we practised some rock climbing skills on the tower in Penhale Camp before moving to the beach to climb and abseil. These small climbs were just enough for those who had not rock climbed before and generated some interest by those who would like to take this activity further. LCpl Duckett proved to be a most capable climber hence his new name 'Mountain Goat' while newly promoted LCpl Warner needed most of the Platoon to hold the rope as he was belayed down to earth.

Wednesday's activity was a 40-mile mountain bike ride between Camelford and Padstow. The route mostly followed the Camelford Canal but started with some very hilly roads. One steep downhill passage ended with Cpl Rumsey and Pte Small failing to negotiate a sharp right bend and ploughing into someone's display of plant pots in a garden. The RSO, not forgetting he was on holiday, still managed to cover the last four miles in about 30 seconds. Sgt Baxter on call as mechanic and puncture pick up person got a chance to visit the Lobster Museum at Padstow.

Thursday was the relaxation day. Most of us piled down to the beach at Newquay to surf which proved to be much more difficult than it looks or body board in perfect weather (rain). A small group headed up by Sgt Baxter went off sea fishing and brought back some monkfish for the platoon barbecue that evening. The last activity was a final night out in Newquay, enjoyed by all – not least LCpl Lathangue who spent most of the night sleeping in a kebab shop. Finally, we returned on Friday with a Bank Holiday weekend to look forward to. Thanks to those who organised the trip and roll on next year.

PNCOs' Cadre 01/04

WO2 Granfield, WTWO, writes...

The cadre was carefully designed to incorporate all the requirements of Introductory Leadership and Management (ILM) and was duly accredited with the seal of approval from the organisation. The cadre began on 14 June and formed up with 61 potential NCOs. Four of these came from the Poachers and 10 from the Staffords.

In outline, the students spent the first two weeks of the cadre in camp learning basic skills, instructional technique, plenty of fitness and the orders process. At the end of week two the complete cadre moved into phase two, occupying Farm 8 on Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA) for a further two weeks. Being based on the



The Urban Ops Phase. Pte Joynes acting as section commander gives clear direction.

training area meant that we were able to gain maximum training value from our time in Wales. During this phase the Cadre conducted battle lessons, navigation exercises, TEWTS on patrolling, patrol harbours, defence, ambush, FIWAF, OPs and finally section and platoon attacks. This training was then confirmed and tested during the final exercise over the final four days in Wales.

Although Brecon gave us the occasional patch of bad weather, it was generally very kind to the students, especially on the final day of the exercise, when the cadre held the inter-section race over the Brecon Beacons. This included Pen Y Fan, over which the students were accompanied by the Commanding Officer. 2 Section were

victorious across the Fan only because they completed the correct checkpoints. Overall, 2 Section were crowned Champion Section under Cpl Hill (A Company).

Once back in Pirbright with the cadre now trimmed down to 34 students it was death by power point with the CLM lessons. 2IC in barracks and drill, in preparation for the end of course parade. Pte Ryan (A Company) volunteered to be the parade commander for the day and he and the Cadre produced an outstanding parade. The parade was very well supported with all the available manpower from the battalion and the wives, girlfriends and families of the students.

The Cadre top student was Pte Brooks (A Company) and the prize for best endeavour went to Pte Djemal (Poachers).



The start of the fan dance. Pte Pemberton (with map) working on the start point. Pte Cook (scratching head) is clearly confused!

The Vikings



HQ Company's winning team in the Inter-Company Athletics Competition.

HQ Company Inter-Company Athletics Champions

Capt T Jones writes...

This year's inter-company athletics competition was held at the Aldershot Athletic Stadium on 18 August 2004. HQ Company were clearly very keen to retain the title for the second year running and so, under the direction of Capt Tim Jones (HQ Company team captain), the first of the day's events got under way, on a cold and very wet Wednesday morning.

The track events saw notable efforts from the Viking Chefs, the Viking IAD and the Viking AGC Detachment, with winners' medals for the following: Cfn Parry - 110m hurdles; LCpl Southard - 200m; Pte Abernathy - 400m

WO2 (WTWO) Granfield - 800m; Lt Pack - 1500m; LCpl Knights - 3000m steeplechase. The field events saw wins for: Cpl Bonner - Javelin; WO2 (AQMS) Tolson - Discus.

There was also an excellent display of hammer throwing from the OC, Maj Stefanetti who, after having given the theory to this art to an expectant crowd of waiting competitors, proceeded to then put this into practice by way of the perfect demonstration. Unfortunately, this did not work out, with the hammer not quite making it out of the pen and the thrower clinging onto the safety netting. This was all to the mirth and merriment of the audience, who, for those precious moments, did not notice the rain. Fortunately, the OC still went on to win the event.

Towards the last events, it became clear that the main threat was coming from B Company, who required some good results in the relays, which counted for double points. Fortunately HQ Company were able to do just enough in the relays to hold B Company at bay, resulting in HQ Company retaining the title for the second year running, but only by a five point margin. No doubt the rifle companies have aspirations for revenge in the future.

The prizegiving was held in the newly established 'Viking Club' with LCpl Knights collecting the shield from the Commanding Officer, for the most gallant performance of the day, in the 3000m steeplechase.

Red Sea Diving

WO2 DJ Marsh writes...

As the rain bounced off of the window and the thought of a day on the drill square practising for Minden Day's Trooping the Colour loomed in the back of my mind, I clicked the In box on my DII and had a quick look to see if anything needed action before the troops got on parade. 'Volunteers needed - Diver Qualified' read the subject. 'Best have a quick look at this...' I thought. Ten days diving in the Red Sea. It sounded too good to be true and I had a look to see who had sent it just in case it was a wind up. After a few hours research and a chat with Maj Stuart Smith (OC A Company 2 R Anglian) the trip was genuine and I was booked on it.

After a six-hour flight we arrived at Sharm el-Sheik airport. Everything had gone to plan until one of the group said: 'All we need now is all the kit and we have cracked it'. Unfortunately we did not. One of the bags had gone missing in transit and after some discussion with our tour guide we loaded the remainder of the baggage into a truck

got into a minibus and was introduced to Turkish banger racing and the long lost Egyptian son of Eddie Irvine. A short stop at Oones Dive Headquarters, one beer and transfer of luggage and we were back in the minibus for lap two to the harbour. Shortly after being dropped off, we were sat in the main cabin of *Panorama Sharm*, a 25-metre purpose built dive boat. One safety brief and a few drinks later most of the troops retired for the night.

By 0900hrs we were all stood on the dive deck, geared up and ready to jump into the water. Once in, Gaz (my dive partner) and I descended to the bottom for our first dive. This was a refresher dive on a fairly shallow reef to enable everyone to get back into the swing of things. After a few schoolboy errors, like forgetting to look at the bottom of the boat (1 of 10 moored on the reef) we set off to explore. The water was warm, crystal clear, the coral was vibrant and colourful. There was a lot of wildlife on the reef and we even found Nemo. We surfaced back at the boat after 45mins and all the cobwebs well and truly washed away. There were two more dives that day before we settled at our night mooring over the wreck of the *Thistlegorm*. She was a 9,000-tonne British merchant ship that was sunk by a German bomber with her entire cargo of military supplies in 1941. This was to be our first night dive and my first night dive onto a wreck. It was very eerie descending down the line to meet this relic of the Second World War. The area was well lit from the surface by boat lights giving us good visibility. Then out of the shadow appeared the bridge of the forgotten British workhorse. The first thing that struck me was the size of the ship - massive. We swam towards the bow and began to make out some of the wreck's distinct features such as the railway carriages on the forward deck and the anchor winches. Moving back down the wreck we picked out a torpedo plane (used to find mines) and as we swam across the blast roof we finally came to the area that the German bombs had impacted on the ship. Even at night it was easy to pick out the devastation that the explosion had caused assisted by the *Thistlegorm's* own ammo bunker igniting on impact. A massive rear section of the ship was missing and we could just pick out through the torchlight the



Our modest craft!

The Vikings



The Thistlegorm.

remains of a Mk II Bren Gun Carrier below. At this point the local turtle joined us. He stayed for a few minutes and as he left we made our way to the ascent line and made our way back to the boat. At that point, this was the best dive that I had done to date and I could not wait to dive the next day and fully explore the wreck. The *Thistlegorm* lived up to expectations. In all we had three dives that day on the wreck. Scattered in the holds of the ship are trucks, motorbikes, Lee Enfield rifles, aircraft wings, and machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, ammunition, mines and a lot more.

The remainder of the trip consisted of four dives a day (three day and one night) with a final day in Sharm el-Sheik before flying home. All in all this was one of the best adventurous training trips I have been involved in (and we even recovered the lost kit before flying back).

Viking Cricket

Major SJ Nye writes...

Having been away for the last three cricket seasons, it was nice to return as OIC cricket to inherit a winning team from Capt Olly Brown, who skippered the team to winning the Infantry Cup last season. I would like to personally thank Olly for his efforts throughout the season.

This season the Battalion entered three cup competitions (Army, Infantry and 4th Division). However, the first month of the season was lost to exercises and with all the other commitments, finding the time to play was difficult. Having formed the initial squad it was clear, with the exception of Pte Sam Trussler (wicketkeeper/ batsman) and Pte Jaz Jarrett (Bowler), there were no other new players. Saying that, some new and younger members of the Battalion did

join the team towards the end of the season. However, that is enough of the excuses; let us get down to the action.

The 4th Division Competition started with a trip to Swanton Morley to play the Light Dragoons, who batted first and were bowled out for 151, thanks to Capt Alex Biggs 4-22 and Pte Jaz Jarrett 3-32. In reply, the Vikings struggled to 98-6, when the CO and Jaz (again) saw the Battalion safely through to a four-wicket victory, with the CO finishing on 44 not out and Jaz 17 not out. This was an excellent partnership under some accurate fast bowling from the Light Dragoons.

In the next round we travelled to Wimbish to play 33 Engineer Regiment, a strong side packed with Army and Corps players. Batting first, the Vikings were dismissed for 139, with only Pte Sam Trussler 44 contributing with the bat. In reply, assisted by their star players, 33 Regiment knocked off the runs with the loss of only one wicket and that, sadly, brought the end to the 4th Division Cup Competition.

Having received a bye in the first round of the Army Cup, the second round brought us up against 27 Regiment RLC. Batting first, the Vikings scored 227-6 with excellent contributions from Capt Alex Biggs 75, Maj Bunny Nye 59 and the CO 29 not out. In reply, 27 Regiment were never in contention at 47-5 and were all out for 127, thanks to Capt Olly Brown finishing on 3-27, allowing the Vikings to win by 100 runs. Sadly, due to commitments, the Battalion were unable to play the next round at 16 Regiment RA and went out of the competition.

The final competition was the Infantry Cup and as reigning champions, we entered confidently. In the first round, we played I



Viking Cricket Team 2004.

The Vikings



The Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Cricket Teams.

RGBW who were bowled out for 78, with the CO taking 4-31 and Capt Olly Brown 3-8. In reply, the Vikings did not get it all their own way, losing four wickets while scoring the 80 runs required to win, with Lt Paul Kelly finishing on 32 not out. In the second round, we played 1 Staffords who put us into bat and with only Pte Sam Trussler 28 and the CO 24 not out contributing to the bat, the Vikings were dismissed for 128. In reply, 1 Staffords lost wickets at regular intervals and thanks to Pte Jaz Jarrett 4-16 and the CO 4-29, they were dismissed for 106. Therefore, the Vikings won by 22 runs.

The semi-final was played at the Army ground in Aldershot against a strong 2 PWRR side, that put the Vikings into bat and with Lt Paul Kelly 48, Maj Bunny Nye 42 and contributions from the other batsmen saw the battalion to 185-8 at the end of our 40 overs.

In reply, 2 PWRR found the going easy against the fast bowlers and raced to 108-3 and at that stage looked likely winners. However, it was clear that the way forward was to bring on the 'pie throwers' (slow bowlers) Maj Bunny Nye 5-27 and the CO 3-24, who bowled 2 PWRR out for 150 and as a result saw the Vikings through to another Infantry Cup final to play 4 R Irish, which was a repeat of last year's final.

On a bright, sunny day at Tidworth, the Vikings were put into bat and by the end of the first over were 7-2. However, a stand of 71 between Capt Alex Biggs 45 and Maj Bunny Nye 26 took the score to 77, when the third wicket (Nye) fell and from then on the day got worse, with the last seven wickets falling for just 14 runs and the Vikings were

all out for a disappointing 91. The 4 R Irish reply started Capt Alex Biggs taking a wicket with the first ball of the innings. However, after that things did not go the Vikings' way and with a combination of dropped catches and missed stumpings, 4 R Irish reached the winning score with loss of only two wickets, therefore, seeking revenge on last season's defeat by eight wickets. There was no doubt that this was the Vikings worst performance of the season – in fact many seasons. Saying that, it was still a successful season in which we all enjoyed our cricket and managed to reach the final for the second successive season.

Finally, to the end of the season, a weakened Officers' Mess side defeated a very strong Sergeants' Mess side by 18 runs, in a closely fought contest to enable the Officers' Mess to retain the trophy (again)!

So, another season comes to an end and for CSgt Lenton and the CO their final appearance in a Vikings team. CSgt Lenton is about to leave the Army after 22 years' service and the CO, who will have handed over command before our next cricket season in 2006, as next season the battalion will be in Iraq on Operation Telic. I would like to thank them both for the support they have given Viking cricket over the years.



The CO receiving the Cricket Trophy from the RSM.

The Vikings

Vikings' Inter-Company Boxing Competition

Capt D Mackness, QM (T), writes...

After an extremely close competition last year that was eventually only won by A(Norfolk) Company on countback, the Battalion was even more eager than normal to compete in this year's inter-company boxing competition. The semi-finals produced some excellent finalists with A (Norfolk) and C (Essex) Companies emerging as joint favourites with a total of six boxers each in the final, closely followed by D (Cambridgeshire) Company with four and HQ Company with two. B (Suffolk) Company were unable to take part due to being on exercise in Canada.

In an electric atmosphere in Pirbright Gym, C Company opened the night with Pte Facal at bantamweight against LCpl Baxter (HQ Company). LCpl Baxter put up a very spirited defence, but Pte Facal boxed a very clever, technical fight and the referee was forced to stop the contest in the second round. First blood to C Company! The featherweight bout saw Pte Turner (A Company) put in an incredibly high workrate of non-stop punches that ensured he won his hard fought contest against Pte Smith (HQ Company) with a majority decision. The third fight of the evening pitted Pte Clements (HQ Company) against Pte Pemberton (C Company) at lightweight. Pte Pemberton was a careful, skilled opponent, but Pte Clements was 100 per cent committed and never stopped coming forward, landing many scoring blows. Pte Clements won with a unanimous decision. A Company's cheers were louder than HQ Company's at this stage! In terms of style, the light welterweight bout was almost a repeat of the previous fight with a strong, aggressive performance from Pte Stephens



Pte Dyer (Commanding Officer's Best Boxer) winning the Middleweight bout.

(A Company) earning him a unanimous decision over the technically superior Pte Wallace (D Company).

During the interval, all the talk was of A Company and whether they would be able to retain their lead and the trophy, or would C Company catch them. The welterweight bout pitched the two of them together, with Pte Whaites representing A Company and Pte Bailey representing C Company. It appeared to be a very evenly matched contest with both boxers being technically very good and showing controlled aggression. That was until Pte Bailey suddenly found a gap and produced the right hook of the night, winning by a knockout! C Company were right back in there! After their impressive performances in the semi-finals, the middleweight bout

was one of the most anticipated fights of the evening. Pte Dyer (A Company) proved victorious when the referee decided in the third round that he was too strong for LCpl Tischler (D Company). The Commanding Officer later awarded Pte Dyer the best boxer trophy for his classy performance. A Company were back in the lead! The light heavyweight competition was another evenly matched fight that eventually saw a very fit Pte Dunlop (D Company) beating an awkward and deceptively casual looking Pte James (C Company) when Pte James failed to raise his gloves after a standing count in the third round. The heavyweight bout saw Pte Smith (A Company) and Pte Tanner-Tremaine (C Company) standing toe-to-toe and exchanging blows almost non stop in one of the most bruising, hard fought contests of the night. The majority decision went to Pte Tanner-Tremaine, thereby putting C Company back level. It was all going to come down to the final bout of the evening!

The final bout of the evening, the super heavyweight contest, was between 2Lt Jaggard (A Company) and Pte Garner (C Company). Whoever won would ensure that their company were the inter-company boxing champions. Both boxers gave it their all and the support from their respective companies was equally amazing. The fight went the distance and both boxers received counts at some stage. However, Pte Garner was heavier and had a longer reach which eventually told. After a gutsy, totally committed performance from both boxers, Pte Garner was declared the winner by a unanimous decision and the referee congratulated both boxers. 2Lt Jaggard was subsequently judged to be the most gallant runner up.

It was a fantastic evening and a lot of new talent emerged, with C Company victorious. Bring on next year!



2Lt Jaggard attempting to explain the finer aspects of boxing to Pte Garner in the Heavyweight bout.

The Vikings

Sherbourne Half Ironman Triathlon, 22 August 2004

Lt DJ Robinson writes...

Throughout a busy year for the battalion Viking devotion to triathlon has continued undaunted. With most of the team ready to improve on performances of the previous year, and a couple of additions to the team including myself keen to do well in their first season, the mood has been upbeat throughout.

The first event of the season was the army sprints at Basingstoke. With a lot of shiny new kit and much chat from the previous year the team put in a respectable top five performance. For myself it was a good introduction to triathlon and all who are interested should give the sprints a go, as the distances involved are achievable to all.

The major preparation event for Sherbourne was the standard distance triathlon held in Bournemouth. This is a civilian run event, which doubles as the Army triathlon championships. It was run at a busy time for all in the Battalion and as such preparation time was minimal. Most notably the Training Officer, Capt Blanchfield, turned up fresh from a PNCOS' Cadre in Brecon with the preparation of a cigarette and a can of Red Bull, and proceeded to put all of us youngsters to shame by putting in a fine time of 2hrs 22mins and finishing first among the Vikings.

Meanwhile I was beginning to learn the importance of proper preparation for a triathlon following the loss of a wheel, an armrest falling off on the motorway and a chain derailment. After this a fast run brought me up level to the ever-cheery CSgt Garvie who proceeded to raise his morale at the expense of my own once I revealed the stories of my cycling debacle.

On the weekend of the Half Ironman Triathlon in Sherbourne the morale of the team was high. Over a drink the night before the race we compared stories of ill preparedness with the most impressive coming from CSM Kerton. His preparation



From left: CSgt Garvie, CSgt Port, Lt Robinson and CSM Kerton. Note - Capt Blanchfield and Cpl Hassan had been finished for so long they were on their way home at this point!

relied on there being a cycling machine in his honeymoon location of Tobago. Unfortunately there was not one hence his preparation consisted of enthusiastic work on a pedalo. As the reader can imagine sympathy for his cause within the team was minimal.

The race proved a real challenge for all with a warm summer day and an undulating course. However, all of the team completed the course with another strong performance from Capt Blanchfield and an impressive second place in the team from Cpl Hassan. The order of finishers within the Vikings was as follows: Capt Blanchfield, Cpl Hassan, WO2 Kerton, CSgt Garvie, CSgt Port, Lt Robinson.

All those interested in this year's results or entry to next year's event should visit www.ironmanuk.co.uk.

Combined Services Judo

Lt OB Ormiston writes:

Following my selection for the Combined Services Judo Team as the heavyweight representative, we came together for a week to get to know each other and carry out some intense training. The mornings were spent on developing skills and drilling at the National Centre of Excellence in Judo at High Wycombe, while the afternoons were split between further training and recovery. The evenings were spent training at local clubs, including a couple of sessions with the national team as they were sharpening their skills for the Olympics.

This led to the national teams event, which included teams from London, the North of England, Wales, and so on. We were, on the whole, out of our league. The difference that



The swim start at Sherbourne can be likened to a herd of wildebeest crossing an especially wide river!

The Vikings

comes from being a full time judoka and having the opportunity to train twice a day every day at a high standard was immediately noticeable, and we failed to get past the pool stages. However, it was a good experience, and showed us that any of us could compete at that level if we had the same opportunity to train.

The next stage for the Combined Services squad was the annual tour to North America. This involved a week in Buffalo, New York, where around some intense training sessions we managed to fit in a visit to Niagara Falls and some good nights out, and culminated in competing the American – Canadian Championships (the Am-Can). The standard of judo in North America is slightly lower than that of the UK, but due to the sheer number of competitors (in total over 2,000) only myself and a member of the Royal Navy managed to pick up medals in the Senior Dan grade category (both bronzes). There was more success in the Veterans' and the Novices' events. However, playing judo on wrestling mats is dangerous, and after I landed on my left knee with my 110kg and the 130kg of my opponent on my back my knee swelled up to twice its normal size and I was limited in my training for the next week, which was spent in Canada.

We were based around the outskirts of Toronto, staying alternatively in hotels or in gyms (we even went to the YMCA – it is fun to stay there), keeping up the same training regime. This culminated in the Canadian Open championships at the end of the week. The standard here was slightly lower than the Am-Can, and was run in a more relaxed manner. I had five fights in this tournament, winning all but one, against a judoka that I had told about my injury in casual conversation before the tournament started. During the tournament he proceeded to attack my injured knee, and countered my o-goshi to take the victory and the gold. I was devastated to lose against someone that I would normally beat easily, and disappointed that someone in such a supposedly honourable sport as judo would act in such a dishonourable way. But that is no consolation: I went in injured and I lost. We finished the tour with a little R and R in Toronto before returning to Gatwick, with a couple of medals and trophies, and a greater knowledge of judo outside of the UK.

Exercise Viking Lima, Peru

Capt PC Moxey writes...

In September 2004 the Battalion undertook its first large-scale overseas adventure training expedition in over four years when 16 Vikings deployed to Peru on Exercise Viking Lima, a three-week high-altitude trekking expedition. The aim was to trek to the ancient lost Inca city of Machu Picchu over a period of 10 days along a remote, challenging route not frequented by tourists.

The expedition, led by Capt Phill Moxey with able assistance from CSgt Andy Garvie



Dmrs Cucciniello and Boyle decide they have had enough of walking whilst CSgt Garvie (foreground) does his best Rommel impression.



CSgt Garvie decides he had better share the last chocolate digestive.

and QMSI Mick Warwick (APTC) as the Joint Service Mountain Leaders (JSML), arrived in Lima on 2 September. An overnight stay in a questionable part of the city was followed, early next morning, with an internal flight to Cusco, the regional capital of Cusco Department, 3,600m up in the Andes and the base from which to begin our trek. The effect of being at altitude was quickly felt by all the expedition members and we were glad to have two days acclimatisation around Cusco before moving to the trail head. During this time we conducted a day trek in the Sacred Valley, liaised with our guides and brought copious chocolate and cereal bars for the coming weeks.

With the stores complete and the exact itinerary decided upon the group set off from Cusco for a six hour bone shaking bus ride to the remote, hillside village of Cachora, the trail head and our first campsite. En route we

visited some archaeological ruins at Saihute and found time to play the local children at an impromptu football match. The home side clearly had the advantage of being used to physical exertion at 3,000m and soon, despite having an average age of 10 and an average height of around 4ft, they led by numerous goals to nil. However, the game ended in a draw once LCpl Marcus 'Slasher' Knights was deployed to chop a few legs and reduced the home side to four players. After post-match photos we continued our journey to the campsite but found ourselves walking the last few kilometres as the bus broke down.

The first expedition objective was to reach the recently re-discovered, jungle encased ruins of Choquequirau. Although smaller and slightly lacking in the same splendour as Machu Picchu, it is the location of this site that makes it special. Perched on a narrow

The Vikings

spur, surrounded on three sides by 1000m cliffs tumbling down to the Rio Apurimac and over watched by a 4000m snow-capped peak, it is a magnificent place. This terrain combined with its physical isolation (there are no roads to the site) makes it a challenging and worthwhile destination.

The route to Choquequirau involved an initial severe descent of 1400m down to the Rio Apurimac and a subsequent 700m climb after crossing the river by means of a rickety suspension bridge. Much of this was achieved on the first day of the trek leading some of the expedition members to wonder what they had let themselves in for. The subsequent day was a little easier, still uphill, but the thick Cloud Forest provided some welcome shade from the bright alpine sunlight. Detailed maps are unobtainable and the normal methods of route planning and navigation have to be, to some extent, discarded.

The changing nature of the trails mean that local and recent knowledge is vital, hence the use of guides. While group safety remained the responsibility of the JSMEs and expedition leader, our movement along the trail was led by two Andean mountain guides.

Upon reaching Choquequirau, Daniel, our guide, switched hats and became an archaeological tour guide, educating us all on ancient cleansing rituals and to the delight of the soldiers, stories of virgin sacrifice relevant to the site's history. With these stories in mind the group spent the night

actually camped on the Inca terraces. Despite being 500 years old and of huge historical importance it appeared perfectly normal to drive your tent pegs into the ground and for the cook to light a fire, imagine that at Stonehenge!

Another aim of the expedition was to instruct the soldiers in the basics of mountain craft, culminating in assessment for the Summer Mountain Proficiency Award (SMP). QMSI Warwick and CSgt Garvie therefore spent the afternoon and the following morning covering some practical instruction.

The next phase and culmination of the expedition was to reach Machu Picchu. Over the next seven days the group covered approximately 90km through diverse and demanding terrain. This part of the Andes is severe and rugged with deep river-cut canyons and steep gulleys which ultimately means that any movement through it is a series of ascents and descents with the word flat being temporarily removed from the dictionary. On two successive days we were required to climb to a high pass (4,165m and 4,640m respectively) and then descend back down to our campsite. Both these days were remarkable both for the effort required to walk in a straight line at that altitude and for the fact that upon reaching the top lunch would magically appear out of the gloom, in a pressure cooker strapped to the back of a sprightly porter wearing shorts, t-shirt and a pair of sandals made out of old car tyres. Very quickly our sense of achievement

would evaporate.

On day six it was suggested by the guides that they prepare the group a traditional Peruvian meal of a whole pig and potatoes cooked in a traditional earth oven. Pte Lewis Smith enthusiastically volunteered to slaughter the pig and was shown the rudiments of mountain butchery by the cook. So it was that the whole group were woken in the morning to the sounds of squealing and swearing as Pte Smith went to work and did a very professional and confident job. The end result was a meat feast more than worthy of Vikings.

After nine days on the trail we arrived at the end of the walkable section. This is because an enormous hydroelectric station bars the way to Machu Picchu and is bypassed on a small train which runs along the river bank away from the power station to the foot of Machu Picchu. After a night spent in the municipal campsite next to the station we took an early bus to the ruins. The scale and enormity of this mountaintop city were brought home by both the emptiness of the site (it was 0630hrs) and a clear and educated tour provided, once again, by the multi-skilled Daniel. After a few hours at the site the group made a tactical retreat as coach-loads of Japanese tourists started arriving to shatter the peace. The afternoon was spent at some hot springs soaking off the grime of 10 days walking. Disconcertingly, it appeared that the locals came to the same springs for their monthly wash and this led us to question whether we were cleaner before



Crossing the Apurimac River by suspension bridge.

The Vikings



On top of the pass at 4165m. Happy smiling faces now but you should have seen them on the way up!

or after bathing!

The next five days involved recovery to Cusco and the R and R package. Eight of the expedition opted to go white-water rafting on the Apurimac River. This is one of the top five rivers in the world for rafting and the three-day trip was hugely enjoyed by everyone. The remainder of the expedition stayed in Cusco and spent the time horse-trekking, visiting the local sights and enjoying Cusco's hospitality! The expedition arrived back in the UK following a day sightseeing in Lima.

Planning and executing adventure training of any kind is a demanding and time-consuming process however, the lessons learned and experiences gained by everyone

on the expedition more than justified the effort. In total we covered over 100km in nine days in remote, arduous terrain crossing two passes at over 4,000m. Meeting the day-to-day demands of life miles from civilisation and the exposure to such a harsh and different culture means that everyone involved takes away valuable lessons and experiences which have applications both when soldiering and in wider life. More tangibly, 13 soldiers were awarded their SMP qualification having demonstrated the necessary aptitude on the expedition. I am extremely grateful to RHQ, the Worshipful Company of Poulterers and the PR1 for the financial support they provided which enabled this trip to succeed.

Marriages and Births

Marriages

Cpl and Mrs Allen on 28 June 2004.
Pte and Mrs Ansell on 12 June 2004.
LCpl and Mrs Bale on 23 July 2004.
Sgt and Mrs Bonham on 25 September 2004.
Cpl and Mrs Canning on 1 July 2004.
Pte and Mrs Clarke on 23 April 2004.
LCpl and Mrs Cowell on 3 April 2004.
Pte and Mrs Curry on 17 July 2004.
Pte and Mrs Emery on 6 August 2004.
Pte and Mrs Flounders on 17 April 2004.
LCpl and Mrs Howe on 4 April 2004.
Capt and Mrs James on 7 August 2004.
WO2 and Mrs Kerton on 30 July 2004.
Sgt and Mrs Kitson on 10 July 2004.
LCpl and Mrs Knight on 24 July 2004.
Cpl and Mrs Love on 28 August 2004.
Cpl and Mrs Naylor on 10 April 2004.
Pte and Mrs Owusu on 5 April 2004.
Cpl and Mrs Price on 30 July 2004.
Pte and Mrs White on 5 August 2004.
Pte and Mrs Wyatt on 31 July 2004.

Births

Maj and Mrs Barry a daughter, Kiera.
Pte and Mrs Curry a daughter, Amber-May.
Maj and Mrs Grounds a daughter, Josephine Lily Rachael.
Cpl and Mrs Kendall a daughter, Paige Elizabeth Carol.
Pte and Mrs Lawrence a son, Alfie Charles Ernest.
Cpl and Mrs McKenna a daughter, Brioney Jayne.
Pte and Mrs Pickles a daughter, Elisa Marnie.
LCpl and Mrs Walker a daughter, Elizabeth Yvonne.



Trekking towards the High Pass in the Yanama Valley.

2nd Battalion The Poachers

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

Another six months has passed and the Poachers are now well and truly established in Ballykelly as the Resident Battalion. The Battalion has been busy since arriving in Northern Ireland, training for public order duties in support of the police. Companies deployed during the European Election period in May and subsequently to a wide variety of marches around the Brigade area during the traditional marching season in June and July. The eruption of violence in North Belfast on 12 July led to serious concern that this would result in widespread disorder at The Apprentice Boys of Derry march in early August. Consequently, a large security operation swung into place with the Poachers taking the military lead and heading up a nine company operation in support of the police. Fortunately, commonsense prevailed on the day and the march passed off relatively peacefully.

The Battalion took over its own patrols area of responsibility in August and now has a company deployed permanently on operations, the majority being forward mounted in a patrol base. This company was kept busy as tensions increased in the period surrounding the Leeds Castle peace talks and the Dissidents launched an attack on the PSNI station at Strand Road. A loyalist paramilitary feud in the Waterside also kept us occupied; and resulted in a series of shootings, a murder, arrests and subsequent house searches which netted bomb-making equipment and a firearm. These episodes have served as a timely reminder to all of us that, although terrorist violence in Northern Ireland has reduced significantly in recent years, the Dissidents and Loyalist renegade elements still represent a very real threat to the potential success of the peace process. As ever, the finely balanced nature of the political situation places all military activity firmly under the microscope, with real potential for tactical level actions assuming far higher level significance; we continue to tread the fine line as carefully as we can.

Despite a busy programme supporting the PSNI, we have found time to conduct conventional training and to enjoy all that the north coast has to offer. We fully intend to take advantage of the relative stability on offer to the Battalion in Northern Ireland to rebuild our sporting and adventure training prowess. The recent inter-company boxing competition, won by D Company bodes well for the future, while we have also seen an upsurge in take-up of a variety of sports as diverse as mountain-biking, diving, surfing and golfing. Adventure training opportunities are plentiful and we have managed to get a considerable number of soldiers away on challenging adventure training trips, with more to come in locations as far away as Australia. Our families have settled in well, embraced local life whole

heartedly and have continued to provide the fundamental bedrock upon which so many of us in the Battalion rely.

Please read on and enjoy some 'thumbnail' images of life in Ballykelly.

The First Eight Months – An Overview

*Maj ACE Marinos, Battalion 2IC,
writes...*

The last eight months or so have seen the Battalion field quite a bit of change and importantly everyone has taken this change in their stride. First of all, the Battalion's fifth operations company, originally provided by 1 R Irish, was withdrawn back to the mainland. This meant that one of the Poachers' companies would from now on always be based in PSNI Maydown on the outskirts of Londonderry with responsibility for conducting operations in Londonderry as well as the rest of the Poachers' area of responsibility. This role is conducted on rotation with companies taking responsibility for the task a month at a time. While this means more separation for the married Poachers it has provided a bit more of an operational focus and everyone has grasped the opportunity and got on with the job. Shortly afterwards the Battalion was slightly affected by the reduction in the number of Brigades from three to two. The new 8th Infantry Brigade (one of the two remaining brigades along with 39 Infantry Brigade) has a huge area of responsibility and it was important that the Battalion's key commanders became familiar with the extended patch. The net effect of 'normalisation' means that, while the military profile is reduced and the PSNI are encouraged to use the military specifically for our specialised skills as opposed to as a means to maintain a presence on the ground, those troops who are left behind tend to get busier and busier. Poacher companies can now potentially be deployed anywhere from Londonderry to Armagh and Strabane to Ballymena.

The summer marching season, despite a serious public order incident in the Ardoyne, went very quietly. There was some concern that the Apprentice Boys' Parade in Londonderry could get a little noisy and the Battalion had eight public order companies under command on 14 August. In the event, and despite a great deal of planning, rehearsals and preparation, the parade went very smoothly with only a few minor incidents taking place, all of which were dealt with by the police.

The other Poacher companies rotate between providing security of Ballykelly Station, providing the Battalion and from time to time Brigade reserve and finally leave and training. Of course, there is a requirement to maintain our specialist counter-terrorist and public order skills.

Each company is required to conduct refresher training, normally at Magilagen Training Centre, which is just down the road on the coast. This takes place every three months or so.

Notwithstanding the primary focus of the Battalion which is counter-terrorist and public order support to the PSNI every effort has been made to continue to allow the normal fabric of Battalion life to continue to develop and flourish. Full manning means that the Poachers can continue to let people get away on courses and that companies can plan non-Northern Ireland orientated training. We have continued to select our PSBC and SCBC candidates through the tactics cadre and our pre-courses and we have run a potential NCOs' cadre here in Ballykelly and in Scotland. Adventure training has flourished and we have really benefited from a generous Brigade allowance for this. So far each of the companies have conducted level two camps in Wales as well as getting individuals away on qualification courses. Maj Stuart Smith led a diving expedition to the Red Sea which is described in more detail later on and 2Lt David Haggart has led a trekking and climbing expedition to Bavaria. The Battalion also has firm plans for a skydiving expedition to Australia in November led by 2Lt Duncan Turner and for a ski camp in France in January led by Capt John Teare.

Militarily we have undertaken two Short Term Training Teams in Saudi Arabia for the National Guard. The first led by Capt James Inch is described elsewhere in this article and the second, which is to be led by Maj Nick Wilcox, will set off in late November. In addition there has been a small but steady stream of individuals, selected by trawls from HQNI, who have gone off to Iraq. At the time of writing the Battalion has three officers and one JNCO on temporary duty there with another officer getting ready to go.

On the sporting front the relative absence of sport in Battalion life in the past three years is slowly being redressed. Orienteering and cross country have taken off again and the Battalion is developing a young and talented football team. Rugby and hockey are effectively being encouraged from scratch but the level of interest bodes well for the future. Perhaps the Poachers' favourite sport, boxing, has made a comeback this year. A really successful inter-company competition was held in September during which the austere 'brown hangar' on the airfield was turned into a fantastic boxing venue by the QM, RSM and APTI. The finals night was a huge success and demonstrated the Poachers' passion for boxing and some real talent. The intention for the rest of the year is to build the foundations for a good solid boxing squad.

As the Battalion moves closer towards the end of its first year in Ballykelly and starts to readjust its focus into our second

The Poachers

year plans are being put into place to maintain the Battalion's conventional war fighting skills in preparation for our return to the light role. Each of the companies is mandated to conduct a conventional exercise – A Company recently completed a highly ambitious exercise in Thetford while D Company is currently on Otterburn conducting some support weapons field firing.

Recruiting and retention, under the careful watch of the RCMO, Capt Darren Hazlewood, have remained at the top of the Battalion's priority list. A highly successful recruiting drive was conducted during the summer by C Company and the Battalion's profile will be enhanced during November when the Poachers will mount six guards at Windsor. The Corps of Drums have been instrumental in all of this and they have been busily darting about the country building on their already excellent musical reputation and keeping the Poachers very firmly in the public eye.

In summary, the Battalion has settled into its life and role in Ballykelly well. Operationally, although the situation is quiet (and long may it be so), the Battalion has found itself working hard – a necessary step in the normalisation process. We are all looking forward to what the peace process will bring in the future while we continue to do the job here to the best of our ability.

The Marching Season – Operations Crucial and Hilary

*Capt GB Foden, Operations Officer,
writes...*

The Marching season in 8 Brigade (Operation Crucial) started for the Battalion in February 2005 with public order training. Over the years this has developed into a fairly long and drawn out period. All of the platoons and companies in the Battalion were validated by the Brigade Public Order Training Team (POTT) at Magilligan Training Centre (MTC). Our commitment did not end there, as there were constant demands for instructors and Civpop, which meant for many MTC became something of a second home. On the whole the training was good and certainly the Commanding Officer's stated intent to use his validation as an opportunity to discover any areas of weakness certainly put the company commanders under some pressure! As ever with public order training the most interesting 'matches' were home games with various companies going up against other companies from the Battalion who were acting as Civpop. Suffice to say, the job of safety staff was not an easy one, as CSgts Healy and Evans, who were seconded to the POTT, will testify to. With the companies validated the Battalion settled down to wait for the marching season to begin.

The European elections provided us with our first real test. In the west of Londonderry

the removal of the ballot boxes at the end of the day's voting proved as problematic as ever. The Battalion was fully prepared to offer support with C Company making themselves as comfortable as their public order gear would allow in PSNI Rosemount and Victor 7. Battalion Tac was also forward to PSNI Strand Road. The evening proved to be something of an anticlimax for the PO companies as the PSNI dealt with all of the minor problems themselves. This was a theme that was to be repeated throughout the summer.

Operation Crucial itself consisted of two periods. The first was enhanced manning and the second full preparedness. In reality this meant that no one was going on leave! I would love to be able to report on a period of regular Public Order Operations where the Poacher companies were engaged in serious disorder with a dashing Ops Officer devising grand plans to defeat the enemy. Unfortunately, the reality for the companies was a period of ever changing Notices to Move (NTM). The various PSNI stations in our area became second homes for some of our companies. I actually think that B Company have developed a certain affection for the Magheraafelt DCU, they have been there that often. As we move towards normalisation the fact that a PO company is on hand, should the PSNI require it, gives the PSNI far greater confidence as they go about their duties. Likewise our ability to provide specialist assets such as helicopters and heavy plant teams provides them with a capability they would otherwise not have. Slowly, but surely, they are moving towards that capability but I have lost count of how many times the PSNI's helicopter has been about to enter service.

The main event for the Ballykelly Battalion is the (in)famous Apprentice Boys of Derry which has become our responsibility with the closure of Ebrington Barracks. There was a genuine fear this year that there would be a serious public disorder in Londonderry (or do the police say that every year?) Suffice to say Battalion HQ and in particular the CO and the Ops and Int Staff had an extremely busy period planning for all eventualities. I won't bore you with the details but with nine companies OPCON the Battalion it was a busy time for all concerned. The QM and his staff performed an excellent feat in housing the attached companies and providing them with the requisite life support (and a few home comforts). I was convinced on more than a few occasions that the IO, Capt Wolfe, would actually explode if he was asked for yet another map or brief.

Yet again the day itself passed off fairly quietly, which was lucky for anyone who was planning to take on the Security Forces in a public order situation. Once again Battalion Tac moved to Strand Rd, the Ops WO, CSgt Lawrence has developed a ready to go modular pack. This time we had boats, search teams, aviation, heavy plant teams, light plant teams, ATO (x2), dogs, RAPs, LOs, EGTs. I think that we have now

deployed and used every possible supporting asset in Northern Ireland.

The Battalion has been left with mixed feelings about the marching season. We have been more than ready to support the PSNI on any number of occasions. The CSMs have become adept at fitting their companies' Snatches into tiny PSNI stations. The public order training has been good value, at least for the first couple of exercises. Battalion HQ has been given a good workout. The companies have consistently shown their flexibility, for example A Company, who returned from leave the day before Apprentice Boys and were unceremoniously thrown into the operation.

The Marching Season has undoubtedly been a success from the Battalion's perspective. The Battalion has worked extremely hard. We were often called for but seldom used. Perhaps this bodes well for the future. Roll on next year.

A (Lincolnshire) Company

Maj SR Smith writes...

Since the last edition of *Castle*, the marching season has been and gone and fortunately for the good of the peace process it was generally a quiet affair. Despite this, there was the period of intense public order training and validation by 8 Brigade, that progressed from platoon to company level. The training culminated in an exceptionally well-run training day at Magilligan organised by the RQMS (T). This confirmed our understanding of all the lessons that had been learned and as a company we knew that we were as ready to deploy in a public order role if necessary.

The company has undertaken a wide variety of tasks, partly directed and partly self generated. Where possible there has been a willingness to undertake anything that allows us to break out of the normal constraints of the operations cycle. A few of the deployments include Lt Turner's platoon supporting 1 KOSB in Omagh and Lt Bland's multiple support to 4 R Irish in Enniskillen, as part of the Brigade Operations Company. The company also was tasked with providing counter terrorist support in Coleraine for the 12 July celebrations. This included assisting the PSNI with security of their station. Local members of the public remarked to Pte Richardson that it was a pleasant change to see soldiers patrolling through the town. We also provided the counter terrorist and public order reserve company for the Apprentice Boys of Derry (ABOD) marches. This was quite a challenge as we returned to work on the Friday afternoon following two weeks' summer leave and deployed out of the gate a few hours later. The company was thoroughly tested in all aspects of G1 to G6 as despite preparations before leave, the plan changed during our time away, so we had to ensure that we were operationally ready and fully aware of the Commanding Officer's intent.

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Sgt King guided the all arms search team on several searches including the closure of Clooney Base and the parade routes in Coleraine for the 12 July celebrations and Londonderry for ABOD. Sgt King has recently joined a short term training team in Saudi, where by all accounts he is living the life of luxury in a villa with a swimming pool!

On the training front, we have had two successfully Northern Ireland based post-operational refresher training periods, run at Magilligan. These included range packages and rural patrol lanes run by Company Headquarters. The company conducted an extremely successful conventional exercise on the Thetford training area, which was brainchild of Capt Melia and CSgt Richards. Cpl Rawden and a section supported the Vikings during their Tesex on Salisbury Plain. Cpls Smart and Wells assisted with the Lincs ACF summer camp in Brecon.

The company spent a week adventure training in Capel Curig and a fun day of watersports near Coleraine, which saw Pte Vout attempt to ski barefoot and Pte Couldstone bribe the boat driver to dislodge the CSM and myself from the rubber ring at high speed. Several members of the company managed to go scuba diving in the Red Sea and in November Lt Turner takes a group away skydiving in Australia. The company put in a credible performance on the inter-company boxing competition and Ptes Conlon, King and Vincent are all now part of the Battalion squad.

The company has said farewell to Lt Bland (who is posted to Bassingbourn) and welcomes Sgt Mattingly and 2Lt Hawes. Heartfelt congratulations are passed to LCpl and Mrs Hartshorne on the birth of their daughter Cody Lee and to Sgt and Hella Mattingly on the birth of their daughter Mia. Natalie is welcomed into the Poacher family after her summer wedding to LCpl Silva.

Finally, at time of writing the company is deploying to PSNI Maydown as part of the Operations Cycle. In a couple of weeks the CSM is heading up a team, including our under 18s, to assist HQ London District and provide the Windsor Guard for a month. Once again A (Lincs) Company has tried to pack in as much as possible to ensure that our time in Northern Ireland remains varied, taking advantage of the opportunities, while remaining operationally focussed.

Exercise Templar Strike

Capt MC Melia, 2IC A Company, writes...

Exercise Templar Strike started seven months ago as a fledgling idea being thrown around by Sgt King and myself while 'staggering on' one Sunday morning in the Ballykelly Operations Room. The plan was simple, set up a scenario that allowed a rifle company to deploy as it would on operations in the current world climate. In addition have the ability to conduct in-theatre pre-deployment training prior to being launched into a force on force exercise. These two



1st Stick ready to move.



2 Platoon's catch of the day!



3 Platoon posing for a future best seller.

The Poachers



A Company ready to deploy.

phases implied the use of a number of training aids/assets and, as with all the best laid plans of A Company's Ops Officer and Ops Sergeant, the decision was made early on to ask for everything we thought was feasible and a good amount that wasn't. The main principles being that if you don't ask you don't get (and even then blackmail is still an option). With this in mind a gradual war of attrition was fought with a number of outside organisations whose initial sucking of teeth was soon overcome by a campaign of relentless and persistent badgering, aided greatly by the Battalion 2IC and both QM's departments who kept us on the straight and narrow. Over the six-month build-up period a number of campaign partners fell by the wayside, not least the Ops Sergeant himself who sneakily escaped Northern Ireland for the slightly sunnier climes of Saudi Arabia on a spurious training job. His position was amply filled by CSgt Richards, the CQMS, who lent a great deal of drive and energy to the grand plan, without which, it may well have collapsed.

A number of recces, meetings, e-mails, faxes and letters later, the exercise 'grew legs' and started to walk on its own. A lot



OCA and CSM - 'He was no bigger than this...'

of old faces were called upon to step into the breach as the enemy from the East of England Regiment, Suffolk ACF and one miscreant Hell's Angel wannabe from ATR Bassingbourn (you know who you

are Ed Bland...oops!). In addition, support came from every corner of England; loan pool vehicles and signals kit, TES kit from Westdown, Chinook from RAF Odiham and foreign weapons from the Royal Armouries in Leeds. Although a number of situation changes and the looming lack of available manpower threatened to shut us down at times (we had two squads of US troops and an AC 130 Spectre gunship at one point), A Company put up a good fight which finally saw it flying out of RAF Aldergrove on 10 September and into RAF Brize Norton, before being transported by road to an isolated and disused USAAF base in the wilds of North Norfolk. The venue for phase one was RAF Sculthorpe, a far flung part of STANTA (some 40km to the north of the main area). The scenario had the company at a Forward Mounting Base in Northern Italy on standby to assist USSF in their hunt for a terrorist network which had taken root in both Croatia and the fictitious Balkans country of Breckland. This was particularly poignant as day one of Exercise Templar Strike was 11 September and the horrible atrocities committed in Beslan that week were still fresh in everyone's minds.

The company was met by the advance party who had set up Camp Templar, a tented



Cpl Wells - 'I'm sure I left Pte Austin here somewhere...'

The Poachers

barracks inside an old hangar, complete with field kitchen, cookhouse and ablution facilities reminiscent of the Battalion's time in Sierra Leone. What followed was a short sharp battle picture and brief before an ammunition and equipment issue. For the next three days the platoons were given the opportunity to conduct vital operational build up training, ranging from basic patrol skills and team contact drills up to full platoon attacks both by day and night, in rural and urban environments. This was desperately needed as the pace of life on the operations cycle in Ballykelly meant a great deal of conventional skill fade, even those in the company who had been in Afghanistan last year found the learning curve quite steep and often tiring. In addition to all the usual good stuff, a hands-on lesson on foreign weapons was thrown into the mix, utilizing the rather generous loan from Leeds Armouries. This comprised everything from the Makarov pistol to the Gimlet Surface to Air Missile system with the ubiquitous AK range somewhere in between.

The Commanding Officer and Adjutant's visit to the company also coincided with a bit of a confidence builder for the troops, as CSM Jackson had the men abseiling forwards and backwards with helmet and weapon from the four storey air traffic control tower which had served as the operations and briefing. Needless to say, it wasn't long before both visitors ended up over the edge as well.

The skills Lt Turner brought to the party, following his Nato FIBUA instructors' course, proved invaluable and a number of excellent



Lt Turner and crew.

battle exercises resulted. Interspersed with the relentless conventional skills package, the commanders found themselves being whisked away to intelligence and operations briefs daily, which helped flesh out the package with suspect recognition montages and situation updates from our 'eyes on the ground'. This kept the pressure on the platoons, as they had been on 24 hours' notice to move since their arrival with no clear indication of how long they had before deploying.

Finally, on the third night, the deployment orders were given by Maj Smith and I, and a full day of battle preparation followed.

This saw orders, kit checks, rehearsals and the synchronizing of TES kit prior to the company being lifted in two packets by RAF Chinook and inserted into STANTA, beginning phase two. A company harbour was established from which a number of recce patrols were mounted on the first night, designed to seek out the various terrorist strongholds and safe houses occupied for the duration by our zealous TES equipped enemy. With information gathered, plans made and rehearsals complete, the second night saw the platoons mounting fighting patrols, culminating in hard fought battles to overcome the enemy and 'lift' a number



The author - not looking down.



CSM Jackson ready for the off.

The Poachers

of key players. This led to the revelation of a possible two further enemy locations and the chance to capture or kill 'le grande fromage', the elusive terrorist QM which the company had sought up to this point. These locations were reced on the third night and the final day saw the company mount a deliberate attack on Water End Farm in the uncivilised hours of the morning and, although the break in was achieved swiftly and successfully, the company had trouble digging out one or two rogue elements. Not wanting to break with tradition, the disposition of the final enemy location was revealed (a quarry, previously thought unoccupied, based on their earlier recce) and in true 'they think it's all over' style, the company regrouped and mustered for the final showdown. The company strength fighting patrol began its dawn assault on the terrorist training camp, concealed at the quarry's base. This proved to be their most taxing fight so far, and despite a valiant defence effort from the enemy, saw A Company victorious and the rather dishevelled terrorist QM (played far too convincingly by W02 DeMayer) captured.

After recovering to Wretham Camp for breakfast and the standard post-exercise admin, the troops were eventually rewarded with sleep and for the 'die hards' among them, a night out in Norwich. A day of rest and a company smoker later saw A Company returning by ferry to the balmy shores of Belfast and the onward journey to Ballykelly.

The number of proactive individuals who assisted in bringing the monster we had created to life are too numerous to thank here, but they know who they are. All in all A Company left in a better state than it had arrived, in terms of both its skills and drills and its morale. If nothing else was achieved at least the men learned some valuable lessons on the Sunday night smoker, not the least of which is that coleslaw and gateaux don't mix and that Cylumes are not a recognised foodstuff!

Arriving in Ballykelly – A Multiple Commander's Perspective.

*2Lt DJ Haggart, 6 Platoon Comd,
writes...*

Arriving as a Multiple Commander just two months into the Poachers residential tour in Ballykelly has proved to be as testing as anyone would expect. As if it wasn't enough consolidating all that had been learned from Sandhurst and PCBC and finding my feet as a platoon commander, getting to know my platoon, and getting up to speed on Northern Ireland skills and drills was more than enough to ensure that the apprehensions had no time to surface. As I had not been at the Battalion's Northern Ireland training, I had to undertake the Northern Ireland Reinforcement Course at Ballykinler

before being allowed to command troops on operations. While a good grounding, I still felt apprehensive about what to expect as a Multiple Commander in Northern Ireland, keen to continue my learning in the operational environment.

The operations cycle meant that I was steadily getting to know the platoon as they were involved in camp security and I was moving between Watchkeeper, Battalion Orderly Officer and trying to organise training. However, it was the next stage of the cycle where I was really 'thrown in at the deep end.'

As part of preparation for the approaching marching season, B Company moved to Magilligan training area to undergo their rigorous validation exercise to ensure its deployability for any public order situation. Public order training had been building up since the Battalion was in Chepstow and 4 Platoon had already passed the platoon validation. Although difficult to step into the lead role of a well rehearsed unit, the high level of cohesion and team work that had already been achieved at platoon and company level helped me through. While not in the conventional role, as rehearsed in training, it was good to finally be working with my platoon, getting to know the soldiers, and working as a team within the company.

The Marching Season saw the platoon cohesion grow even stronger, as we were forward based to provide cover for the police on several occasions. While we were not deployed, the 'grand finale' of the season, the Apprentice Boys Of Derry, looked like it would be the best opportunity for the company to work as a unit in a real public order situation. Fortunately for the peace process, but to the regret of some soldiers, all passed peacefully and I was dismissed to my

first leave since finishing Sandhurst.

Until mid August, 1 Royal Irish had been providing a company to cover counter terrorist patrols in the area of operations, forward based at Maydown, close to Londonderry. I was among the first into Maydown and was immediately into the torrent of watchkeeping and patrolling, both providing more than enough pressure to ensure that the two weeks spent in Maydown seemed double that. As a Multiple Commander, the operations 1 cycle at Maydown, has to have been the most interesting. It was good to be leading patrols and conducting the tasks on the ground with my multiple.

Overall, it has been a busy and hectic first six months both in Battalion and Northern Ireland. The learning curve has been almost vertical at times but now I feel that I have found my feet as a Multiple Commander. Having completed a full operations cycle with the platoon, we are looking forward to doing it all again, knowing what is expected. An Adventure Training expedition to Bavaria in October that I have been planning throughout the operations cycle will be a highlight to look forward to.

Exercise Judgement Finn

*Maj B Down, OC C Company,
writes...*

Exercise Judgement Finn was the Phase 4 stage of Public Order validation and training, for the sub units who would be deployed in Northern Ireland, should the summer deteriorate into one of violence and disorder. Prior to exercise Judgement Finn all of the companies had undergone a series of training exercises which tested the multiples and command group on drills and reaction to incidents in an opposed environment. Phase 4 was the culmination of



The baseline takes some flak.

The Poachers



Walking wounded.



C Company prepare to move.

the preparation pulling together the various strands into a validation exercise at company level which sees the company deployed with attached assets such as Evidence Gathering Teams and Air Liaison Officers. In addition

the company operates with a Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) Tactical Support Group (TSG) and Royal Engineer support who bring Crowd Control Obstacles (CCO) and different plant equipment.



Orders can be difficult...



After the storm.



Leading the charge.

The Poachers



C Company take cover.

The Exercise starts with the inevitable kit inspection carried out by the RSM. On completion of the kit inspection the company deployed into 'the city' where the first task, in a relatively benign environment, was to provide security while CCOs were erected to separate opposing sides during a march. The level of opposition faced during this first task was in direct proportion to the posture and conduct of the troops on the ground. Having witnessed the serial from a Civpop perspective, the lesson of posture and conduct becomes very obvious when soldiers are deploying into this situation. The problems thrown at C Company during this first 'engagement' ranged from protesters trying to prevent the barriers from being put into place, to angry councillors and eventually civil disorder. 2Lt Faurque and the rest of 9 Platoon found themselves with an angry crowd in front and a 'Pipe Bomb' behind them. Even though the crowd was only Civpop, the realism and pressure provided a demanding situation, which was handled well by the platoon. Having contained the situation the company retired to a holding area to await another task, which does not take long to materialise.

Our next visit to the barricades was as a result of some hot planning having witnessed a deteriorating situation over CCTV cameras. C Company was deployed to conduct a clearance, separation and then dispersal task. With an Engineer Case in the vanguard, burning cars and lorry trailers were soon dealt with to enable the company to get to grips with the situation. For the second mission a PSNI TSG were attached. Liaison as ever is the key to successful joint operations, especially as the TSG operates with a little more freedom and certainly a lot more practice. Having cleared and separated the platoons started to disperse the crowd. 8 Platoon found itself having no option but to advance down a street into bright sunlight. The combination of scratched and smeared visors and shields produced a dazzling effect, especially when under a constant

barrage. Rapid advances had to be conducted blind and resulted in numerous soldiers running or tripping over 'injured' civilians or almost leaving friendly casualties behind, because they simply could not see them. The streets were however successfully cleared and C Company once again withdrew to await further tasking.

The final trip into the city came to support

an isolated PSNI callsign. Irrespective of how well this is carried out the last serial was designed to pull all of your resources every way in order to find a gap or weakness. Directed with a 'God like' hand the Public Order Training Team and Civpop controllers direct from on high the crowds around the various streets, all of this under the gaze of the Brigade Commander and Commanding Officer, just to add a little more pressure! With too many streets to block and not enough manpower and vehicles for all of the tasks it became an exercise in recycling forces and plugging gaps. As the OC and CSM you can not stand back and admire your handywork, on numerous occasions you find yourself reconstituting and leading a reserve into action. 7 Platoon found itself stretched between two extremely wide streets requiring all of the Saxons with their wings out to block. As the petrol bombs rained down, Sgt Sweeney could be seen chasing his men up and down in the flickering light to give the impression of a much larger force. With the crowds blocked, enough manpower could then be amassed in the areas where Saxon could not be deployed and greater numbers were required. Having given the company a good work out the crowds eventually disperse and as a company you are judged and validated!



Watching...



...and waiting.

The Poachers

The First Six Months – A Team Commander's Perspective

Cpl Watret, D Company, writes...

'RSM, RSM. What's that god-awful noise coming from the Battalion?'

'I think it's the sound of the wheels coming off sir. Bloody hell, who let D Company go on leave!'

As the D Company engine powers the Battalion along, any distant memories of Chepstow are stowed in our issued suitcases right next to our blue shorts and red PT tops. We trade in running to the railway bridge for running around the airfield. Have we suddenly settled into another posting and not realised it? As I write this D Company is enjoying a lull in the battle. Any pressure is self-induced as we proceed with our training phase. Two weeks live firing our support weapons at Otterburn looms near, and then back to the operations cycle.

The last six months though have been a busy period for the company. On operations, the company got used to 'Fermanagh Friday'. The Mortar and Anti-Tank multiples have assisted in patrol patterns through out the Brigade area of responsibility, ranging from setting up observation posts over quarries in the countryside to riding top cover around the streets of Coleraine. Patrolling has come in all forms for us, and during operations we also had to fit in Public Order training and validation. Starting from scratch with shield drills to incorporate the new members of the platoon the company was soon at their usual very high standard. The validation came and went with few points needing rectification. However, we did get a further days training after the validation to 'put those minor points right' (like it's our fault if an attached arms bloke gets himself snatched).

Images of soldiers battling with crowds in the Ardoyne brought back memories of NIBAT 4 – what was in store for the Poachers? Apparently, it was kit check after kit check. If it flapped then tape it, if it opened then wire it. Yes, we were ready for them. The company was a formidable sight rolling out the gate for the first parade in Magharea. Fourteen snatches, four Saxon, the RE plant on low loaders, two PSNI tactical support groups and the RMP evidence gathering team. You could cut the air with a knife the adrenalin was pumping so hard. Six hours later, after sitting in the same lay-by all day, the adrenalin was long used up. The parade had passed off peacefully and we anticipated the move back. Was this the way it would be for us? No way. This is small fry. The Apprentice Boys of Derry (ABOD) march is in a month. That's our Jerusalem. Parade after parade however, still left us coming home on a night with no skirmishes. ABOD came and went and not a baton raised in anger.

Seeing the rest of the Battalion taking their leave only ensured D Company would enjoy ours more. Our time came at the beginning of September and two weeks away were



Capt Teare prepares for battle.

enjoyed by all but the boxers. They were to take their leave after their whitewash victory in the inter-company finals. On return the stories from various holiday resorts were told - it was concerning that Pte Johnson 37 couldn't get anyone to accompany him on his week in Amsterdam.

The operations cycle has changed slightly but we can consider ourselves well bedded-in to this tour. All our Direct Fire Missions have been fired and any fastballs can be silently marked as they come. There is already speculation over our next posting and the various rumours that follow the speculation.

Which brings me to present day. Does a quiet first six-months mean normality is coming back to the Province? Probably, but not for a while yet – the history just runs too deep. Next year, there's always next year. The D Company machine will carry on powering the Battalion along through the troubled times ahead. 'RSM, can you hear that rhythmic well-tuned purring noise coming from the Battalion?' calls the CO. 'Yes I can sir. That's D Company back off leave. We'll all sleep safe in our beds tonight...'

The Close Observation Platoon

Capt RJ McNeil writes...

The Close Observation Platoon deployed on operations on 16 January 2004. After the five-month build up the platoon responded well to the diverse and challenging operational environment we are now operating in. It became apparent very quickly that we were in a position now to have a real impact on terrorism. We hit the ground running and after a thorough hand over from the Close Observation Platoon of the Green Howards we found ourselves working extremely hard, to a man. This was the ideal introduction to Close Observation Platoon operations and we soon got used to the pace of life and settled in. Ten months down the line we are still one of busiest Close Observation Platoons in Province so we must be doing something right.

Coupled with the operational commitment is the requirement to conduct regular mandatory operational training. This ranges from the standard Infantry Training Directives to progressive field firing and technical training. We conduct readiness

The Poachers



LCpls Ashbridge, Cripps and Ptes Jackson 41, O'Grady and Zmija on the Brigade cruiser at Lough Lower Erne.



WO2 Morson and Cpl Kirk at the joint Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner night.

tests every four months as well as external validations encompassing our full range of operational disciplines. Having completed three tests to date, it is clear to see the vast improvement in the platoon's basic and specialist skills alike. It is a fantastic opportunity to expose the troops to good hard training on a regular basis and we are now conducting field firing that would make any SASC guru shudder. (Complying of course with Pam 21). We run our own training concurrently, especially in preparation for SCBC and JNCO Cadres. Having a degree of flexibility with manning our commitments allows us to devote experienced JNCOs to run training and courses for extended periods of time. This policy has proved successful as all four of our LCpls passed the Tactics Cadre (including the 1st and 3rd places), two of which are now performing well on SCBC. We have sent two privates on the Vikings' Potential JNCO Cadre, both of whom are now lance corporals. We currently have four privates on the Battalion Cadre and I fully expect four lance corporals to return. Further up the chain we Cpls Deakin and Symons are now sergeants and LCpl Cousin has just been promoted to corporal.

By having a degree of flexibility to man our commitments we have taken advantage of a number of opportunities to get away. LCpl Estwick jetted off to Singapore with the Vikings, Cpl Bradley and Cpl Kirk are away in East Africa bagging Mt Kenya and Kilimanjaro, and Pte Newitt and LCpl Lawrence are preparing to drop into Australia on an advanced freefall expedition to name but a few. Keeping with adventure training we have qualified five Mountain Leadership Trainers, sent Cpl Whitely the length of Hadrian's Wall and identified some rising stars in the north coast surfing fraternity. The Platoon also provides the mainstay for the Battalion Triathlon Team, headed up by CSgt Appleton.

The platoon Orbat has only seen minor adjustments since we formed in August 2003, but we have to accept some rotation to allow careers to progress. The Battalion has soldiers and NCOs on the Platoon



Capt McNeil remembering what a RCO duty is during PORT.



Sgt Perry and the remainder of G1 trying to put a HK53 together again!

The Poachers



CSgt Appleton and Cpl Bradley at the Brigade sports day triathlon finish point.



Cpl Palmer and LCpl Eastwick braving the Atlantic surfing.

Reinforcement Course and we await their arrival. We also look forward to welcoming Sgt Perry as a controller having completed a year as a team commander.

Since assuming operational control in January WO2 Morson, CSgt Waghorn and I have steered the platoon through a number of diverse physical and mentally challenging operations and it simply gets better. It is a privilege to work with quality soldiers and JNCOs at the forefront of operations in Northern Ireland.

Time is passing quickly and we are more than aware that if we blink again another 10 months will have passed!

A Team Commander's Perspective

Sgt Deakin writes...

My team and I got into the Province in early January. After an intensive course we were all looking forward to an interesting tour. All of the team were Close Observation Platoon

(COP) virgins and eager to put what we had learned into practice in an operational environment. The first task was the usual hectic period of hand-over from the Green Howards, who passed on some useful tips on the work we were about to get stuck into. There was little time to settle in and we were soon into a very busy period operationally. This had the advantage of giving all in the platoon a taster of operational tasks very quickly and our experience rapidly grew.

As well as meeting the operational commitments the platoon has tried to keep careers on track by getting people away on promotional courses as and when they are due it. Both privates in my team have benefited from this, with one already a lance corporal after a Vikings' Cadre and one currently undergoing the joys of a Poacher PNCO cadre now. Other opportunities are also taken when possible. I recently just missed out on a free-fall expedition to Australia. Unfortunately the Aussies were still sore from the last time I visited as a civilian!

Operations obviously take priority but it is surprising how quickly skills fade can set in. Some procedures, skills and equipment we used on our course have not been required so far on operations. As such a comprehensive training programme has to be run concurrently with the ops cycle. This can be a challenge in itself with time as tight as it is. Regular trips for specialised training provide a good opportunity to combine exciting and demanding range work with revision on the skills not often used. The training programme also aims to increase the team's skills base with further external cadres and guest lecturers coming in from



Platoon fitness.

The Poachers

other units. My team for example now has three COP team medics, which is a source of comfort for the one guy who isn't!

The challenges for a team commander within the platoon are extensive and varied. It takes some effort to keep the men as inquisitive and as exacting as when we first started. It has to be said that some of the tasks are not as exciting as first expected. However, we have also found ourselves in some very interesting situations! We have had some feedback from our efforts and know that what we are doing is of real significance and is hitting the terrorist's capability to operate. COP team commander is a unique role that provides opportunities for exciting and demanding challenges that would benefit any NCO in terms of experience and knowledge.

Adventurous Training at Capel Curig

Lt DW Turner writes...

Following training in the company build-up to Marching Season, A (Lines) Company was able to get away for a few days' adventurous training to Wales. The Company Ops Officer, Capt Melia, had put together a package consisting of a day's walking, a day's rock climbing, and a day's mountain biking all centred around the familiar Snowdonia National Park. Following an overnight ferry from Belfast to Birkenhead, the company moved in a packet of seven hire cars to Capel Curig. Not wishing to waste the day, Lt Ding and I put our M.I.T qualifications to good use and took the first group over Tryfan. While familiar to some, those soldiers who had not scaled Tryfan before or were carrying sizeable safety bergens found stages of the walk quite challenging, and it was good to see that the majority of the group took the leap of faith between Adam and Eve. Concurrent to the walking, other groups were climbing under the supervision of Cpl Blache RE from 161 AYT, or mountain biking around known routes in the area, starting from Betws-y-Coed.

Over the three days the groups rotated through each activity, and with Bangor down the road for a few sociable ales and good food in the local pubs around Capel, it was a welcome respite from Tin City at Magilligan Training Centre. No trip to Wales is complete without the obligatory conquering of Snowdon. The third and last walking group got the treat of scaling the Pyg Track in some fine weather, though upon reaching the summit, visibility was down to a few metres as the clag had moved in.

Though Capel is somewhere the majority of the company has been before, to get out of the Province for any length of time was important, particularly with Marching Season approaching. Capel has good facilities and was ideal for a quick break for the company, particularly from the familiar sight of having used baton rounds and petrol bombs thrown at you.



The Poachers

Saudi Short Term Training Team

Capt JD Inch writes...

A Poachers' Short Term Training Team, consisting of Capt Inch, CSgt Heeley, Sgt Chillingsworth and Sgt King discovered in July that they would be travelling to Saudi Arabia in early September to spend six weeks training the National Guard in Internal Security. Armed with a mounting instruction, information obtained from phone calls to the British Military Mission in Saudi Arabia, background information from the internet, and an assortment of desert combats we set off from Heathrow on 2 September, not really knowing what to expect.

We were met on arrival by members of the British Military Mission, and driven to our accommodation near the centre of Riyadh. The villa surpassed all expectations, with all the facilities we would require to live and work in a good degree of comfort for the next seven weeks. With the facilities available in the villa and the surrounding area, we would be able to lead a fairly normal existence, despite the huge cultural differences of the country we were in. These cultural differences often caught us out, particularly in remembering the prayer timings when shopping, and that Friday is really Sunday.

After a week of acclimatisation and course preparation, the course finally kicked off with 24 students drawn from National Guard units from across the Kingdom. This would

be the second time this particular course had been run, a pilot course having been carried out earlier in the year. Despite this, it wasn't until the arrival of the students that we really knew whether the course would go ahead. Even when it seemed certain that we would get the green light, there was still a major re-write of the programme taking place, with the course extending from six to seven weeks allowing for a daily session of PT, but meaning that the final two weeks would now take place in Ramadan.

As a training team, our task was simply to deliver the training as laid down in the training programme, dealing with any difficulties and challenges along the way. A flexible mindset was required throughout, to tailor the training to the students whose experiences and attitudes differ greatly from the soldiers we are used to. The National Guard students were far more willing to express their views on a lesson than a British student would be.

The Saudi Arabian National Guard is a regular component of the Saudi land forces, but separate from the army, and the Ministry of the Interior. They have an internal security role, primarily in guarding key points. Our students came with a mixed level of knowledge and experience, including one chef.

Reassuringly, the students seemed to pick up the information given fairly quickly, even though it often looked like they were not paying any attention. Over the course of the seven weeks, we covered all aspects of internal security, from individual patrol and

guard skills, through to planning company level operations, and the full range of public order lessons. These were taught through lectures, demonstrations and exercises, and the students also had to teach back the lessons given during teaching practices.

Thanks to the working day finishing at midday, the team had plenty of time to make the most of Riyadh, and also had the opportunity at the weekends to get further afield. One particularly memorable weekend was spent several hundred kilometres to the South of Riyadh in the Empty Quarter, with a Bedouin tribe, who were related to one of the interpreters. After a day spent keeping out the sun in one of the tents, the team were treated to the traditional plate of boiled sheep, complete with all its vital organs, which was eaten in the traditional way, sitting on the floor and using the right hand. After this culinary treat, we were able to quench our thirst with some warm frothy camel's milk, pretty well straight from the udder. Other weekends were spent quad-biking in the desert, scuba diving in the Red Sea and visiting the ancient site at Madain Saleh. The opportunity to do all these things, along with the experience of working with the National Guard made the whole trip one that we were grateful to have had the chance to do.

Manning and Recruiting

Capt DM Hazlewood, RCMO, writes...

During 2003 the Commanding Officer, as in previous years, allocated targets to each of our six recruiting offices. The combined target set was 136 recruits that needed to get into training to offset the Battalion's outflow and ensure that the Battalion hit its full-established strength of 526.

Recruiters through hard work managed to enlist a total of 135 recruits of which around 85 made it to the Battalion and in early August 2004 the Battalion hit full strength.

With the recent move to Ballykelly and the focus on operations, recruiting activities took a back seat. It wasn't until August that the Drums Platoon and soldiers became available to conduct larger scale recruiting surges.

Over the period 9-12 August the Drums Platoon conducted recruiting surges under the direction of Sgt Marshallsay into Borehamwood, Watford, Hemel Hempstead, St Albans, Waltham Cross and Potters Bar. Simultaneously Sgt Booth from Leicester and Sgt Mahoney from Northampton conducted similar surges within their counties.

C (Northamptonshire Company), having just completed an adventure training exercise in North Wales, and the Poachers' Mobile Recruiting Team provided all the necessary troops to 'make it happen'.

The surge resulted in 205 potential applicants of which 59 developed into



The Poachers' Saudi Arabian adventure - CSgt Heeley, Sgt Chillingsworth, Sgt King and Capt Inch pose in the desert with friends.

The Poachers



The Drums Platoon.



C Company track down potential Poachers.

positive applicants, 15 choosing the Poachers.

A lot of lessons were learned during these few days about the use of the Drums and the deployment of troops in their support. It was good to see that the surges not only proved popular with the general public but also with our soldiers as it gave them an opportunity to do something different away from operations but with a similar degree of importance.

Future surges are now planned for October-December 2004 and January-April next year with the aim of increasing the Battalion strength to 554. The figure of 554 is what the Army will allow us to achieve before placing any restrictions on recruiting.

Poachers' Triathlon Club

Maj NJ Wilcox writes...

Shackleton Barracks in Ballykelly has everything that a triathlete could need, except for sun, warmth, blue sea and a lack of wind. It does however have the closed roads of the airfield for running and cycling and a 25-metre swimming pool on camp. The triathlon club formed in April with training starting almost immediately. The majority of the members were novices with perhaps one unit race under their belt and were keen to get started. A critical element is a racing bike, and the enthusiasm was evident when very quickly the extra pay of Northern Ireland was turned into new bicycles. The Battalion has

just been given a grant to purchase bicycles, so now the club will be available to take on even more new members without any purchase necessary.

Training started with small groups venturing out onto the local roads and lunchtime running around the airfield. The club found a big help in their swim coach Ray Evans, the husband of a station officer who, as a qualified swimming coach and ex-Army swimmer, bought the members on in leaps and bounds. Soon the miles were under our tyres and finally the swimming looked a lot more graceful and most importantly a lot faster.

The first race for the club was the 4 Division Championships where the team entered as guests. Fine performances from Capt Halina Clare, CSgt Jock Appleton, SSgt Steph Webber, Sgt Mick Clarke and Cpl Brad Bradley claimed fourth place. The local triathlon club provided a local sprint distance race attended by Maj Nick Wilcox, Halina Clare and Mick Clarke, and while the racers did not feature in the top positions it provided a good season opener.

Things became more serious with the Army Novice Championships held at Bovington. The team again overcame the logistic nightmare of transporting the team and their bicycles across to the mainland and achieved a credible result, most notably Steph Webber who won her category to be Army Novice Female Veteran.

Training continued, with Jock and Brad making lots of new friends by 'discovering' a two-hour cycle route that seemingly covered all four sides of Bienvenue Hill, with grinding climbs and hair-raising descents. As the summer evenings stretched out the club could be seen departing from the guard room for an evening ride, normally to have underestimated the time it would take and racing back before dark. The views in the local area are however spectacular and waterproofs were only needed half of the time.

With the club now far more experienced the team set off for the Army Sprint Championships at ATR Bassingbourn with high hopes and a determination to do well (and beat the Vikings). The team performed strongly being narrowly beaten by the Vikings, with Halina Clare and Brad Bradley taking the top Poacher spots. Unfortunately, a mechanical failure for Jock Appleton, a fast cyclist, meant that he was unable to finish, a result which could have changed the outcome. Again Mick Clarke and Steph Webber raced well, Steph coming in as second female veteran. Importantly the race gave the club some experience of open water swimming and mass race starts, essential for moving up to the longer standard distance races which take place in lakes, rivers and the sea. Unfortunately the club was unable to compete in the Army Olympic Distance Championships due to a leave ban over the Marching Season. In the long course racing Nick Wilcox completed Ironman Switzerland, (raced would be too strong a

The Poachers



Sgt Mick Clarke, CSgt Jock Appleton and Cpl Brad Bradley at the Army Sprint Championships.

word), and competed in the inter-services championships at Half Ironman UK, where the Army were convincingly victorious over the RAF and the Navy.

The team had a final season's outing at the 8 Infantry Brigade Sports Day where triathlon was one of the events. Parity between the teams meant that mountain bikes from the North Antrim Activity Centre were to be used which undoubtedly benefited the opposition. The team did well on the swim and set off on the cycle discipline in bad weather, braving rain and high winds. Quickly gaining time lost on the swim Jock Appleton and Brad Bradley moved up the field, but were narrowly beaten to the finish by 4 R Irish. That was how the final position was to stay with 4 R Irish beating the Poachers into second place by one point.

The club is now looking forward to the next season and racing in 2005. While service in Northern Ireland can be restrictive on racing on the mainland, and the race scene in Northern Ireland is a little scarce, we hope to maximise the opportunities present. The club is now established and has a pool of experience to assist a novice triathlete and, with the upcoming equipment purchases, is in a position to allow new members to come along with no specialised kit. So come and give it a go!

Exercise Panorama Finn

Maj SR Smith writes...

Exercise Panorama Finn was a Poacher sponsored sub-aqua diving expedition to the Sinai Peninsula of the Red Sea. There exists in the Battalion a core of individuals that learnt to dive in Cyprus and even more that were qualified during the R&R phase of Exercise Panther Cub to Belize in 2002. Having arrived in Ballykelly in February and managed to dive off the Antrim Coast fairly regularly, I quickly realised that there was little chance of persuading many of the soldiers to go diving anywhere other than

warm water. The aim of the expedition was to take a group of qualified divers and put them in an environment where they would gain valuable experience by testing their diving limits. The Red Sea fitted the bill because of the warm clear water, abundant marine life, relatively short transit time and therefore more affordable cost.

Having booked a place on a 'liveboard' (a boat which provides full board accommodation and a platform in which to dive off, allowing greater access to dive sites), the next job was to whittle down the applicants. Everyone had to be qualified, preferably with some experience other than their initial training. This proved difficult as fixing dates and the Operations Cycle precluded several interested parties from attending. Also a large number of soldiers

who had learned to dive in Belize had not had their qualification formally recognised. Therefore the net was cast wider initially to the Vikings and then to 2RRF in Belfast. Last minute changes further widened the search. Thus a motley crew was established that consisted of five Poachers, WO2 (CSM) Marsh from the Vikings, two JNCOs from the Fusiliers and two officers from Headquarters Northern Ireland (including Maj Dave Martin, who was the mandatory sub-aqua supervisor).

First was a training session. There was a choice of locations between the Ballykelly swimming pool and the airfield, which was nearly wet enough to dive on. The pool session allowed everyone to re-familiarise themselves with the equipment (borrowed from 8 Brigade) and some of the basic skills. Next was the move to Sharm-el-Sheikh. This involved us all meeting inconspicuously at Belfast airport with matching large black bags and big dive watches – I'm sure no one realised we were all together! Despite issuing an admin letter, the Fusiliers initially went to the wrong Belfast airport and had to be picked up and moved by their MT. One of the soldiers informed me at 'last safe moment' that his name on his passport did not correspond to the name on his ID, which meant a frantic reissuing of tickets. There was also the case of the soldier who had misplaced his passport on the morning of travelling. After several phone calls had been made to the passport office and the FCO travel advice centre to try and get a new passport, it was eventually tracked down to his car, which was being serviced in Coleraine. What more could go wrong and we were still in Province?

We were met at Heathrow by WO2 Marsh and accommodated overnight in the transit block at Pirbright before flying out the next morning to Egypt. On arrival in Sharm-



At one with the environment

The Poachers

el-Sheikh it soon became apparent that one of our 'matching' bags was missing. Sgt Mattingly had dipped out! Despite a 'thorough' search of the airport by the local officials it was not to be seen. Our trip to the marina was interspersed with a stop to buy the essentials such as a toothbrush and then hire some ill-fitting dive equipment. Sgt Mattingly was understandably fuming that his bag was deficient, which by all accounts seemed to contain not just his dive kit, clothes and camera but his GPS, laptop and... Whereas, I was more concerned that it was my signature on the 1033 that contained all 8 Brigade's dive equipment. Eventually we reached the boat and were welcomed on by the crew and we were introduced to our Egyptian dive guide, Mohammed, and the other two English couples who were also booked on the boat.

The first day began quite leisurely with safety and diving briefs given while we sat on the deck under a blazing sun. Calls were made to the insurance company, airport, dive centre in the hope that the missing bag would be located. Visas had to be obtained so that we could enter in the various marine parks. Eventually we set sail and had our first shake down dive. The water was 28C and visibility was 30m+. Another two dives followed during the day and a night dive rounded off the first day. Sat underneath a balmy Egyptian evening, with a cold beer, the conversation revolved around the antics of various individuals underwater and what had been seen so far – most of the cast from *Finding Nemo* including turtles, moray eels but sadly no sharks.

Much to everyone's surprise we were woken up by the boat's engine ridiculously early on day two, as we set off for the next dive site. We were up and had completed a dive before breakfast, another before lunch, and an afternoon dive, followed by a night dive. Day two was very testing for the novices on board. The dive guide managed to drop us down stream of the wrecks that we were supposed to dive. The current was against us and sufficiently strong that several of the buddy pairs did not make it to the wrecks, but used up much of their available air battling



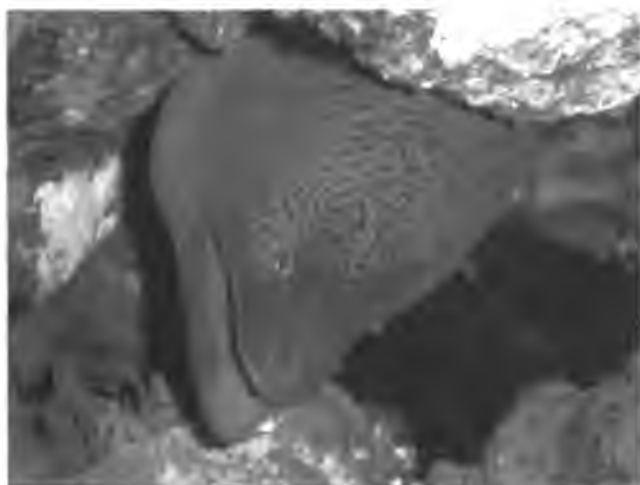
On the Rib dragging the dive guide behind

against the current. After one of the dives LCpl Hartshorne was heard to remark that he would prefer to do CO's PT twice in one day rather than dive like that again. Despite assurances from Mohammed that he would be more careful in selecting the sites next time, this scenario was replayed several times over during the week. This challenge actually overfaced several of the novices who, coupled with various ear aches from the pressures of continuous diving began to take its toll and several guys decided to sit out the occasional dive. On one dive we were heading out to a site in the dinghy, with Mohammed being dragged along at the end of a rope trying to locate the wreck and check for the current direction. The scene was almost comical, especially when we entered the water to find the current against us. An underwater mutiny occurred with us swimming with the current and Mohammed frantically trying to get us to go the way he had planned.

Day three was probably the most exciting

of the week, all day was spent on one site, the wreck of the *SS Thistlegorm*, a British supply ship that was sunk on route to supply the 8th Army in North Africa on 16 October 1941. The ship, armed with anti-aircraft guns, was laden with cargo that varied from BSA motorbikes to .303 Lee Enfield rifles and rolling stock to wellington boots. It is a real boys' own adventure swimming through the holds looking at the cargo while avoiding the multicoloured fish that have made the wreck their home. We were lucky enough to see a turtle and a shoal of barracuda swim past. Despite being one of the world's best wrecks, it is also very poignant, as nine lives were lost when a lone German aircraft sank her.

The last three days were spent on various reefs around the Sinai Peninsula, we had been very lucky up to this point because our boat was able to utilise its greater range and ensured that we were almost alone on a dive site. But the next sites were worth diving, however the penalty to be paid was that there was a gaggle of day trip boats out



Giant Moray Eel.



How cool am I?

The Poachers



Group Hug – aaah!

of Sharm-el-Sheikh filled with snorkellers – divers tolerate snorkellers to the same extent that skiers do with snowboarders! Nevertheless there was a certain amount of observing the young Italian ladies from underwater.

Several topics consumed much of the week's conversation; was the current ever going to be in our favour? Had we seen a manta ray or an eagle ray? Would we see any sharks? It was Sgt Mattingly who sheepishly said that he had seen two dark shapes, thought they were sharks so had been about to alert his buddy Pte Mitchell, when he realised that it was Pte Jackson and LCpl Hartshorne swimming along behind him. Too much nitrogen does affect the brain!

Suddenly the week's diving was at an end, there would be no more of Pte Mitchell's acrobatic dives into the water from the top deck. LCpl Hartshorne's and Pte Jackson's backs had finally gone from bright red to peeling. The two Fusiliers may even drag themselves away from the TV and DVD player that they had permanently on in the salon. WO2 Marsh, Maj Martin (the supervisor) and myself all were vying for the most dives to be completed and the maximum time spent underwater. The last day was spent 'fizzing off' in a hotel before the flight back. Sgt Mattingly's bag turned up at the airport, which was a huge relief. Several hours were then spent sitting in the coffee bar at Gatwick waiting for the connection back to Belfast.

Overall the trip was a huge success and we are indebted to the Regiment, the PR1 and 8 Brigade for making the financial contributions that ensured the expedition was accessible to all. Recommendations for future trips, would include using a liveaboard rather than staying in a hotel as you get to the furthest sites and get to dive them before the day trip boats arrive. Also having a tolerant supervisor makes for a safe, excellent trip and finally having an experienced dive guide will make all the

difference. What was achieved? Some of us managed 24 dives and spent almost 20 hours underwater. Considering some of the novices had only logged four dives over two years ago and had now achieved greater depths and encountered new experiences such as diving at night or in strong currents, is no mean feat. Whether anyone else chooses to dive in the future is their choice, but I am sure that all those who participated will remember the expedition for a long time to come, even though there were no sharks spotted.

Inter-Company Boxing

WO1 (RSM) Bredin writes...

Back in early March, the plan was formed and put in place for this year's inter-company boxing competition. CSMs started in

earnest, putting teams together, to ensure that they had the right to brag the most in the Sergeants' Mess.

It became apparent very early on that those soldiers who did not represent their respective company would pick up extra stags allowing those who were selected to fight the chance to ensure that they were in the best shape possible. All companies gave their boxers five weeks' pre-training under the watchful eye of their coaches.

As the final week drew nearer, the banter in the Naafi and Messes about who was going to win, could be heard in every corner of camp. The preparations and rehearsals in the Brown Hangar where well under way under the direction issued by the QM and SSgt Lamb APTC. The Brown Hangar was transformed into 'The Poachers' very own boxing arena with tiered seating, spotlights and VIP reception area.

The Drum Major was tasked with producing a stick beating routine in the ring as well as drumming the boxers in. With preparations now complete, the draw took place and the boxing started.

22 October saw the preliminary fights and the semi-finals take place, a total of 19 bouts. With a healthy turn out from the Battalion to watch and support the boxers. All of the boxers displayed great courage and endeavour. The standard of boxing from the outset was high, which was encouraging as the Battalion had not had a competition for nearly two years.

The finals took place two days later in front of Commander 8 Brigade, invited guests and a few 'old Poachers' who are still lurking around the dark corners of the Province. The first bout of the evening set the standard with Pte Ireland (D Company) and Pte Marshall (C Company) putting in real gutsy performances, with neither boxer



D Company v B Company - the Poachers battle it out.

The Poachers



The Brigade Commander congratulates the boxers.

giving any ground. Pte Marshall won by a majority decision, but both boxers received an award at the end, with the best boxer going to Pte Marshall and best endeavour going to Pte Ireland. As the bouts progressed, it became clear that D Company were running away with the title, so damage limitation was undertaken by the other companies. As the break arrived after four bouts, D Company's

lead was huge. Credit to Cpl Batty and Fox, D Company's boxing coaches, of the eight finalists, they only lost one bout all evening. As the last bout finished D Company had won by 17 clear points, with C Company being runners up. All boxers had displayed all of the attributes required of a boxer, with disciplined displays of aggression.

Once the dust had settled after a hugely

successful Regimental Night, the bar bills settled and headache tablets taken to cure the hangover, a team of 20 boxers has been selected to represent the Battalion in the Army Grade 3 Novice Championships. They have now started training and we have been drawn against 4 R Irish in the semi-finals on 23 November (watch this space for an update in the next issue).



D Company - the victorious boxing squad.

The East of England Regiment

Commanding Officer's Foreword

The Battalion is at the beginning of a process of great change. Our former role of training individuals for operations has been overtaken by the mission to generate a company fit for deployment at 30 days' notice to move and the Battalion is fast coming to terms with all that this means. The culture is developing in which companies are becoming increasingly used to operating as sub-units. The Battalion's emphasis is shifting markedly towards collective training. As a result, the commanders, many with recent operational experience have much more opportunity to command during training. The recent focus on counter insurgency training has allowed this valuable experience to be applied to relevant training, which has added focus and fired the enthusiasm of many soldiers.

There seems to be no doubt that the best way for the Battalion to retain its good soldiers is by providing relevant and well supported training. It will always be a challenge to have resources released for the Reserves, particularly when the competition for the resources is from Regulars on pre-operational training. Having taken up this challenge, the Battalion is grateful for all the support it has received especially from the Vikings and the Poachers.

Our FIBUA training period closed in May with a Battle Group FTX on Salisbury Plain. The Battalion learned a great deal simply from training with all the constituent parts of a Battle Group in place. Commanders were very happy to find they really did have helicopters and the rifle companies were almost as happy to find their night approach march included crossing the first Infantry Bridge that the Battalion's Assault Pioneer Platoon had erected (with kind advice and assistance from the Vikings).

The Battalion's focus on counter insurgency training since May has been refreshing and invigorating because it is, perhaps surprisingly, a new subject. The happiest soldiers' faces this year were those behind visors, shields and petrol bombs at Longmoor during public order training. Having that Saxon (thank you Vikings) to shift barricades added an additional important facet to the exercise.

The high point of this half-year has undoubtedly been the two weeks of counter insurgency FTX on the Otterburn Training Area. The companies operated from their SF Bases against a well organised Civpop (thanks again to the Vikings and Poachers). Maj Dennis Vincent, the Training Major excelled by wizarding every imaginable agency in support of what was remarkably similar to an Optag pre-deployment training package. Companies deployed by Chinook, had Gazelle as top cover for public order while ATO and the media deployed to the succession of incidents. The Battalion recovered exhausted and perhaps even a little dazzled.

In the coming winter months the Battalion

will turn its attention to training as the Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF), which involves the rapid mobilisation and deployment of a the 500-strong self-sufficient force in East Anglia and the East Midlands. The planning and exercising of civil contingencies with the Emergency Services continues to develop as the major secondary role for the Battalion.

Since writing the Battalion's last foreword, OC C Company and a composite company from the Battalion have recovered from their successful tour in Basra. Individuals continue to volunteer - 18 have deployed with the Regular Army, mainly to Iraq and the Balkans. The Battalion is preparing to deploy one or two platoons on Operation Telic 6 in May 2005.

In the coming year the aim is to see companies training at much greater strength. There will not be as many minor exercises and our ambition is to generate the best resources for the major exercises in order to encourage high attendance.

There are three main highlights in the coming training year (2005-2006). The first is the preparation and training for the deployment of up to two platoons on Operation Telic 6. The second is the Battalion's offensive operations training. The build up will include training the

commanders and staff in the Combined Arms Battle at CAST (N) - some of you may remember it as BGT(N). The field training will culminate in a Battle Group FTX and a live firing exercise. The third highlight is overseas training exercises. Having lost Cyprus this year, our plea to go overseas was well supported. Provisionally we have two. The first, in the spring is a company to Gibraltar and will focus on essential cadres. The second, in late summer will see Battalion Headquarters and two companies in the Ukraine for Exercise Cossack Express.

Battalion Counter Insurgency Training - Exercise Eastern Circuit

Maj DJ Sommerville writes...

Having just finished post-tour leave and being acclimatised to sunnier climes of Basra for the past six months, it was with reluctance that I heaved myself into a wet and windy Friday night in July to deploy to Longmoor for the Battalion counter insurgency training package, Exercise Eastern Circuit. We had done some preparatory training within the companies and were looking forward to practising at a higher level. Arriving in the SF base in the wee small hours, we proceeded



Maj Dawber, OC D (WFR) Company, helps Pte Boycott practise his defence.

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to 'get out heads down' and await the entertainment that would commence later.

In the morning, the companies were split into multiples, and spent the day completing a circuit of route clearance, reaction to a shoot, multiple patrol skills, the four Cs, actions in an SF base and last but certainly not least, public order training. All the lessons and exercises were of a high standard and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The most popular being the public order training with even some of the company commanders getting stuck in and trying to attack their soldiers! A high note was the issue of personal radios on the patrolling stands with the majority of the soldiers experiencing for the first time the difference in command and control these excellent pieces of kit make.

Sunday saw each company run through a public order nattle exercise against another company acting as civilian population. Much posturing ensued, many carrots thrown and thanks to the DS controlling many valuable lessons were learned. The realism was added to by the use of a Saxon vehicle with experienced commander and driver, (thank you I R Anglian) to crash the erected barriers during the riot.

All in all it was a very enjoyable exercise and all soldiers came away feeling it had been worth going and that they had learned a lot. Personally, I couldn't help but feel that training of this standard and nature would have been exceedingly helpful for the company that had gone out on Operation Telic 3 before its deployment.

Exercise Eastern Peacekeeper (Summer Camp 2004)

Maj Simon Watson, OC E (Essex and Herts) Company, writes...

I had feelings of excitement and dread when I was dumped by my wife and children at Hertford TA centre on a cool early morning in September. The dread was due to my previous experiences of Otterburn training area when it has done nothing but bucket down for two weeks solidly. I need not have



Baseline soldiers under attack!

worried for although it did rain a bit, it hardly witted me other than on the day off when I spent most of the day in the car, but that is another story!

As I sat listening to the Commanding Officer give his final debrief in the Mess before we departed homewards, I reminisced about the whole experience which was without doubt the best training camp I have attended since being in the TA. Maj Vincent had set up a well-pitched and interesting training programme to interest and motivate the troops, as well as the command teams. The camp was the culmination of our counter insurgency training programme, and also included much time 'down-range', conducting field firing by both day and night.

Week one for me consisted of the counter insurgency training package in which I was suitably aided and abetted by 'new boy' SPSI, WO2 Limb. The company I commanded was a composite of D (WFR) Company as well as some A and E Company soldiers. We

set to work immediately, moving through a series of short exercises in the southern part of Otterburn Training Area. The initial short exercise included a number of counter insurgency tasks: VCPs, rummages, route searches, cordon operations, reaction to a shoot and a reactive OP. Despite requiring some polish, all were achieved effectively and a number of lessons were learned very quickly, with the opportunity to further practise skills where appropriate.

Among other tasks, the troops dealt with a snap public order event where, with the Padre doing his best to stir up the troops and take photos of any illegal baton strikes, and Pte Lehman in top form with his hilarious verbal abuse of troops ('How come you lot all wear the same clothes?'...and... 'Do you all go shopping to the same shop?'), the rioting Civpop were effectively dispersed by a series of rapid baseline advances commanded by 2Lt Wopat.

The live firing exercises in week one were physically demanding and tested the soldiers



Rushing to the Chinook to deploy and crush the uprising! Eye in the sky (TA pilot!).

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fully in their fire and movement techniques. During this time we hosted a visit by Maj Gen Kerr, GOC 4 Div. He spoke to the troops and enquired as to how the exercise could be improved. The overwhelming response was more of the same!

The second week saw me transfer role and become Battalion 2IC. Unfortunately, during the visit by Brig S Caraffi MBE, Comd 49 (E) Bde, I was posed the question: 'How are communications?' just as the otherwise excellent Airwave radio network crashed!

The exercise progressed quickly through a 24-hour period of numerous short incidents for the multiple patrols, which was followed by 48 hours with public order, cordon, and reactive operations, each at company level. The exercise finished with a battalion live-firing attack on Quickening Cote Range, where I found myself demoted to make up numbers, fighting as a rifleman through streams and mud, assaulting and grenading several enemy bunkers. Constant pressure from the other 'private' soldiers to 'stay low, move fast' kept me alive, uninjured! Ending up thoroughly soaked and bruised, the sun came out and marked the demise of the Otterburn Freedom Fighters, to the relief of those who had fought so hard to achieve it.

All ranks agreed that it had been a fantastic camp and the only problem was the length of it. It was far too short!

Battle Group FTX – Exercise Eastern Avenger 3

Maj DW Dawber WFR writes...

Exercise Eastern Avenger was held 7-9 May 2004 and was designed to be the culmination of five months of urban operations training. However, due to pre-operational training requirements, Imber village on Salisbury Plain was no longer available. The exercise was therefore hastily re-written, maintaining the original aims but utilising farm complexes across the Plain.

The aim of the Exercise was to practise Urban Offensive Operations at Battlegroup level, incorporating battle procedure, offensive operations, practising G4 procedures and allowing all commanders to work in a combined arms environment. To achieve this we were supported by a FOO party from 100 Regiment RA, a BGE from 73 Engineer Regiment and Aviation Support by 7 AAC.

The exercise began on Saturday morning with the CO's O Group and air reces being conducted prior to the arrival of the main body at lunchtime. After a hasty re-orbatting phase, orders were cascaded down to all levels and rehearsals took place for the forthcoming deliberate attack. The Recce Platoon was despatched early to carry out its role and gain a fix on the enemy positions (the Opfor being provided by 49 BSTT who were conducting Officer training). The GPMG (SF) Platoon then deployed to provide security for the Assault Pioneer Platoon to erect an Infantry Bridge to keep the main body dry. Rumour

has it that one of the Assault Pioneer Platoon's troops tested the bridge a little too rigorously prior to our arrival and got somewhat soaked in the process! The main body deployed on foot at last light for the 12-mile tab across the Plain. Changing frequencies at midnight proved quite interesting for 2IC 2 Company, Lt Chris Massingham, who looked up to find the rest of the company had moved off without him. This wasn't a major problem he thought, as he'd easily catch us all up. What he hadn't planned on was the road junction up ahead where he hadn't a clue as to which way we'd gone. The procedure for breaking radio silence in the correct format is clearly an area for further training...

1 Company's first task was to seize a bridge closer to the objective. This was supposed to be an opposed crossing, however the Opfor must have given up waiting for us and decided to retire to their fallback positions instead, leaving the way clear for a silent approach. Confirmatory orders followed in the assembly area before 2 Company moved forward to assault the first position with tremendous support from the SF Platoon on the flank. We managed successfully to gain a foothold into the farm complex before 1 Company echeloned through to clear the rest of the objective. Incoming fire from a strong depth position resulted in both lead companies pushing on further to clear woods and other farm buildings in order to completely rout the enemy.

The exercise gave us an ideal opportunity to work in an all arms environment and show our new CO what we were capable of. The Recce, GPMG (SF) and Assault Pioneer Platoons all carried out their correct roles for the first time in a long while. All troops were practised in a number of skills, not only assaulting their objectives, but also in casevac and re-supply in order to sustain an ongoing battle. The transport home was full of extremely tired troops at the end of a very satisfying exercise.

Dangling on a Rope – B Company Adventure Training 2004

Maj I Sackree writes...

The Battalion conducted its summer adventure training by giving each company licence to do its own thing. B (Lincolnshire) Company set off for the Lake District for a weekend of fun, adventure and thrills.

Thirty soldiers departed in three minibuses on Friday night heading for Keswick. Several hours later (having incurred significant mobile phone bills keeping a loose convoy together) we all arrived safely. To our amazement we arrived at a tent city that would put 'UN staging posts' to shame. WO2 (SPSI) Slater had arrived earlier and with his team of merry men had assembled numerous bright orange ridge tents.

The morning followed the way the Army has gone – largely outsourced! A standard fat boy breakfast in a 12x12 was followed by a short ride to an Outward Bound Centre. In the

interests of maximum choice all participants were invited to select two activities from four. The range was rock climbing, ghyll scrambling, mountain biking and canoeing. Each activity was challenging and enormous fun. There is something that creates rumbles of some concern down below however, when one realises that the only thing between you and certain death is the 17-year-old spotty A-level student belaying your rope (no offence to A-level students intended, working for the minimum wage and a bed!)

The evening went as most adventure training evenings do – in the pubs of Keswick with it raining down all night. The lights from lots of torches (as camping bladders were released between the hours of two and five am) meant that not a lot of sleep was had by anyone! This set the tone for two walks on the Sunday (a long and a short!). We hiked along the Teesdale/Pennine Way and over the back of High and Low Force. The rain didn't give up, exhausting and dampening the enthusiasm of all but the hardiest of our troops. The views were truly inspirational however, the banter among all was at its best and all participants learned new skills, were challenged mentally and physically, bonded as a team and had a great deal of fun – a complete success!

Operation Telic 4

Lt A Horner writes...

Op Telic 4 for me started with brigade training in psychological operations. I had been mobilised as the Battlegroup Liaison Officer for IPWRR. However, there was a possibility I would be taking on the responsibility of Battlegroup Psychological Operations Officer. By the time I got into theatre it was clear that there was no role for a Liaison Officer and the post of Psychological Operations Officer had been taken up. After a few days of dreading being stuck with watchkeeper, a job in G5 (Civil Military Co-operation) came up. I was to become the GST Agriculture, Irrigation and Marsh Arabs Officer as part of the Operations Support Group of IPWRR Battlegroup.

The IPWRR was assigned to Maysan Province. Maysan Province is the northern most province within the MND(SE)'s area of responsibility. The main town of Maysan is Al Amarah and its second city is Al Majir Al Kabir. Prior to the war, Maysan was the home for four divisions of the Iraqi Army. This was due to the Province's border with Iran and its rebellious population. Maysan was the centre of the uprising against Saddam which was brutally suppressed.

The IPWRR Operations Support Group consisted of Media Operations, Psychological Operations, the Civil/Military Co-operation Group (CIMIC) and the Governorate Support Team (GST). For the first five months of the tour, the group was based at CIMIC House in Al Amarah town centre. Working with the Civil Police Authority (CPA) and the Provisional Council the Operations Support Group's task was to help bring about the conditions required for elections.

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Distribution of blankets and cooking utensils to help the local population.

Prior to the transition of power on 28 June, the GST mentored the various Directorates. The teams, in co-operation with the CPA, CIMICs and Non Governmental Officers (NGOs), identified, and carried out quick impact projects, focused on reconstructing the infrastructure destroyed in the aftermath of the war. After the transition of power the role of the Operations Support Group changed to one of supporting the political process and Battlegroup operations.

Just before our arrival the US began operations in Najaf and Nasiriyah to

remove the Mahdi Army from these holy cities. This resulted in a rise in violence in Maysan, starting with public order incidents and developing into mortar, IED and RPG attacks.

During this time the Operations Support Group with the CPA Governorate Coordinator were in constant dialogue with the Provisional Council, the Directorates and the Office of the Martyr Sadr in order to bring about a peace treaty. After ten weeks of intense operations a ceasefire was achieved and G5 work proper could proceed.

The GST concentrated its efforts in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of public service infrastructure, essential services, the economy and social affairs. Projects identified and completed by the GST included job creation schemes, humanitarian aid to flood victims, water and sewage systems, schools, fuel and electricity generation. The GST also conducted meetings with the political organisations, community groups, town councils, student bodies and NGOs. In August the ceasefire broke and heavy fighting resumed until Al Sistani intervened.

During my tour I have found the Iraqi people on the whole to be a decent and proud bunch, though they do seem to have a few hang-ups about honour and not being seen to be 'weak'. This tends to lead to shoot-outs under the slightest provocation. I have been impressed especially by the Iraqi members of the NGOs (in particular The Salvation Army and Relief International) and the interpreters. These people have worked hard with us to help reconstructing Iraq, all the time under threat of death.

Al Amarah is, even by Iraqi standards, a slum. The smell from the open sewers is appalling and refuse litters the streets. Maysan (and particularly the Marsh Arabs) is considered backward by the rest of the country's population. (A bit like Norfolk really). The culture has very little in the way of a work ethos. The previous regime supplied everything, creating a culture of dependence. If the population looked a



Floods in Al Uzar – 6,000 civilians displaced, homes and farms destroyed.

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bit rowdy, Saddam simply switched off the electricity, sent in the army and shot people.

During this tour Al Amarah has been less than peaceful. For two two-month periods the Battlegroup has been under constant attack. Even in the peaceful periods there are shootings, IEDs and tribal fighting. We tend not to submit a report for less than 30 rounds. Celebratory fire at weddings or men teaching their kids how to shoot is common. Oh, and assassinating whoever happens to be Chief of Police this week (a job which doesn't seem to require any pension provision...).

I found the IPWRR Battlegroup to be a very professional bunch (with the highest kill rate in theatre, surpassing 1LI in the first 17 days), and they have paved the way for 1WG. They have done an excellent job in the Maysan Province, though there remains much to be done in what is one of the poorest parts of this ragged country.

There has been a lot of laughter, a fair amount of excitement, a few very low points, and a few close calls, however it was a truly outstanding tour.

Platoon Tactics Course

Lt A Baker writes...

Lt Andy Baker, 2Lt Paul Karim, 2Lt Tom Wopat and Cpl Sherlock from the East of England Regiment attended the Platoon Tactics Course (PTC) at Brecon from 21 August to 4 September 2004. This article aims to give some insight to the PTC and some of the trials and tribulations of those who attended.

The September course was well attended with representation from all of the major TA battalions. The course also included



The inevitable casevac!

personnel who were mobilised and had returned from service in Iraq (for the duration of the course) in particular representatives of the Devon and Dorset Regiment who had taken over Eden Company from the EER contingent based at Basra Palace. Foreign armies also had representatives with Capt Mezzo from the Hungarian Army and representatives from the Bermuda Regiment and Austrian armies.

The PTC is the current qualification course for all TA infantry platoon commanders, TA platoon sergeants and TA section commanders and is held at the Infantry Training Centre Brecon.

The PTC as a new concept operated really

well with some positive advantages over the previous system, which saw separate courses being run as part of the Regular courses. The fact that all the soldiers were TA gave an added spectrum of realism especially as there seems to be a general move to deploying formed TA units. The fact that I was working with a TA platoon sergeant in my command appointments and not a platoon commander acting as a platoon sergeant really benefited all parties as everyone was undertaking their own job within the platoon. Other benefits included a more consistent approach to training; the fact that all levels in the platoon were being taught the same tactics and procedures will improve cohesion back at unit level and impart a consistency across the TA Infantry.

The Junior Tactics Division is the custodian of the PTC and provides the instructors. Most teaching is split between the three command tiers with communal lessons given where required. The planning of the two weeks is well laid out, with the initial few days spent in camp and the first lecture dispelling the 'Brecon Myth', which is true to some extent, depending on who you ask!

The first week is based on build up training and the Attack, with plenty of lectures and fablon-ing (waterproofing is essential at Brecon). The second week is made up of a six-day field exercise incorporating FIBUA (attack and defence), defence, ambushes, patrolling and deliberate attacks. All transitions were relatively high tempo and attendees must accept that there is a lot to fit in and prepare accordingly. Preparation for the course is essential as although there are lectures and teaching periods these should be used as revision as many students who had not fully prepared struggled with the intense schedule. Physical fitness is important but not as much as attitude, team spirit and physical robustness.

The course Orbat consisted of three



Making best use of cover!

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platoons with approximately 45 men in each. The platoons were organised into three sections plus a manoeuvre support section (which was usually rotated in the sections throughout the course). The general ratio of students in each platoon was approximately 10 platoon commanders, 10 platoon sergeants and 20+ section commanders. At the platoon commander and platoon sergeant level you can expect to get at least one command appointment in barracks and on exercise. Section commanders can expect more command appointments than this within the section commanders and section 2IC roles. It is important that commanders prepare properly for their appointments before arriving at Brecon especially as the platoon commanders and platoon sergeants will only get one chance to demonstrate their ability. When not in a command appointment all commanders are expected to adopt the role of riflemen and at this level coursemanship is essential.

There were injuries throughout the course due to the physical nature of the training with approximately 7-8 men from my platoon leaving the course, although most of these were recurring injuries which had been previously sustained.

It was good to see the dedication and motivation with which the vast majority of the course attendees went about completing the course. The PTC is an attendance course with a pass/fail mark and many of the course attendees initially saw the course as just a requirement for promotion and something to be endured. I was pleased to find that many of those attendees at the end of the course had learned much more than they thought that they would, as had I. However, the course also highlighted certain areas where training can be enhanced within the TA to better reflect Brecon best-practice. I would suggest that it is therefore extremely important for soldiers coming back from courses to be

encouraged to provide 'feedback' about what is being taught, in a proactive and structured way.

One of the main highlights of the course was the significant allocation of training resources, such as ammunition, training areas, and helicopters, the use of which on several occasions really added to the realism and quality of training. Altogether I would encourage any TA commander who is required to go on the course to get on it as soon as possible but remember that preparation is essential in order to really benefit from the course and for you to take the 'Brecon Myth' and dispel it yourself!

Phase 1 Recruit Cadre

Lt MJ Bevin writes...

During Exercise Peacekeeper (Annual Camp 2004) in Otterburn, the Recruit Training (RT) Team ran a Phase 1 training package.

As well as covering the Common Military Syllabus Recruits (TA) we also took the opportunity to introduce the recruits to our regimental way of life. Recruits at this stage would not usually be involved with a GOC's visit, a Drumhead Service and the delights of a night out in Edinburgh (under close supervision of the training team!). This all helped to reinforce the team spirit of the recruits in training.

Both GOC 4 Div, and Comd 49 (E) Bde visited the Cadre. It seemed they were looking for some good, open and honest feedback, with which the recruits duly provided, especially when asked about how their employers felt about them joining the TA and the question of serving on operations.

This year's annual camp fell part way through our second training cycle, so some of the recruits had already completed weekends RT1 & RT2. This only added to



Lt Bevin presents Pte White with a cake on his 18th birthday.



GOC 4 Div, the recruits, and a smiling Lt Bevin!

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the rich mix of experience and backgrounds within the cadre, and civilian careers represented by soldiers on the cadre included students, telesales personnel, engineers, web designers, a binman, a football coach, a special policeman and several ex-Regular military personnel.

The recruits were broken down into squads, with Sgt Low, Sgt Puttick, and Sgt Pugh instructing and LCpl Fallon and Pte Wilson supporting. WO2 Hancock was Cadre 2IC as well as being responsible to all administration. The training programme followed the recognised format, which included a weapons training package cumulating in two range days at Ponteland Ranges, NBC, first aid, map reading and four days of fieldcraft. All recruits undertook a Battle Personal Fitness Assessment and their TA Combat Fitness Test (TACFT). The weather during the final exercise was unseasonably good, the recruits were convinced this was because the cadre was a regular visitor, not only providing the spiritual support you would expect, but also using all legal means available to encourage our new recruits to pass their TACFT.

The cadre was successful and the Commanding Officer welcomed 17 new soldiers into our Regiment; he also took the opportunity to offer them some words of advice in getting on their Combat Infantryman's Course as soon as possible!

The EER Shooting Team

Capt K Spiers writes...

Once again the Battalion Shooting Team, led by Capt Spiers and WO2 Gorski, competed at Divisional and TA Skill at Arms Meetings (SAAMs), winning second and third places respectively.

This was a good result following on from last year when the Battalion achieved second at the Divisional SAAM and sixth at TASAAM. The squad was bolstered after Battalion SAAM by new shots arriving from A, E and D Companies, giving a squad of 18 to choose from.

Training was carried out mainly at Pirbright to give exposure to the competition ranges. The weather was mixed for the team during training with heavy showers on most days but when the two-mile Para Cup runs came on each day the sun always came out to add to the difficult uphill finish. This was to prove excellent training as the competition was to be in the same conditions. The run up to TASAAM saw a hard fought battle of the B and New Soldier (NS) Classes for the four team places. LCpl Gayler, Ptes Nash, Aitchison, Waddup, Braddow and Charles competed daily over the last five days for the final places. Pte Nash even went to sleep each night with the relevant targets pinned to his locker to try and gain an edge (it must have worked) as the final team was: Capt Spiers, WO2 Gorski and Pte Charles (WFR) and Cpl Rolph, LCpl Gayler, Ptes Carter, Nash, and Aitchison (R Anglian).

The competition was to its usual high standard and the Battalion found three

new top 50 shots of Pte Nash, LCpl Gayler and Pte Charles. The final places for the individuals were: A Company : Pte Nash finished 27th overall and came 1st in the NS class. Cpl Rolph finished 8th overall. B Company: Pte Carter came into the team fresh back from Iraq and achieved a personal best of 18th overall. E Company: LCpl Gayler finished 38th overall and came 3rd in the NS Class. Pte Aitchison finished 95th overall and 12th in NS Class. D Company: Capt Spiers finished 25th overall and 2nd in the Officers Class. WO2 Gorski finished 16th overall and 7th in SNCO Class. Pte Charles finished 33rd overall and 3rd in the B Class.

The team came mainly in the top three places for most matches but won the Para Cup following a hard two-mile approach in very humid conditions. The team had been 18-strong during training and the final eight for TASAAM had been hard fought for with two other D Company members, Cpl Mee and Pte Braddow and Pte Waddup of A Company, only just missing out on a place in the team.

Special mention should go to LCpl Gayler and Pte Aitchison who shot the gun match (LSW) which was shot as individuals and the scores combined to make a pair. It was the second time for LCpl Gayler and the first for Pte Aitchison, they had both shot well in training and on the day of the competition they achieved a clear second place missing out on first by a cat's whisker. They are both to be watched for the future as they feature in three key matches as gunners.

The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment (TA) and the Corps of Drums of the East of England Regiment

It has been a busy year. Both units have been in high demand to perform at not only military functions, but also at many civilian venues.

The highlight thus far has to be the return to West Moors Camp, in Bournemouth, Dorset, for the Band and Drums annual camp. The Band alone undertook its camp there last year, and had a very rewarding and beneficial two weeks of intense musical training and concert performances. This year we had the added benefit and support of the Corps of Drums of the East of England Regiment.

On a slightly hazy Thursday morning, the Band PSI set off for Bournemouth on 29 July as the advance party for the forthcoming camp. Upon arrival at West Moors Camp all the final administration details were discussed and any minor last minutes requirements were ironed out. Having met with all the senior personalities on station, accommodation was allocated, keys were handed over and the PSI began to set the scene pending the arrival of the main body on Saturday 31 July.

Friday 30 July was spent setting up the

rehearsal area for Band concert rehearsals, ensuring that all the accommodation was in good order and also finalising the proposed training programme for the coming fortnight. At approximately 2100hrs, the PSI retired to the Sergeants' Mess bar for a well-earned glass of beer, pondering over the last few months of administration work, hoping that all personnel would arrive safely and that every avenue of pre-camp admin had been covered.

Any fear or doubts were quashed when, shortly after lunch on Saturday 31 July, trickle by trickle Band and Drums vehicles started to arrive, and then the coach with all the kit mid afternoon. With the Band Sergeant Major (BSM) calling the roll, all were present and correct, and after an initial welcome by the PSI and a verbal detail for the following day by the BSM, all were left to settle in to their respective accommodation and prepare for the first training day.

The main aim of this year's camp was for the Band to rehearse during the first week at West Moors Camp in preparation for nine concerts on Pinewalk Bandstand in Bournemouth, and also put together a Beating Retreat, with the Corps of Drums, for an Officers' Mess cocktail party late in the second week. Imagine the Band's surprise when our principal trombonist, Sgt Fraser, was approached by a lieutenant colonel asking whether he could join the Band in rehearsal. It transpired that Lt Col Simpson worked in the HQ of West Moors Camp and was a very talented trombonist. We welcomed the Colonel, as he filled a vacant seat in the Band and he even took part in every concert on the bandstand during our second week.

While the Band was rehearsing (outside in the shade, I hasten to add, as it was close to 28 degrees most days), the Corps of Drums was busy carrying out mandatory ITDs under the direction of Drum Major Clark and Sgt Nightingale. Added to this, the strains of bugles and drums could be heard shortly after breakfast each morning. It was ever pleasing to hear favourable comments from members of West Moors station staff as they arrived for work each day.

The musical choice was so varied. In one ear they could listen to *Last Post and Reveille* by the buglers, or the sound of a stick beating from the Drums. Added to that, they had the Band rehearsing a wide repertoire from classical to jazz, dance to film and even a bevy of beauties from within the Band, rehearsing for their spot in the forthcoming concerts as the all female singing group 'The Wincycettes'. What a treat and a variety of music that most of the public would have to pay to listen to.

The first couple of rehearsal days went very well indeed, and then it was time to start the Retreat rehearsals. It had been a long time since the Band and Drums had performed together, so all were slightly pensive of how things would go. Under the musical ear of the Bandmaster (BM) WO1 Hudson and the ever astute Drum Major, Sgt Clark,

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things got under way on the sports field, exactly where the Retreat was due to take place. The initial results were very pleasing indeed. Musically everything was fine, as to be expected, Drill and Department a little rusty, however, after a couple of rehearsals, everything started to fall into place and it was evident then that we had the makings of a very good display ahead of us.

Soon the weekend arrived, and as customary, the R and R day was dedicated to the Saturday, where most people either jumped into their cars and went sightseeing or merely took the chance to take a rest from the heavy rehearsal schedule that they had just undertaken. I am pleased to report that everyone returned safely for the final day's rehearsal on the Sunday, prior to the start of the concerts on the bandstand and the second week of Camp 2004.

It's worth mentioning that on this weekend Pte O'Sullivan, of the Corps of Drums, left West Moors camp hotfoot for Leicester to complete her Phase 1 Infantry training. She returned on Sunday night, with aching bones but a big smile across her face...she had passed. Well done! Pte O'Sullivan was cheered from the Naafi bar.

Monday morning, 9 August soon arrived and the PSI and a small kit party left West Moors to travel to the bandstand in Bournemouth. Upon arrival, the police had just finished their daily search of the surrounding area, and once handed over, we began to set up for the first concert. The concerts on the bandstand were 90 minutes duration and twice daily.

Halfway through each concert the Corps of Drums performed a 30-minute display, something that had never been undertaken before. This went down extremely well with ever growing audiences for each performance. It is estimated that there must have been at least 300 people listening to each performance. A very pleasing sight to the Band and Drums, as there is nothing worse to a musician than playing to a small handful of people. Each concert went down very well indeed and aside of Tuesday afternoon when it was rained off the weather was very kind to us.

Thursday evening soon arrived and it was time to put all that rehearsal into practise for the Beating Retreat. With a March on time of 1930hrs, the PSI wandered across to the Officer's Mess to synchronise watches with the PMC as there was to be a fly past by an RAF Tornado at (get this) exactly 2000hrs exactly, (no pressure then PSI). This meant that the Band and Drums had to be exactly on time as far as the music programme was concerned. The aircraft was due to fly over just before the end of the *Sunset Ceremony*. Between the PSI and BM, we had devised a plan such that the PSI would catch the eye of the BM at various points during the display and relay how the timings were going. Watches synchronised, at exactly 1930hrs the command 'By the Centre Quick March' was given by the Drum Major and the Retreat was under way



The Band and Drums marched onto the display area and into view of the waiting audience, (including the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Goodin MBE, who had also attended the bandstand concert that afternoon). It has to be said that what they achieved, in very limited rehearsal time, was truly amazing. The music was always going to be all right, but the drill, department, dressing and co-ordination was really first class. I think that they even surprised themselves with how well it all went. The reception from the gathered audience was most receptive and all members of the Band and Drums executed a Beating Retreat that they can certainly be proud of.

Then the moment was upon us. It was 1951hrs and by my calculations we were some 45 seconds behind (this meant that the Tornado would fly over during the *National Anthem*). Evasive action had to be taken almost immediately. I gesticulated to the BM, in a most unmilitary fashion, that he should move things on slightly. Andy Williams would have had a fit, as the music currently being played was 'Music to Watch the Girls Go By' and this piece gradually increased in tempo to a very climactic end. We'd made 30 seconds, just about, thus putting us back on target for the fly past.

The piece prior to *Sunset* was *Post Horn Galop*, a well known number attributed to after dinner frivolities at various Mess functions. For this and our bandstand concerts, we had enrolled the help of WO Graham Sheldon of the Royal Air Force, (this was due to our principal comet player damaging his teeth just prior to the start of camp). Given that time was short, Graham knew that the *Post Horn* may be slightly faster than rehearsed. Like a true professional, he played it flawlessly, and to rapturous applause from the audience. Our thanks go to Graham for all his support, both on the Retreat and indeed the bandstand concerts.

The time 1959 and 15 seconds, the start of *Sunset*...almost perfect. As it turned out it couldn't have been closer. The Tornado

flew over at 1 second to 2000hrs and the Band were three seconds out, a two-second margin – good enough I think...

The final thing then was the *National Anthem* and then the Drum Major asked permission to march the Band and Drums off parade. There was almost an air of 'Yes, we've done it and in such style' as the Band and Drums marched past the dais and then off parade. There was due to be a parachute display by the Royal Air Force, however, low cloud cover precluded this. Nonetheless, the plane transporting the paratroopers, a C-130 Hercules, I believe, did fly past, at very low altitude, which was a surprise for all.

Having the CO with the Band and the Drums for the day, including time for a chat and a glass of beer in the evening, was an important part of making us feel a part of the Battalion and the Regiment.

Friday saw our last day on the bandstand. There was a special treat on Friday morning, as the Red Arrows performed a 30-minute display over the sea front. The Bandmaster wisely allowed a gap for them in our programme so the audience could attend both and so the Band did not have to compete. What a fantastic display they put on. 1630hrs was soon upon us and the Bandmaster conducted the *National Anthem* for the last time. After this, we packed down the bandstand and transported all the kit back to West Moors ready for the journey home the following day.

Camp 2004 was a most rewarding and beneficial experience for all concerned. From the first week of rehearsals, to the many concerts on the bandstand, not forgetting the amazing result of the Beating Retreat, all personnel gained experience in many areas. There had been a slight divide between the Band and Drums, mainly due to different training nights, however, one thing is for sure, that divide is gone and buried.

Long may the relationship that has firmly been established during Camp, between the Band and Drums, flourish for a long time to come.

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Viking Channel Swim

Capt TW Gregory writes...

On 16 September 2004, a team of six swimmers from 1 Royal Anglian attempted a relay swim of the English Channel. The aim was to swim to France, and hopefully back again. In the event a successful one way crossing was made in 13 hours 5 minutes, with the return swim subsequently abandoned at the 21-hour point. The team of six swimmers had trained over a period of some six months in preparation for the event, and the ability of the swimmers varied between novice and experienced standards. The team consisted of; Cpts Gregory, Browne, WO2(RQMS) Buff, LCpl Hadanay, Ptes Boughey and Ling.

The swimmers completed a good deal of preparatory training prior to the event. Training was focussed to allow swimmers to overcome the twin challenges of endurance and cold. After an initial pool based period of training, swimmers began cold water training following Easter leave. A local lake was used to conduct progressive cold water swims, and the team complete entered the inter-services Lake Bala swim in June, becoming Army Unit Champions in the process. This 5km event was completed by all but one of the team, which supported the belief that training had been successful to date.

The period following summer leave saw a step change in the type and extent of training conducted. By way of preparation the team deployed to Lake Windermere for a week, where the cold water and inclement weather provided good preparation for the conditions that could be expected in the Channel. The camp was a great success, with over 60 open water lake miles completed, mostly under demanding conditions. The use of an Army adventure training hut in Ambleside made the trip affordable and easy to administer.

Upon return from Windermere the team re-deployed to the south coast, and took up a week's residence at Browndown Training Camp, Gosport. The task was to build upon the capabilities developed thus far and transfer them to the sea. The weather in the Solent was typically miserable for the duration which in many ways enhanced the value of the swims. With the target tide rapidly approaching the team moved again, this time to Lydd Camp, where training continued while final preparations were made. Rehearsals were conducted for changeovers and for night swimming. Dover harbour provides a focal point for would be Channel swimmers at this time of year, and also a safe environment in which to tie Cyalume (glowing light) sticks to each other and go swimming in the middle of the night. A recce



Capt Olly Browne prepares to take a dip.



Capt Olly Brown enjoying the 'man-test'

of the support boat was undertaken, and kit and equipment packed ready for the event.

It was always intended to make the crossing in the first week of September, when a low neap tide provides the best chance of keeping the team headed in the right direction. Understanding the effect of tides is crucial to understanding the nature of the challenge, and as it turned out, the reason why the team was unable to get back to England. The Dover Straits act as a large funnel for the water which passes through from the North Sea to the Bay of Biscay. The tides run at 90 degrees to the shorelines of England and France, and so wash the swimmer either north or south as he attempts to make the crossing. The tides turn every eight hours or so, which means that a crossing entails swimming an 's shape' course in each direction. The more water in the funnel, the greater the effect, and hence distance that is required to be swum. The neap tides in early September were at a yearly low of 4.5m. This meant that the team would be able to cross with minimal flow rates, but would still be required to swim upwards of 60 miles to complete both legs.

The tide began on 4 September and, as the third swim in the queue, we watched with intrigue as the first swim succeeded and the second failed. Then the weather turned. High winds and storm activity prevented our launch on a daily basis and the team looked on with anxiety as the tide window began to close with the weather showing no sign of abating. The September neap passed, and an eight day opportunity to go was lost. Having consulted the pilot of the escort boat it emerged that an alternative tide would be available the following week, but that this tide at 7.5m would be substantially less helpful to us. The decision however was never in doubt. We would go as soon as the weather improved, and it simply had to at some stage. That day proved to be 16 September and so, after a well rehearsed recall procedure, the team assembled in Folkestone before finally loading and boarding the aptly named Viking Princess.

At 1315hrs Capt Ollie Brown started swimming from the English coast just outside Dover Harbour. Thirty minutes later the remainder of the team were being sick over the side of the support boat due to the swell. Nonetheless we were underway and the wind was holding off. The team changed over on an hourly basis as planned and, as darkness descended over the Channel, we had crossed the south bound shipping lane and we were heading for the French coast. Upon completion of a swim the swimmer had to eat hot food prepared for him by his relief, warm up and sleep. Some swimmers struggled to 'get warm' as the temperatures out in the middle were at their lowest. Everybody was required at some stage to take the literal 'leap of faith' into the dark water, and many swimmers reflected afterwards that the psychological challenge of diving into a 6ft sea in the middle of the night was not to be underestimated. By 0220 hrs on the morning of the 17 September Pte Jamie Ling had swum up to the dark French coast, touched the rocks and turned for home. Unfortunately this milestone happened an hour or so too late. Around two hours earlier, the team had come agonisingly close to hitting the headland of Cap Griz Nez, as it juts out from the French Coast. The fact that the team failed to land at this point, left them at the mercy of the northbound tide which washed the swimmers up the shore

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and further from the coast. The result was that the landing happened two or three hours later than was required and, as we headed back for home, the tide was preparing to turn southwards, with every intent of taking any swimmers with it. By the time the sun came up the team had advanced for a further six hours all the time travelling southwards with the tide at 5 knots. The net gain in favour of the English coast however, was only about six miles.

The pilot of the boat summoned the team captain to inform him of the situation. The news was not good. We had been dragged so far south that the chance of swimming a course back to England had been lost. The water was moving us so far towards Brittany that in one hour a swimmer could travel five miles south and only a quarter mile towards England. Moreover this situation was set to continue for another three hours. When the tide did turn it would only serve to wash the team back in the opposite direction, and so wipe away any gains made towards the English coast. The game was up and the pilot was right. After another hour of swimming and consideration, the team captain consulted with the rest of the team and the swim was abandoned. A mixed feeling of triumph amid mild disappointment emerged. We had swum the Channel and had achieved the original aim, but on the day, with the prevailing conditions the team was not fast enough to out-swim the high water. On another tide we could



Capt Tom Gregory (coach / team captain) rows the support boat

have made it, likewise a faster team could have succeeded that day. The disappointment was compounded by the feeling that nobody was ready to give in.

The event provided a ready made opportunity to raise funds for good causes, and two were selected; The Army Benevolent Fund and Addenbrooks Hospital Children's Services. The only drawback to the notion of sponsorship lay in the fact that the eventual outcome was always uncertain due to the nature of the challenge, so pledges for donations had to be made against the possibility of failure. That said the fundraising strategy consisted of three elements which at the time of writing should have between them raised about £4,000. The first element was direct sponsorship of swimmers themselves, the second was a series of collections in and around Elizabeth Barracks, and the third was the public collections in the Regimental area, which happened concurrent to the publicity effort. The three strand approach seems to have worked well, and media interest was certainly forthcoming in response to a well written press release.

Anyone wishing to complete this challenge must be mindful of a number of points. In no particular order:

- **Plan early.** The lead in time for a Channel swim is one year plus. Swimmers book boats up to two years in advance, so in order to get your preferred tide book at the first safe moment.
- **Read up.** Channel swimming is not a well understood sport. There are numerous complexities and nuances that one needs to plan against. The CSA are very cooperative, and will tell you most of what you need to know.
- **Be safe.** There is very little precedence for Army participation in the event, and it falls between the cracks of what is considered to be adventure training or sport. Risk assessments and proper supervision are therefore very important, as no official guidelines exist for the training that is required. Use of canoeists and safety boats, proper briefings and swim site assessments are all key factors. The risks are obvious, but cold and fatigue form the main hazards.
- **Training.** Start early and get a big squad. This team maintained at least one reserve for the duration of the project, which under current circumstances is essential. Cold water training is crucial. In the event the team were more than prepared for the conditions, but only as a result of the training venues selected prior to the swim. Windermere and the south coast can both be utilised for next to nothing, and will achieve the desired end state. Include safe night swimming in cold water in the programme. This caused team members the most

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We nearly made it!

anxiety, and so they must be prepared. The team requires strength in depth in order to go two ways on a difficult tide. Novice swimmers will succeed on a one way crossing if prepared properly. Pick the event to suit the team's overall ability.

- **Gain support.** Getting the team in the same place at the same time in order to train, amidst a very busy Battalion schedule is a permanent headache. Only by gaining the support of the chain of command can the end state be achieved, so bringing key personalities into the equation is to be recommended. The team must be 'ring-fenced' for the duration of the tides, and then a fallback option known in the event of bad weather. Brief in early that success is not guaranteed. You have no control over weather and tides.

- **Funding.** The fact that G3 PATT regards the venture as sport, and Army Sport regards it as adventure training, poses problems for grant based funding. With perseverance and a little thought the hurdle can be negotiated, but as ever, hard work in the early stages pays dividends in the long run, and frees up time for PR and charity work.

- **Charities.** Both the causes selected were very supportive, and were happy to allocate resources such as T-shirts, collection buckets and posters. This is a major plus point and coordinating the input must be the job of someone outside the team. Charities have their own PR networks which again will be used to your advantage. A good press release, on e-mail and with photos will greatly assist charities in supporting the event. Street collections can be a minefield to the uninitiated organiser.

- **On the day.** The recall and daily briefing routine needs thought. The 'go/no-go' cycle drags on if the weather is bad, and so the team's base must be sustainable and realistic. Kit must be properly packed and relevant. Swimmers only need swimming and warm kit and a sleeping bag. The team needs rations, flasks, water, Cyalumes and plenty of grease. The team medic is a real asset on the boat. He



LCpl Hadaway swims from Lakeside on the return leg of the double length relay (25 miles).

must be de-fribrillated trained and well kitted out. Consult with the medical officer to get what you need.

This was always an ambitious project to undertake within an infantry battalion, but it was ultimately successful and extremely rewarding. The key to success is to know what you're up against. The Channel is a formidable obstacle. All the preparations are geared to lessening the chance of failure, yet success cannot be guaranteed. Swimming to France as part of a relay team places a soldier in a small and reasonably exclusive club, which for novice and experienced swimmers alike is a real achievement. The elusive two-way has only been successfully completed once by the Army (PTI team 1984), and sadly remains a goal that will have to wait for now. Still the challenge has been set. 13hrs 5mins to France (we beat 2 RRF by half an hour), 21 hours in total, 45 plus miles swum, £4,000 raised for good causes. Any takers?

Iraq – Learning The Hard Way*Capt R Whitham writes....*

Two weeks after having painted my room, unpacked my boxes and settled into Ballykelly, I was nominated as Aide de Camp to Lt Gen John McColl, the Senior British Military Representative in Iraq. So, rather unexpectedly, I re-packed my kit, wrote the Anti-Tank Platoon's annual reports and finally bade everyone farewell on a cold, wet mid-March morning.

I then reported to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in North London and began preparations for the deployment in earnest. While the General travelled between briefings in London and the United States, I underwent pre-deployment training, health checks and kit issue in the slightly less glamorous locations of Chilwell and Folkestone. Training comprised ITDs, lessons in Arabic culture and practical mine clearance techniques. The General and his newly formed team of Military Assistant, Political Advisor, ADC and driver, eventually met-up at Heathrow airport where we began our journey eastwards, towards an increasingly volatile Baghdad.

Any preconceptions I had of 'ADCing' were limited to watching the cartoon character Smithers in *The Simpsons*. I was concerned that I might be carrying bags and making endless cups of tea for six months but in fact the job was considerably more varied (although I did make a lot of tea). Top of the list of my priorities was keeping track of the General's busy daily schedule; booking appointments, planning meetings and coordinating his movements. A task made all the more challenging amidst an increasingly violent and unpredictable insurgency. I was also responsible for planning visits to military HQs and government locations. When not organising the trips, I was arranging social events for visiting dignitaries, high ranking officers or Iraqi politicians at the General's residence in the International Zone. It was all interesting work, not least because the day's events often featured on the evening's prime time television news. As ADC to the Deputy Commanding General, I effectively

had an all-areas backstage pass and I felt privileged to witness senior military officers making critically important decisions.

Aside from the obvious privileges of working for Iraq's second most senior General, the job has also provided a unique countrywide perspective on coalition operations. During the course of the last five and a half months, we have flown the length of the country, visiting units and meeting some remarkable people. The relatively prosperous, fertile north contrasted sharply with the barren, lunar landscape of the southern oil fields. But in most places the country's huge potential was self-evident. It has an abundance of natural resources, history, scenery, and of course plenty of sunshine. Nevertheless, its immediate future looks likely to be blighted by terrorism and a media focus that tends to overlook the positive aspects of what the Coalition is doing. Amidst this difficult and extremely dangerous environment, we've met some remarkably courageous and committed individuals. One particular US Commanding Officer in Sadr City briefed Gen McColl literally moments after having lost two of his soldiers from shrapnel wounds sustained in an attack that same morning. Despite the trauma of that day's events he remained completely focused, confident and self-motivated. Indeed, the dedication of the US soldiers we met, most of whom were on a 12-month unbroken tour, was inspiring to say the least.

Despite the sometimes fractious, frustrating and difficult coalition environment in which we work, the job of ADC has been anything but dull and uninteresting. I have been privy to some fascinating developments, met some renowned politicians, officers and journalists and been witness to history 'in the making'. It seems likely to me that we will remain in Iraq in some shape or form for many years to come. The short term challenges are great and our resolve will undoubtedly be tested to the full. I think a US Master Sergeant summed up the difficulties in Iraq best, when he told me that... 'Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first and the lesson afterwards'.



Lt Gen McColl with his ADC (to right of the General) and his driver, Cpl Sanders (second from left, rear row).

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The Regimental Day

Lt RA Smit writes...

The Regimental Day took place on 12 September 2004. This annual fixture, previously held at Bassingbourn, has now been running for two years at Duxford and this time A Company was responsible for setting up and manning the event. CSgt Ramm and I were given the task of ensuring that these activities were conducted as smoothly and efficiently as possible. With so many working parts to the day, this would be no mean feat. Thankfully, Maj John Fisk was once again in overall control and coordinated all activities. Save some problems in acquiring the required tentage (almost all the Army stock was in Iraq) the administration prior to the event ran very smoothly.

A Company provided around 40 soldiers who arrived at Duxford on the Wednesday prior to the event. Over the following days we set up tents, put out chairs and erected flagpoles. The soldiers were given the opportunity to explore Cambridge and the surrounding area each evening and as many were originally from the area, had the chance to visit families and friends. All those involved worked hard throughout and before long everything was in place. A few



A relieved John Fisk: 'It all went well'.



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inspections followed and after some minor adjustments we were ready for the big day.

On the morning of the event we arrived in plenty of time, which was just as well as during the night Duxford was assailed by very strong winds and much of the tentage was now lying in a heap or tangled in the nearby hedge. With only a little complaining, the lads set about re-erecting the stalls and we were back on track in no time. The troops were delegated their tasks and the gates were opened. With the large number of guests expected to attend, car parking was a major concern. However, to my knowledge and perhaps unbelievably, there was not even the slightest bump between any two cars. The car park filled quickly and efficiently and we soon realised we would be close to our projection of 2,000-2,500 guests.

As people entered it was good to see so many old friends meeting and catching up. The first of the events started and drew a large crowd. The padre gave a Drumhead Service and the Colonel of the Regiment took the salute during a march past of the Colour Parties and standards of the Regimental Associations. Attractions continued throughout the day and were without exception a great success. An excellent display was given by the massed corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion and the East of England Regiment. The Regimental Band played a great selection of music.

An insight into the activities of the Battalion today was given by the Vikings' Recruitment stand as well as information to the many cadets in attendance, some of whom were no doubt considering a career in the Regiment. The Regimental shop had a large variety of memorabilia and the museum gave an insight into our proud history. There was a modern weapon stand which was enjoyed by all and provided in some cases a comparison to those used in years gone by. A large bar was also available and busy trade was enjoyed throughout the occasion. For the many children who accompanied their parents, there were attractions such as a bouncy castle, air rifle range and bungee run.

By far the best thing about the day was the great number of people who made the effort to attend. Young and old, from near and far, people shared memories and experiences with both good friends and new acquaintances alike. Where possible, the soldiers working at the event were encouraged to mingle with the guests. Some seemed almost surprised that many of their experiences of Battalion life had been lived in such similar fashion by so many before them. Many found it somewhat humbling that despite the very different threats we face today, our core values remain unchanged. I imagine that many old comrades felt reassured that the soldiers of today are little different from those who served before them.

The mixture of old and new is what makes the Regimental Day such a truly special event. From speaking to those who attended, this event strengthened the ties of former and present members of the Regiment.





Minden Band at Spruce Meadows, Canada.

The Minden Band

LCpl G Thomas writes...

Many months have passed since our last contribution, and the Band has consistently been busy, particularly throughout 2004, which has involved a strong recruiting drive and keeping the Army in the public eye. The summer months of last year consisted of our tour of duty at the Royal Academy Sandhurst from the end of June for seven weeks, culminating in the Sovereign's Parade for the newly commissioned officer cadets. Due to Operation Telic when available bands were deployed and Operation Fresco earlier in the year, this tour became one of the busiest in the last few years as it was necessary to combine both the Banner and Sovereign Parades within the same period.

For the first few months of 2004 we concentrated on our playing technique and increased our repertoire before visiting Pakistan for a week in April where we provided music at the Australian Commissioner's ANZAC day celebrations and entertained local school children, bringing smiles to many young faces. Sunset Ceremonies took place at the British High Commissioner's residence in Islamabad and the Deputy British High Commissioner Headquarters in Karachi.

Beginning in June, the Band began a series of summer county shows, which we have not been able to participate in for the past couple of years as our tours have taken us abroad - the South of England Show, the Lincoln Show, followed by Holkham Fair in July and Chatsworth House in August. Also in June we performed with the Band of The Welsh Guards and the Houston Symphonic Wind Orchestra at a Kneller Hall concert before travelling again to Germany for the weekend's 'Schutzenfest' celebrations. This was followed by our contribution with Bassingbourn Barracks' AEFS recruiting drive, encouraging future school leavers a career within



Playing ethnic instruments.



WO2 (BSM) Crofts and Marriott Hotel doorman.

the Army.

In July, the Band performed at one of the garden parties in Buckingham Palace along with the Band of the Blues and Royals. On 10 July the ten-year anniversary of the formation of the Minden Band took place when we hosted past members and families, the Band's first Director of Music, Maj R Meldrum, former bandmasters.

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and the current as well as former Band Presidents and Divisional Colonels.

The tour in 2004 was for five-weeks in Alberta, Canada, providing musical support for local rodeos, entertaining at Royal Canadian Legion centres and Mess functions, plus having the chance for some sightseeing and adventure training – horse riding, canoeing, white-water rafting. The principal reason for us being in Canada was to play at the Masters Horse Tournament in Spruce Meadows over the last five days. The Masters, an annual event, is a larger version of Hickstead Show Jumping Tournament and televised throughout the world.

Forthcoming events for this year are; a combined concert 'A Salute To Youth', where we have invited some of the best music schools in the Bedfordshire area to perform with us, a joint concert with the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division, our annual visit to Lincoln Lawns, the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Lord Mayor's Show marching through the streets of London.

The Regimental Collect

The Regimental Secretary writes:

While going through the archives of the Regiment I came across the Minutes of a Regimental Council Meeting held in October 1964 at which the proposed Regimental Collect was officially adopted. What was of particular interest were the notes that explained how the final version was arrived at:

O Lord God, who by the brightness of a star (1) didst lead men to the Saviour of mankind; give Thy grace to The Royal Anglian Regiment, that trusting in Thee as our strong rock and our castle (2), we may in unity (3) with Thee and with one another so serve our Sovereign (4) and our native land (5) that at the last we may be led to Thy heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

Amen

Notes:

- 1 (a) Matthew Ch 2 verse 2. 'We have seen his star in the east and are come to worship Him'.
- (b) The badge of The Royal Anglian Regiment includes the Garter Star.
- 2 (a) Psalm 31, verse 4. 'Thou art my strong rock and my castle; be Thou also my guide'.
- (b) The badge of The Royal Anglian Regiment includes the Castle of Gibraltar.
- 3 (a) Ephesians Ch 4 verse 13. 'Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the So of God...'
- (b) The Royal Anglian Regiment has been formed from four former Regiments who, in their turn, came into being as the result of the union of many other Regiments at earlier dates.
- 4 (a) I Peter Ch 2 verse 9. 'But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation...'
- (b) Sovereign – compare the title 'Royal'.
- 5 (a) Isaiah Ch 57 verse 13. 'He that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain'.
- (b) Native land – the Angles conquered and settled central and eastern England in the 5th and 6th centuries and gave their name to the country. The Regiment recruits from the area of Angle settlement. This area includes 11 of our present counties.

60th Anniversary of Normandy Commemorations – A Platoon Commander's Perspective

Lt WJ Meddings writes...

In the British Army, and especially the Infantry, we are lucky to have the amount of history and tradition that we do. Having spent time with RLC officers, AAC pilots and Air Defence Troop Commanders on a recent all arms officer education course I came to realise more than ever the history and sense of identity that we have as both a Battalion and indeed a Regiment. As one AAC lieutenant put it: 'We tend not to talk about our Regimental history, as it's only about as old as some of our more senior officers'. In our Battalion we have strong links to old Regiments, and it is always important to foster these links and ensure we do not forget them. An excellent example of this link was the recent visit by soldiers of C (Essex) Company to Bayeux with members of the Essex Regiment Association for the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings. With the amalgamation of the Essex Regiment and subsequent disbandment of the 3rd Battalion, C Company has continued to maintain the links we have with the old members of the Essex Regiment, and it is a moving experience to meet Essex veterans of both the Second World War and the Korean War. Four members of the Battalion had the opportunity to visit France with the Association for four days in June this year. As well as myself, WO2 Taylor (himself a member of the Association) and Pte Juby, LCpl Smith from MT also attended as the bugler in order to sound the Last Post and Reveille at the ceremonies we were to attend.

We left Pirbright on the Saturday morning and met the coachload of veterans at a service station on the way to Dover. It was obvious from the start that these were going to be an interesting and amusing few days. There were both ex-officers and soldiers from the Regiment



The author lays a wreath.



A memorial stone unveiled to commemorate the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment's Battle of Essex Wood.

from before World War Two and up to the last days of the Essex Regiment attending. There was also a large age range (which we understandably enlarged), but it was clear that these were both good friends and comrades. The trip to Bayeux is a regular one, and we knew we were privileged to be coming along. We were booked into two hotels some distance from Bayeux due to both the large size of the group and the high profile of the events going on.

On the first day we rose early to travel to Bayeux to take part in the Normandy Veterans' Association Service. There were to be several high profile guests including the Queen, President Bush and Jacques Chirac. Unfortunately, due to the security arrangements and the traffic en route, we were unable to make it to the ceremony in time, although we did manage to have our own ceremony at the British cemetery. At this time there were still large groups around the memorial, and it was moving to have our own ceremony and to pay our own respects as a Regiment, rather than as part of a large crowd. Several other people stopped to watch the ceremony, and the addition of the sounding of the last post and reveille by LCpl Smith added to the occasion. Wreaths were laid by the Regimental Association, and by myself representing the Royal Anglian Regiment. Veterans went to the graves of their fallen comrades and laid wreaths or flowers.

After such a moving day we retired to the local bowling alley (!) for food and drink, and proved that time ages soldiers in some ways, and not others. Soldiers' enjoyment of a few cheeky beers has changed little over the last 60 years, and the beer flowed freely for the early part of the night. As one might expect, the latter part of the night was dominated by the (younger) Viking contingent.

The next service we took part in was the next morning, in Bayeux, at the memorial to the Essex Regiment and the Sherwood Rangers, who were the tank support to the Battalion when they fought in Bayeux. The service here, again led by the Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Anglian Regiment, the Rev Martin Franks, was attended by not only the Mayor of Bayeux, but also by the CDS, who had come to France for the main commemorations and also to take part in our service. The town Mayor then gave out medals of thanks to the veterans who had served in the 3rd Battalion.

From there we moved to the village of Mairie Juaye Mondaye not far from Verrieres Wood, now known as Essex Wood. This was the location of the first major battle for the 2nd Battalion, the Essex Regiment. Having captured the wood after a fierce battle the Essex were then forced to defend it against repeated German attacks, including assaults by enemy flamethrowers. Eventually the Wood was only defended by calling friendly artillery onto the Battalion's location to prevent it being over-run. Several small memorials now

stand near the Wood, noting places of significance to the battle. We held a small service near the Wood, where I found myself explaining to a local Frenchman the significance of the eagle sewn onto the left shoulder of my uniform! We then had lunch in the town hall, where the mayor gave a speech and informed us, quite unexpectedly, that the village had decided to rename one of its streets after the Regiment. This was really quite unexpected, and very moving that this small village felt it still owed a debt to the Regiment even after the last 60 years had passed. This was a familiar feeling that we felt the longer we spent in France. We also visited the local monastery where a monk took me inside and showed me the photos of the monastery immediately after the battle fought there, when it was used as a makeshift first aid station. The photos showed pallet beds and bunks filled with bandaged soldiers, medics running around in small rooms, and included a photo of the outside of the monastery damaged by gun and cannon fire.

That afternoon we travelled to another local town, Tilly-Sur-Seulles and attended another ceremony where the town had dedicated its new town square to the Regiment. By now LCpl Smith was an expert at sounding the Last Post and Reveille, and after he had finished Canadian Fire Brigade pipers marched through the newly named 'Place De L'Essex Regiment'. Again I was filled with a great feeling of pride to be associated, even in such a small way, with the Essex Regiment and its actions.

The next morning we returned to the UK, proud to have been able to spend the period in France with the veterans (and glad to have missed two working days without repercussions!). It was wonderful to see that even after the intervening years those members of the Regiment, of all ranks and ages, are still so close. It was also fantastic to see that the links between the Vikings and the Essex Regiment are still kept alive, especially as the Regimental Association only gets smaller as the years pass. It was heartening to see members of the Association at the Minden Day parade. I know that some of them were deeply moved to see the Salamanca Eagle brought on parade that day to the sound of the Essex Regiment's regimental march.

It is always easy to forget our Former Regiment links, or to pay lip service to the achievement of their members that, to many of us, seem to have occurred such a long time ago. Younger soldiers might feel they would find it hard to relate to crusty old pensioners, no matter what their history, but I can assure you that the mutual experience and understanding of soldiering transcends any difficulty. My experience was both a sociable and moving one, and one that I would recommend to every member of the Battalion unreservedly if they had the opportunity.

Special Features

Exercise Lincoln Poacher - D-Day Commemoration Battlefield Tour

WO2 PG Jackson, CSM A(Lincolnshire) Company,
writes...

Exercise Lincoln Poacher was an A (Lincolnshire) Company sponsored Battlefield Tour to Normandy for the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. It was run in conjunction with the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment War-time Officers' Club and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association. The tour was led by Maj Smith with myself, Pte Bates, Pte Conlon and Pte Garrett, three of the newest additions to the company.

The aim of Exercise Lincoln Poacher was to educate those participating on the events that were undertaken by the Veterans of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in the Normandy Landings and the immediate aftermath.

After an interesting 24 hours of travelling from Ballykelly by use of planes, trains and automobiles, we arrived in Herouville-St-Clair for the initial service to commemorate the actions of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in the Liberation of Herouville.

Our next stop Sword Beach and Lion-Sur-Mer to track the events and battles in which the 2nd Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment followed from D-Day to D-Day + 34 to the outskirts of Caen where the Battalion consolidated its position. The Battalion's casualties at this point were: two officers, 30 other ranks killed and six officers and 132 other ranks wounded.

We then visited the immaculately presented cemetery at Hermanville-sur-Mer, where many soldiers from the Battalion are buried including a Pte Dom Parkin, the uncle of Sgt Chris Headland our Provo Sergeant. (All the names of our fallen comrades were collated and entered into the Battalion War Grave Register of visits on return to Ballykelly).

We finished the tour with a final service at the Hermanville War Cemetery before the return trip that night.

This was a very special experience for all of us. I personally found the tour quite humbling. The highlight was meeting LCpl N Griffin, who was the regimental signaller with D Company 1st Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment during that 'Most Historic Day'. This was a chance encounter while in Lion-sur-Mer after recognising the tie he was wearing. To meet such a person was incredible, as Maj Smith and I had copies of the book *Thank God and the Infantry* in which LCpl Griffin recollected the events of D-Day with crystal clarity. I would like to finish with a short extract of what LCpl Griffin experienced:

'The first clear recollection is of being on board a landing craft infantry and setting sail from Newhaven. Some four hours later when we were allowed up on deck I was absolutely staggered by the vast armada which had gathered! Wherever you looked there were ships of all shapes and sizes! The sky was full of black storm clouds and the wind was uncomfortably strong. The sun however was still penetrating the clouds in places and throwing brilliant shafts of sunlight across the water. Against this silvery background the ships looked sinisterly black!

At about 8pm we were sent below to be told that the landing



At the Cemetery, Hermanville-Sur-Mer



Maj Smith and WO2 Jackson at Hermanville War Cemetery by the grave of Pte D Parkin.

might have to be delayed because of bad weather but that it would take place when the weather improved. We spent a wretched night I recall! Not many of us were good enough sailors to withstand the heavy sea we encountered and sick bags soon became inadequate! By morning the deck on which colleagues and I were battered down was about an inch deep in vomit and speaking personally I wished I were dead!

At daybreak we were allowed up on deck and never has fresh salty sea air smelt so good! The opportunity was taken to swill down and to try and clear the foul smelling decks below and in fact quite a good job was made of this. However, some of the smell lingered because, for example, the leather soles of our boots had become impregnated – but it was now bearable.

This was before they even landed!



Maj Smith, Mr Griffin, Pte Bates, WO2 Jackson, Pte Conlon and Pte Garrett.

2nd Battalion, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment

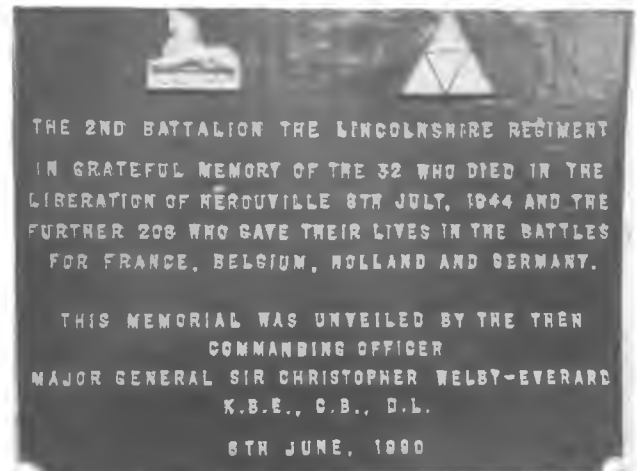
Capt JP Richards writes...

Sixty years after the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, crossed the Channel (in foul weather) and landed in Normandy on Sword beach, our small group of Old Comrades, relatives and associates landed in France again. This time, the sun shone from a clear blue sky and the scene on the invasion beaches was more reminiscent of that wonderful Jaques Tati film *Monsieur Hulots Holiday* than the opening sequence of *Saving Private Ryan*. Our ferry from Portsmouth on 5 June was escorted by the Royal Navy, and the only bomber to be seen was a four-engined Lancaster, dropping poppies around us as we approached Ouistreham.

Our party numbered 18, among whom only one, Col Dick Chambers, landed with the Lincolns on D-Day. The rest were close relatives of veterans, or retired officers (like myself) who had served with the 1st Battalion in the fifties. Our senior Regimental representative was Maj Gen Dick Gerrard-Wright, now living in Lincolnshire.

We arrived at our hotel in Luc Sur Mer, prepared for the worst because we had all heard nightmare stories about French security measures, travelling in Normandy and parking anywhere. In fact, the main obstacle we faced turned out to be the complicated motorway system around Caen, which had to be negotiated before we could reach our first 'objective': Herouville Saint Clair. Any veteran who served with the 2nd Lincolns in June and July 1944 will remember Herouville all too vividly. It was in this small village on the outskirts of Caen that a company of Lincolns suffered heavy casualties attacking a determined enemy force in strong defensive positions, supported by tanks. Some years ago, a plaque commemorating those who lost their lives was placed near the village war memorial, and dedicated by Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion at that time. Our party on 6 June at Herouville was joined by Maj Stuart Smith and a small contingent from A Company (the Lincoln Company) of the 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment. They had made the long trip from their base in Ulster to be with us – a gesture which was much appreciated by our group of Old Comrades.

Back at the hotel, we 'paraded' after dinner to watch a well-coordinated firework display over each of the invasion beaches in turn – first Sword, then Juno, Gold, Omaha and finally Utah. The French do these things very well, and their welcome for 'The Liberators' was genuine and moving, 60 years after the event. It was hard not to feel a lump in the throat, when one witnessed scores of little children



The Regimental plaque at Herouville St Clair.

around the numerous war memorials, all with T-shirts captioned: 'You gave us our freedom and we love you. We will not forget'.

The next day our group visited a new memorial to 3 Division at Sannerville, not far from the famous Pegasus Bridge over the Orne. Another beautiful day, and this time there were troops on parade and military bands, among them a police unit from Canada resplendent in kilts. Pipes, fifes and drums too, expertly played. The dedication ceremony at the village memorial was moving and sombre, with the local Mayor reminding us that Sannerville (along with many villages in close proximity to the invasion beaches) had been virtually destroyed by allied bombing, suffering many civilian casualties. This was accepted by the French at the time with fortitude and understanding – the sad but inevitable price of liberation.

As we listened to the tributes to 3 Division, we were suitably reminded of the part played by the RAF in the liberation, when a tight formation of three famous wartime aircraft flew low overhead – a Lancaster, Dakota and a Spitfire.

Sadly, our trip to Normandy was too short to allow a visit to many of the battlefields and cemeteries we would like to have seen. For myself, one of the highlights occurred when we visited the Hermanville War Memorial. My attention was drawn to an old veteran in a wheelchair who was wearing a Lincoln Sphinx capbadge. It transpired he had joined the 1st Battalion Lincolns when they were stationed in Nasirabad in 1938. My father was Commanding Officer at the time, and the 'ancien combattant' remembered him!



2nd and 9th Battalion Lincolns, veterans and associates at Herouville St Clair on the 55th anniversary of D-Day.

Special Features



The new 3 Division War Memorial plaque at Sannerville, near Caen.

Looking back, it was indeed a memorable few days for everyone. Tinged with sadness however, because the numbers of veterans who are able to attend these splendid reunions are dwindling fast. How many will still be around for the 70th anniversary of D-Day? Our own 2nd Battalion survivors are becoming increasingly disabled; this year's long-established Wartime Officer's Lunch in London will be the last.

The heroes of D-Day may indeed be fading away, but what they achieved on 6 June 1944 (leading to victory in Europe a year later) must never be forgotten by those of us from later generations who follow in their footsteps.

Normandy 12-17 August 2004

Through the eyes of Maj Stokes' granddaughter,

Sarah Wake...

Nothing could have prepared me for the trip to Normandy recently with the 4th Lincolns, but I knew as soon as I stepped on the bus at Stamford and saw Capt Bill Simpson and Wally gleaming with enthusiasm that it was going to be a trip of a lifetime and what a privilege for me to travel with such men as Wally and Bill and all the others who had either fought or who had relatives who fought with my grandfather, Maj Stokes, in 1944.

My grandmother, Evelyn Stokes, had told me a lot about my grandfather as I was growing up. There were pictures of him around our house and my brother and I always put up grandfather's army tent that he had used in pre-war camps in the back garden every summer. We had great fun with that tent and used to imagine we were in the Army! I know that I never met him, but always felt as if I had known him. We all felt very proud of him.

Travelling to Normandy opened up that whole chapter of my grandfather's life to me. Actually going to the villages where he and the men who served with him had gone to, Airan, Chicheboville, Conteville, Poussy la Campagne and Billy, and, indeed, where many died, made me feel very awestruck and emotional. I never imagined I would feel like that before the visit. The whole concept of the war and of what people went through became staggeringly real over the few days I was there. It made me wish I had understood more when my grandmother was alive, maybe I could have comforted her more...but I believe that by going there this summer and supporting my lovely mother who suffered so much by losing her father, Maj



At the grave of Maj Robert Stokes, his grandson and granddaughter address the party.



The new memorial at Conteville.

Stokes, was proof of how I felt.

The feeling of camaraderie and love that I felt from our French hosts and hostesses and from the villagers who came out to meet us during our trip was so touching – they were really grateful for the liberation 'Merci pour la liberation!' they would say and would hug us as if we were lifelong friends. But it really hit home to me that we had all liberated each other. The only difference with us was that we weren't invaded, but if we hadn't helped liberate France then eventually we would have been invaded and taken over.

I am so grateful for the memorial erected in honour of my grandfather and other brave men who died in Conteville. It is such a beautiful monument and so symbolically designed with the archway leading through to a new life beyond. I was particularly touched by seeing this and it has left me with a greater sense of security in the fact that this was the area where my grandfather died, and that this is where he will be remembered by our family.

...and through the eyes of his grandson, Don Gawthorne

Little facts can sometimes bring something home. On our journey to France in August this year, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Normandy, I was struck to learn that it cost the same to build the Mulberry Harbours off the Normandy coast as it did to construct the Channel Tunnel, when adjusted to today's prices. In order to secure the Allies' supply route immediately after the D-Day landing, massive blocks were prefabricated in Britain and towed to the Normandy coast as a temporary barricade against Atlantic storms. This other marvel of cross-Channel engineering was used for only a few days, however, until the Allies captured the heavily defended conventional harbours such as Cherbourg.

Hearing this amazed me. It was during the middle of our five days of short journeys by coach through Normandy, to commemorative ceremonies and sites which were crucial to Allied success. It amazed me because here at last was a cost I could begin to imagine.

During our visits to five villages in Normandy, we were privileged to take part in commemorating the liberation of this region from the Nazi regime. The human cost of that liberation is unimaginable. At ceremonies held by the local inhabitants, we heard the names of soldiers who died during those August days in 1944 and joined together in saying for each one 'mort pour la France'. At the Conteville ceremony, I was very proud that my grandfather, Maj Stokes, had died in such a cause. I realised he had died for specific people in a specific place.

The people who live there now are extraordinary. Constantly they showed us tremendous kindness. They had given great thought to finding appropriate ways to honour the liberators. Their gratitude was tangible every moment we were there. And together with them, I felt privileged to have this opportunity to get to know veterans of the Lincolnshire Regiment. We all owe them and their comrades an enormous debt of gratitude. In fact, what struck me most during our time together is how hard it is now to understand the sacrifice that was made. The Allies went on to defeat Nazi Germany and recreate Europe with such success that war in Western Europe seems unthinkable today. We should try hard to understand their great sacrifice, and commemorate their achievement.

D-Day 60th Anniversary

The Royal Norfolk Regiment



The unveiling of the Royal Norfolk memorial at Norfolk House.



The Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiment groups come together in Normandy on 6 June 2004 to remember the events of 60 years before.

D-Day 60th Anniversary



The Royal Norfolk Regiment Memorial.

D-Day 60th Anniversary

The Suffolk Regiment



Veterans of the Suffolk Regiment on Sword Beach.



Pupils from Hillcrest Prep School at Hillman.



Veterans at the memorial at Chateau de la Londe.

D-Day 60th Anniversary

The Essex Regiment



The 25 veterans of D-Day at the Regiment's memorial at Bayeux.



2Lt Meddings, LCpl Smith, Gen Sir Michael Walker and Mr Conn after the service of commemoration.

D-Day 60th Anniversary



LCpl Smith plays Last Post at the service of commemoration at Bayeux.

Special Features

Service of Dedication

On 21 September 2004 a Service of Dedication was held at the Ulster Ash Grove, the National Arboretum, Staffordshire for the 18 members of the Royal Anglian Regiment who lost their lives in Northern Ireland between 1971 and 1989.

Contact was made with the relatives and families of 10 of the soldiers killed and these were joined by over 80 members of the Regiment who included the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir John Akehurst, former Commanding Officers and Company Commanders of those killed and representatives from both the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

The Service, which was conducted by the Regiment's Honorary Chaplain, Maj Rev Martin Franks and Rev Jim Symonds ('Jim the Hymn' was padre to the 3rd Battalion in Belfast in 1972), started in the Arboretum's Chapel. The congregation then moved to the Ulster Ash Grove where, after the names of those who were being remembered were read out, Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Dmr Neve of the Poachers. The families and relatives then walked along the row of trees which commemorate those fallen, each now has an individual plaque which includes chosen words from the families.

The Service proved to be a totally appropriate and sometimes moving tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Regiment's total of 28 residential and emergency tours. As Mr Len Wright, father of Pte Paul Wright, who was killed in 1979 while serving with the Pompadours, wrote in a letter to RHQ, 'the Regiment looked after us well and it was a very moving Service and tribute to Paul'.



Special Features



Special Features

Guarding Windsor Castle

Capt JM Teare writes...

Public Duties in London and Poachers is not something you would naturally put together. However, here I find myself in Windsor Castle overlooking LCpl Baron calling out the relief and changing the sentry posts. Earlier I had completed my rounds of the wards of the Castle. To be smartly greeted by each sentry with a salute, his



Special Features



name, post and that 'all's well.' It seems a far cry from our operational duties in Ballykelly. Indeed for the 24 riflemen and 16 drummers it is a good break from the operations cycle. Some of the soldiers are under 18, unable to carry out full duties in the Province so they have enjoyed the chance to actually get stuck into something. The sudden introduction to a Guard's lifestyle in Windsor was both a blessing and a shock to all.

On our first Monday morning on the Victoria Barracks drill square (known as a car park at all Royal Anglian bases) the damp cold was soon forgotten as Quartermaster Sergeant Hammond of the Grenadier Guards put us through the warm-up drill. I was suddenly transported to those sunny days at Sandhurst as I desperately tried to remember left and right turns on the march and a whole host of other movements. This was all before we had to master arms and sword drill. For all, our training came back and we started to form together as 'smart soldier-like' unit. This first week and a half would consist of two full rehearsals of a mount and dismount a

day. Once they had been completed there were all the other areas that needed to be learned. Cape drill, relieving the posts and wet mounts all needed to be mastered. Our preparation period culminated in Battalion and London District inspections. This our final dress rehearsal went extremely well and we were deemed ready to mount guard the following day.

We were greeted by a beautiful bright day for our first guard, the drums and bugles sparkled and all our faces showed the nerves. The following day would be Princess Alice's funeral. So instead of hordes of Japanese cameras we were watched by every senior officer in London District who were in the Castle for a rehearsal. Like everything if you practice and rehearse enough you will put on a good show. It went perfectly or at least they thought so. Our now critical eyes could still see room for improvement.

It was not to be a normal guard for us. As fate had fittingly played it there was a Royal Anglian guard for Princess Alice's funeral. This complemented the King's Own Scottish Borderer and King's Royal Hussar bearer parties. It was a very proud if sombre moment for us all as we presented a Royal salute to the Princess and the Royal family as they left the chapel. For many it was to be their first glimpse of Her Majesty. It would not be the last, one Poacher had a particularly close encounter. Pte Watson smartly presented arms as the Queen walked to a seat by his post. Unsure whether to go back to the slope he decided it was best to stay rigidly where he was. After a few minutes Her Majesty, noticing his increasing discomfort, told him to relax.

There is a hidden side to Public Duties at Windsor Castle, one that the Poachers are more naturally suited to and that is the silent hours patrolling the grounds. With threats ranging from press intrusion and stunts like that of Alan Barchak to the more serious terrorist attack, it is a role we have taken extremely seriously. Replacing great coats for smocks the NCOs got to put their operational experience in to play in certainly one of the strangest places. Unfortunately I cannot go into great detail here, needless to say they have seen places that the general public are unlikely to see.

Public Duties is certainly a good break for us from Northern Ireland however we are certainly in agreement that six weeks is about the right time and no one would like to do two years here. It has certainly been enjoyable so far and a great honour. This detachment of Poachers has represented the Regiment well here. There are two phones in the Officer of the Guard's flat, one external military and one internal. The internal is infamous for bringing bad news. So it was with delight that I received the following call from the Governor of the Castle. '...since your chaps came on we have certainly noticed a difference. Very smart can't go anywhere without being saluted, just the way it should be.



Special Features

Bassingbourn Barracks - The Latest Chapter

Maj CD Davies - OC Slim Company ATR (B) writes:

The words 'Bassingbourn Barracks' should stir memories among the majority of personnel reading this article, as Bassingbourn Barracks was once home to the Headquarters and Training Depot of the Queen's Division (QD). It is now a Junior Entry (JE) Training Establishment known as Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn, (ATR (B)). As one of four training regiments which work to HQ Initial Training Group (HQ ITG), based in Upavon, ATR (B) provides Phase 1 training for recruits aged 16 to 17 and runs approximately ten 17-week Army Development Courses per year. The length of the course and entry age varies, while the recruits are mainly trained in platoons of mixed capbadge and gender, although when possible, an infantry company is formed. After completing their Phase 1 Training, the recruits move to various Phase 2 training establishments prior to joining the Field Army.

While no longer the epicentre of the QD, ATR (B) still maintains strong Regimental and Divisional links. There are currently five Poachers and one Viking employed as instructors within the ATR, reinforced by the Poachers' Mobile Recruiting Team (PMRT) and a Regimental Army Youth Team, which are co-located. Additionally, the ATR employs numerous ex-Royal Anglian personnel as either members of the Military Provost and Guard Service (MPGS), civilian gymnasium staff or employees of the civilian contractor firm, Taylors Ltd. Our oldest 'old boy' is an ex-Poacher named Winston Adcock (LCpl Retired), who initially joined the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1962 before transiting through 4 Royal Anglian into 2 Royal Anglian where he completed his service in 1984. He often reminisces about his time within the Regiment having seen service around the world, including Malaya, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland and Germany, not to mention recalling his memories of young innocent Poachers such as Alf Todd and Bomber Brown!

Other than permanent staff and the other Royal Anglian personnel already mentioned, ATR (B) still trains some QD recruits. Those aged 16-17 complete Phase 1 training prior to joining the Combat Infantryman (CI) Course at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick (ITC(C)), with their slightly older contemporaries. Due to age restrictions for operational service, numerous Poachers are attached to the PMRT after completing their CI Course at ITC (C) until old enough to join the battalion in Ballykelly.

Both the QD permanent staff and recruits who complete their initial training at ATR (B), find it a rewarding and challenging experience. The adage that training is easier and soldiers are passing out less capable is untrue. Modern training is more focused, less prone to creeping excellence and 'unscientific hardening' and suitably tailored to developing individuals from an ever-changing social background. Indeed, the 16-year-olds of today are not vastly different to those of 20 years ago. The performance of young soldiers on operations across the world, of which many of my 250 recruits will be very shortly, is testament to the thorough training they receive. They develop a true sense of belonging, instilled through understanding the core values of the British Army and reinforced by excellent permanent staff and poignant experiences such as World War One battlefield tours.

While the long term future of Bassingbourn Barracks is uncertain, it will continue to conjure mixed memories and emotions for numerous Royal Anglian personnel for years to come.

Lt E Bland - OC Gulf Platoon writes...

As highlighted above, ATR (B) aims to deliver Phase 1 trained recruits to Phase 2 training over a progressive 17-week course. Currently, I have a platoon of 38 mixed capbadge recruits, five of which are female. They have differing strengths and abilities, but because the training is progressive nearly all the recruits are able to keep up with the learning curve. On arriving at ATR (B) from Ballykelly, the initial challenge I faced was learning how to teach 16-year-olds who know absolutely nothing about the Army. Firstly, because they are 16, many are immature which has resulted in my manner adjusting.

Initially, the permanent staff micro-manage the recruits as the

majority cannot be trusted to carry out tasks which appear simple to the trained soldier. Secondly, my experience in the Army thus far has been with soldiers that have vast knowledge of the subjects I now find myself teaching (1 Platoon, A Company, 2 Royal Anglian). Thus I find myself having to revert to teaching very low level tactics, which can be demanding. The other challenge I face concerns the recruits' welfare. Most of the recruits have never been away from home, and as a result nearly all of them suffer at some stage with varying degrees of homesickness. The recruits deal with their issues in different ways, but after a couple of months, nearly everyone manages to settle in. The highlight of my time at ATR (B) so far has been taking my platoon to Ypres on a battlefield tour. Participating in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial had a very profound affect on the whole of the platoon. The significance of the event along with the atmosphere of the evening and the size of the crowd, made them realise that they have joined an organisation that a lot of people still respect. The lucky few in the platoon who laid wreaths during the service understood that they were honoured to do so and felt incredibly proud. The event showed them other aspects to life in the Army and I am sure they will remember it for the rest of their lives.

Pompadours on the Bank

WO2 Alan Dent writes...

There are upwards of 10 million anglers who populate our rivers, lakes and canals every day in Great Britain in what is regarded as the country's largest participant activity and on 30 June 2004, 22 Pompadours were seen adding to that number at Willows Lake, Decoy Complex in Peterborough.

The planning for the day started last year at the Royal Anglian Day at Duxford, where a number of ex-Pompadour anglers from years past, expressed an interest in getting together on the bank again for old times sake! The Pompadours website seemed the ideal place to start, so a message was entered via www and before I knew it, a tremendous amount of interest was shown. Names and addresses popped up all over the place from Pompadours far and wide, even one in Germany. A map was drawn up, Pompadours' addresses entered and straight lines were drawn to a central point so that a venue could be sorted out and all routes came here to Peterborough! How clever was that! So, date, time and venue were now sorted out; all that remained now was to see what state everyone was in and whether they would need a disabled peg or not when the day arrived!

I probably had the shortest journey to the venue on the day but I seemed to be the last one there! At least half had arrived already and were putting copious amounts of eggs, bacon and beans away like there was no tomorrow. I recognised everyone immediately, even Steve Mabbut under all his excess hair. Actually, he was the only one that had any left! I had enlisted the help of Greg Carter (Poachers) Stu Holmes (Vikings) and Bobby Boyd (HSF/5 R Anglian) to ensure the day ran smoothly and had a good Royal Anglian feel to it. Steve Dale also Final Pompadours on the bank write-up helped me, as he has been doing for more years than I can remember! Eric Sykes, our sole spectator, although having been quite ill recently, made sure everyone was in good spirits and wished them all a good day's fishing ahead.

The briefing over, Pompadour shirts now being worn, it was now a race down to the bank side to set up tackle and get ready for the whistle to start the match. It was immediately recognised that Steve Bulbeck of Army Angling Federation fame, had drawn the 'flier' and had also drawn next to Gary Ward! That definitely made for a noisy corner of the lake. The consensus of opinion was that the high numbers were going to be the pegs to be on and so it proved. Carp and barbel were regularly caught all day and Steve Bulbeck on peg 17 caught more than most! In fact, there was imminent danger of him emptying the whole lake at one stage! Andy Daubney was on a corner peg and although he lost quite a few resident animals from the inside line, he still managed to heave out a respectable weight. Malcolm Woods got a low number but used his skill and knowledge of the venue to his advantage and caught steadily all day. Dave Farmery's son Steven caught well off peg four and his father will have been

Special Features



Dusty Miller scooping fish from the river.

happy to see the fruits of his labours being continued in such good fashion. It was Dave that really started the Pompadour's Fishing Club all those years ago so, to see his son doing so well must have brought back a few memories of himself, when he could fish a bit!

Paul Hallybone also did well and although he is another who knows the venue well, catching 40lb from the inside represented a good day's sport. At the end of the match, Clive Baldwin just managed to snare a carp that was passing his peg and obviously took pity on him, so allowing him his only fish of the day! That meant that there were no blanks and all 22 anglers caught, on what proved to be a very good and lively venue.

Prizegiving followed in the clubhouse where Brig (Retd) Colin Groves made a very welcome appearance to add his special brand of humour and presence to the occasion. The first three anglers were: 1st Steve Bullock - 97lb; 2nd Andy Daubney 44lb; 3rd Paul Hallybone - 40lb 6oz.

The day was a great success and it is hoped that more marks will follow.

Regimental Golf

Maj John Fisk writes...

Looking back over my notes for this year's golf meetings, I am pleased to report that the weather was generally good, with only a few showers which everyone managed to dry out from before



Col Taylor making a presentation to John Fisk.

completing the rounds. The attendance was about our average with the exception of the autumn meeting at St Neots, which was the best ever in the five years I have been Secretary. Is there some sort of message there I ask myself? Regrettably, St Neots was nearly a disaster due to a bad accident on the A14 near Cambridge which saw those coming from the east very delayed.

This year at Ely, after the introduction two years ago of the Griffith C4 for a new Four-Ball Better Ball competition, and firstly won by the late George Boss, it was renamed 'The George Boss Memorial Trophy'. We thank his wife Pat for allowing us to be able to commemorate George when it is now played for.

Thank you too Mick Abbs for again captaining the side at the Queen's Division Triangular meeting at Canterbury on 21 May. Your comprehensive report made good and exciting reading, regrettably the Editor will not allow me the space to relate it all. However, well done on not missing out by too much, I think the score line. PWRR



Summer Meeting Ely, back row: T Watt, D Knight, R Potter, S Davis, B Welton, L Greenaway, K Martin, S Horton, P Woodcock. Centre: K Taylor, G Taylor, A Thompson, J Fisk, M Jethwa, K Rowe, E Leyland. Front: A Thomas, W O'Driscoll, C Halewood, P Fox, J Lee, S McAnally.

Special Features



Yellowball winners.

- 17.5. R Anglian - 41, and RRF - 45.5, is very creditable. I think 2005 will definitely be our year. I am sure as we are the sponsors, (we buy the lunchtime wine), we can manufacture some advantage. On behalf of The Regiment thank you; Capt Abbs, Mr Rowe, Cpl Gelder, Mr Welton, Maj Halewood, Mr Greenaway, WO2 Davis, Maj O'Driscoll, WO2 Shaw, and Lt Col Beard.



Dave Goude and John Lee.

2004 Meetings and results:

Spring Meeting

23 April at Richmond Park Watton

Medal: 1st C Tate; 2nd P Fox; Stableford: 1st S Horton; 2nd A Thomas; 4 BBB: 1st C Tate and R Shaw; 2nd S Horton and S Bullock; Hidden hole sweep: 1st I Watt; 2nd R Shaw.

Summer Meeting

2 July at Ely

Isham Salver-Medal Scratch: 1st G Halewood; 2nd P Woodcock. Pompadour Cup-Medal H/C: 1st J Lee; 2nd S McAnally. Suffolk Cup-Stableford H/C (7/8): 1st P Fox; 2nd S Horton.

The Griffith Cup/The George Boss Memorial Trophy 14 May 1944 to 30 Mar 2003. 4 BBB: 1st W O'Driscoll and A Thomas; 2nd S McAnally and K Taylor.

Autumn Meeting

4 September at St Neots

9 Hole Yellow Ball: 1st S McAnally (hole in one on a yellow ball), K Taylor, G Peck, K Brett; 2nd G Taylor, L Greenaway, C Kett, T Wesley. 4 BBB: 1st J Lee, and D Goude; 2nd S McAnally and K Taylor.

2005 Provisionally Booked Meetings

Watton - 22 April.

Queen's Div Triangular Canterbury - 20 May (TBC)

Ely - 1 July.

St Neots - 1 September.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have been able to attend these meetings throughout my enjoyable duty as your secretary, making them happy and successful occasions, and to thank all the Society members for their kind generous well received gift on my retirement. Gentlemen, it was a pleasure to be of service.

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force

Lt V Moorhouse writes...

Beds ACF had an annual camp of two halves this year. Half was spent doing all things military at Lydd Camp in Kent and the other half on a battlefield tour in Belgium.

The excellent ranges at Lydd Camp were put to good use. We were very fortunate to have a team of real live Poachers to help out with the military training and thank them for their patience and sense of humour! There were also outstanding adventure training facilities. These included a challenging climbing tower situated next to a wonderful lake catering for all kinds of water sport – swimming, canoes, pedaloos, sailing dinghies and raft-building equipment. Add to this the wonderful sunny weather and it's little wonder the area became known as the 'Costa del Lydd'!

Cadets enjoyed nights out practising their military skills at Mereworth training area. The wooded landscape was ideal for setting up bashas, patrolling and ambushing the 'enemy', with the trees providing some shelter from the torrential downpours. Luckily, the prodigious ant colonies carried no one off.

We were fortunate to be visited by Lt Gen Kerr who was keen to get out into the field and chat with cadets. He quickly established a rapport, never batting an eyelid at some of the astonishing questions cadets asked! He was accompanied by the assistant Chaplain General who was equally at home in the field with cadets. The only slight disappointment was that the General had to forgo his helicopter for a fast car.

Senior cadets visited Belgium on what was more than just a battlefield tour; it was a journey linking communities. The British Legion provided wreaths and poppies of remembrance, which were laid at memorials in Essex Farm and Tyne Cott cemeteries and at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Over the months before camp, the names of Bedfordshire men found on war memorials all over the county were researched. They were then cross-referenced with those buried in Belgium.

Our new Colonel, John Watson, who is a keen military historian, promoted this idea. He provided much of the painstaking research



The Colour Party at the Menin Gate.

expertise required to link the Belgian and Bedfordshire memorials. Col Watson frequently visits this area and has detailed knowledge of all the First World War sites. This is the second time he has led Bedfordshire cadets on a battlefield tour. Once again we enjoyed the hospitality of the Koksijde air base, home of the Belgium Search and Rescue helicopters.

The climax was the Last Post parade and wreath-laying ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. The band of the Hampshire and Isle of White ACF resplendent in their red tunics, accompanied the Bedfordshire ranks marching through the cobbled streets of Ypres to the Menin Gate. Crowds of onlookers from all over the world lined the route



Lt Gen Kerr watches cadets - skill at arms.

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



Last Post Parade, Ypres.

and were packed into the area beneath the Menin gate to witness the spectacle of the Last Post ceremony. This happens every night throughout each year, to honour the men fallen in the Great War.

The Bedfordshire colour party were magnificent and never wavered throughout what turned out to be quite a long ceremony. The Last Post echoed out beneath the gate, followed by a service directed by Canon David Lowe (Padre to Beds ACF), wreath laying and national anthems. Our Colonel stood proudly next to a Canadian Officer and Belgian officials. Then the band struck up and the cadets marched back through Ypres with heads held high.

As county PRO taking the photographic record, I was quickly left behind as scores of onlookers from the crowds of overseas visitors wanted to shake my hand and find out who the youngsters were. I was proud to explain that we were Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force.

Essex Army Cadet Force

A Company, Essex Army Cadet Force attended annual camp at Longmoor. Eighty-five cadets from detachments at Stanford le Hope, Tilbury, Grays Warley, Brentwood, Ongar, Epping and Waltham Abbey participated in a busy two-week programme. Apart from a three-day exercise which included bridge building, camp craft and first aid there was a full programme of adventure training and sporting activities. However, the highlight for many was a trip in a helicopter.



C (Tiger) Company, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF

Annual Camp Review 2004 – Crowborough

So, what happened at annual camp for C Company? Having arrived at Crowborough the day before, Sunday saw the company brushing up on its military skills with proper training weather (rain) in the morning, the weather soon cleared to provide a rather hot afternoon, with just about everyone managing to dry out. Cdt CSgt Wesley was given a 'field promotion' when the County Commandant, Col Hurwood, visited C Company on Sunday morning during the military skills training. CSgt Wesley was promoted with immediate effect to Cadet Company Sergeant Major.

On Monday the company had a good range day with 11 cadets passing their One Star shooting test, as well as everyone trying clay shooting and paintball. A special mention goes to Cdts Bates, Varah and LCpl Squire on being awarded their second class shooting badges. Congratulations also go to Cdt Sgt Lucy Moore who was promoted on Monday night to rank of Cadet Colour Sergeant.

Tuesday and Wednesday saw the company move to the Pippingford Park training area for its 24-hour field exercise with Blue (One) Platoon taking on the might of Yellow (Two) Platoon. In total 50 cadets took part, with competition between the two warring platoons being fierce with everyone giving their all. The final attack on Wednesday morning brought events to a thrilling and nail-biting climax as the two super-powers clashed, the result being some of the slickest section battle drills of the exercise, all executed with bags of enthusiasm. So, who actually won the war? Well, despite what some may say, it was officially recorded as a 1-1 draw.



2 Platoon at annual camp.

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



Maj Bazeley congratulating Cdt Sgt Maj Wesley on his promotion.

Straight after the exercise, and with the two platoons once again becoming the best of friends, C Company went on to the obstacle course, before finishing off with a chill-out session in the local swimming pool later that evening.

On Thursday the company had its adventure-training day, and what a day, with the sunny weather proving ideal for a day at Bewl Water. All cadets enjoyed a range of canoeing, kayaking and sailing on the water with background activities including five-a-side soccer, volleyball and of course a spot of sun-bathing whenever possible.

Friday saw an excellent week to a close with the county competition day and commandant's parade. On the whole C Company put in a creditable performance with a good helping of first and second places during the competitions, but unfortunately not enough to win – better luck next year!

Despite not winning the competition day, C Company did have cause for celebration when Cdt CSgt Moore, of Ulverscroft Road Detachment, was appointed Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Leicestershire. CSgt Lucy Moore is the second successive cadet from the same detachment to get the appointment; the previous post holder was none other than Lucy's cousin, CSgt Victoria Keeling.

Congratulations also went to Cdt Varah of Ulverscroft Road for winning the Farnsworth Trophy; awarded to the best junior cadet from Leicestershire at annual camp each year.

After serving over 18 years within the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Army Cadet Force, Maj David Bazeley, Officer Commanding C Company, has decided to hang up his beret and retire from the organisation after annual camp. Originally, Maj Bazeley started in the Leics, Northants and Rutland ACF in 1986 as an Under Officer in B Squadron. He was commissioned and over the years worked his way up to Captain before being promoted to Major and appointed Officer Commanding C Company. All instructors and cadets from C Company wish him a very happy 'retirement' and thank him for his dedication and support whilst commanding C Company over the years - not forgetting all those first aid training courses too.

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force

Cadets Cycling Expedition

Army cadets from Lincoln detachments resorted to pedal power when they headed for the open road and toured the countryside on a cycling expedition on the weekend 23-25 July 2004. This was to be part of their training for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and the cadets were to use the event to get sponsorship from their detachments for the Radio Lincolnshire 'Go for Gold' appeal.

Their training started at the Cadet Training Centre, Newport, Lincoln where they prepared the route card, packed their kit into panniers and checked the bicycles for size and comfort and adjusted as necessary. After breakfast on Saturday they loaded the minibus and trailer with kit and bikes and moved out to East Barkwith village hall. Ahead of them was a ride of 97.3km

Travelling through the many villages they had the task of recording the details of each church as they made their way towards Oxcombe,



Before... Gordon Wells and Shannon Smart as cadets with the Skegness Detachment.



...and after... Mrs Cracroft-Eley, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, chats to Cpls Gordon Wells and Shannon Smart of 2 R Anglian, ex Skegness cadets, at the range at Sennybridge during Lincolnshire ACF camp.

in the Wolds. Here they unloaded their kit and set up a campsite for an overnight stay, prepared their evening meal before debrief on the day's ride, a check of the route for the following day and maintenance of the cycles where required.

On Sunday they took to the road again for the final leg of the journey but not in the sunny and warm conditions of the day before as overnight storm clouds had gathered and rain descended for most of the morning.

Annual Camp 2004

Sennybridge 2004 was a different type of camp than the county had ever experienced before and this included the rapid changes in the weather. This year those cadets qualified at one star and above were the only ones taken to the camp as the juniors and recruits had been away to Beckingham in April for their induction into the Army Cadet Force. Their enjoyment and enthusiasm was always to be seen as

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



Cherry Willingham cadets at the Royal Anglian Regiment Regimental Day at Duxford on 12 September 2004.

they undertook the numerous activities that were available in the full and comprehensive programme that had been devised for the week by Maj Ray Ogg, the county training officer.

Cadets were organised into cadres as in previous years but with compatriots who were more on the same levels of training, this leading to fewer numbers in the cadres and fewer cadres. These were broken down to Stamford College Troop, Sports Leadership, one at four-star, one at three-star, four at two-star and a Band cadre.

Stamford College Troop moved out of camp on Monday and spent their time in the area of Farm 5 where they set up a base camp in the buildings and deployed on fieldcraft and various types of patrols by day and night for most of the week. With not much time to spare a demonstration of ambushing an enemy vehicle was formulated with which to impress the visitors the following day with the sections in defence. Visitors were Mrs B Cracroft-Eley, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Lt Col TJ Ludlam MBE, Deputy CEO East Midlands RFCA, Lt Col M Watson, SO2 Cadets HQ Land, Cllr E Strengiel, Mayor of Lincoln, Cllr D Gratrick, Sheriff of Lincoln.

The four-star trainees had a day on the range on Monday and headed for the area of Farm 13 on Tuesday to hone their skills at fieldcraft with formations and advance to contact exercises until Thursday. Maj Terry Dixon, the county sports officer, conducted the specialist course of Community Sports Leadership with the 18 students putting their new skills to the test by organising and running the evening sports events. Drill, fieldcraft, map and compass navigation, obstacle course, skill at arms, target rifle shooting, military exercises and patrolling were carried out in rotation by the other cadres according to their star levels. Adventure training also took place including kayaking on the River Usk, cycling, orienteering, abseiling and a three-star adventure training expedition.

On Thursday evening a short service of prayer was held in the camp church at which the county band played the music for the hymns and a lone piper entertained us with a verse of *Amazing Grace*, which was warmly received. Friday morning was mainly spent on the cleaning and returning of stores and in the afternoon the annual drill squad competition took place with 4 Company declared the winners. This was followed in the evening with the awards of trophies before the cadets could let their hair down at the disco.

For support this year we had Cpl Gordon Wells and Cpl Shannon

Smart of the Sniper Section of 2 Royal Anglian Regiment who were ex-Lincolnshire cadets who gave the cadets the opportunity to fire the weapon.

Regimental Day

A small group of cadets from the Cherry Willingham detachment travelled down to Duxford to enjoy the Royal Anglian Regimental Day on 12 September and joined in the Drumhead Service and March Past. There was great interest shown in the Regimental Museum displays and the cadets were able to learn more of their regimental heritage.

Suffolk Army Cadet Force

Suffolk Cadets were successful at the Eastern Region ACF Regional Athletics meeting in May 2004 at the newly opened Princess Royal Sports Arena in Boston, Lincs. Medals were won by Cdt Allan Pang (Senior Gold 800m and 1500m Silver), Cpl Tom Tica (Intermediate Gold 1500m), Cpl Jamie Dines (Intermediate Silver 800m), Cdt Richard Ely (Junior Silver 800m) and Cpl Helen McLennon (Senior Silver Shot Put).

The Top Shot at the county skill at arms meeting was Cpl Matthew Porter of Beccles (R Anglian) Detachment.

Set up by former Suffolk ACF County Commandant, Col Chris Burrell-Saward, for many years a Cadet Exchange has taken place between Suffolk ACF and US Marine Corps Cadets at Ross S Sterling High School, Baytown, Texas. In 2003 seven Suffolk Cadets spent three weeks in Texas. 2004 saw the reciprocal visit from Baytown to England where the Cadets and two adults were hosted for three weeks, jointly by C (Ipswich) Company, Suffolk ACF, in Suffolk and by the CCF for five days at Wretham Camp on the Stanford Battle Area in Norfolk. The Cultural, Recreational and Training activities were masterminded by Capt Ron McDaid, Cadet Admin Assistant at C (Ipswich) Company.

Tug-of-war is a relatively new sport in the Army Cadet Force and 2004 saw the first county teams from Suffolk Army Cadet Force competing at regional and national level. The success of the boys' and girls' teams at the Eastern Region Athletics Meeting resulted in their being selected to enter the National ACF Championships.

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



Top Shot LCpl Matthew Porter.

in 2004. Held in Colchester at the Military Festival, enthusiastic crowds cheered on the teams. At the end of the preliminary rounds Suffolk Boys had to be satisfied with third place. The Suffolk Girls won three pulls and drew one and made it to the final, pulling against the Highlanders. This was a most remarkable effort by all concerned especially as it was the first competitive year for Suffolk.

Suffolk won the first end, Highlanders the second and then it all depended on the third pull. Suffolk ACF were most grateful for the vocal support of their local rivals, Norfolk ACF! After a magnificent effort, with both teams moving to and fro, it was Highlanders who won the final pull. At least the Suffolk ACF Girls 2004 tug-of-war team can declare themselves 'best in England!'

Suffolk were the first ACF unit to use the newly opened Leek Camp in 1984 and in 2004 were the last cadet unit to use the camp in August before it closes. Leek lived up to its name with the weather but a vast range of adventurous, testing and enjoyable training was pursued. A welcome visitor, making his last official visit, was our retiring Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Tony Pollard CB CBE DL. Taking over from Maj Gen Jack Dye in 1992, we thank Gen Tony for 12 years of unstinting support and enthusiasm. Our new Honorary Colonel, who also visited camp, is Col Paul Long OBE.

Bancroft's School CCF

Under Officer Angus Abbott writes...

Army camp began hard and fast this year; the cadets had barely arrived and experienced their welcome reintroduction to Army catering (thankfully of a far higher standard than last year's) than they found themselves being introduced to Warcop's March and Shoot course. The contingent was divided into teams of 20, and remembering Bancroft's traditional strength on such courses, the A team was brimming with confidence by the start of the run the next morning. Our confidence seemed well placed when, exhausted and panting, we were told at the end of the course that our efforts

would have been enough to win the previous week's competition. This seemed a justifiable reward for being barely able to breathe and, satisfied, we turned our attention to the afternoon's well-organised and demanding leadership stand.

The first day set the tone for the rest of the week as the cadets were presented with a series of excellent and challenging stands. Particular highlights included use of the SAT Range – a virtual reality weapons training facility that gave the cadets the opportunity to see exactly how and why their shooting was going horribly wrong. Handily, it helped us correct our aim, which led to some very impressive groupings by the end of the session and enabled us to dispatch the enemy with relative ease in a computerised encounter. The Combat First Aid stand the following day was a surprise hit; although undoubtedly worthwhile, first aid stands can so easily be tedious but the energy and charisma of the directing staff ensured that the theory was actually very entertaining. The combat scenario that followed allowed the contingent's drama queens to put their overacting skills into practice as they mimicked battlefield casualties, aided with plenty of theatrical blood that was liberally spread across their saviours.

While the recruits conducted their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's expedition, the rest of us were on an overnight exercise, which as ever was one of the highlights of the camp. Given the massive size of the platoon and the limited training area we were allocated, I was very impressed with the ability of the various section commanders to lead their cadets. In the absence of the exuberant Osama bin Pollard, the evening spent in patrol harbour was relatively quiet and for once the reconnaissance patrols returned with the information that they were actually supposed to retrieve. The enemy – a band of cattle-hustling Scotch terrorists – was eventually destroyed the following day in a large-scale attack on their hideout that had everyone panting for breath. The Cadet Training Team's own exercise was the following day. During the first half of the day, we impressed our instructors with our knowledge of battlefield drills, which they commented had been the best on camp. In the afternoon, we patrolled enemy territory, clearing enemy positions as we went and were introduced to the unprecedented notion that we could actually be 'killed' in combat, as the directing staff saw fit, allowing more junior cadets to assume leadership roles.

At the camp parade that evening, we learned that we had been robbed of victory in the march and shoot competition and concluded that there must have been bribery of some sort involved. The contingent held its own final parade later in the evening, which for me was a very apt end to the week: the cadets' commitment and enthusiasm in all activities was reflected in their immaculate turnout and impressive drill; a (strictly metaphorical) tear of pride was shed on my part. The week was very successful and the cadets enjoyed themselves and upheld Bancroft's proud reputation as a first rate contingent. All this was made possible through the commitment of our officers, to whom the contingent is very grateful and particular thanks go to Capt MacLeod for his efforts on his final camp.

Oundle School CCF

Oundle School has a large corps of 474 cadets. The Army section is looking in good health for September 2004, with 250 cadets having opted for the service. Maj CW Symes assumed command of the contingent in September 2003, having served a short service limited commission with the Poachers in 1990. Sgt (now Capt) Owen Jervis (who left the Poachers – latterly 13 CTT – in 1997) joined the school's design and technology teaching department that same year and serves as OC Advanced Infantry Section with 70 cadets. Sgt Simon Pearson (also a Poacher and currently serving with 13 CTT) takes over officially as the school shooting coach in September 2004, also running the CCF's AIS Support Section with over 30 cadets. We continue to gratefully receive the external support of Sgt Mark Aukland (Poacher and working with 13 CTT) each week, who is kept busy running a large NCO cadre.

On the last field weekend at STANTA, we were delighted and grateful to receive the help of 2Lt Ed Clough for one day, currently serving a gap year commission with the Vikings. Ed left Oundle School last summer as cadet RSM and went on to win the prize of best officer cadet on his course at the Royal Military Academy

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



"Old Boy" 2Lt Ed Clough explains the section battle drills.

Sandhurst in late autumn 2003. We hear he is enjoying regimental life and achieving great things on the sports field.

The Corps sent four cadets to the training weekend hosted by the Poachers at Bassingbourn in early May 2004. We were delighted to hear that both James East and Heather Holmstrom both won prizes as 'best cadet in their section'. Heather (who was the only girl on

the course) and Charlie Pearson were also in the section that won the prize for 'best overall section'.

The annual camp took place at Stanford Training Area which culminated in a company-sized exercise led by cadets. During the week the cadets also kayaked, orienteered, trained on an assault course and learned how to conduct operations in built up areas.

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Deaths and Obituaries

Maj J Holl TD JP DL

Maj Jim Holl died on 28 August 2004 aged 80. As OC B (Bedford Company) he was one of the founding members of (6V) Royal Anglian in 1971.

WO2 BR Willoughby



It is with great regret that we report the sad loss of Brian Willoughby who passed away suddenly on 23 August 2004, aged 57.

Brian followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted into the Army as a junior soldier at the age of 15. He was encouraged to be a clerk while on 'Boy' service and upon reaching 'Man service' attended a short period of training at the Depot before joining the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in Cyprus in early 1965. Brian served with the Poachers until the mid 70s when he was posted to the Orderly Room at the

Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn as Orderly Room Sergeant.

He was an accomplished sportsman in his day and was never slow in entertaining listeners with tales of his 'glory days' as a sprinter and I know he took particular pride in having had the honour of representing his Battalion. He was above all a team player. In later life he will probably be better remembered by many for his enthusiastic efforts to get into the Sergeants' Mess volleyball team in Belize. It seemed you only had to bounce the ball on the court and he appeared, unfortunately for Brian the entertainment of his efforts to be selected had an adverse effect on his selection.

After his stint at the Depot Brian was posted to the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment who were at that time stationed in Tidworth and well into the AML(F) role. It's very difficult to catch up in the Arctic when others have had a couple of years' start advantage however, Brian settled into life with the Vikings with the enthusiasm and drive that was to become his trademark. He took a genuine interest in what was going on outside of his own domain, and I well remember him creating some extremely important reason for the Orderly Room Sergeant to visit C Company at the 'sharp end', so he could find out just exactly what it was that we did, and his interest was genuine. If it was possible to assist anybody in anyway without jeopardising the integrity of his position he would go out of his way to do so.

Brian as a soldier was unique; in the late 70s having been posted to the Queen's Regiment as chief clerk, the ethos of the Royal Anglians kept calling and he decided to make a crucial career change. He opted out of the clerical world and returned to the 1st Battalion as a colour sergeant. He adapted to his new environment with enthusiasm

and a professional approach second to none. In the words of one former CQMS... 'I've done many, many handovers and takeovers in my career and Brian Willoughby's was the best by far'. Again, this transition at this stage of his service is a mark and indication of his ability and potential. Who knows what he would have achieved had he not changed stream in mid flow?

In the early 80s Brian was posted to the Ulster Defence Regiment as their Intelligence Warrant Officer for two years before rejoining the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar for his final tour, before he retired in 1986.

Upon leaving the Army Brian eventually moved to Spalding in 1989 and took up employment with Springfields Gardens as their commercial manager. He was credited with being the driving force behind the Springfields Exhibition Centre. Brian used his positive and energetic approach to life to his best ability and was dedicated to ensuring that everyone who visited Springfields enjoyed themselves. In the words of his former general manager... 'Brian met thousands of people through his work and most of his customers were his friends.' A fitting tribute.

Brian organised a vast variety of events while at Springfields including the highly successful Spalding 'Poacher' Reunions and, if there is any doubt in anybody's mind about the importance and value of Old Comrade Organisations or functions, they should have been in Spalding for the funeral on 3 September 2004. Even Brian would have been deeply impressed, the church was packed with family, friends and comrades from every era. Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright read the lesson and when the service was over an excellent Guard of Honour was produced by his former Poacher comrades. In the last edition of *Castle* there was an article on the Regimental Ethos, well it would be fair to say that there was enough Regimental ethos in Spalding that day to sink a battleship.

It seems that whenever an 'Old Comrade' passes away we all have regrets about not seeing them or keeping in contact. Well, I had the pleasure of spending some time with Brian at Duxford for the Regimental Day in September 2003 and again on Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds at the beginning of August this year. When Brian died I thought that this would make it easier, but in actual fact it has made it worse. I think that is because whenever you met him, it was important to him and he always made you feel the better for that meeting. His permanent smile and wicked sense of humour warmed up any occasion and he somehow always managed to resurrect all of the good memories from the past.

It is a measure of Brian's personality that he was very quickly accepted wherever he went; and he shared his love of the Poachers and Vikings equally during his service and his 'Old Comrade' years.

I was privileged to serve with Brian and have him as a comrade and friend for 30 years; he was an outstanding member of the Regiment and always a team player. The legacy of memories that Brian leaves behind will be with us forever and our lives are the richer for having known him.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Sally, son Adam and daughters Julie and Helen.

KCJ

The Associations



The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk) 60th Anniversary of the Invasion of Europe

Two commemoration trips have taken place this year. A group of 60 were in Normandy for the Anniversary of D-Day and a similar sized party went to Holland in September to join the celebrations to mark the liberation of the area in September 1944.

The Normandy trip was organised by Mr Bill Holden who sadly, for family reasons, was unable to be present for the whole period. However, his meticulous planning paid off and the trip was a great success, the highlight being the unveiling of a memorial at Norfolk House. The group included a team from the local press so the coverage back in East Anglia was excellent, with slots on the early evening regional news, photographs in the local papers and an excellent commemorative issue produced by Archant Press featuring the Royal Norfolks.

Back in Norfolk a Commemoration Service was held at the Regimental Memorial Garden at Easton College on 6 June. The congregation filled the garden for what turned out to be a very moving service conducted by the Rev Ken Reeve, Honorary Chaplain to the Suffolk Regiment and a former member of 1 East Anglian/1 R



Mr Roy Segon, Norwich Branch, and Mr Ray Pillar, Gorleston Branch.



The T-shirts show the gratitude of the children.

Anglian. We were grateful to Mr David Lawrence, the principal of the college, and his staff for their support on the busiest day of their year - the college open day.

The trip to the Low Countries was organised by Capt John Lincoln who, over the years, has established close links with the people of Helmont. The party was made very welcome.

The Museum

The Trustees are very grateful to Mrs Miriam Dillon who has commissioned a book of watercolours in memory of her late husband, Maj Brian Dillon, and donated the proceeds from its sale to the museum. The book is available at the museum or by post from Britannia House (£9.95 plus 50p p and p).

Association Events

Over 140 attended the annual dinner at the end of September, about the same number as last year and especially pleasing given that a number



Maj Gen Dye and the Mayor of Bieville-Beauville unveil the new memorial at Norfolk House. *Photo courtesy Eastern Evening News.*

The Associations

of our regulars were away in Holland. There were the usual fond reunions. Mr George Osborne (4th Battalion) and a War Memorial Cottages tenant met up with Chelsea Pensioner Moy who he last remembers seeing when they were together in Burma.

The church service was also well attended and we were pleased to welcome our only Chelsea in-pensioner, W02 Moy and a number of widows. The preacher was Canon William Sayer who spoke movingly of his recent trip to Normandy with the Veteran's Group.

Those who attended the Regimental Day at Duxford again enjoyed the occasion, and look forward to next year. As this edition goes to press, returns are coming in for the various branch Christmas events and the organisers report a good response. The Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Branch Dinner has been a key event in the calendar for some years. After a hiccup in 2002, the King's Lynn dinner is now firmly re-established. Inevitably each year the numbers of World War Two veterans in the Association goes down. But, those attending functions from Korea and Cyprus days are increasing, and a number of East Anglians and Royal Anglians are now taking an active role in Association affairs.

Farewell

It is invidious to single out individuals for mention but I feel I must mention WO1 Paul Boxall who died on 16 July 2004. He had been the Chairman of the Norwich Branch for many years, carried the standard, and was active in various other ex-service organisations in Norwich, and a source of knowledge and energy until shortly before his death. He will be missed.



The Royal Lincolnshire and the Royal Anglian Regimental Association Benevolence 2003/2004

The General Committee of the Association during 2003/2004 considered 35 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 £17,182 was disbursed by the Association to ex-members of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and their families who have fallen on hard times.

Regimental Reunion

The annual reunion was held in Lincoln on Sunday 18 July 2004. Numbers were slightly down on previous years, probably due to the late change of date and the fact that this was to be a one-day event rather than the usual two-day. After the conclusion of the annual general meeting just over 80 members and their ladies sat down for a formal lunch in Sobraon Barracks. The President, Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL, presided.

Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE

Following an excellent meal, families and friends attended a church service held at St Nicholas' Church, Newport. The Rev David Yabacombe took the service during which *Last Post* and *Reveille* were sounded and fallen comrades remembered. Our sincere thanks from all those who attended the Regimental Day go to Harold Marshall, the company commander, Maj Ian Sackree of B Company, 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 contribution ensured the success of the event.



Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE



Mr and Mrs Bernard Wellbourne celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Regimental Reunion.

Malayan Reunion

The Malayan Reunion, held at Sobraon Barracks on Saturday 2 October, once again proved to be a very popular event with almost

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Harold Marshall.

200 members attending. Once everyone had filled up their glass and pulled up a 'sand bag' the tales of their experiences started to roll off the tongue. No doubt they became more elaborate as the night wore on. It was a thoroughly enjoyable night and our thanks go to Colin Coggan who organised a super evening.

Dates for the Diary 2005

7/8 May	Regimental Reunion at Lincoln
15 June	Officers' Reunion Lunch, Army and Navy Club, London
17 July	Military Tattoo Lincoln Castle 60th Anniversary of VE & VJ Day
1 October	Malayan Reunion

Death

Ray Tooze 4th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. For 12 years he was the Standard Bearer for the Midland Branch, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association.



Ray Tooze (right) at the National Arboretum, Alrewas at the unveiling of the Palestine Memorial Stone.



The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk) 60th Anniversary of D-Day - The Normandy Pilgrimage

The careful preparations for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day Pilgrimage as reported in the last edition of *Castle* proved to be well worthwhile. 59 members of the Regiment, including no fewer than 13 veterans, together with wives, children and friends, made the trip to Normandy and all experienced a moving and exhilarating time.

The visit extended over a long weekend from 4-7 June. The whole party stayed in a comfortable hotel in Caen from where their coach took them to a succession of wonderful events, some personal to the Regiment and others shared with groups from other regiments and corps.

Highlights of the visit included a return to the Chateau de la Londe where the Battalion fought a very costly battle and attending the opening ceremony (performed by HRH the Prince of Wales) of the British Memorial Gardens at Caen.

On D-Day itself everyone went to Sword Beach for a picnic. The weather was delightful, the sun shone and the sea was calm. Eleven veterans had actually landed there 60 years before and for them, in particular, it was a time for reflection as well as happy



M Lenand at the Hillman bunker accompanied by the Mayor of Colleville.

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Veterans on Parade.



The Mayor of Beauville with Brig WC Deller OBE.



Lt David Robinson with Maj Hugh Merriam MC.

relaxation. In the afternoon a visit was made to the German bunker (code-named Hillman) which was the Battalion's main objective after the landing had been made and which has been gifted to the Regiment in perpetuity, through the generosity of the French family who own the site, to serve as a memorial. The Mayor of Colleville, in which village Hillman lies, made a speech and presented medals to the veterans.

On 7 June visits were made to the villages of Bannerville and Sannerville where services of remembrance were held in the war cemeteries where 1st Battalion men who were killed in action during Operation Goodwood, lie buried. This was the hard fought operation to drive inland from the beaches after the initial landing.

Of course this visit was, for all, a serious and moving kaleidoscope of events but there were lighter moments. The French people of the villages through which the Suffolks advanced in June, 1944 were as ever wonderful hosts. Civic lunches accompanied by many toasts were the order of the day and hugely appreciated by the Regimental party. Many opportunities were seized to converse in faltering French or English and a feeling of bonhomie reigned supreme throughout the visit. The final dinner before returning home was a very happy occasion and although it was to be the last formal visit organised by 'The Hillman committee' it seems likely that return trips will continue to be made by many.

Minden Day, 1 August, 2004

This year the annual celebration of our famous Battle Honour fell on Sunday, 1 August, the actual day of the battle. This somehow seems to make a special occasion even more special! And Gibraltar Barracks was filled to overflowing to celebrate the day. Coachloads arrived from across the county organised and filled by our ever enthusiastic branch members and their families. Cars filled the car parks in no time and picnics and memories were shared by everyone.

We were this year delighted again to entertain some of our French friends from Normandy who each year make us feel so welcome when we commemorate the D-Day landing by the 1st Battalion in their homeland. During this year's pilgrimage celebrating the 60th anniversary we were made to feel particularly at home and were feted wherever we went.

Next year the Minden Reunion will be held on 31 July and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two we plan to make the day especially memorable. The band of the Irish

The Associations



Minden Day - the march past. Photo courtesy East Anglian Daily Times.

Guards have confirmed their availability and we hope to welcome the Royal Anglian TA Band and Drums, and many more. Why not put the date in your diary now?

News from the Branches

The Branches of our Old Comrades' Association continue to flourish. Numbers are holding up well and monthly meetings are well attended.

Annual outings are planned and special functions are prepared. An attractive feature of these is that members attend such occasions organised by other branches and in this way perpetuate the sense of unity and *esprit de corps* of the Regiment.

As reported last year not only do branches support Minden Day at Bury but they all are also attending the Royal Anglian Regimental Day which now takes place at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford in September. The two occasions are very similar and thus offer, as it were, two bites of the cherry!



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

The Association's Annual Dinner and Dance

The Association Dinner and Dance held at the 'Castle Hall', Hertford on Saturday 15 May 2004 was as usual well attended. Once again the Essex Yeomanry Band played during the dinner to their usual high standard and we were provided with first class music afterwards for dancing. The evening started with the Branch Standards being marched in to our old Regimental March, after which as it was the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Led by the band, everybody joined in

the hymn *I Vow to Thee my Country*. The Standard Bearers then marched off to the Regimental March of the 2nd Battalion.

After dinner our Chairman, Brig Robertson, spoke at some length about the Association, thanking all who played a part in running it. He welcomed the official guests, the Mayor of Hertford, Cllr Peter Ruffles, last year's Mayor, Cllr John Cook and Capt Teare from the 2nd Battalion, together with his mother. After the Chairman's speech Capt Teare gave us a report on the 2nd Battalion's activities in Northern Ireland. Dancing continued until 11pm when members marched round the dance floor to the old Regimental March before departing.

Officers' Lunches

The officers of the Regiment held two lunches, the first for all officers of the Regiment was held on Thursday 24 June at the 'Lion Hotel', Buckden where the food was excellent and the company very convivial. The second event was held at the home of Mike Davison and his wife Philippa in Cambridge on 19 June for those who served at Goslar. Mike was a National Service 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion. There were nearly 30 ex-officers and wives in attendance and the weather was kind and all enjoyed the company and hoped to meet again at next year's reunion.

The Visit by Members of the Association to the Battlefield of Blenheim

This visit was a very special occasion for former members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, the old 16th Foot, as it entailed a visit to the battlefield of Blenheim on the 300th anniversary of that most famous of the Duke of Marlborough's victories. It was an honour carried with great pride on the Regimental Colours of our Regiment, and one that merited a special commemorative parade and other activities every year. A group of ten fortunate Old Comrades joined a tour run by Fletcher Battlefield Tours to represent the Association. There were another 33 people present mostly male, just six ladies, who apparently attend these battlefield tours on a regular basis, who made us most welcome and enjoyed our company. We flew from Gatwick to Munich on an early flight on 12 August. From Munich we travelled by coach to the lovely, historic old walled town of Nordlingen in Bavaria, where we booked into the hotel. This was our base from which we sallied forth to the battlefield the next day, the 300th anniversary. The weather was reasonably kind and only delivered one shower throughout the day, which unfortunately caught us in the open at Blindheim (Blenheim) before we could get back to the coach.

On arrival at the battlefield, which stretched for some four miles north-west from the Danube River and the village of Blindheim, the tour guide explained the battle and we visited all parts. However, the

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The ten members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association drink a toast to the Regiment outside Blenheim Church on 13 August 2004 on the 300th anniversary of the Battle.

highlight for us was when we went to the village itself. In the battle this village was packed with French troops and was the linchpin of their defence of their right flank. Our Regiment, then called the Earl of Derby's Regiment, was part of Brig Gen Fergusson's Brigade and as such was involved with the frontal assault on the village. The final fighting had been from house to house, involving much work with bayonet and clubbed musket around the village church. Our group was joined by two members of the staff from Blenheim Palace for a short, but moving ceremony of remembrance in the graveyard of the church. Col Adkin said a few words, stressing how honoured he felt to be there at that moment as he was the last officer to carry the Regimental Colour on parade on Blenheim Day in 1958, just prior to amalgamation. He then read out a letter given to the party by the present Duke of Marlborough to mark the occasion. This was followed by a minute's silence to remember our forefathers who had fought and died on this very spot all those years ago. It was followed by the wonderful words of Lawrence Binyon... 'They grow old as we that are left grow old...'

The final ceremony was a surprise production of a bottle of appropriately named 'Churchill' port and some cups by Col Mackain-Bremner. There among the gravestones of Blenheim Church the toast was 'The Regiment'. Mr Gill from Blenheim Palace produced a bottle of 'Blenheim Palace' water which he sprinkled around the graveyard.

On the second day a grey sky produced almost continuous rain for our visit to the Schellenburg, a steep hill that overlooked the small town of Donauworth. In 1704 the Schellenburg was fortified and heavily defended by the French. It was the scene of a major attack by Marlborough's army some weeks before Blenheim and our Regiment had been part of the assaulting columns that struggled up the slope to engage the defenders in hand to hand fighting. That afternoon we visited the Blenheim museum at Hochstadt, a village situated just south-east of the battlefield. The museum contains a magnificent diorama of the battle with several thousand model soldiers, creating a realistic impression of the battle at 5pm on that day. There we were able to present our Regimental plaque to the curator. It was inscribed with the words... *In memory of All Ranks of the 16th Foot who fought at Blenheim 300 years ago 13 August 2004*. The curator was delighted to receive it, and assured us that it will be displayed prominently above the diorama. That evening we had a special table for our group at dinner, to which we invited the Blenheim Palace staff. It was an appropriate way of ending the tour, and concluded with toasts to Her Majesty The Queen and The Regiment.

The Association's trip to Blenheim Palace

At the six-monthly association management committee meeting on 5 May the question regarding how the Association was going to mark the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Blenheim was raised. Investigations revealed that a band concert including a Beating Retreat and mock battle re-enactment had been arranged on the evening of Friday 13 August at Blenheim Palace. The Association sponsored a trip to this event and around 120 members and partners attended. The event started on a lovely warm evening while sitting in the park overlooking the lake with a programme of music by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. Next came a helicopter fly past and then a superb show by the RAF Falcons parachute team. The Sealed Knot Society formed up and re-enacted the battle, after which the climax of the day was a display of marching by the Divisional Band of the Light Infantry and the Grenadier Guards Band followed by Beating the Retreat. Despite heavy showers during the evening display all appreciated celebrating this famous battle.

The Royal Anglian Regimental Day at Duxford

This event is always a must for the members of all the Associations of the Royal Anglian Regiment and its former Regiments. The weather managed to keep fine although very windy, until the end of the event. Our Association had seven Standards out of approximate 30 on parade and the 3rd Battalion marching contingent which comprised our Association and the Essex Regiment Association was once again one of the largest. There was plenty to see, including the Land Warfare Museum and a good day was had by all.

Deaths

The Association has been notified of several deaths since the last issue, among these was Mr Robert 'Bob' Boyd MM. He won his MM when serving with the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in the 'Chindit' campaign. On his return to Civvy Street, with no job, he re-enlisted and joined the Suffolk Regiment and went to Malaya with the rank of corporal.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

Since the last report the Association has had a fairly busy year and is in a healthy situation. Some 46 members and friends had an excellent three day battlefield tour to Normandy from 11 to 13 May 2004, when a wreath was laid at Ver-sur-Mar War Memorial. The tour coincided with the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day landings which one of our members, George Church, had taken part in. Also for the 60th anniversary members with the Association Standard

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paraded on 6 June with the Royal British Legion and other ex-Service organisations to honour those who gave their lives in the landings. This was followed by a service of Remembrance in All Saints Church, Hertford. Col Cockman, Cyril Austin and Don Corbett represented the Association at the naming of Young's Mews in memory of Lt Young VC, killed in World War One. The mews is on the site of the old Port Hill drill hall in Hertford. The Association has made a donation to the National Memorial Arboretum at Burton-on-Trent to have a tree and plaque placed in the Army Grove in memory of members of The Hertfordshire Regiment who fell in both world wars. We hope to organise a trip to the arboretum to officially dedicate the tree and plaque.



The Cambridgeshire Regimental Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Cambridgeshire)

The Cambridgeshire Collection

Capt Paul Leach, in his final report to the Guardians stated that Duxford remains the most important display, as part of the Royal Anglia Museum, which attracts many visitors.

There has been, as might well be expected, a slow down in new items for our displays in recent years and there have been no significant additions to the collection. The Regiment hopes that everyone will keep a watchful eye for any Regimental memorabilia, and indeed anything connected to the Regiment in order that it might be preserved for future generations. He went on to say that in standing down as Chairman he has enjoyed his time looking after the collection and paid tribute to Pat Macdonald who did so much in establishing the current structure of the Guardians and paid tribute to the support he has received from the Guardians and the Regimental Council.

Paul was thanked by the Regimental Council for his tireless devotion to the Cambridgeshire Regimental history.

Commemorative Plaque, Cambridge County Court

The former Lord Chancellor's Department (now the Department of Constitutional Affairs) is building a new Civil Justice Centre for Cambridge on the site of the former Regimental Headquarters in East Road. Work on the building has already started and it should be completed mid-2005. The Department of Constitutional Affairs was contacted some time ago seeking permission for a commemorative plaque to be placed in the foyer of the new Civil Justice Centre to commemorate the Regiment and all who served in it and permission was duly given.

It has been agreed that the plaque will be 450mm high by 350mm wide in order to comply with the architectural design of the building and will be erected in the lobby adjacent to the reception area, where it will be seen by everyone using the building.

Because of the design requirements, it is proposed that the Regimental Badge should be at the top of the plaque, with the following wording, approved by the Regimental Association and the Regimental Council and also the Department of Constitutional Affairs... *The Headquarters of the Cambridge Regiment stood on this site from c1916 until the Regiment was disbanded in 1961. This memorial is dedicated to all those who served in the Regiment and in particular those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars of the 20th Century.*

It is proposed that the Regimental Badge and the inscription will

be inscribed on Welsh Black Slate and the cost will be in the region of £1,250 which has already been raised by voluntary subscriptions. This is seen as an ideal place for a fitting tribute to the Regiment throughout the county as the only other memorial is the bench on the waterfront at Ely and inside the grounds of the TA Centre at Cambridge (which is, of course not accessible to the public).

Annual Service and Parade

The 2004 Annual Remembrance service and parade was held at Ely on Sunday 13 June in hot and muggy conditions. The service in the cathedral was attended by the new Lord Lieutenant, Mr A Duberley CBE and his wife together with Brig RM Brunt CBE, Deputy Colonel of the 1st Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment and the Mayor of the city of Ely.

The new Dean, the VRev Michael Chandler, received the Regimental Colour and the Branch Standards and an unexpected surprise was the Colour Party of the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment bearing the Royal and Regimental Colours which were laid on the altar together with the Regimental Colour. Unfortunately, the Corps and Drums of the 1st Battalion were unable to be present but this was made up by a very smart contingent of soldiers from D Company 1 Royal Anglian.

The Dean welcomed everyone and emphasised in his address how important it was to remember all those who had laid down their lives for the Regiment and how important it was to visit the Regimental Chapel to reflect on the past.

The City of Ely Military Band played during the service and their buglers are to be congratulated on their playing of *Last Post* and *Reveille* after the Association President, Mr Freddie Grounds, had laid a wreath at the Regimental Chapel.

During a short march past accompanied by the City of Ely Military Band, the salute was taken by Brig Brunt. Afterwards the parade lined up with the Old Comrades on the east, the Regulars on the north and the Army Cadets on the west. Brig Brunt then addressed the parade saying that the Regulars took their inspiration from the Old Comrades and hoped that the new generation in the form of the cadets would look to the Regular Army for their careers.

An excellent tea, provided by the Army Cadets, was held in the Haywood Theatre when the President presented Lt Col Wally Badcock with a statuette to mark his long service with the Territorial Army.

Officers' Dinner

The annual Officers' Dinner was again held at the Cadet Centre Waterbeach and was chaired by the President of the Association, Mr Freddie Grounds. The President welcomed the guests of honour, Lt Col Wally and Mrs Mary Badcock and Lt Col Peter Dixon, the Regimental Secretary.



Ely Parade.

The Associations



Lt Col Badcock.

Telegrams of best wishes were read out from Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Princess Alice of Gloucester our Colonel-in-Chief.

The Chairman of the Association, Col Colin Elsdon, proposed the toast to the Guests of Honour outlining the selfless dedication of Colonel and Mrs Badcock to the Regiment over the years and the help received from Col Dixon on Regimental affairs.

In response to the toast of the Regiment including the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, the Deputy Cadet Commandant, Lt Col Colin David Denson, outlined the progress made by the cadets during the year and explained how they were looking forward to camp this year.

Deaths

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

Capt John Baggaley died on 28 April 2004 after a long illness. John started his military career in the Army cadets leaving with the rank of SM. In 1943 at the age of 17 he signed up for Regular service and was posted to Holywood Barracks, four miles from Belfast. Having been selected for officer training he was sent to RMA Sandhurst and while there they had a visit from an Indian Army Colonel recruiting for cadets to complete their training in the Indian Army.

John thought this sounded exciting and volunteered. He was posted to Bangalore to finish his training and was commissioned in 1944 and posted to the 8th Punjab Regiment at Lahore.

He soon informed that activities in Burma were slowing down and he was instructed to organise a scheme for demobilisation. The operation was to move about 1,500 demobbed soldiers in the shortest time. The basic scheme was to take a train from Lahore to Madras with 1500/2000 in one go to be completed in five days.

John was in charge of the carriages but not the train, which was the driver's responsibility. He had two newly commissioned officers, two medical NCOs and four cooks. The journey from Lahore to Madras was 1,500 miles and the ex soldiers got off as they wished at the nearest point to their homes. When they arrived at Madras all the light bulbs had been removed, the railway company wanted John to



Cambridgeshire ACF.

pay for them, needless to say they were not successful.

After this he was posted as station staff officer at the Indian Mechanical Engineers and then back to the UK in 1948 to the Depot of the Seaforth Highlanders and then to the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders at Essen, Germany. After six months he was posted to Aberdeen to be the Army Cadet Force training officer and was demobbed on Christmas Day 1948.

In early 1960 he was walking past the drill hall in East Road, Cambridge when he saw someone in uniform and decided to go in and met the Adjutant, Pat Macdonald and after discussions with Walter Page volunteered to join the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment.

Soon after this he was offered a job as department manager at Robert Sayles in Cambridge having worked at Marshalls for six years. The new job made it difficult to get to camps and he was posted to the Wisbech and March Company as 2IC. John and his wife Penny have been regular attenders at Regimental Parades and functions ever since.

The funeral was held at the Cambridge Crematorium on 10 May. The Regiment was well represented and the Regimental Standard Bearer, Wally Rookes, was on parade with the Standard.

John will be very much missed by the Regiment, family and friends.

John Oliver died on 16 June 2004, aged 93. John started his career in advertising but quickly moved into journalism founding several magazines.

When war was declared he joined the Field Security Corps, the forerunner of MI5 in Belfast spying on Germans, but seeking a more active theatre of war joined the Suffolk Regiment and then the Cambridgeshires. In 1941 as soon as he was commissioned was posted to the Far East and became a platoon commander in the 1st Battalion. After the surrender at Singapore he worked on the railway as part of the slave labour force.

After the war he held several senior posts on *The Sphere* magazine



VIP line-up.

The Associations

becoming editor in 1960. In 1961 he was appointed editor of *The Tatler* magazine. John retired in 1965 and took on work promoting Portugal and Mateus Rose, a highly successful brand.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

George Albert Street who lived in Ely and was in the 2nd Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment and a FEPoW died on 24 May 2004, aged 87. The funeral was held on 4 June at St Mary's Church, Ely and there was a guard of honour formed by the members of the Association and Ely Royal British Legion. George had been very active in the Ely Branch of the Association and had also been made a Freeman of the City.

The Association was represented by Col and Mrs Badcock.



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

Royal Tigers' Weekend

Royal Tigers' Weekend this year was held on 26-27 June. The Saturday evening activities were held again at Devonshire Place in London Road, Leicester. The reunion started as usual with the annual general meeting of the Association which was attended by 74 members. The annual dinner was then held and it is most pleasing to report that once again attendance was good, with 172 people sitting down, which was admirable. It was a great pleasure to have in-pensioners Myles Foster and Moshe Freedman from the Royal Hospital with us again. Guests were Mr RB Collins MVO (the promoter of the Regimental grand prize draw) and Mr NJ Carter (editor-in-chief of the *Leicester Mercury*, who has given our museum appeal wonderful publicity). The President of the Association, Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE DL, presided. The caterers excelled themselves with splendid decor, a first class dinner and plenty of wine, so everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

On Sunday the weather was kind for the annual service, which we held this year in Leicester Cathedral. Our guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester, and the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council. We were also particularly delighted to entertain 12 members of the family of LSgt Philip Smith VC. The Dean of Leicester took the service, and the Rev Ben Elliott, a former National Service officer in the Regiment, gave a splendid and uplifting sermon. The Standard of the Association was carried by Mr RE Jones and was laid on the altar during the service.

After the service everyone returned to Devonshire Place for drinks and a delicious lunch in most pleasant and enjoyable surroundings with a very happy atmosphere. After lunch the family of LSgt Philip Smith VC were taken to the New Walk Museum to see the Cuneo picture depicting his bravery.

It was another very successful weekend, which would not have been possible without so much work from the General Committee of the Association. Their willing assistance is very much appreciated by us all.

1st Battalion Reunion

The annual Reunion of the 50th/8th/1st Battalion was held on the

last Saturday in September. Sadly only three members were able to come and a number of familiar faces were missing, especially some who had a long distance to travel. Nevertheless those stalwarts who braved the journey had an excellent evening. Again, they expressed their sincere thanks to the East of England Regiment for use of the TA Centre, and to Mrs Marriott who provided first class service and arranged an excellent buffet, and who contributed enormously to the success of the evening.

Royal Anglian Regimental Day

This year a bus was again arranged to take Association members to Duxford for the Royal Anglian Regimental Day on 12 September, and several carloads arrived in time for the Drumhead Service. The surplus from bus tickets and the raffle produced £363 for Regimental funds, which is much appreciated. It was pleasing to see so many more Tigers than in previous years 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.

Cyprus Veterans' Reunion

The seventh reunion of 1st Battalion veterans who served in Cyprus 1955-57 was held in Leicester on 23 October 2004. Over 250 people attended and had a very enjoyable evening. Significantly everyone had a story to tell, which is one of the purposes of the muster. The memorabilia display stand offered a variety of information from period news cuttings and photographs, once again reflecting the camaraderie of the Regiment at that time.

It was good to see wives and families attend the reunion in numbers, and the assembly for the group photographs was good humoured, as is now the tradition. The excellent buffet was well received, with the special Cyprus Veterans' cake forming the centrepiece. All thanks go to Bob Freeman, the CVA organiser, and his family, who have worked tirelessly to arrange the event, thus making it the very enjoyable success it was.

Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum

Good progress has continued to be made on our new Regimental museum since the report in the last edition of *Castle*.

The fundraising appeal has now raised over £200,000 towards our target of £250,000, which is wonderful news. The Trustees are extremely grateful to all the Association members, families and friends of the Regiment who have contributed so far and/or arranged fundraising events and/or persuaded other people to donate to the appeal.

The Regimental team, led by Col Bill Dawson, which is helping to plan the new museum, (both the refurbishment of the building and the artefacts to go on display) is extremely busy. Haley Sharpe, a Leicester company, has been appointed as the lead design and construct consultants for the whole museum, both for the Regimental rooms upstairs and for the social history rooms. As this goes to press, they are involved in checking the plans for the display made by Graham Black and our Regimental team, to assess whether the likely costs and space requirements are within our budget. We are still seeking more artefacts or documents relating to the Regiment or its members to include in the Regimental collection. If you have anything which might be of interest, please contact Col Bill Dawson (01455-213047 with answering machine).

Newarke Houses Museum was closed on 30 June 2004, and all items stored safely before the builders arrive. They will need at least six months to complete the refurbishment of the building, including much access work, a new lift, complete rewiring, replumbing etc. On present plans, the new museum should be open towards the end of 2005. More details of the opening will be in the next edition.

Diary Dates 2005

21 March	Minden Band Concert De Montfort Hall, Leicester
25-26 June	Royal Tigers' Weekend, Leicester

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

Maj Gordon Wren writes...

On 24 August 1944, the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment liberated Cormeilles, a small town in Normandy. The citizens of Cormeilles do not forget, and so 60 years later two veterans from the Battalion, Messrs Harry Conn and Peter Giggins, accompanied by Maj Dave Gilchrist, Regimental Secretary, and the editor of *The Eagle*, representing the Association, were invited by the Mayor, Mr Max Bergault, to take part in their 2004 celebrations.

Arriving on the evening of 23 August, the party was met at the town hall where greetings were exchanged. Dinner was taken at the local hotel where we were staying, and we had the opportunity to discuss arrangements for the following day.

24 August was a day to be remembered. We started with a visit to the town hall to see their exhibition of photographs showing wartime experiences and then on to the main square where there was a collection of wartime vehicles. The prize exhibit was an old Citroen of 40s vintage and Dave, Harry and Peter were offered a ride. I was treated to a trip in a Jeep and the driver, adorned in battledress and beret, drove around the town with siren blaring! Lunch was taken with veterans of the French forces and the Resistance after which we were swept off for a visit to the local Calvados distillery. Next we visited the grave of an RAF pilot, WO Reeves, who was shot down in July 1944 in a small village some 12 miles from Cormeilles. The villagers had collected his body from the woods and when the coast was clear buried him in the local churchyard. The churchyard has been designated an official Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, his being the only Allied grave.

At 6pm there was a parade from the town hall to the war memorial and headed by the local band we marched, with Harry and Peter in pride of place and carrying our wreaths, the short distance to the main square. Both the Mayor and I made speeches which will be reported in full in *The Eagle*. An impressive and moving scene in



Presentation of medals to two of our veterans.



At the grave of WO Reeves RAF.

front of many citizens of the town.

Following the ceremony we moved to a nearby hall where wine and nibbles were to be had in copious quantity. Peter and Harry were presented with Cormeilles medals and Dave and I were also presented with one jointly, not for us personally but on behalf of the town to the Regiment as a whole. This was a nice touch, and much appreciated, as it remembered all those of the 2nd Battalion who passed through here all those years ago. This will be on show at Warley for everyone to see.

And so ended a most memorable day where the hospitality and genuine gratitude of our hosts to our two veterans could not have been excelled.

The Association's trip to Bayeux took place between 5 and 8 June. 6 June saw us at the British War Cemetery where, as we were unable to make the main ceremony due to traffic conditions and the antics of the French police, we had our own service, conducted by the Rev Martin Franks, at the Cross of Sacrifice after most of the crowd had dispersed. After lunch at Juaye Mondaye, provided by the local communities, we moved to Verriers Wood, known to the Regiment as Essex Wood, where a memorial was dedicated to those who fell on 11 and 12 June 1944. Finally in the evening we moved to Tilly sur Seullles for the renaming of the main square which had been changed to Place de l'Essex Regiment. The plaque was unveiled by Maj Gen Michael Holme who was A Company commander in 1944. Again, wreaths were laid and speeches made. Exhausted, we returned to our hotel for a welcome beer and dinner. We were pleased to have with us four soldiers of C (Essex) Company 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment with us throughout the trip, led by 2Lt Will Meddings who laid wreaths at all our services on behalf of the Regiment.

As is the custom, our Reunion was held at the end of June and for most of the time the weather behaved itself, though a number of



Maj Gen Michael Holme CBE MC and the Mayor of Tilly Sur Seullles unveil the plaque.

The Associations



2Lt Will Meddings, C (Essex) Company 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, lays a wreath on the Essex memorial at Bayeux.

visitors got very wet at the end of the day! The Regimental Chapel was packed and the service, following a well proven format, was conducted by the Rev Martin Franks, Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Anglian Regiment with the sermon given by Maj the Rev SA Franklin, Chaplain to the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. Before our excellent strawberry tea, Brig Roger Brunt, who had taken the salute at the march past, spoke on the activities of the Royal Anglian Regiment. A number of mayors were invited to be with us and again the Keys Hall was so full that some late-comers were not able to be accommodated. Book early to avoid disappointment!

The final part of the day took place in the garden where Old Comrades had a chance to meet and talk over old times. The Band of the King Edward VI School, Chelmsford, gave their usual immaculate display and another Reunion came to an end. Mention should be made of the staff at Warley, Maj Dave Gilchrist, Erika and Rosayne, who work so hard to see that the day goes off without a hitch. We do appreciate all their efforts. Also of our Parade Marshal, Maj Roy Jenns MBE who, despite some ill health, led the parade with his usual vigour!

The Minden and Salamanca Day Parade at Pirbright was another highlight of the year. Held appropriately enough on 22 July, we were the guests of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment both for the Trooping of the Colour and the fun and games in the afternoon. What made the day exceptional for all the Essex comrades was to see the Salamanca Eagle paraded. Carried by Capt John Delf and with a full escort of warrant officers and colour sergeants, all stood as the party entered the parade ground to our Regimental March, *The Hampshire*, played by the band of the Life Guards. This surely was a moment to savour, as although the Eagle has been on a number of parades over the years this must be the first time it has actually been paraded since the Freedom Parades of the 40s. Our thanks go to Lt Col Thorne MC, Commanding Officer, and Maj James Woodham, OC C (Essex) Company, for the thought that went into all the planning of this outstanding day.

The Combined Corps of Drums of the 1st and 2nd Battalions the Royal Anglian Regiment Beat Retreat, after which our President, Col Geoffrey Morgan OBE DL, was invited to take the salute. This was seen as a signal honour for our Association and highly appreciated. And so a memorable day came to a close, one which will be remembered for a long time by our Essex Comrades.

Thurrock Branch

Peter Giggins, Hon Sec, writes...

I will start my report by explaining that the Thurrock Branch, when it began way back in the (never mind how long!), was mostly 2nd Battalion (Pompadors). We are now thin on the ground but we are pleased to say that we are getting an increasing number of National Service personnel joining our ranks, mainly those who served with the 1st Battalion the Essex Regiment in the 50s. We also have a few associate members who served with other units, their associations being too far away to attend. Whatever, we are all comrades.

In March, a few members who are also Normandy veterans attended, at the invitation of the Norwich Branch of the NVA, their gathering at Gunton Hall in Suffolk. Very enjoyable, it included a Service of Remembrance as well as Beating Retreat.

June saw the 60th anniversary of the Normandy campaign. I don't think I need write about the happenings as they are well known but it was great to see so many Old Comrades (and I do mean *old!*). We, the Essex Regiment Association, took a fair size party which included wives, partners, widows, family members, and a few members of C (Essex) Company, the Royal Anglian Regiment.

After the main service in Bayeux Cemetery and the dignitaries had left we held our own service and placed our wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice. The service was conducted by Maj the Rev Martin Franks.

On 7 June we returned to Bayeux from our hotel in Montivilliers for a service at our own Essex Pompadors Memorial in the grounds of the Bayeux Normandy Museum. The 7th being the day the Battalion liberated Bayeux, escorted by the tanks of the Sherwood Rangers whose memorial is side by side with the Essex. A joint service was held, conducted by Maj the Rev Martin Franks.

We then travelled to Juaye Mondaye where a buffet lunch was prepared for us, before moving on to Verriers Wood where, on 11-12 June 1944, the Pompadors held their first difficult action and casualties were severe. At the end of the day the Pompadors remained in possession of the wood. Today it is a picnic area and in the centre is the memorial to the Pompadors who died there. The memorial was unveiled by the Mayor of Lingevres and dedicated by the Rev Martin Franks. The memorial gives the area its new name, Essex Wood.

On to Tilly sur Seules which was another nasty battle for the Pompadors. This time we were to witness the main square being renamed Place de l'Essex Regiment. The name plaque was unveiled by Maj Gen Michael Holme (who was A Company Commander in those days), and the Mayor of Tilly sur Seules. Again the Rev Martin Franks officiated.

In July we attended the Minden Day parade at Pirbright with the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. I must thank the Regiment for the invite, it was a day to remember. Trooping the Colour was great, then the Salamanca Eagle was paraded and that certainly made the day for the Essex personnel.

Several of the Branch attended the Regimental Day at Duxford, always an enjoyable day, good for meeting Old Comrades. The Corps of Drums were excellent to watch, but a pity there was no marching military band. This would have made the day.

4th Battalion Comrades' Association

MG Chapman, Hon Sec, writes...

As usual the Association has had a busy calendar of events. In May, Cassino veteran and council member Roy Engwell, accompanied by his wife and daughter, returned to attend the 60th Anniversary Day at the Monte Cassino War Cemetery, and so to visit graves of fallen comrades. On Sunday 6 June our Chairman, Capt John Youles, represented the Regimental Association, who were in Bayeux, at the D-Day Commemoration Service at Chelmsford Cathedral. The 4th Battalion Standard was paraded and carried by George Denny, Vice-Chairman of the branch.

Our summer reunion took place on Saturday 19 June. A total of 62 people attended of which 32 were members. A changed format led to a successful and more intimate gathering. Many of our members attended the Essex Regiment Reunion at the end of June where our Chairman ran a very successful bar.

In August, our Chairman, accompanied by the Honorary Secretary and our Standard Bearer, Mr SG Roser, visited the annual camp of A Company Essex ACF at Longmoor. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to A Company to thank them for their help and support given to the Association over a period of years.

Sunday 15 August saw the screening on Channel 4 of the Wark Clements documentary *Monte Cassino - The Soldiers' Story*. The Association had been heavily involved in the production of the programme which gave good coverage to the part played by the 4th Battalion the Essex Regiment in the battle. Maj Gen Dennis Beckett, Bill Hawkins, John Teeder and Ted Hazle were all mentioned.

The Associations



Chairman Capt JH Youles and Standard Bearer Sid Roser with A Company Essex ACF on Hankley Common Training Ground - presentation of Certificate of Appreciation.

Our annual dinner took place on 4 September at the TA Centre at Warley. A total of 72 people sat down of which 32 were members. Although numbers were down on last year it was gratifying to see a small increase in members attending.

Four members have passed to 'higher service' in the period covered by this report, including John Teeder MM who had contributed to the Monte Cassino documentary; unfortunately he did not live to see the end result. A total of six new members have joined the Association from the post war period or from currently serving TA soldiers.

Our main reunion functions continue to show reduced attendance and Contact Welfare, (a system by which council members undertake to call an assigned quota of the membership roll each month), indicates that this trend will continue. Age, infirmity and distance from Warley continue to take their toll on attendance but interest in the Association and its members is as strong as ever, though the 'flesh is weak'. Our journal *Knife Fork, Spoon* and the concept of Contact Welfare are now seen as playing an increasingly important part in maintaining the morale and spirit of the Association as indicated by comments passed by all members, but especially those unable to attend events. We must continue to monitor events to ensure their financial viability.

A project to transfer historical records of the Battalion, appertaining to World War Two, to computer databases is being undertaken. This was initially prompted by enquiries to the Honorary Secretary from members of the public enquiring about those who had served with the Battalion. Information, on CD Rom, will be made available to the museum and relevant records offices.

The Association is in good heart and with the 'Spirit of the Territorials' soldiering on and looking forward to future events and celebrations of the 60th anniversary of World War Two.

Officers' Dinner Club, 4/5 Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA)
The annual dinner, which commemorates the battles of Gaza (1917) and Cassino (1944) in which the Battalion played a prominent part, took place on 20 March in the Officers' Mess, Roman Way Barracks, Colchester.

Twenty-four members and four guests, which included the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, CO East of England Regiment and OCC (Essex) Company 1 Royal Anglian, had a most enjoyable evening.

In recognition of the 25 years that Frank Kemp has served as Honorary Secretary the Dinner Club Committee presented him with a ship's decanter. Next year's dinner is planned for 9 April 2005.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Colchester Branch)
The branch continues to flourish and a number of new members have been welcomed - the most recent recruits being Kevin Hall (ex 2nd Battalion), Steve Felton (ex 3rd Battalion), Nobby Clarke (ex 3rd Battalion), Jeffrey Shelley (ex R Norfolks and Essex Regiment), Charles Thomas (ex 5th and 6th Battalion Essex Regiment, Paul Glynn (ex 3rd Battalion), and Andy Thomas (ex 2nd Battalion).

Our planned summer activities have gone well - a very enjoyable barbecue and race night in July at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess; a good attendance at the excellent Regimental Day in September, where our Standard flew proudly once more in the capable hands of Paul Bishop; and a congenial games night in October, again at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess. Bob Potter and Brian Davenport represented the Branch at the Ulster Ash Grove ceremony - a moving occasion but also a meeting of old friends, many of them not seen for some while. Then there are the two important events to round off our year, Remembrance Sunday in November and our Christmas gathering in December. After that we head for our third AGM in March and into our fourth year.

Anyone who would like to join the branch should contact the Secretary, Lt Col (Retd) Brian Davenport, at 36 Catherine Hunt Way, Colchester CO2 9HS, 01206-564919, email davenport@colchester1737.freeseerve.co.uk, £7.50 annual subscription until 31 March 2005 - after that £10...join now!

Officers of the Branch: Chairman Tony Downes; Treasurer Colin Ladley; Secretary Brian Davenport; Assistant Secretary Alan Swaep, Members Martin Gilbert, Mick Henson, Kevin Pattison, Bob Potter; ex officio Rod Allen.

The Associations



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

Annual General Meeting

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held on 17 July before which the management committee meeting and AGM were held, as usual, prior to the dinner. Col Worthy chaired the annual general meeting of the Comrades' Association and welcomed all present, in particular Maj Bruce Down, Officer Commanding C Company (Northamptonshire) 2 R Anglian and Maj Peter Isaacs.

The General Fund and Benevolent Fund Accounts were presented and accepted unanimously. Thanks were expressed to Maj Tony Amos for auditing them, and to RHQ R Anglian and the ABF for their help with Benevolence.

The Chairman, as Regimental Advisor to the Borough, reported on good progress in the museum. Mr JP Carr was now Secretary of the Committee. Reports of another successful year were received from Peterborough and Finedon Branches.

Maj Bruce Down gave an excellent resume of events in 2 R Anglian since leaving Chepstow. This was followed by a report on 158 (R Anglian) Regiment RLC (V) by Maj S Barnes.

Comrades' Annual Reunion Dinner

140 members and guests attended the dinner. The evening began

with the Marching On of the Peterborough and Corby Branch Standards, followed with the memory of those who had died in the last year who were printed on the back of the menu sheet, Mr David Knight gave the Exhortation and the Kohima statement. The *Last Post* and *Reveille* were sounded by a bugler from the East of England Regiment (TA) Corps of Drums. When dinner ended the President, Gen Sir John Akehurst read out messages to and from Her Majesty The Queen and from HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. The President then spoke. He welcomed the assembled Comrades, singling out particularly our new Chelsea Pensioner CSgt Shack Shailes who, he said, had already made a favourable impact at the Royal Hospital; and also Maj Peter Isaacs who had served with the Northamptonshire in the early sixties, had gone to fight in Vietnam with the Australian Army and in Oman with the Sultan's Forces, and was presently engaged in Tajikistan in mine clearance with the Princess of Wales's charity. He also welcomed Maj Bruce Down commanding C (Northamptonshire) Company 2 R Anglian, presently serving in Northern Ireland.

After warmly thanking Col Peter Worthy, Mrs Sarah Peyton and Mr JP Carr for all the hard work that had gone into making the dinner the outstanding success it undoubtedly was, the General paid particular tribute to Col Worthy who was so nobly standing in as Area Secretary until a suitable one could be recruited.

The General then gave Comrades his views on the current defence scene (ie as at July 2004), some of which he acknowledged as being controversial.

After dinner an excellent display was given by the Corps of Drums of the East of England Regiment (TA) before Comrades had two and a half hours, before the bar closed, to continue their reuniting. It had been a good evening.

Regimental Sunday

This year there was no official Church Parade or Service. However the Parochial Church Council of The Church of the Holy Sepulchre invited Comrades to a Eucharist Service on what they called Regimental Sunday.

There was a good turnout. The Regimental wreath was laid by Brig RPS Erskine-Tulloch CBE who also read the lesson. Mr David Knight read the Exhortation.

Our thanks to the Rev Simon Tebbutt for conducting the service



Display by the Corps of Drums of the East of England Regiment (TA) at the Annual Reunion Dinner.

The Associations



Some of the Comrades and Friends of the 5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Reunion after their excellent lunch.

and to the members of the parish for their sincere welcome and hospitality in the church rooms after the service.

5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Reunion

An excellent Reunion Lunch was held at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel on 7 May 2004. It was particularly pleasant to welcome and meet Derek and Ann May, the son and daughter-in-law of the late RQMS Dick May. They presented a cheque in memory of Dick to help defray costs in future years. Speeches were made by Maj Richard Hill and Col Peter Worthy, who with Col Anthony Swallow, proposed toasts to HM The Queen, HRH Princess Alice and the Regiment. The next lunch is on Sunday 8 May 2005.

70th Battalion Northampton (Young Soldiers) Reunion

The 13th Reunion took place in Kettering on Friday 1 October in the Conservative Club. The guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Kettering, Cllr and Mrs Eddie Brace, Col and Mrs Peter Worthy, Col and Mrs Anthony Swallow. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday 2 October the Mayor entertained all to lunch in his Parlour and an amusing and informative talk was given on the history of Kettering and the Town Crest. It is hoped the next Reunion will be on Friday 30 September/ Saturday 1 October 2005 (to be confirmed).

Officers' Luncheon - Change of Venue

The next lunch will be held on Wednesday 11 May 2005 at the Army and Navy Club (The Rag), 36 Pall Mall. The cost per head will be in the region of £30, but will not include drinks before lunch. There will be a cash bar. Full details will be issued in the New Year.

Royal Anglian Day

An excellent repeat of last year's Reunion, in fact better, for the numbers of former members of the Northamptonshire Regiment, 2nd East Anglian and 2nd Royal Anglian were greater. It was rewarding to see so many old friends, especially those who do not attend other Reunions.

The weather was kind, but a bit cooler and breezier than last year. The day started with the AGM when Noel Muncey of the Peterborough Branch gave an excellent presentation about the Royal Anglian Website. This was followed by the Drumhead Service and march past of Comrades. Mr David Knight commanded the 2nd Battalion and its former Regiments' Comrades. One question - David where did you get that smart hat?

The beer and food outlets were far better than last year - waiting time much reduced. The majority attending brought their own picnics. Some excellent spreads were seen, especially among our Comrades.

The star of the Reunion was in-pensioner Shack Shailes, resplendent in his red coat and, as usual, in good voice. It was a pleasure and honour to have him with us. What a pity none of the pensioners from



David Knight along with in-pensioner Shailes leading the Northamptonshire contingent at the Royal Anglian Day.

other former Regiments supported him. Perhaps RHQ R Anglian could coordinate their attendance at future gatherings.

12 September 2004 was a memorable day. Perhaps we can improve on the numbers next year. How about some more officers attending? There was only a handful this year. Next year's Day is planned for 18 September 2005 - put an entry in your diary now.

Thiepval Memorial

Col and Mrs Worthy were guests at the new Visitor Centre inauguration by HRH The Duke of Kent on 27 September 2004.

The Centre is an attractive, long, low construction, sunk into the landscape with enclosing earthworks reminiscent of trenches. Inside there is plenty of exhibition space, a lecture room and public areas including reception, shop and services.

In the exhibition space is a model of Lutyens memorial, and an educational display consisting of several sections including:

The Great War - tells the story of the Battles of the Somme and their context in the Great War.

The Aftermath

Military Remembrance - how fallen are honoured

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission - its role

Reconstruction after the War

Edwin Lutyens - his life and works

The Missing - photographs of some of the 73,000-plus missing (includes 2Lt Michael Barthorp aged 19, (uncle of Maj MR Barthorp).

Deaths

Adams: In Northampton on 16 October 2004, aged 75, Mr David J Adams, late Band 2nd Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment and 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment.

Agutter: In Peterborough on 27 June 2004, Capt Tom Agutter TD, late 5th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Garner: In Sevenoaks on 23 April 2004, aged 86, Capt A Colin Garner MC, late the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Mills: In Northampton on 5 September 2004, Mr Thomas James (Tom) Mills MM, late 2nd and 5th Battalions the Northamptonshire Regiment.

McNicol: In Northampton on 17 June 2004, aged 88, Mr Walter (Mac) McNicol MM, late 2nd Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment.

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 2AB
 Tel: (01603) 400290
President: Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB
 CBE

Gt Yarmouth/Gorleston Branch
 Mr RC Pillar,
 16 Alder Close,
 Bradwell, Gt Yarmouth,
 Norfolk NR31 8PD

Norwich Branch
 Mr PE Boxall,
 31 Breckland Road,
 New Costessey,
 Norwich NR5 ORW

Suffolk

HQ The Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades Association and the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Branch)
 The Keep,
 Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds,
 Suffolk IP33 3RN
 Tel: (01603) 400290
 (01284) 752394 (Wed only)
President: Brig WC Deller OBE

Bury St Edmunds and District Branch
 Mr C Smith,
 15 Rectory Road,
 Whepstead,
 Suffolk IP29 4TE

Ipswich Branch
 Mr D Gillingham,
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 Ipswich,
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Hemel Hempstead Branch
 Mr M Gilbert (Secretary)
 84 Westfield Road,
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 Hertfordshire HP4 3PN

Beccles Branch
 Mr ME Reed,
 143 The Avenue,
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 Suffolk NR33 7LJ
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 Mr N Buckingham,
 Marahaba,
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 Mrs R Coote,
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Secretary: Maj MA Jarvis, 1 Witham Close,
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Ely Branch
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Wisbech Branch
 Mr RC Keating,
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Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch
 Mr B Whitwell,
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Chairman: Brig AFFH Robertson CBE

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President: Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright
CB CBE DL

Lincoln Branch

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Grimsby Branch

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Lincs DN37 ONS
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Spalding Branch

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Chairman: Col P Worthy

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www.poachers.net

Peterborough Branch

Mr NFL Muncey,
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Leicestershire

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

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President: Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE DL

Wiltshire

Warminster Branch

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Tel: (01985) 300552

Orbats

Orbat for the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2004

Battalion

Headquarters

Lt Col EEC Thorne MC
Maj AW Price
Capt OCC Brown
Capt DH James-Roll
Capt T Jones
Capt L Thomas AGC
Capt PM Kelly RRF
Lt D Pack AGC
WO1 Tate CJ
WO2 Edworthy M AGC
WO2 Hill R
SSgt Ezard K AGC
SSgt Brown PJ AGC
Sgt Coomber L AGC
Sgt McIntyre P AGC
Sgt Portlock J AGC
Sgt Roach ICJ
Cpl Nation AM AGC
Cpl Ward W
Pte Fletcher J
Pte Johnson S

HQ Company

Company Headquarters
Maj DJ Stefanetti
WO2 Marsh D
CSgt Neal S
Cpl Brown N
Cpl Carter P
Cpl Woolliscroft DE AGC
LCpl Baxter NS
LCpl Ellis M
LCpl Jackson SA
Pte Douglas G AGC
Pte Lane DKC

Provost Section

Sgt Boreham S
LCpl Robnett P
LCpl Buff DL

RAP

Maj J Palmer AMS
Sgt Johnson S
Cpl Horn S
Cpl Martin JR AMS
Cpl Peyton J
LCpl Clemson SJ AMS
LCpl Jolly JA AMS
Pte Clarke M
Pte Evans J
Pte Flounders C

Training Wing

Capt PN Blanchfield
WO2 French B
CSgt O'Grady T
Sgt Berridge F
Sgt James KJ

Messes

Sgt Wildney MJ
Cpl Marshall LH

Pte Campbell LE
Pte Fox TC
Pte Ibbott MJ
Pte Pearson KM
Pte Terrell C

Families Office

CSgt Woods M
Cpl Franklin A
Pte Murphy JR
Pte Fincham SC

Intelligence Cell

Capt RJ James
Sgt Baxter GRG
Sgt Patten J
Cpl Stevens M

CIS Platoon

Capt MA Nicholas
WO2 Curtis D
CSgt Garvie A
Sgt Carter A
Sgt Kulkarni C
Sgt Magee C
Cpl Bell D
Cpl Bonner D
Cpl Hogston DJ
Cpl Kendall A
Cpl Mitchell S
Cpl Rumsey J
LCpl Duckett S
LCpl Lathangue M
LCpl Nicholls L
LCpl Reilly G
LCpl Warner O
Pte Bailey M
Pte Hughes M
Pte Mavin CR
Pte Small AA
Pte Smith IK
Pte Tate AD

QM Department

Maj SJ Nye MBE
Capt D Mackness
WO2 Buff A
WO2 Buxton J
Sgt Howard D
Sgt Lennon B
Sgt Richardson I
Sgt White I
Cpl Brown A
Cpl Codling P
Cpl Hardy B
Cpl Neal A
Cpl Nicholls J
LCpl Borgenvik J
LCpl Boyle M
LCpl Murton T
LCpl Tulit ME
Pte Holder A

MT Department

Capt SD Robinson
WO2 Athroll R

Sgt Buist D
Cpl Bronsdon SR
Cpl Forsythe PM
Cpl McKenna DA
Cpl Pierce A
LCpl Chandler DW
LCPL Dodd M
LCpl Goodchild SR
LCpl Jones TW
LCpl Moore MJ
Pte Atkins A
Pte Barnett NJ
Pte Callaghan TJ
Pte Cox C
Pte Duggan S
Pte Sayce NA
Pte Stevens SD

Gym

WO2 Warwick MA
LCpl Gibbs AD
LCpl Knights MP

LAD

WO2 Tolson N
SSgt Granfield J
Sgt Severs T
Cpl Ball S
Cpl Carter M
Cpl Russle R
Cpl Sands DJ
LCpl Bell I
LCpl Hillcoat RF
LCpl Porter R
LCpl Reed D
LCpl Simpson N
LCpl Skene WA
LCpl Southard CS
Cfn Brennan C
Cfn Devlin DJ
Cfn Grigg J
Cfn Hodgins JC
Cfn Parry TG
Cfn Ramsey PS
Cfn Roylance SJ
Cfn Wallace AE
Cfn Wright L

Viking Chefs

WO2 McLeod C
SSgt Mattocks P
Sgt Hay AD
Sgt Williams A
Cpl Edwards A
Cpl Otto NR
Cpl Pettit M
Cpl Storey D
LCpl Bygraves P
LCpl Honeywill B
LCpl Jackson L
LCpl Kelly DC
LCpl Tudor CT
Pte Abernethy KS
Pte Bolia LT
Pte Brown CN
Pte Jackson NC

Pte Lomata EN
Pte Mall J
Pte Qutakira SN
Pte Royer S

Rehabilitation Platoon

Cpl Hoogendijk R

A (Norfolk)

Company

Company Headquarters

Maj JD Hughes
WO2 Jay L
CSgt Ramm P
Cpl Branch CJW
Cpl Cole W
Cpl Phair R
LCpl Flight MC
LCpl Hammond RA AGC
LCpl Roberts A AGC
Pte Cartwright L
Pte Freebairn C
Pte Woodley C

1 Platoon

Lt Al Maclay
2 Lt GJR Hudson
Sgt Browning W
Cpl Bryne-Evans D
Cpl Panter S
LCpl Hazell CG
LCpl Knight J
LCpl Walker M
Pte Browne S
Pte Burke S
Pte Chapman G
Pte Chow J
Pte Cook N
Pte Cowley T
Pte Downie D
Pte Field A
Pte Freeman A
Pte Glossop A
Pte Goddard P
Pte Hubbard B
Pte Mason D
Pte McCabe H
Pte Meighan K
Pte Moore S
Pte Prior W
Pte Redford S
Pte Richardson R
Pte Rudkin MP
Pte Rutherford A
Pte Stephens MTC
Pte Sullivan D

2 Platoon

Lt RA Smit
Sgt Bonham M
Cpl Lilley P
LCpl Findley T
LCpl McGee T
LCpl Smith MC
Pte Andrews C

Orbats

Pte Brace T
 Pte Cornish PMG
 Pte Fisher C
 Pte Fox D
 Pte Green P
 Pte Griffiths R
 Pte Hesson T
 Pte Highton K
 Pte Jakes MW
 Pte Keeble S
 Pte Nichols S
 Pte Njie M
 Pte Okotie J
 Pte O'Reilly L
 Pte Sayers L
 Pte Smith SS
 Pte Stephens N
 Pte Tilbury N
 Pte Vasilakis C

3 Platoon

2 Lt DAW Jaggard
 Sgt Rix N
 Cpl Dunning A
 Cpl Moore R
 LCpl Brooks CA
 LCpl Freeman K
 LCpl Sell P
 Pte Bailey A
 Pte Bailham N
 Pte Bowyer M
 Pte Bryant M
 Pte Clark A
 Pte Dindyal A
 Pte Jarrad D
 Pte Johnson A
 Pte Leonardi MP
 Pte Mazriel S
 Pte Moy L
 Pte Murray D
 Pte Penny S
 Pte Purday M
 Pte Ranns R
 Pte Rouse C
 Pte Sayers J
 Pte Sivewright C
 Pte Smith I
 Pte Symonds L
 Pte Turner B
 Pte Tuva J
 Pte Wallace D

B (Suffolk) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj FJR Grounds
 WO2 Kerton P
 CSgt Newton T
 Cpl Allan C AGC
 Cpl Fosker S
 Cpl Pratt JI
 LCpl Hayward R
 LCpl Mataveca A
 Pte Cambridge R
 Pte Coram C
 Pte Petch T

5 Platoon

Lt DJ Robinson
 Sgt Hartland C
 Cpl Martin S
 LCpl Havis H

LCpl Rose M
 LCpl Ryan J
 LCpl Smith D
 LCpl Tower J
 Pte Ashby LD
 Pte Burnell C
 Pte Corless A
 Pte Cox T
 Pte Davis J
 Pte Dunsmore CJ
 Pte Greenfield W
 Pte Haldenby J
 Pte Jones L
 Pte Judge N
 Pte Lovett D
 Pte Nadriwa L
 Pte Reynolds D
 Pte Sheppard A
 Pte Sones G
 Pte Tollerson G
 Pte Veal P
 Pte Webster W
 Pte Williamson S
 Pte Worgan S

6 Platoon

Lt R DLGardner
 Lt DJ Glover
 Sgt Snow I
 Cpl Lander M
 LCpl Blackley M
 LCpl Jackson N
 LCpl Mason T
 LCpl Perkins A
 LCpl Shenton L
 Pte Alford D
 Pte Coley AR
 Pte Dennis SWJ
 Pte Farnsworth S
 Pte Garcia RL
 Pte Geater L
 Pte Gilbert L
 Pte Howell P
 Pte Mann T
 Pte Owens DD
 Pte Perry JM
 Pte Rogers W
 Pte Rolph I
 Pte Wallace D
 Pte Wanja E
 Pte Williamson M

7 Platoon

Lt OB Ormiston
 Sgt Culshaw P
 Cpl Macdonald R
 Cpl Tawse T
 LCpl Cleverley DN
 LCpl George A
 LCpl Patterson A
 Pte Barke R
 Pte Brown I
 Pte Cooledge AD
 Pte Crouchen M
 Pte Davie G
 Pte Dowd S
 Pte Firmin R
 Pte Howell L
 Pte James T
 Pte McCluskey P
 Pte MCFedries H

Pte Mcllroy I
 Pte Rayner S
 Pte Smith DJ
 Pte West D
 Pte White B

C (Essex) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj JM Woodham
 Capt JP Delf
 WO2 Jewell C
 CSgt Hopkin C
 Cpl Gomer W
 Cpl Kearney P
 LCpl West EA AGC
 Pte Adamson M
 Pte Athorn L
 Pte Mayer B
 Pte Stancombe G

9 Platoon

Lt WJ Meddings
 Sgt Kitson JC
 Cpl Stewart G
 LCpl Miller M
 LCpl Mulley K
 Pte Adlington J
 Pte Bailey N
 Pte Bowers DD
 Pte Carter JR
 Pte Casburn A
 Pte Edwards D
 Pte Emmett B
 Pte Ghazalli S
 Pte Henty S
 Pte James B
 Pte Johnson B
 Pte Khan B
 Pte Langridge GJR
 Pte McCloud D
 Pte Pickles A
 Pte Roets L
 Pte Rutherford R
 Pte Stockwell LA
 Pte Tanner-Tremaine J
 Pte Trussler S
 Pte Wyatt R

10 Platoon

Lt PM Martin
 Sgt Ielden M
 LCpl Eheret K
 LCpl Marsh M
 LCpl Stewardson M
 LCpl Tait N
 Pte Brace J
 Pte Cocks J
 Pte Cooper LB
 Pte Day D
 Pte Drinkwater WG
 Pte Evans G
 Pte Facal K
 Pte Garner DA
 Pte Kent J
 Pte King A
 Pte Langton A
 Pte Lumbard AJ
 Pte Pemberton C
 Pte Railton R
 Pte Rensch D

Pte Roberts B
 Pte Smith KD
 Pte Ware R
 Pte Strike I

11 Platoon

Lt DC Hicks
 2Lt MOG Taylor
 Sgt Thurston A
 Cpl Fordham I
 LCpl Everitt M
 LCpl Owen D
 LCpl Rice CM
 LCpl Stow P
 Pte Bailey D
 Pte Cobb SD
 Pte Duncan A
 Pte Ford T
 Pte Harris D
 Pte James S
 Pte Jones D
 Pte Juby SP
 Pte Lake B
 Pte Moulds S
 Pte Rawson T
 Pte Saumi S
 Pte Sawyer M
 Pte Spanton R
 Pte Turner D
 Pte Vaughan T
 Pte Watson D

D (Cambridgeshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj JA York
 Capt TGBFColeman
 WO2 Riley D
 CSgt Cave G
 Cpl Bloss I
 Cpl Elliot E AGC
 Cpl Naylor J
 LCpl Groves L
 Pte Cook SD
 Pte Davies L
 Pte Jarrett J AGC
 Pte Strachan JR

Recce Platoon

Capt ASM Dobbin
 WO2 Goodman D
 Cpl Heal MJ
 Cpl Hill J
 Cpl Ling D
 Cpl Pindar A
 Cpl Shropshire B
 Cpl Vickery RJ
 LCpl Cowell TJ
 LCpl Eggleton P
 LCpl Eggleton J
 LCpl Groves D
 LCpl Roberts WJ
 Pte Brundle J
 Pte Dunlop J
 Pte Emmett S
 Pte Green J
 Pte Marrison G
 Pte Neill A
 Pte Philo JJ
 Pte Webster P

Orbats

Pte Worsley C

Milan Platoon

Capt TW Gregory
 CSgt Clark S
 Cpl Cartwright G
 Cpl Guy A
 Cpl Hicks S
 Cpl Price A
 Cpl Ratten J
 LCpl Chadwick D
 LCpl Dowles A
 LCpl Leighton M
 LCpl McPhee S
 LCpl Mercer S
 LCpl Metcalfe S
 LCpl Toynton P
 LCpl Watts G
 Pte Burrell J
 Pte Cater D
 Pte Curtis C
 Pte Curtis K
 Pte Drage P
 Pte Earl LS
 Pte Emery A
 Pte Evans D
 Pte Grange-Cook D
 Pte Gregory J
 Pte Gwarisa T
 Pte Illing A
 Pte Kirkham B
 Pte Lashley AM
 Pte Lawrence B

Pte McKelvie A
 Pte Oldsworth D
 Pte Owusu G
 Pte Paul T
 Pte Pluck K
 Pte Prins R
 Pte Robinson R
 Pte Rogalski J
 Pte Severinski D
 Pte Smith A
 Pte Terry A
 Pte Ward D
 Pte Watkins T
 Pte Wright R

Mortar Platoon

Capt PC Moxey
 WO2 Freeman M
 Sgt Evans A
 Sgt Watson RJ
 Cpl Butterick W
 Cpl Duggan B
 Cpl Ferrand TL
 Cpl Tinkler AP
 Cpl Wilsher M
 LCpl Bailham A
 LCpl Bale J
 LCpl Duncan A
 LCpl Howe A
 LCpl Johnson D
 LCpl Logdon O
 LCpl Warwick A
 Pte Benham A

Pte Boughey S
 Pte Brooks C
 Pte Crowe D
 Pte Crowe D
 Pte Curry P
 Pte Davis R
 Pte Dudley R
 Pte Edwards I
 Pte Griffiths M
 Pte Kean-Cockburn D
 Pte Kinsey MJ
 Pte Langston C
 Pte Lawrence B
 Pte Ling J
 Pte Millier T
 Pte Pearce J
 Pte Reynolds K
 Pte Robinson DS
 Pte Sianokevi R
 Pte Smith M
 Pte Taylor RI
 Pte Tyrrell M
 Pte Wade B
 Pte Wallace B
 Pte White G
 Pte White S

Sniper Platoon

Capt LO Stamm
 Sgt Thorn J
 Cpl Blundell R
 Cpl Gorham M
 Cpl Morris M

LCpl Cloughton L
 LCpl Ferrand J
 LCpl Hadaway RJ
 LCpl Robinson M
 LCpl Sarling A
 LCpl Taylor A
 LCpl Tischler W
 Pte Pallet KR
 Pte Restall S
 Pte Willcox J
 Pte Hawkins A

Machine Gun Platoon

Sgt Howlett P
 Cpl Love NJ
 LCpl Debuc RP
 LCpl Eastwood M
 LCpl Farrar A
 LCpl Goodship IW
 LCpl Kennedy PM
 LCpl Meadows LG
 LCpl Soar DR
 Pte Ansell WJ
 Pte Armstrong FS
 Pte Boyle CG
 Pte Cadman DP
 Pte Cucciniello JMR
 Pte Goodrum SJ
 Pte Jarvis NC
 Pte Pudwell AJ
 Pte Silvey R
 Pte Willan MJ
 Pte Young AD

Orbat for the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2004

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col DP O'Driscoll
 Maj ACE Marinos
 Capt MA Dingle
 Capt GB Foden
 WO1 Bredin RJ
 CSgt Lawrence GCB
 LCpl Saunders S
 Pte Mitchell PA

HQ Company

Capt PG Martin
 WO2 Huggins SG
 Sgt Headland CD
 Cpl Jack JA
 LCpl Fleming RJ
 Pte Jennings L

QM Platoon

Maj SN Pallant
 Capt TP Beighton
 WO2 Penn AJ
 WO2 Rainey AJ MC
 CSgt Appleton A
 Sgt Bannon MB
 Sgt Mutch AF
 Cpl Franklin SP
 Cpl Goodman AH

Cpl Latus G
 Cpl Rickman DJ
 LCpl Benstead JM
 LCpl Blanchard DC
 LCpl Oliver JR
 LCpl Selby RJ
 Pte Connolly SJ

RAP

Sgt Oxby KD
 Cpl Wright RJ
 Pte Jubb PL

Sergeants' Mess

Cpl Herron C
 LCpl Westley JJ
 Pte Arnold GS

Officers' Mess

LCpl Hopkins MA
 Pte Garner DR
 Pte Peacock KM

Welfare Office

Capt PS Thompson
 CSgt Hand WE
 Pte Wade PJ

Training Wing

Capt MJ Abbs

Sgt Gadsden PN
 Sgt Vasquez N
 LCpl Parsons A
 Pte Armstrong CJ

Miscellaneous

Cpl Sheerin P
 LCpl Riggs KW

Padre

Maj T Butler

MT Platoon

Sgt Foster AR
 Cpl Addison SJ
 Cpl Inglis MJ
 Cpl Lawrinson CA
 Cpl Robinson LP
 LCpl Atkins R
 LCpl Bryl ST
 LCpl Cooly J
 LCpl Dodd R
 LCpl O Leary S
 LCpl Thomas GMA
 Pte Crozier DF
 Pte Clarke R
 LCpl Dunt
 Pte Haupt GW
 Pte Hewitt DM
 Pte Jones P

Pte Pattinson S
 Pte Rogers AR
 Pte Robinson MC
 Pte Thomas R
 Pte Wyper AJ

G2

Capt AP Wolf
 CSgt Gray MJ
 LCpl Howard MC
 Pte Hughes GO
 LCpl Knight PD
 LCpl Miller ARH
 LCpl Tate JS
 Pte Vranich MJ
 Pte Phillips RL

Essex

Cpl Kirk P
 LCpl West OM
 Pte Alderman RN
 Pte Bridget MW
 Pte Chambers KR
 Pte Goldie AD
 Pte Gouldson AJ
 Pte Harper AS
 Pte Inchley KT
 Pte Johnson JA
 Pte Kenny M
 Pte Parker MD

Orbats

Pte Shortie AS
Pte Turner JT
Pte Watling MC
Pte Woods SS

Close Observation Platoon

Capt RJ McNeil
WO2 Morson RS
CSgt Appleton A
CSgt Waghorn LA
Sgt Clarke M
Sgt Perry RT
Cpl Bradley M
Cpl Cook SW
Cpl Baird CA
Cpl Deakin SA
Cpl Ireland MT
Cpl Kirk AJ
Cpl Symons T
Cpl Tremain MD
Cpl Whitley J
LCpl Abbott SI
LCpl Cripps CJ
LCpl Conroy JD
LCpl Cousin R
LCpl Estwick
LCpl Hickey AJ
LCpl Haydon RL
LCpl Jakabus DW
LCpl Lawrence MJ
LCpl Martin DJ
LCpl Pegg ST
LCpl Randall M
LCpl S-Norton SA
LCpl Silva UM
LCpl Styles DI
LCpl Wilkinson MA
Pte Ashbridge AL
Pte Bates AJ
Pte Brown K
Pte Byron PL
Pte Burgess TP
Pte Frazier RM
Pte Jackson 41 CS
Pte Keightley DJ
Pte Murphy ME
Pte Newet CM
Pte O Grady L
Pte Shand TJ
Pte Straw RP
Pte Smith CL
Pte Taylor AD
Pte Zmija DMI

RAO

Maj LC Smith
WO2 Burford MJ
WO2 Marritt DG
SSgt Burrus AP
Sgt Clowes MW
Sgt Chapell RH
Sgt Tracey AT
Cpl Knowles JKC
Cpl Brookes VA
LCpl Plant AD
LCpl Ravutia PB
LCpl Shaw C
Pte Gilbody C

Medical Centre
Capt GJ Sanders

Cpl Clarke DA
LCpl Blades DR
LCpl Murdoch A
Pte Jackson SJ

Dental Centre

Maj SA Jones
Capt Yardley
Cpl Wood L
LCpl Storey C
LCpl Woodward CR

Courses/Miscellaneous

Capt MJ Abbs
Capt JD Inch
CSgt Heeley WL
Sgt Chillingsworth JB
Cpl Gillespie SG
LCpl Thomas GMA
LCpl Whittle MA

APTC

SSgt Lamb DT

**A (Lincolnshire)
Company****Company Headquarters**

Maj SR Smith
Capt MC Melia
WO2 Jackson PG
CSgt Richards GC
Cpl Lyles GS
Cpl Lash SP
Cpl McCourty SN
LCpl Young DJ
Pte Brooks DT
Pte Price MJD
Pte McQueer M

1 Platoon Multiple 1

Lt DW Turner
Pte Conlon JP
Pte Rice GS
Pte Vincent SJ
Cpl Budworth ACW
Pte Heydon CP
Pte Llwellyn SJ
Pte Moore DA
LCpl Hartshorne O
Pte Davidson LA
Pte Fields KA
Pte Ogden SL

2 Platoon Multiple 1

Lt JM Ding
Cpl Glascodine SG
Cpl Wells GR
LCpl Rowe CD
Pte Cox MF
Pte Denison CRG
Pte Docherty RJ
Pte Mitchell CP
Pte Pope NM
Pte Ward TR
Pte Wareham D
Pte Whitwell JR

Multiple 2

Sgt Graham SD
Cpl Fox M

LCpl Mitchell MD
Pte Frodsham AR
Pte Garrett RJ
Pte Gutteridge E
Pte Ireland 78 AJ
Pte Jackson 09
Pte Jackson IC
Pte Key JR
Pte King 39 D
Pte Manning SJ
Pte Manning R
Pte Richardson MJ
Pte Ward 48 AE

3 Platoon Multiple 1

Sgt Mattingly PA
Cpl Rawdon JL
Cpl Smart ST
LCpl Freeman GC
Pte Bates 77 MJ
Pte Boxall-Robinson WA
Pte Carey CD
Pte Couldstone SM
Pte Harvey MR
Pte Holland LM
Pte Ireland 49 JA
Pte Longdon CH
Pte Thompson PR

Miscellaneous

2Lt BT Hawes
Sgt King SD
Pte Blanchard LA
Pte Carter SFC
Pte Glover KC
Pte Iiifle DT
Pte Kean JC
Pte King 22 T
Pte Murphy DS
Pte Rodgers MP
Pte Vout RJ

B (Leicestershire)**Company****Company Headquarters**

Maj NJ Wilcox
Capt MJ Abbs
WO2 Barlett AJ
CSgt Dyson RJ
Cpl Kelly JA
Cpl Siney DP
LCpl Hinds JP
LCpl Presley JR
Pte Croft B
Pte Dinnal OO
Pte Hume JR
Pte Pett LMJ

4 Platoon Multiple 1

2Lt DJ Haggard
Cpl Mactavish SJ
LCpl Baxter SD
LCpl Haines DA
Pte Cook JL
Pte Ferguson SP
Pte Knight SA
Pte McGowan LM
Pte Presland SA
Pte Price KJ
Pte Ridgewell MP

Pte Tyrrel C
Pte Williams DP

Multiple 2

Sgt Hills SP
Cpl Johnson NJ
LCpl Langston KR
LCpl Morgan JMD
Pte McIntyre J
Pte Metcalf RM
Pte Morawski 35 SD
Pte Morgan SL
Pte Smith 53 S
Pte Takala AB
Pte Thompson 52 R
Pte Underwood P
Pte Verdee BS

5 Platoon Multiple 1

Lt AN Wolstenholme
Cpl Davis JR
Cpl Gage AMJ
LCpl Burdass JC
Pte Butcher JE
Pte Cakau J
Pte Davis TE
Pte Green ARP
Pte Morawski 97 AM
Pte Quinn CST
Pte Wara SV

Multiple 2

Sgt Brown CF
Cpl Lang CL
LCpl Moore K
LCpl Otty A
Pte Bellamy JH
Pte Dawson D
Pte Harness JA
Pte Henderson SRJ
Pte Jacques ST
Pte Parker 65 AC
Pte Parsons AM
Pte Shaw G
Pte Thompson MJ

6 Platoon Multiple 1

Sgt George A
LCpl Coulbeck L
LCpl Hassall RM
Pte Brazier MD
Pte Brightmore DJ
Pte Crookes AJ
Pte Holmes RP
Pte Inkson CJ
Pte Johnson R
Pte Koryozan MJ
Pte Oliver BJ
Pte Parker 09 CP
Pte Pratt N

Miscellaneous

Capt SF Roberts
Cpl Penrose T
Pte Barrow 66 S
Pte Blyth R
Pte Birkin D
Pte Brazier MD
Pte Cakau J
Pte Elliott C
Pte Holmes RP

Orbats

Pte Hume JR
 Pte Kent JW
 Pte Kirk SA
 Pte McGowan LM
 Pte McIntyre J
 Pte Perry D
 Pte Quinn CST
 Pte Shaw G
 Pte Spreadbury D
 Pte Walters 48 LJ

C

(Northamptonshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj BM Down
 WO2 Cutts S
 CSgt Farrall DA
 Cpl Bailey CL
 Cpl Elliot RAA
 Cpl Smedley IT
 LCpl Williams S
 Pte Heaton A
 Pte Perkins M
 Pte Quinn JT
 Pte Shaw MJ

7 Platoon Multiple 1

2Lt AR Macleod
 LCpl Cass NJ
 LCpl Eglin DC
 Pte Briggs GC
 Pte Denton TM
 Pte Handyside CJ
 Pte Hogg PD
 Pte Patrick NJ
 Pte Pett TM
 Pte Sawbridge PM
 Pte Thompson DJ
 Pte Williams CL

Multiple 2

Sgt Sweeney PW
 Cpl Squibb M
 LCpl Almond PK
 LCpl Djemal OA
 Pte Bukavesi PTS
 Pte Kent JW

Pte Moffatt SE
 Pte Rowe CG
 Pte Marshall PM
 Pte McNamee SJ
 Pte Parker EG
 Pte Slater SL
 Pte Windle SJ

8 Platoon Multiple 1

Lt AR Lewin
 LCpl Law LG
 LCpl Swain DK
 Pte Baldry SJ
 Pte Fairbrother J
 Pte Jones ML
 Pte Martin CJ
 Pte McDermott SJ
 Pte Ralf SA
 Pte Walters 48 LJ
 Pte Watson I
 Pte Weston DK

Multiple 2

Sgt Asker AL
 LCpl Beard K
 LCpl Shiels AR
 Pte Barrow 66 S
 Pte Brown CI
 Pte Coskun KH
 Pte Griffin BJ
 Pte Rawdon EE
 Pte Reeve DS
 Pte Worster PA
 Pte Rose JM
 Pte Wharton NJ

9 Platoon Multiple 1

2Lt RM Lewis
 LCpl Baron JP
 Pte Baldry SJ
 Pte Lewaicei J
 Pte McRae WP
 Pte Morris AP
 Pte Milton RL
 Pte SaSaDesain AJ

Miscellaneous

Capt J Williamson RG
 Cpl Crabbe TAR

Cpl Greenhill JP
 Cpl Morgan
 Cpl Spray DJ
 LCpl Frisby SJ
 LCpl Wakefield B
 Pte Barrow 27 R
 Pte Briggs GC
 Pte Carney
 Pte Collingwood CN
 Pte Daley AJ
 Pte Elston TL
 Pte Harding AE
 Pte Jordon
 Sgt Taylor S
 Pte Thompson D
 Pte Wallis KDP
 Pte Webster AD

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire)

Company

Company Headquarters

Maj NA Johnson
 Capt JCJ Teare
 WO2 Burt IJ
 CSgt Coupe DJ
 Sgt Pulfrey SR
 Cpl Charlsworth NAM
 Cpl Sumerton CR
 Cpl Turner CJ
 LCpl Greenwold G
 LCpl Sutcliffe MS
 Pte Faversham JP

Mortar Platoon Multiple 1

Capt PD Connolly
 Cpl Batty SK
 Cpl Waqairoba P
 LCpl Green LJ
 LCpl Lawson SP
 LCpl Perry MA
 Pte Aldridge J
 Pte Bowen RH
 Pte Byres AW
 Pte Clarke DE
 Pte Haynes CL
 Pte Upsall MJ

Multiple 2

Sgt Guppy PJ
 Cpl Fox C
 Cpl Watret DR
 Pte Ireland WA
 Pte Johnson DM
 Pte Joy GC
 Pte Koroibulileka S
 Pte Smit SR
 Pte Walker 62 AD
 Pte Walker 39 LA
 Pte Woad DA
 Pte Yates GL

Milan Platoon Multiple 1

CSgt Townsend C
 Cpl Blower CP
 Cpl Crafer RD
 Cpl Handforth JC
 LCpl Fawcett TR
 LCpl Salt ML
 LCpl Thurman MO
 Pte Bellamy AJ
 Pte Breakspear EBR
 Pte Drezewicz MJ
 Pte McGrath RA
 Pte Norton N
 Pte Smiter DAJ

Multiple 2

Sgt Carter RM
 Cpl Knowles DP
 LCpl Holvey DL
 LCpl Peacock JC
 Pte Adamson SM
 Pte Cusick RJ
 Pte Fitzgerald JR
 Pte Oram PA
 Pte Rowe MN
 Pte Summers AN
 Pte Thompson SA
 Pte Uzlelac M
 Pte Weetman AS

Miscellaneous

Pte Hyde R
 LCpl Auckland MP
 Pte Borril MJ
 LCpl Elkington AA
 Pte Stephens D

Orbat The East of England Regiment as at October 2004

Battalion

Headquarters

Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE
Maj DG Vincent MBE
Maj (Rev) PC Whitehead CF
RACHD
Capt TJ Irwin-Parker
Capt MW Wray
WO1 (RSM) Breen NH

HQ (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Company

Maj GW French

QM Department

Maj RP Grenfell
WO2 Tunstill BP
CSgt Starie MFG
Cpl Plume SC
LCpl Hazell S

Regimental Administrative Office

Maj KR Martin
Maj CP Vince
WO2 Coleman R MBE
WO2 Russell MJ

RRTT

Lt MJ Bevin
WO2 Kelly WGR
Pte Seely MF

Signals Platoon

CSgt Greenwood IG
CSgt Welsford RD
Cpl Bygrave DP
Cpl Lanaway GD
LCpl Burgess GM
Pte Bonnett OJ
Pte Catchpole CD
Pte Clarke SL
Pte Doolan PJ
Pte Drummond J
Pte Foddering SJW
Pte Greenwood C
Pte Hefner LA
Pte Pusey AE
Pte McLaren NB
Pte Scott RS
Pte Ward RJ

MT Platoon

WO2 Bailham JE
CSgt Cummings D
Sgt Street MA
Cpl Hunt WJ
Cpl Morris MP
LCpl Fallon JV
LCpl Strong GJ
Pte Finch PW
Pte Irving MR
Pte Scales SL

RLC Detachment

WO2 Stoker E
Cpl Rogers AK
Pte Wainwright ST

REME Detachment

SSgt Alexander S
SSgt Carter RWE BEM
SSgt Smith AG
LCpl McLoughlin J
Cfn Graham MJ
Cfn Power NA

RAMC Detachment

Maj ME Finch
Maj IKM Sommerville
Cpl Blackburn MA
LCpl Clarke DJ
Pte Barstow EL
Pte Hurrell CL

A (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj RG Rogers
Capt RWL Robinson
Capt T Steele
WO2 (CSM) Rushmere GJ
WO2 (SPSI) Routledge PJ
CSgt (QPSI) Keeble G
CSgt Roe IP
Sgt Green JA
WCpl Stone MN
LCpl Feaks JE
Pte Summers SW
Mrs VA Warder
Mr MCD Green

RAMC Detachment

WCpl Andrews A
LCpl Galea DP

REME Detachment

LCpl Bunn SE
Pte Tuttle DWS

RLC Detachment

Cpl Baldwin CM

AGC Detachment

WLCpl Harnett CA
WPte Budds CL

RRTT

WO2 Butler C
Sgt Stone RA
Pte McMurtry JE
Pte Gough PD

1 Platoon (Norwich)

2Lt AM Baker
Sgt Lunn SD
Cpl Jones S
Cpl Hall MC
Cpl Rolph DG
Pte Biss MJ
Pte Butcher C

Pte Caddy LJ
Pte Christian JN
Pte Coman IM
Pte Church RA
Pte De Pear Brown MB
Pte Fahey AHVF
Pte Fallon ME
Pte Hatton RJ
Pte Haworth PS
Pte Hill CH
Pte James DA
Pte Kirk WJ
Pte Mason OD
Pte Mawer JG
Pte Patrick SN
Pte Peck W
Pte Sanders DH
Pte Sharpe MP
Pte Tacon JN
Pte Ulph A
Pte Wilkinson DA
Pte Waddup JJ
Pte Wilson RJ

2 Platoon (Lowestoft)

2Lt NG Heppleston
Sgt Brown JL
Cpl Casey VM
Cpl Sherlock M
Cpl Baker DS
LCpl Colledge MEE
Pte Ardley MS
Pte Bell JI
Pte Brown GP
Pte Carter J
Pte Crossman A
Pte Lehman MJ
Pte Marcelli DR
Pte Nash DM
Pte Palmer MK
Pte Pickess JK
Pte Pointer DC
Pte Poulton G
Pte Read DJ
Pte Reeve JR
Pte Smart J
Pte Stevens JS
Pte Stokes LSC
Pte Sullivan AM
Pte Sutor IM
Pte Sutor AD
Pte Sutton W
Pte Wong NS
Pte Woodhouse J

Mortar Platoon

2Lt M Sumners
Sgt DeKretzer MW
Sgt Fuller PJ
Sgt (PSI) Grice JA
Sgt Hatch SP
Cpl Adams EA
Cpl Pollard KL
LCpl Beavis CW
LCpl Walter ND
Pte Chambers KJ
Pte Steward AP

Pte Sayer EJ
Pte Walker SE

B (Lincolnshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj IM Sackree
Lt CM Massingham
Capt B Saunderson
WO2 (CSM) Redhead S
WO2 (SPSI) Limb J
CSgt (QPSI) Osman MW
CSgt Thompson B
Sgt Beard RT
Cpl Finlay FA
LCpl Henderson KP
LCpl Long CPA
Pte Mitchell L

RLC Detachment

SSgt Lock RAH
Cpl Bannon M
Cpl Metcalfe DE MBE
Cpl Willey N

RAMC Detachment

Sgt Cooke MD
Pte Bailey DJ
Pte Dowling

REME Detachment

Cpl Chester AP
LCpl Spence PMJ
Mr Clarke R

AGC Detachment

Sgt Smith PJ
Cpl Cook MR
Pte Browning EJ
Pte Hinch L
Mrs Henschcliffe K

RRTT

WO2 Garner A MBE
Cpl Day MT
Pte Wilson R

4 Platoon (Grimsby)

CSgt Taylor JLG
Sgt McCurdy AJ
Cpl Davidson KM
Cpl Sheils W
LCpl Hardy MG
Pte Baines GT
Rec Carson PM
Pte Carter BW
Pte Chapman ND
Pte Cox A
Pte Curry MA
Pte Fyfe SPR
Pte Grant SP
Pte Hawkesford MRA
Pte Hopkins RD
Pte Lamberton G
Pte Martin AH
Pte Matthews LLR
Pte Rusling SP

Orbats

Pte Spencer T
Pte Sweet A

5 Platoon (Lincoln)

Cpl Whiting AS
Pte Auckland NEA
Pte Beaver DP
Pte Blakeman GP
Pte Brown TJR
Pte Cook BT
Pte Davidge JPC
Pte Desa AJ
Pte Deegan W
Pte Donnor DP
Pte Duncan C
Pte Duncan PG
Pte Freeman R
Pte Garner MR
Pte Hilton ADJ
Pte Marley NA
Pte Nengomasha NS
Pte Prescott MT
Pte Raymond PW
Pte Rea KR
Pte Robinson BG
Pte Robinson JE
Pte Rogers J
Pte Slater CL
Pte Spinks A
Pte Wilson TN

Recce Platoon

Sgt (PSI) Oldenburg F
Cpl Cardall S
Cpl Dolby MR
LCpl Bisset AD
LCpl Sibbons WR
Pte Buxton MR
Pte Kane S
Pte Newberry AJ
Pte Stokes MA
Pte Wayne J
Pte Wearmouth GJ

C (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj DJ Sommerville
Capt TD Smith MBE
Capt G Jones BDA Regt
WO2 (SPSI) Kyffin D
WO2 (CSM) Webber IW
CSgt (QPSI) Upsall JF
CSgt George AM
Sgt Nagra AS
Cpl Holmes MA
LCpl Mackness BD
Pte Clay MT
Mr G Cockram

AGC Detachment

Cpl Woods GA

RLC Detachment

Sgt Tayler G
Cpl Bailey JR

RAMC Detachment

Cpl Neighbour DJ

REME Detachment

Cpl Ellis JA

RRTT

Sgt Ball NT

7 Platoon (Northampton)

Lt AG Swift
OCdt Hume KP
Cpl George NA
LCpl Gillan PA
Cpl Payne L
LCpl Tew MN
Pte Carr D
Pte Cullinan SP
Pte Fletcher P
Pte Groom SJ
Pte Macaulay IR
Pte Mason SM
Pte Newitt LW
Pte Newton CF
Pte Parker MDE
Pte Parker DA
Pte Primrose GAD
Pte Still SJ
Pte Whiteleg MS
Pte Urwin J
Pte Wooldridge D
Pte Wooldridge T
Pte Whyles SC

8 Platoon (Leicester)

OCdt Gamble AW
Cpl Hague P
LCpl Wragg A
Pte Broad HJ
Pte Chapman JJ
Pte Clarke MJ
Pte Frain AD
Pte Green NT
Pte Gibson J
Pte Hayward WM
Pte Hentrich PS
Pte Kassam S
Pte Lambell JS
Pte Muller SFJ
Pte Mathews RA
Pte Moore AA
Pte Owens JS
Pte Price PJ
Pte Poultney EG
Pte Roach SD
Pte Spriggs MA
Pte Thacker SP
Pte Wood J

Assault Pioneer Platoon (Leicester)

WO2 Marriott D
CSgt Nagra BS MBE
Sgt (PSI) Walker AR
Cpl Hague P
Pte Cragg T
Pte Hurst DO
Pte Mattley H
Pte Jenkins GJ
Pte Lucas DP

Drums Platoon (Peterborough)

Sgt Nightingale P

Cpl Clark B
LCpl Cheetham M
LCpl Howe A
Dmr Bottomley PD
Dmr Britchford DAJ
Dmr Eames M
Dmr Field EP
Dmr Jones PR
Dmr Nixon DM
Dmr Reed DJ
Dmr Richardson AJ
Dmr Wells JH
Dmr O'Sullivan

D (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire) (WFR) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj DW Dawber
Capt DJ Elsam MBE
Capt KE Spiers TD
WO2 (SPSI) Cresswell IA
WO2 (CSM) Pickering JR
C'Sgt (QPSI) Waiton DR
CSgt Simcox ML
Cpl Black AC
Pte Musson MA
Mrs Greentree LC
Mr Vickers O

AGC Detachment

Cpl Massingham SE
Pte Hume M
Pte Wood T

RAMC Detachment

Cpl Simcox ESM
Pte Clarke CC
Pte Toporowski J

MT Detachment

LCpl Shaw MA
Pte Stokes C
RLC Detachment
Cpl Develin ND

RRTT

WO2 Hancock M
Sgt Puttick CD
Cpl Ellis AM

10 Platoon (Mansfield)

2Lt PD Karim
Sgt Leighton CM
LCpl Hicks M
LCpl Howl P
LCpl Peach JA
LCpl Watkinson D
Pte Boycott DJ
Pte Bramwell AP
Pte Briggs A
Pte Buckland CS
Pte Carlin RM
Pte Charles A
Pte Clarke CA
Pte Fleming S
Pte Gent K
Pte Goodband LD
Pte Godber JD
Pte Haddock ATJ

Pte Kenny A
Pte Lacey-Hatton N
Pte McCorkell IJ
Pte Middleton JL
Pte Radford MS
Pte Roe AAK
Pte Rodgers CP
Pte Rowley AC
Pte Stringfellow MR
Pte Upton WJ
Pte Walker DS
Pte White AR
Pte Woodward G

11 Platoon (Derby)

2Lt TA Wopat
Sgt Saville SD
Cpl Stuart M
LCpl Hill J
LCpl Yeates JD
Pte Braddow LD
Pte Brown T
Pte Cook J
Pte Dunne SJ
Pte Hackland MR
Pte Hewitt IJ
Pte Hill AP
Pte Jackson RJ
Pte Lowe M
Pte Milner LL
Pte Mitchell D
Pte Spencer RA

SF Platoon

Lt AG Dickson
WO2 Gorski JM
Sgt (PSI) Hoey AM
Sgt O'Donnell MR
Cpl Coulson SJ
Cpl Mee SJ
Cpl Orton N
LCpl Ryan RM
LCpl Braddow AP
Pte Baxter A
Pte Booth CJ
Pte Jones S
Pte Smith TC
Pte Sutcliffe N

D (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire) (WFR) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj DW Dawber
Capt DJ Elsam MBE
Capt KE Spiers TD
WO2 (SPSI) Cresswell IA
WO2 (CSM) Pickering JR
CSgt (QPSI) Waiton DR
CSgt Simcox ML
Cpl Black AC
Pte Musson MA
Mrs Greentree LC
Mr Vickers O

AGC Detachment

Cpl Massingham SE
Pte Hume M
Pte Wood T

Orbats**RAMC Detachment**

Cpl Simcox ESM
Pte Clarke CC
Pte Toporowski J

MT Detachment

LCpl Shaw MA
Pte Stokes C

RLC Detachment

Cpl Develin ND

RRTT

WO2 Hancock M
Sgt Puttick CD
Cpl Ellis AM

10 Platoon (Mansfield)

2Lt PD Karim
Sgt Leighton CM
LCpl Hicks M
LCpl Howl P
LCpl Peach JA
LCpl Watkinson D
Pte Boycott DJ
Pte Bramwell AP
Pte Briggs A
Pte Buckland CS
Pte Carlin RM
Pte Charles A
Pte Clarke CA
Pte Fleming S
Pte Gent K
Pte Goodband LD
Pte Godber JD
Pte Haddock ATJ
Pte Kenny A
Pte Lacey-Hatton N
Pte McCorkell JJ
Pte Middleton JL
Pte Radford MS
Pte Roe AAK
Pte Rodgers CP
Pte Rowley AC
Pte Stringfellow MR
Pte Upton WJ
Pte Walker DS
Pte White AR
Pte Woodward G

11 Platoon (Derby)

2Lt TA Wopat
Sgt Saville SD
Cpl Stuart M
LCpl Hill J
LCpl Yeates JD
Pte Braddow LD
Pte Brown T
Pte Cook J
Pte Dunne SJ
Pte Hackland MR
Pte Hewitt IJ
Pte Hill AP
Pte Jackson RJ
Pte Lowe M
Pte Milner LL
Pte Mitchell D
Pte Spencer RA

SF Platoon

Lt AG Dickson
WO2 Gorski JM
Sgt (PSI) Hoey AM
Sgt O'Donnell MR
Cpl Coulson SJ
Cpl Mee SJ
Cpl Orton N
LCpl Ryan RM
LCpl Braddow AP
Pte Baxter A
Pte Booth CJ
Pte Jones S
Pte Smith TC
Pte Sutcliffe N

**E (Essex &
Hertfordshire)
Company**

Company Headquarters

Maj SR Watson
Capt PD Thurston
Capt RTL Brearley
WO2 (CSM) Brazier MD
WO2 (SPS1) Pascal
CSgt (QPS1) Anderson V
CSgt Head CJ

Sgt Chapman P
Cpl Cain PF
Cpl Crawley PE
Cpl Swann S
LCpl Green DJ
Pte Hacker
Pte Robins JB
Mrs L Argrave
Mr Barlow JB

AGC Detachment

Pte Sloan KD
Pte Smith MC

RAMC Detachment

LCpl Ellerbeck MF
Pte Hatt J

REME Detachment

Cpl Lelliott SW

RLC Det

LCpl Bartlett VJ

RRTT

2Lt AD Oglesby
CSgt Haward CG
Sgt Low B
LCpl Collinson S
LCpl Kelson RW

14 Platoon (Hertford)

Lt D Stanhope
Sgt Duffy JG
LCpl Brown C
LCpl Ibbott AJ
LCpl Stratton RJ
Pte Avey SF
Pte Balfour JD
Pte Breese RF
Pte Brett SL
Pte Brown EBJ
Pte Chambers JA
Pte Clark-Tunncliffe MCT
Pte Cockerell MJ
Pte Cox LA
Pte Emptage MA
Pte Franklin RAE

Pte Gosden A
Pte Gough MA
Pte Graham-Watson T
Pte Hatt CA
Pte Hutchins JF
Pte Kovacs IR
Pte Lawrence L
Pte Luckins RW
Pte Smith AM
Pte Storey ID
Pte Taylor AG
Pte Turner PT
Pte Vickers CRJ
Pte Wellings ND
Pte Wenham DT

MG Platoon (Chelmsford)

Capt AJ Coulson
Lt AJ Horner
CSgt Cavedasca P
Sgt (PSI) Neal T
Sgt Pugh I
Cpl Collinson N
Cpl Jeffree JP
LCpl Butler S
LCpl Cox CJ
LCpl Gayler LD
Pte Aitchison RJ
Pte Charge DNE
Pte Chilton SA
Pte Connell RG
Pte Davies J
Pte Greenan A
Pte Hardy B
Pte Harrison JM
Pte Jeffcott SJ
Pte Johnson RMG
Pte Johnson DWR
Pte Kelly DP
Pte King JD
Pte Latham PJ
Pte Marston CA
Pte Martin R
Pte Perkins KD
Pte Plair SR
Pte Swan AJ
Pte Urwin BIJ
Pte Westgarth J
Pte Wheeler CL

Life At The Royal Hospital Chelsea - All Work, Rest And Play (or, never a dull moment...)

Do not get the wrong idea. The Royal Hospital is not a 'hospital' as such - the name given to almshouses in the days before hospitals, as we know them, were invented. The Royal Hospital is an old people's home - albeit a rather special one for the soldiers who have served for King, Queen and Country.

So, we offer sheltered accommodation, care and, for some, a hospice. A few of the in-pensioners are aged under 65 and our oldest is 99. The average age of our 310 residents is just over 80.

The Royal Hospital has all the things that are required for a comfortable old age - all meals and accommodation found, no laundry and other delightful chores, comradeship and security. Full medical and nursing care is also available for those who need it. For many a pleasant lifestyle is complete with a visit to the club to take in a concert or a game of bingo, a game of snooker, a trip to the library or just chatting over the papers.

Yet, for those with more energy, there is a lot more to Royal Hospital life.

There is action...in-pensioner Jim McGovern completed the 2004 London marathon in less than six and a half hours (not bad when you are over 68 and in uniform), collecting over £8,000 for the charitable work of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Hospital's development programme. In 2002, aged 82, Buck Taylor went over the assault course at Pirbright and he has been snowboarding in Germany. Earlier this year a party of in-pensioners joined in the annual 12km walk at Soest.

However, not every in-pensioner does such athletic things...the Bowls Club is very active and popular. There is a full programme of matches, both home and away throughout the year. The putting green is always available for a quiet 'round' with friends and family. Both are, of course, close to the 19th hole in the in-pensioners' Club.

For those of a more practical and artistic bent there is a fully kitted out arts and crafts block and all manner of pictures and objects are displayed at the popular annual arts and crafts exhibition, which is open to the public.

The more musical in-pensioners can join the Royal Hospital Band. It plays at concerts within the Royal Hospital, for the infirmary residents and at local shows and carnivals. For the green fingered there are allotments, the fruits of which often grace the tables of the Great Hall.

In-pensioners also travel widely. Many go off on cruises or visit family all over the world. Organised trips are undertaken regularly - in 2004 to Gibraltar for the 300th anniversary of its capture and more recently to the D-Day beaches and Arnhem for the 60th anniversary of those momentous events. In 2002 a party event went to Washington and met the President. Every autumn a battlefield tour is undertaken, this year taking the opportunity of international reconciliation to go to Libya.

Some, however, prefer the more mundane, but possibly profitable ventures of going on one of the many trips to the races. These, like many other activities are organised by the wide number of people and organisations who support us.

For those with more sedentary interests there is a computer suite which is available for all to use — tuition is no problem and internet access always on line.

Apart from pure pleasure, around 90 of the in-pensioners elect to work around the Royal Hospital. This is not onerous but allows them to maintain an interest in what goes on, meet people and, of course, receive additional income. In-pensioners are valued as guides for the many tour parties that visit. They enthral the visitors with interesting and often lurid stories about the Royal Hospital (soto voce if the staff are around!). Others assist in the chapel, museum and souvenir shop and in many other ways in the various departments. They make a considerable and valued contribution to the running of the Royal Hospital.

There are a few duties that each in-pensioner is expected to perform. Attendance is required at the Annual Founder's Day, which is held in the second week in June and occasionally each in-pensioner has to attend the Governor's Parade which takes place on Sunday morning before Chapel. (Compulsory chapel attendance ended some years ago, but many enjoy attending the service).

The Royal Hospital is acting to ensure that it can continue to provide the most modern residential accommodation and care, maintaining the fabric of the buildings and tradition of the past. Work has now started to provide a complete new infirmary building. This will offer 'state of the art' medical and care facilities for up to 125 in-pensioners.

Additionally, the in-pensioner's accommodation in the long wards is to be improved to 21st century standards. This will offer a much enhanced quality of life within the historic buildings. Importantly, it will eventually allow accommodation to be allocated to eligible women former soldiers.

We welcome at any time from any former soldier who is qualified. If you would like to apply (or you know someone who may be interested) the criteria for admission are you must be in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Army Service, you must normally be at least 65 years of age, and you must be free from the obligation to support a wife or family.

If you are interested in joining please contact us through the Royal Hospital website - www.chelsea-pensioners.org.uk or ring 020 7881 5204 for further information. The Royal Hospital is open to the public (entry is free) on nearly every day of the year (not Sunday mornings unless attending Chapel). If you are in Chelsea take the opportunity to visit us and see the Chelsea Pensioners in action!

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e-mail: clare.bradford@cofathec.co.uk

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ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
LONDONDERRY
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aged 31
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Lance Corporal Ian CURTIS
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
LONDONDERRY
9th November 1971
aged 23
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Second Lieutenant Nicholas HULL
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
16th April 1972
aged 21
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private John BALLARD
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
11th May 1972
aged 18
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Lance Corporal Martin ROONEY
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
13th July 1972
aged 22
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Nicholas FEACOCK
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
1st February 1986
aged 23
'Always Remembered'



Planted for
Corporal Kenneth MCKAY
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
10th July 1971
aged 24
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Mitchell BERTRAM
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
SOUTH ARMAGH
9th July 1986
aged 23
'Loved Always'

Planted for
Corporal Michael BODDY
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
17th August 1971
aged 24
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Carl DAVIES
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
SOUTH ARMAGH
9th July 1986
aged 24
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Corporal John BARRY
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
25th September 1972
aged 22
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Major Andrew Foscroft FRENCH
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
CROSSMAGLEN
22nd May 1986
aged 35

Planted for
Private Ian BURT
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
29th September 1972
aged 18
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Martin PATTEN
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
LONDONDERRY
22nd September 1985
aged 18
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Anthony ANDERSON
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
LONDONDERRY
24th May 1982
aged 22
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Paul WRIGHT
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
8th October 1979
aged 21
'Well Remembered'

Planted for
Private Anthony GOODRELOW
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
LONDONDERRY
27th April 1975
aged 26
'Always Remembered'

Planted for
Private Robert MASON
ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
BELFAST
24th October 1972
aged 19
'Always Remembered'