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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT



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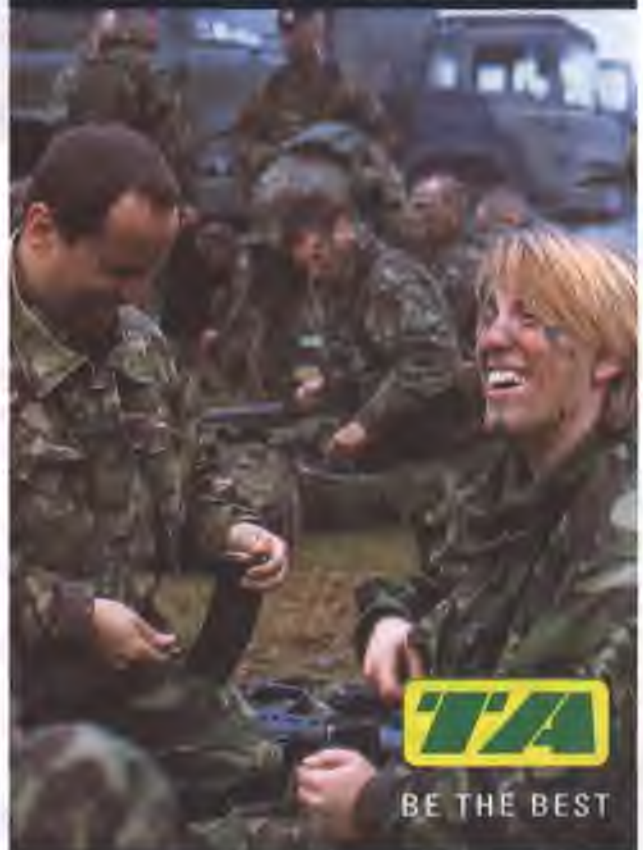
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Vol 13 No 5



Editor: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE

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Front cover

Maj Aston, OC B (Suffolk) Company presents Iraq Operational Service Medals to members of his company at Pirbright.

Back cover

51mm mortar fires at night, and, inset, 81mm, Exercise Saffron Sands.

Regiment Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk



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Managing Director: Ron Pearson

Sales Manager: Amanda Mains

From the Colonel of the Regiment



The Colonel of the Regiment with members of the Suffolk Regiment in Normandy in June.

The six months since the last edition of *Castle* was published have been dominated for all of our Battalions by operations and the preparation for operations. The 1st Battalion returned from Iraq at the end of October on completion of a demanding six-month tour. That tour is covered in some detail within the magazine. Sufficient here to say that the conditions were demanding, the task required subtlety as well as commitment, and the insurgents who sought to disrupt our efforts were well equipped and tactically flexible. The Battalion's success reflected the care and thoroughness with which they had prepared, and the adaptability, hard work and intelligence shown by all ranks throughout the six months. The Vikings can take satisfaction from a job well done.

The 2nd Battalion has also successfully concluded its two-year residential tour in Ballykelly, which has been challenging in a different way. As the peace process has taken progressive steps towards a normal society, the Poachers have needed to maintain a high degree of professionalism and readiness while also displaying forbearance, patience and intelligent understanding of a sensitive situation. They have completed their delicate task admirably. Their last months have been enlivened by a demanding exercise in Jordan (well covered in this edition) designed to prepare them for their deployment to Iraq in the summer of 2006.

In early November, the East of England Regiment welcomed home their 3 Company from a busy and demanding six-month tour supporting 2 PWRR and then 1 R Irish in Iraq. This highly successful tour is but the latest operational deployment for the Regiment that has sent well over 250 officers and soldiers on various operations over the last three years. Only one TA battalion has had more operational exposure, and we all should be very proud of them.

On 1 April 2006, as part of the Future Infantry Structures (FIS) process, the East of England Regiment will lose D (WFR) Company and reform as 3 Royal Anglian, nicely balanced with operational companies in Lincolnshire (B Company) and Leicestershire and Northamptonshire (C Company) covering the 2nd Battalion area,

and companies in Norfolk and Suffolk (A Company), and Essex and Hertfordshire (E Company) covering the 1st Battalion area. Cambridgeshire will be covered by HQ Company in Bury St Edmunds. 3 Royal Anglian, in addition to its mission of delivering operational capability for overseas operations and homeland security, has a vital role to play Regimentally.

As our primary permanent uniformed presence within the 10 counties of East Anglia and the East Midlands, 3 Royal Anglian, with a reinforced permanent staff, will provide the framework on which our Regimental activity will be conducted. Strong links between Regular and TA battalions and companies and with CCF and ACF units and our Associations will be of the greatest importance, and will need to be nurtured carefully. This will be particularly important as our RHQ and area offices are currently subject to a review of all RHQs by Director of Infantry for the General Staff as part of the FIS process.

On 20 October I met with Presidents and Chairmen of Associations, Chairmen of County Committees, Regimental Staff and CO East of England Regiment at Bury St Edmunds to discuss the implementation of FIS for our three battalions and RHQ, and its implications for sustaining and developing our Associations and the Regiment's presence and profile in our 10 counties. We are united in our determination to sustain and develop our county roots, continue to honour the traditions and heritage of our forebears, care for our veterans and nurture true comradeship as a family Regiment. However we also share a recognition that our Associations need to evolve and that we will need to be adaptable, imaginative and innovative if we are to sustain the best of what we have while seizing future opportunities. There is a good deal to be done, and the support of all members of the Regimental family is needed to make it happen.

It has been another good year for our Regiment, as this edition of *Castle* makes very clear. May I take this opportunity to thank you all, serving and retired, and the families that support you, for making it so, and wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



The Regiment

Colonel of the Regiment
Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment
The Rev MD Franks MBE

President of the Regimental Association
Brig RM Brunt CBE

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment
1st Battalion: Brig PD Jones MBE
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

Alliances

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

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

Civic Honours

The Regiment has been granted the honour of the freedom of:
 Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Chelmsford,
 Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham, Grimsby, Grays and Thurrock,
 Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Leicester,
 Lincoln, Lowestoft, Luton, Newham, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough,
 Romford, Southend, Sudbury, Watford, Wellingborough, Wisbech, Great Yarmouth,
 and the Colour of the Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Regimental Locations

Regimental Headquarters

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN
 Tel: 01284-752394. Fax: 752026/Colchester Military 5124
 Email: chief-clerk@anglian.army.mod.uk
 regimental-secretary@anglian.army.mod.uk

Regimental Secretary: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Maj RC Gould
Regimental Careers Officer: Maj DJ Gregory

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,
 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
 Tel: 01603-400290
Area Secretary: Col AC Taylor
 Email: ahqroyalanglian2@btconnect.com

Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way,
 Warley, Essex CM13 3BN
 Tel: 01277-213051
Area Secretary: Maj DI Gilchrist
 Email: ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com

Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
 Tel: 01604-635412
Area Secretary: Vacant
 Email: ahqroyalanglian3@btconnect.com

Regimental Museum

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs CB2 4QR
 Tel: 01223-835000 Ext 298 or 01223-835638
Regimental Attendant: Mr Andrew Murkin
 Email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freeserve.co.uk
 Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

Regimental Information Teams

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

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion

Elizabeth Barracks,
 Pirbright,
 Surrey GU24 0DT

Lt Col SW Carver

2nd Battalion

Clive Barracks, Ternhill,
 Market Drayton,
 Shropshire TF9 3QE

Lt Col DP O'Driscoll
 (Des Lt Col SRJ Browne MBE - September 2006)

East of England Regiment

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

Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE
 (Des Lt Col M Googe - October 2006)

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Lt OB Ormiston
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Capt AI Maclay
RMA Sandhurst: Maj RM Taylor PWRR
Army Foundation College Harrogate: Vacant

Personalia

Honours and Awards

Operational List (Operation Telic)

MBE

Capt C Swallow

US Bronze Star

Maj JCJ Wright

Commissioning

The following were commissioned on 12 August 2005:

2Lt GEB Seal-Coon

2Lt CT Standley

The following were commissioned on 16 December 2005:

2Lt JW Bennett-Madge

2Lt TA Clark

2Lt GD Goodey

2Lt MJ Lambert

2Lt NJP McGinley

2Lt SED Perrin

The following has been selected for commissioning in 2006/7:

WO1 (RSM) CJ Tate

Promotions

The following has been selected for promotion in 2006:

Maj JM Woodham

Postings

Lt Col SJR Browne	from DS22 to JSC and Staff College	May 2005
Lt Col RJ Clements	from IMATT Sierra Leone to JCTTAT OPTAG(K)	May 2005
Maj AG Grinnoneau	from HQ Land to HQ 5 Division	May 2005
Lt AI Maclay	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	June 2005
Capt RH Whitham	from CRF to HQ 16 Air Asslt Brigade	June 2005
Capt APT Wilde	from ITC Catterick to 1st Battalion	June 2005
Capt NDB Charlwood	from HQ 16 Air Asslt Brigade to PJHQ(UK)	July 2005
Maj HR Bell RRF	to 1st Battalion	August 2005
Maj BM Down	from 2nd Battalion to HQ Northern Ireland	August 2005
Lt OI Faruque	from ITC Catterick to 2nd Battalion	August 2005
Maj DJ Gregory	from Bermuda Regiment to RHQ	August 2005
Maj LM Ives	from JtCIMIC Gp to 2nd Battalion	August 2005
Maj PS Leslie	from HQ UK Sp Comd to 2nd Battalion	August 2005
Maj ACE Marinos	from 2nd Battalion to UKNSC	August 2005
Maj SF Nicholson RRF	to 2nd Battalion	August 2005
Capt CW Swallow	from HQ 1st Battalion to	August 2005
Maj OCC Brown	from 1st Battalion to JSC and Staff College	September 2005
Maj IM Chance	from DS Sec to JSC and Staff College	September 2005
Maj CD Davies	from ATR Bassingbourn to JSC and Staff College	September 2005
Maj FJR Grounds	from 1st Battalion to DI Trg(A)	September 2005
Maj AG Grinnoneau	from HQ 5 Division to JSC and Staff College	September 2005
Capt MC Melia	from 2nd Battalion to HQ 16 Air Asslt Brigade	September 2005
Maj PJ Messenger	from 1st Battalion to JSC and Staff College	September 2005
Capt PA Muncey	from HQ 20 Armd Brigade to	September 2005
Maj AW Price	from 1st Battalion to Bermuda Regiment	September 2005
Capt SR Poulter	from ITC Catterick to 2nd Battalion	September 2005
Maj SR Smith	from 2nd Battalion to JSC and Staff College	September 2005
Maj RWT Pattison	from HQ Land to HQ ARRC	October 2005
Brig DJ Clements	from HQ 1 Mech Brigade(HS) to Sch of Inf	December 2005
Capt DC Hicks	from ITC Catterick to 1st Battalion	December 2005
Brig PD Jones MBE	from HQ ARRC to 8 Inf Brigade	December 2005
Maj (for Lt Col) JM Woodham	from 1st Battalion to DGES(Land)	December 2005
Lt WJ Meddings	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	December 2005
Capt EJ Bland	from ATR Bassingbourn to 2nd Battalion	January 2006
Lt Col SW Carver	from PJHQ to 1st Battalion	January 2006
Lt JM Ding	from ATR Winchester to 2nd Battalion	January 2006
Lt PM Martin	from 1st Battalion to ATR Winchester	January 2006
Lt OB Ormiston	from 1st Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	January 2006
Capt SD Robinson	from 1st Battalion to 3 PWRR(V)	January 2006

Transfers

Capt NJ Haden	to The Intelligence Corps	March 2005
Capt CJ Wright	to The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment	March 2005
Maj ML Elphee	to Royal Signals	July 2005
Capt AW Johnson QGM	to The Parachute Regiment	July 2005
Lt Col NFC Nottingham	to The Royal Irish Regiment	August 2005

Retirements

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

Lt Col GD Duthoit	September 2005
Maj AE Eaton	September 2005
Capt DJ Moss	September 2005
Lt Col JE Harris	September 2005
Lt Col PM Holme	December 2005

Regimental Matters

Regimental Ethos

'We are a county based Regiment bound together by a closely-knit family spirit. Our approach is classless, based on mutual respect and trust, where developing and believing in our soldiers is paramount. We are a forward looking, self-starting and welcoming team for whom the mission remains key. By living this ethos, we, the Royal Anglian Regiment, aspire to constantly deliver excellence. We make it happen.'

Regimental Headquarters and Area Secretaries

Maj Jonathan Borthwick has decided to move to pastures new so a vacancy now exists as Area Secretary at Northampton. This post will become responsible for Royal Anglian affairs in the counties of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Lincolnshire. Further details of the post can be obtained from the Regimental Secretary. HQ Infantry are in the process of carrying out a review of all RHQs and area offices. Until such time as the review is complete it is not

possible to advertise the new post at RHQ which has been created with departure of John Lee from Lincoln. Again anyone who is interested in the post should contact the Regimental Secretary.

Normandy

The Colonel of the Regiment, accompanied by the Regimental Secretary, joined veterans from the Royal Norfolk, the Suffolk and the Essex Regiments in Normandy at the beginning of June. Plans are now underway for an organised trip during June 2006. It is hoped

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Regimental Matters

that soldiers from the 1st Battalion, together with veterans, will join the party. Anyone who is interested should contact RHQ as soon as possible for further details.

Regimental Benevolence

During the financial year 2004-2005 a total of £27,474 was disbursed to past and present members of the Regiment and their dependants who were deemed to be in need. Typical of the letters that have been received during this period was one which read: 'My wife and I would like to express our deepest gratitude for covering the installation costs for the washing machine which was provided by the Royal British Legion. Now that we have the machine my wife no longer has to wash by hand which she has had to do for many years. We both thank you and the Regiment from the bottom of our hearts for being so kind and generous to us'.

Gatherings in London

The social gatherings held on the Tattershall Castle, (Boat Pub) Embankment, London starting at 1700hrs are proving popular events. Future dates for your diary are: 26 January, 30 March and 25 May 2006. All past and present members of the Regiment will be made most welcome.

The Worshipful Company of Poulterers

The Worshipful Company of Poulterers, in conjunction with the Officers' Association, is seeking to utilise the expertise and knowledge of liverymen by offering advice to officers on leaving the Service.

The Poulterers' Prize 2005 for 'the member of the Regiment who has best promoted the Regimental Ethos in a significant way' has been awarded to Sgt Harrod of the 1st Battalion. Sgt Harrod, who is at present the rehabilitation sergeant at ATR Winchester, underwent a

below-knee amputation on his left leg in June 2004. Since then he has completed the Basic Combat Fitness Test and then ran 10km on a treadmill to raise money for the physio department that had helped him so much on the way to recovery. In the words of his commanding officer... 'Sgt Harrod epitomises all that we as Royal Anglians would wish to see in our soldiers, ourselves and our Regiment. His example deserves acknowledgement for this and by doing so we will further highlight what can be achieved by a determined individual who lives by the ethos we espouse'.

The Regimental Credit Card



One of the main sources of income for the Regimental Association remains the royalty received from the Regimental MBNA Credit Card. The Association benefits from each application and thereafter receives regular royalties for purchases made using the card. The card need not replace your present card, but can be held in addition to it.

Please support your Association by applying for a card.

Next Edition of *Castle*

Contributions for the June 2006 issue of *Castle* should reach the editor no later than 15 April 2006. As always, any letters and articles will be most welcome.

Regimental Shop

The Regimental Shop is run by staff at RHQ. Details of items for sale can be found in the enclosed leaflet. All profits from the Shop go to the Regimental Association.

Regimental Uniform Shop

RHQ operates a shop selling second-hand officers' uniforms. No 1 Dress 'blues' are always in demand. More details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Maj Dick Gould.

Deaths

RHQ has been notified of the following deaths:

Maj Fred Ayers TD died on 6 September 2005, aged 85. He served with the Essex, 4 Suffolk and 4 Royal Norfolk Regiments and was a founder member of 6(V) Royal Anglian.

Maj Paddie Drake TD died on 25 June 2005 (*see obituaries*).

Lt Col Ian Arthur Haycroft died on 20 July 2005. Commissioned into the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1946. Commanded 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment 1965-1968.

Lt Col Harold H Moore died on 2 July 2005. Commissioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1946. The first Commanding Officer 5th Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment 1965-1968.

Maj Alan WA Petch MBE TD died on 15 August 2005. Late Northamptonshire Regiment and 5 Royal Anglian Regiment with whom he served as OC HQ Company and PSAO.

WO2 Keith Smith, 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, died 6 September 2005.



Poulterers' Prize winner Sgt Harrod.

Mainly About People



From left: OCdt Charlie Standley, Mr Martin Minshall (Oakham School), Colonel of the Regiment and OCdt George Seal-Coon.

Brig Phil Jones has been appointed to command 8 Infantry Brigade from December 2005. He has also been appointed a Deputy Colonel of the Regiment with special responsibility for the 1st Battalion.

Brig Roger Brunt has succeeded **Brig Charles Barnes** as President of the Regimental Association.

Brig David Clements has been appointed to command the Infantry

Training Centre at Catterick from December 2005.

2Lts George Seal-Coon and Charlie Standley were commissioned into the Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade on 12 August 2005.

2Lts Jeff Bennett-Madge, Tom Clark, Graham Goodey, Matt Lambert, Nick McGinley and Sam Perrin were commissioned into the Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade on 16 December 2005.



LCpl Lewis Shenton and Pte John Pearce with the club chairmen.

Mainly About People



Mrs Yallop presents the embroidered cap badge to the Regimental Secretary.

Graham Goodey was the winner of the Queen's Medal and was a member of the team that won the Army Swimming Championships as well as representing the Army at under 21 hockey and captaining the Sandhurst side. Matt Lambert broke three Academy records while captaining the swimming team.

Brig Michael Aris has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire.

Ex-Pompadour and Poacher **Simon Beer** runs the pub *The Two Brewers* in Chelmsford and will be delighted to see any past or serving members of the Regiment.

Lt Col Richard Latham has been appointed to command the Support Weapons School in December 2006.

Lt Col Simon Browne has been appointed to command the 2nd Battalion in September 2006 and **Maj Mike Gooze** will assume command of the East of England Regiment in October 2006.

LCpl Lewis Shenton (an Ipswich Town fan) and **Pte John Pearce** (a Norwich City fan) attended the local derby match at Portman Road on 18 September having won a competition run by Ipswich Town FC in conjunction with *BFBS Radio One*. The pair flew back for the match and were royally looked after. Besides being introduced to the two chairmen of the clubs and Sir Bobby Robson both went onto the pitch and were introduced to the crowd.

Mrs Margaret Yallop, sister of **Cpl Michael Boddy**, who was killed in Northern Ireland in 1972, presented the Regiment with an embroidered Castle cap badge. The cap badge, which was embroidered by Cpl Boddy's niece, Louise, now hangs in RHQ.

Pte Jeremy Grant-Jones (2nd Battalion) shot in the final of the St George's Cup in this summer's National Rifle Association individual competitions.

Maj Mark Smith, OC 3 Company Lincolnshire ACF was awarded his Graduateship Award in Youth Management and Training from Maj Gen The Duke of Westminster (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Reserves and Cadets)) on 6 October 2005. The Graduateship Award is a nationally recognised qualification which demonstrates the importance and quality of the training provided through the Cadet Training Courses and recognises at least 12 years of professional development and managerial experience.

Lt Richard Lewis is congratulated on being awarded his Infantry Sports Colours for athletics.



Maj Mark Smith receives his Graduateship Award in Youth Management and Training from The Duke of Westminster.

Have You Lost Contact?

Mr Derry Maher wrote to RHQ to say that as a direct result of the photo of Dmr Green that appeared in the June 2005 issue of *Castle* several members of the Corps of Drums from 1/3 East Anglian Regiment, who were stationed in Malaya 1960-1962, met up at the Regimental Day at Duxford on 4 September.

For the record, in the summer of 1961, when the Corps of Drums,

together with a drill squad and the Regimental Band visited Vientiane, Laos for the King's Birthday, the Corps of Drums consisted of Drum Major Haley, Cpl Sutcliffe, LCpls O'Connor, Piper, Dalby, Stopes and Robnson. Drummers Adey, Bedall, Coventry, Gladwell, Green, Guymer, Hurlock, Jeffrey, Lent, Mather, Oberheim, Roberts, Rogers, Ryan and Young.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

(Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk)

Mr Andy Murkin writes:

I was fortunate enough to be appointed to the position of Attendant at the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, Duxford, in June this year, on the anniversary of D-Day - just in time to be named in the last edition of *Castle*, but too late to make a personal contribution.

I had been working at Duxford for two years, in the visitor services department of the Imperial War Museum. Before coming to Duxford I spent more than ten years as an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher, and before that worked for ten years in the Civil Service. Like my predecessor, Cathy Smart, I'm working on an MA in museum studies, which I expect to finish in March next year.

The first four months in the new job have been quite challenging, and I have had a lot to learn, both about the Regiment, and about the Museum. However, with the willing help of Col Woodrow and the other Museum trustees, the staff at RHQ, Lt Col Veitch, and others, I am beginning to get to grips with it all. I have continued Cathy's hard work in ensuring that all the objects, photographs and articles in the museum are properly looked after, and their details stored in our computer record, so that students, researchers, ex-Royal Anglians and others can make the most of them now and in the future. There is still a lot of work to be done in this area, but we look at it as a long-term project on which we have plans to make steady progress. I've recently enjoyed learning how to catch, identify and banish the various bugs which like to live in our stores and displays and eat the exhibits. Recent donations of uniform items have been dispatched straight to the Imperial War Museum's freezer: three days at minus 30C is usually enough to get rid of any bugs hiding in the cloth!

The education department at the Imperial War Museum, here at Duxford, is very busy: school parties every day during term time,

quiz sheets and activities during the holidays. This year the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum has started to get involved in this: our first quiz sheet for young visitors has been produced, and will be off to the typesetters shortly, and work on an activity pack for the very young is well under way.

The Museum's contribution to the Regimental Day in September was well received, as far as I am aware. The 1st Battalion had provided us with some superb pictures of their work and training in southern Iraq, and a photographic exhibition selected from these was on display in the Museum tent. Folders of photographs were also on display, showing each of the four original Regular Battalions at work in such diverse locations as Aden, Bosnia, Libya, Malta, and South Armagh.

Where possible, videos were shown to complement these pictures, and a historical film on the 3rd Battalion excited particular interest. Thanks to those who expressed their enjoyment of the displays, those who brought photographs and other items to donate to the Museum, and to all who supported the raffle in aid of museum funds. The Iraq exhibition, incidentally, is currently advertised around the Imperial War Museum Duxford site and will be on view until about the end of the year in the Land Warfare Hall.

The Museum would like to thank the following for recent donations of photographs or other objects for the collection: Dave Davies, John Harrison, John Hart, Claude Ingham, Ray Mackman, Ken Parsons, Alex Tomson, Tony Valentine and John Wooddisse.

Thanks are also due to Judith King, who has spent many an hour identifying and cataloguing large numbers of the photographs we have here at the Museum, and to Nigel Cracknell, whose sterling



Andy Murkin with Lt Col Veitch (left) and Brig Groves (right).

Museum



The Museum tent at the Regimental Day.

service at airshows and events this year has contributed greatly to the museum's communication with the public - and to the profits of the small shop here!

Nigel, Judith, and her husband Godfrey are all members of a dwindling band of volunteers who generously give up their spare time to help the museum. Without the contribution of volunteers most museums, including ours, would not be able to do all they do to inform, educate and inspire their visitors. There are tens of thousands of visitors to the museum every year: if you can see yourself taking part in the exciting job of putting across to them the history, traditions and accomplishments of the Royal Anglian Regiment, face-to-face or behind the scenes, please get in touch with the museum or RHQ and let us know. There's lots to be done, and we need your help to do it all!

Col K Woodrow, Outgoing Chairman of the Museum's Trustees writes:

As the last edition of *Castle* was going to press the Museum trustees were in the process of selecting a new attendant. This we duly did and we are delighted to welcome Andy Murkin into the Regiment - an article about him appears above. With his previous experience both as a schoolmaster and as an attendant at Duxford it has not taken him long to get his feet under the table. He has already attended a museum curators' course at the National Army Museum and in addition to his routine duties he is looking at ways to develop links between the museum and local education authorities: an area that hitherto has been neglected. We wish him a rewarding and happy time with us.

The last six months have been the most 'upbeat' period since the museum opened nine years ago. For two or three years we have been writing about the need to keep our displays up to date to reflect the dynamism of the Regiment and its activities, and how we intend to do this. Thanks to a great deal of work by a host of people, especially Brig Colin Groves, Col Nick Kelsey and Lt Col Trevor Veitch our plans have reached the stage where the contractors have been given the go-ahead. Most of the new displays will be *in situ* by March and everything should be finished by next year's Regimental Day. The separate parts to this updating are outlined below. It is all going to

cost a great deal of money - £35,000 in fact. That we can spend this amount without having to recourse to special appeals etc is due to the generosity of the Regimental Council which has converted the £25,000 loan made ten years ago to get the museum off the ground into a gift, thus freeing the money the trustees have been putting aside over the years to repay it. The money raised through the Regimental Day Raffle and the money put into the buckets on the day also made a significant contribution. It would, however, be irresponsible of the trustees to commit this amount of money without making sure the future of the Museum is secure. It is. Our approach to the Imperial War Museum to extend our lease at Duxford was met with unbridled enthusiasm from their trustees who have said they will extend our lease for another term when our current one expires. We therefore know that we shall be at Duxford until 2025 at least. One of the reasons the IWM Trustees made their decision so quickly was due to the enthusiastic support given to us by Richard Ashton, the director at Duxford. The support and advice we have received from the IWM staff there have never been anything other than first class, and now, with Mr Ashton's backing, there are several joint ventures in the offing, notably in the field of education.

Although the improvements fall into three categories, *viz* updating existing displays, introducing new ones and alterations to the fabric of the museum, they are all inter-related. The first include renewing the now worn out heritage wall and adding the details of our newly formed Volunteer Battalion, and producing a new 'Recent Deployments' panel. This entails moving all other deployment panels 'one pace to the right' and combining the two Aden panels into one to make room for the new one. Although we have a new design ready, the Colonels-in-Chief panel will remain showing HRH Princess Alice until such time as the Palace announces who our new Colonel-in-Chief is to be. Alterations to the fabric include the enlargement of the medal case to take account of the new medals that have been struck in recent years for both Regular and Volunteer forces, and the construction of a new display case that will enable us to have a 'recent acquisitions' display.

The improvement that will perhaps have the greatest visual impact of all will be the new audio visual monitors. By enlisting the support of Mr Martin Bell, who opened the Museum and who served in the Suffolk Regiment, we persuaded the ITV authorities to substantially reduce the fees they would normally charge for films from their archives, thus saving us many thousands of pounds. However, there is a huge amount of editing to be done before we can display our new film clips - there will be a choice of a dozen or more each lasting up to three minutes - in their digital form. Even so we hope to have this *in situ* by next year's Regimental Day.

We also have an exciting development with the Royal British Legion's Poppy Factory where the director is Brig Tom Longland. Provided we can find someone living close enough to Duxford, we are going to run a joint trial to see whether we can employ a disabled ex-serviceman/woman in the Museum's office where he/she can relieve some of Andy's routine by continuing the enormous task of cataloguing our huge library of photographs. We reckon there is at least two years' work, maybe more. If successful it will undoubtedly lead to other projects.

All in all the Museum is in good shape. However, when these new projects are completed we will have run out of space. This means we will have to make more and more use of computers and other electronic wizardry to keep our displays up to date. This in turn has shown up gaps in the 'collective wisdom' of the Trustees. However as three of us are leaving - the other two being Cols Pat Macdonald who has been a trustee since the museum's inception, and Julian Lacey, my successor, Brig Colin Groves, has room to fill these gaps with people who have the necessary expertise. I have known him for over 40 years and with him at the helm I shall be able to potter contentedly on the riverbank knowing the museum is in good hands.

I would like to end with a very genuine and personal 'thank you' to everyone who has given me so much support, advice and help during my time in the Chair. As Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote in his poem *Morte d'Arthur*, 'the old order changeth, yielding place to new'. It has been fun doing one's bit.

Diary Dates

2006

March

- 11 6th(V) Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner – Bury St Edmunds
18 Poacher 2006 - Spalding

April

- 21 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Cocktail Party - London
21 4th Battalion R Norfolk Dinner Club - Norwich
22 4th Battalion R Norfolk OCA Dinner - Gorleston
23 R Norfolk Almanza Service – Norwich Cathedral

May

- 6 Royal Anglian WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner – Thetford.
7 5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Lunch - Barnsdale
10 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Lunch - London
13 Cambridgeshire Regiment Officers' Dinner - Waterbeach
13 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Dinner and Dance - Hertford
13 Royal Anglian Regiment Beating Retreat and Reception - Northampton

June

- 3 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Lunch - Norwich
9 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC(V) 10th Anniversary Parade and Reception - Peterborough
18 Cambridgeshire Regiment Reunion - Ely
24-25 Royal Tigers' Reunion - Leicester
25 Essex Regiment Association Reunion - Warley
28-29 Regimental Tent Royal Norfolk Show - Norwich
29 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association 16th Foot Officers' Luncheon - Buckden

July

- 22 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion - Northampton
28 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Luncheon - Culford
30 Suffolk Regiment Minden Day Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

August

September

- 10 Royal Anglian Regimental Day - Duxford
30 Royal Anglian and Royal Norfolks Associations Dinner - Norwich

October

- 6 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Luncheon - Warley
7 Royal Anglian Regiment Band Concert and Reception – Bury St Edmunds

November

- 3 Royal Anglian Regimental Council Meeting - London
3 Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner - London
7 Essex Regiment Association, Cathedral Service and Salamanca Luncheon - Chelmsford
9 Field of Remembrance Service - Westminster
12 Remembrance Sunday
19 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Wreath Laying and Reunion - Kempston

December

- 2 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Lincoln - London

Can You Remember?

Editor's Note: I am indebted to an eagle eyed reader who pointed out a mistake in the June 2005 issue. In the 40 Years Ago (1965) section I stated 'the 1st Battalion, based in Celle, spent the year in the Radfan'. This is incorrect. The 1st Battalion left Felixstowe for Aden on a two-year accompanied tour in January 1964 and finally left Aden in August 1965, to move to Celle.



Above: 2Lt Marshall, Maj Francis, 2Lt Waller in Cyprus.

40 Years Ago

In September the 1st Battalion moved to Celle after a tour in Aden that was described at the time as a 'hard day's night'. The 2nd Battalion continued its tour in Dhekelia, Cyprus and saw C Company and an anti-tank section exercise in Libya with the 1st Battalion the Royal Ulster Rifles. A 'Keeping the Army in the Public Eye' film occupied many members of the 3rd Battalion as they continued their tour in Berlin. They were visited by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir James Cassells and distinguished themselves in the Berlin Brigade Rally with wins in two of the categories. After post (Aden) tour leave the 4th Battalion commenced preparations for its move to Malta.



Right: The 3rd Battalion's own beat group, The Digits... from left: Ptes J Johnson, L Justice, M Jeffery and I Lent.

Can You Remember?



Above: B Company of the Vikings, William Street - the second Rorke's Drift.

Below: Joke in the 'Murph'. Pte Pidgen, LCpl McLory, Cpl Powlet and Pte Court of the Poachers.

35 Years Ago

Although the 1st Battalion was originally warned off for an emergency tour of Northern Ireland, this was amended to a two-year tour in Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry which commenced in July. After 31 years' service CSgt 'Kipper' Place retired. The 2nd



Can You Remember?

B Company of the Pompadours, infantry/armour co-operation training with the Blues and Royals.

Battalion was also in Northern Ireland, but on an emergency tour in Belfast, during which much time and effort was spent fostering community relations. The 3rd Battalion continued to settle into 20 Armoured Brigade in Paderborn, the first British battalion to be in the town since the last war. The Tigers, reduced to company strength in September prepared to move from Gillingham to Aldershot and assume the role of demonstration company for RMA Sandhurst and Mons OCS.

30 Years Ago

The 1st Battalion became fully acquainted with the AMF(L) role, and trips away from its home base at Tidworth included exercises in Norway, Denmark, Italy and Turkey. The 2nd Battalion, now commanded by Lt Col Charles Barnes in succession to Lt Col Mike Thorne, deployed to Northern Ireland in August for a tour of Belfast. Away from operations Cpl Wright won the Roupell Cup at Bisley. After another tour of Northern Ireland, this time the Creggan Estate in Londonderry, the 3rd Battalion had a short spell in Catterick



2Lt Sparks and CSM Chaplain in 5th Battalion's command post during a battlegroup exercise.



CSgt Rose, 9 Platoon, ski joring...it is harder than it looks!

Can You Remember?



Poachers' Bisley team. Back from left: Ptes Howard and Hill, LCpl Anderson, Ptes Bellham, Hill and Riley. Front: Cpl Wilson, Sgt Mazingham, Maj Bobby Hastie, Sgt Nodden (REME) and Cpl Wright.

towards the end of 1975 and into early 1976 before another move in February 1976 to Cyprus. The highlight of the year for the 5th Battalion was annual camp in October which saw them mobilise and then move to Germany to exercise with 20 Armoured Brigade their mobilisation formation. The 7th Battalion was involved in the same exercise, Exercise Inside Right, but remained UK based clocking up on average 650 miles per vehicle.

25 Years Ago

Following Minden Day in Celle the 1st Battalion, less two companies, deployed to BATUS and completed a memorable all arms live firing

exercise. On the sporting front Sgt Bodger won the Army hammer and was awarded the most outstanding Army field event athlete of the year, while Pte Hurd won the Army welterweight title and went on to box for the Army and the Combined Services. The 2nd Battalion spent the final months of the year preparing for their arms plot move from Berlin to Londonderry, with the final phase of the Northern Ireland training spent at Sennelager. The 3rd Battalion, still in Colchester, ended a very busy year of serving operationally in three countries and exercising in three more by deploying for a six-month tour in Cyprus as part of UNFICYP. Despite operational and exercise imperatives, the Battalion won the Army Cricket Cup



Princess Alice presents new Colours to the 7th Battalion.

Can You Remember?

The RSM, Drum Major and Battlegroup Headquarters Defence Platoon of the 3rd Battalion.

in a thrilling match against the Royal Armoured Corps Centre. For the 5th Battalion the highlight of the year was Exercise Crusader, which was preceded by a 'mind bending' period at the Bovington Battle Group Trainer. Meanwhile Exercise Square Leg was the key exercise for the 6th Battalion. The 7th Battalion's focus was on the presentation of new Colours by HRH Princess Alice.

20 Years Ago

The 1st Battalion remained fully committed in Londonderry and an increase in security in the run up to Christmas saw the cancellation of mainland Christmas leave. The closing days of December in Colchester brought two surprises for the 2nd Battalion; firstly Samantha Fox visited and became the Battalion's official pin-up.



Pte Hurd - the Army open welterweight champion and Combined Services finalist.



Members of the Recce Platoon get the chance to meet the 2nd Battalion's official pin-up, Samantha Fox.

Can You Remember?



Brothers in arms...three brothers simultaneously serving in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Pompadours. CSgt Clive Baldwin (22 years), CSgt Tony Baldwin (18 years) and Sgt Lewis Baldwin (11 years) with the Commanding Officer and RSM shortly before Clive's return to England to complete his service. Clive was for two years the coach of the successful Pompadours' swimming team.

and secondly, on assuming Operation Spearhead they were warned for a deployment to Northern Ireland immediately after Christmas in response to a spate of mortar attacks on RUC stations. Still in Germany the 3rd Battalion continued with exercises, the main focus being training towards BATUS in 1986. The Battalion emphasised the family nature of the Regiment by recognising the three Baldwin brothers who were serving together. For the 5th Battalion an exercise held at STANTA at the end of November saw the Mortar Platoon conduct its first night shoot for several years. The 6th Battalion was edging towards the CO's ambition of an 800-strong battalion, with expansion of the Home Service Force. A unique occasion for the 7th Battalion was the presentation of Efficiency Medals to father and son Maurice and Peter Slinger at a ceremony held at Sobroan Barracks, Lincoln.

15 Years Ago

Following a period of conventional training in the middle of the year the 1st Battalion turned its attention towards the Fermanagh tour the following year. Meanwhile the Band were deployed on Operation Granby (Gulf War 1) much to the chagrin of the remainder of the Battalion. The 2nd Battalion, still in Celle, were warned for emergency Warrior conversion at the end of the year in preparation for Operation Granby II and saw training conducted in -20 C in preparation for the desert. Meanwhile the 3rd Battalion began to prepare for their forthcoming residential tour in Londonderry. The 5th Battalion was joined by Maj John Ross, as Training Major, who



Lt Col Dixon hands over command to Lt Col Chissel.

quickly put together an orienteering team; runners up in the Edist TA championships. The 6th Battalion bade farewell to Lt Col Peter Dixon who was succeeded by Lt Col Alan Chissel. Winter frustrated some of the 7th Battalion's training and social engagements but improved for Exercise Polar Dawn held at STANTA which included a night river crossing.



The Vikings' Band on Operation Granby.

Can You Remember?

10 Years Ago

The last elements of the 1st Battalion returned from Croatia just before Christmas. This also marked the end of Lt Col Roger Brunt's tenure as CO and he was towed out of camp on a replica of the tented camp at Ploce. After nine years in Celle the 2nd Battalion finally departed to assume the CATC Battle Group role in Warminster. The 5th Battalion was immersed in preparations for re-rolling to the Royal Logistics Corps. The 6th Battalion had a busy training year. December saw two exercises; one including a dawn river crossing of the River Wissey and the second an infiltration exercise at STANTA. Recruiting and some re-organisation with the loss of B (Leicester) Company to the RLC and the addition of a new B Company occupied the 7th Battalion.



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



6th Battalion A Company bath time!

5 Years Ago

The 1st Battalion, mid way through its residential tour in Londonderry, was involved in numerous incidents including an attack on Ebrington Barracks where a 'barrack buster' bomb landed near to the Officers' Mess but did not detonate. Just before Christmas Lt Col Dick Kemp handed over command to Lt Col Phil Jones. The 2nd Battalion, still in Chepstow, returned from Operation Basilica in Sierra Leone, then assumed the NIBAT 3 role which only required elements of the Battalion to be forward based in Northern Ireland. The EER was visited at Beckingham Ranges by CGS in his capacity as Colonel of the Regiment. Training in early 2001 was brought to an abrupt halt by the foot and mouth outbreak. However, the Corps of Drums was invited to take part in the filming of *The Four Feathers*.



CSgt Derbyshire briefs CGS on his December visit to the Battalion at Beckingham.

1st Battalion The Vikings

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

I last wrote a few weeks into the start of Operation Telic 6, some six months ago. Much has happened since then as the following articles will demonstrate. Everybody has worked extremely hard to enhance the Iraqi Security Forces to excellent effect, leaving them more capable than when we arrived, able for the most part to operate without requiring our assistance. They may not be up to UK standards, something some people found frustrating, but they are generally acceptable by Iraqi (and from my experience Middle Eastern) standards and that is what matters.

The job is not finished but the bulk of Security Sector Reform being conducted by British soldiers within the Basra Rural South Battlegroup Area of Operations (AO) is done. For the future it will be refinement rather than radical change. In the final month we saw a successfully run referendum which was predominantly the work of the Iraqi government and security organisations, with little input from Multinational Forces (MNF). This does not mean withdrawal is imminent as there is more work required within other parts of Basra Province, plus with the Province sitting on the primary routes out to Kuwait and the sea, as well as the majority of Iraq's revenue-generating oil infrastructure, there are security tasks that will remain as long as British/US troops

remain in Iraq.

Until August I was describing the Battlegroup's AO as generally quiet with the very occasional incident standing out as an exception; all that has changed. Extremist elements within the Shia militia began actively targeting MNF personnel. We saw eight roadside bomb attacks in the last three months using a highly effective triggering and attack mechanism, resulting in a number of fatalities. By a combination of professionalism and good luck none were targeted against our vehicles. There is always an element of luck in such circumstances but you make your luck with good drills and doing the basics the only way they can be done; the right way all of the time.

From a personal perspective a major highlight was the Battlegroup operation involving 11 of our 13 platoons to disrupt an Al Qaeda attack. Pulling it all together in under five hours, when some of the platoons had a three-hour drive just to make the start point, confirmed my belief that the whole unit was firing on all four cylinders. In a linked search we picked up a variety of mortars, rockets and weapon systems.

Additional to the Battlegroup's activities C (Essex) Company was busy deploying all around the province as the Brigade Reserve prosecuting a series of proactive operations designed to keep the opposition on the back foot. They made an excellent name for themselves across the Brigade as a professional, flexible, 'can do' organisation that got results: nine search operations, 18

detainees and 33 weapon systems.

As the tour ended we said farewell to 28/143 Battery 19 Regiment Royal Artillery as they headed off for Larkhill. They have been part of the Battlegroup for 10 months and, just as in Afghanistan, have proven themselves excellent soldiers whose contribution has been critical to our overall success. They may not be infantry soldiers and they may do things differently but they have been equally effective, indeed have been better than the companies in a number of aspects. We would have them with us again without hesitation. This is good news since the Battery Commander, Maj Jez Parrott, his Fire Support Cell, and the forward observation officers will be back on Salisbury Plain with us early next year when we return there for Tesex. We also say goodbye to members of the Poachers and the East of England Regiment, all fitted in quickly and were a credit to their battalions.

This generation of Vikings have proved themselves worthy successors to their forebears; long may that continue. As I enter my last few months in command and the Army it is wonderful to be able to say that, though it will be no surprise for anybody who has had the pleasure of working with the Battalion and seen how the Viking spirit remains as strong and proud as ever. I know that my replacement, Lt Col Stuart Carver, is set to take command of an excellent organisation that will make him proud to be a Viking.



CO visits a border patrol.

A (Norfolk) Company - Overview

Maj Justin Hughes writes:

It has been a long hot busy summer for A (Norfolk) Company. Since the last edition of *Castle* we have been deployed in southern Iraq on Operation Telic 6. The company's configuration is unique in the Brigade with 2 and 3 Platoons and a small Company HQ element based in the far south at Camp Driftwood, Al Faw, under the command of Capt Luke Stamm (Sniper Platoon commander). The remainder of the 150-strong company, including Company HQ, 1 and 4 Platoons and a Recce Multiple have been accommodated in Basra Palace working the northern half of the 3,000 square kilometre area of responsibility.

Variety has been the watchword of the tour with environmental extremes ranging from the plush palm groves on the banks of the Shat Al Arab in Abu Al Khasib where oil collects into pools of black gold on the surface of the lifeless salt marshes. As expected the climate has been a constant challenge with temperatures exceeding 55C in Camp Driftwood and even now late in the tour it is routinely above 30C, although this is considered positively chilly.

With Security Sector Reform (working with and improving the Iraqi Security Forces) the main effort, A Company has been pivotal in bringing the local security organisations up to an acceptable standard in preparation for the eventual withdrawal of British Forces from Iraq. Have we been successful? The forthcoming security operation for the National Referendum will be a good indicator as to our success. If nothing else our soldiers can be proud



Pte Cooper assists in destroying more unexploded ordnance.

of the fact that they are responsible for delivering the safest and most secure sector in Iraq. All this despite having a large mixed Sunni/Shia community, five of the 11 key pieces of oil infrastructure in Iraq and being on the doorstep of Basra.

Despite being on tour life goes on and I would like to congratulate Sgts Tom Crabbe (Poachers), Jamie Hill (Recce), Simon Panter (A Company) and John Ratten (Milan) on their promotion to sergeant while with A Company. We say goodbye

to CSM Lee Jay who is off to Colchester AYT and our CQMS, newly promoted, WO2 Ramm who is looking forward to a CSM slot in time for the next tour. Capt Alex Maclay has left for ITC Catterick and Capt Rob Smit steps up to Company 2IC. We welcome the latest members of the Company with Cpls Matthew Dodd, Alfred Dunning, LCpl Jack Cornish, Ptes Chris Freebairn and Sheldon White all becoming proud fathers. I would also like to thank our East of England Regiment augmentees; Lt Paul



A Company at Basra Palace.

The Vikings



A Company Al Faw contingent.

Karim, WO2 Colin Butler, Sgt Robert Stone and LCpl Mark Barfield RLC (ex Poacher) who have done themselves and their parent units proud.

As the tour draws to a close we look forward to returning to good old Blighty, seeing our families and loved ones and some well-earned leave. With the New Year comes another hectic training cycle and operational preparation period. As ever A (Norfolk) Company, *The Fighting Ninth* looks forward to the challenge.

Life on Operation Telic 6

Pte Rudkin, 1(Almanza) Platoon, writes:

I touched down at Al Basra Airport on 18 April full of nerves but eager to get the tour started. Six months was a long time for me, as it was my first operational tour and also my first time being away from home for such a long period of time.

I still remember the day when I stepped off the plane for the first time wearing combat body armour and helmet and realising that this was the time to switch on and concentrate. Instead of me and the rest of my colleagues sitting down at home, watching



Night work.

the events unfold on the television and in the newspapers, we were now the people being watched and it was down to us to keep the standards high, which were set by our predecessors on previous Operation Telics.

Operation Telic 6 started for me with the

RSOI package which took place at Shaiba Logistics Base for six days. It was an information package about the theatre and what kind of equipment was being used; all the information you wanted was in the package. It also involved an acclimatisation period which involved walking and running



A Company football team.

The Vikings

just to get you used to the weather which was extremely hot. I personally found the package very useful and it was a good way for troops entering theatre to start the tour. When the RSOI package was over for me it was time to move to Basra Palace which was going to be my home for six months.

A (Norfolk) Company was split with two platoons at the palace and two platoons stationed at Al Faw. After making our rooms like home for six months it was time to sample our first patrol of the tour. All of the lads looked nervous but seemed excited at the same time about getting out on the ground and seeing for themselves what it was really like.

Our first patrol had finally arrived; sitting in the operations room we went through a full set of orders and were tasked to go to Abu Al Khasib Iraqi Police Service Station, which would be our main aim while we were out here, to work with the Iraqi Police, conducting joint operations with them and to teach them.

The first time we drove out the gates the atmosphere on the ground was better than we could imagine. People seemed to want us here. They greeted us with cheers, waves and smiles and that seemed to take the nerves away from me and also other members of the team.

As the months pushed on we conducted many joint operations with the Iraqi Police Service and also conducted our own operations too. There were several incidents in those months; mostly laughable ones which involved our call sign having vehicles commanded into ditches and the boss 'exploring' countless lanes which weren't on the map, which nearly always ended in dead ends or un-passable bridges. These moments always kept morale going in the rest of the multiple, if not the drivers.



CSM Jap and local members of the Iraqi Army.

There were also tragic accidents for other units, resulting in losses, which was sad to hear and our thoughts go out to those British soldiers who gave their lives.

During the middle of the tour it was time for people to start going on R and R which was a date for everyone, a chance to get back and see families and to recharge their batteries and come back fresh for the remaining months of the tour. With people going on R and R it was time for everyone else to dig deep due to the multiples being down to the bare minimum, so if you had the chance to sleep then you would; with us normally conducting two or three patrols a day it was tiring, especially due to the

weather being so hot. R and R was a welcome break for me, seeing my family again and it was a great relief but on returning, coming back and going straight on patrol was weird, getting used to conducting five and 20-metre checks again as well as other things.

The weeks have flown by due to us conducting operations and our normal patrols with the Iraqi Police and Army. The atmosphere on the ground is still good; every time we go out we are treated like heroes - amazing! Morale is high coming close to the end of the tour with about a month to go; even less for those going on courses. In summary, the tour has been a great experience for me and everyone else.



OC A Company and Cpl Dodd with the Iraqi Army.

The Vikings

B (Suffolk) Company

Maj Mick Aston writes:

'*Salam Alykom!*' (Peace be upon you). At the time of writing (mid-September) the company is just coming to the end of a period of high tempo operations...or so we think. Az Zubayr and nearby Basra have proven unpredictable in recent weeks, but more on that below.

The tour has been characterised by ebbs and flows in the intensity of operations however our steady state has remained consistently high. The company's mission of maintaining security and stability to advance normalisation in our area of operations of Az Zubayr has been embraced by all members of the company. We have achieved some real results on the Security Sector Reform (SSR) front with the platoons providing training, mentoring and monitoring for the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police Service (IPS) alike. The efforts put in by the platoons to increase the Iraqi Security Forces' capability have been outstanding and given the 'enshallah' (hopefully) approach often displayed by our Iraqi counterparts it has not been without frustration. Training tasks have ranged from training Iraqi Army platoons in conventional warfighting techniques, to communications and medical skills, to assisting the IPS in establishing operations rooms, how to patrol and, in some instances even giving advice on



6 Platoon searching during Operation Circumvent.

evidence handling and other technical police matters. In the absence of anyone else the boys in the company have done a great job; the Viking approach to policing seems to be working! Critical to this success has been the relationships that the company has built

with the Az Zubayr locals. The friendly and welcoming style our soldiers have has won us many friends in the town and ultimately this has made our job easier. That said I am still not entirely comfortable with Davree the chaay (tea) stall holder in the Al Sawdi



6 Platoon messing about in boats.

The Vikings



7 Platoon laager up.

market calling out 'I love you' every time he sees me.

Most of our time here has been spent at Chindit Camp (Mu'asker Chindit) on the outskirts of Az Zubayr but unfortunately we have recently had to move out and back up to Shaibah Logistics Base with only five weeks of the tour remaining. At Chindit we had our own camp and the boys welcomed the independence of a company camp with greater access to welfare facilities and away from the ever watchful eye of the RSM or, in my case, the CO. We had a great setup in the camp which housed 150 members of the

company in total with our supporting arms. A small five-a-side football pitch was the centre of company leisure activity with many a reputation being made or lost on the dusty compound in front of the cookhouse. The CSM and CQMS showed rare glimpses of former glory days while LCpl Shenton, Pte Geater and Pte Smith were all regular stars within the company. Football is covered in a following article detailing our search for the Holy Grail or in this instance, the Suffolk Cup. The internet suite certainly took a good hammering throughout the tour not only for correspondence with friends and family but

also for many of the boys who were able to cultivate new 'liaisons' over the net. All those IT skills courses certainly came in handy – no names mentioned.

Now in Shaibah for the rest of the tour the company will continue its good work in Az Zubayr if only now located an extra 5km away. With only a few weeks remaining the move to Shaibah has been somewhat of a novelty being a new location, new people and most of all a definite stepping stone towards the end of the tour.

The other aspect of the company's work throughout the tour has been on force protection and security operations. Wherever possible we have conducted joint operations with the Iraqi Army and IPS and only by exception executed independent operations. We have conducted a number of big search operations with numerous observation posts, vehicle check point operations, deterrence and ground domination missions all of which have had a considerable effect in providing security for the local population. Recently the Mortar Platoon Multiple attached to the company under the direction of Sgt Ringo Watson and Cpl Mark Willsher have had a good workout firing up to 150 illumination rounds in a night. The first time we fired the 81mm we had a couple of parachute failures resulting in a few rounds landing too close for comfort to Cpl Larry Holmes' Multiple...helmets required all round!

On a more serious note the company has responded to a number of incidents which have unfortunately resulted in both British military and Iraqi civilian casualties. At one incident on 5 September there were some outstanding individual performances within the company which made me immensely proud to be a Viking and a member of B (Suffolk) Company. This incident in particular was a truly team effort with the



Cpl George and LCpl Ashby.

The Vikings

entire company being involved in some form. A long, hard, hot day with impressive results delivered in the usual pragmatic, no-nonsense Viking way. The company had another big success on Operation Circumvent which involved the search of a farm in our area. The haul included RPGs, rockets, munitions, launchers, MMG and a mortar. Certainly the biggest find the Battalion has had for many years (possibly ever) – it was good battlegroup and company planning that got the company onto the objective which allowed the all arms search team to do their business. Such events are testament to the hard work the company put in during the Optag training prior to deployment and the ongoing commitment of all members of the company to doing things right – situation no change!

As we look towards our return to Pirbright everyone is focused on the post-tour leave period during December and January. Our activities prior to leave will be centred on getting our kit and equipment back from Iraq in good order and supporting D Company as it reforms. We are expecting approximately 30 soldiers and JNCOs to leave the company and be trained up in the specialist skills required for D Company. The loss of all of these men will be sorely missed but a new career stream awaits them all as they move into their specialist weapons fields.

We have had numerous postings in and out during the tour as well as a few notable promotions. The first mention is Maj Freddie Grounds who left the Company in early August and is off to the Adjutant General's world of training in Upavon. Freddie did an outstanding job commanding the company and the success of the company throughout the tour in large part can be attributed to his leadership. WO2 Tim Newton moved from CQMS back to Battlegroup HQ as the operations warrant officer on promotion. This move made way for CSgt Ivan Snow's promotion and move from 6 Platoon to



CSgt Ivan Snow and the Camp Chindit Mural.



Drums Multiple test the new amphibious Land Rover.

The Vikings



Success on Operation Circumvent.

CQMS. Drum Maj Paul Howlett also left the company in Iraq handing over to newly promoted Drum Maj Nathan Love. By time of print CSM Dave 'Necky' Riley will have been posted to the EER along with Sgt Ringo Watson both who have been outstanding in their commitment to the company and

its soldiers. The CSM's banter will be especially missed. Special mention must be made of Sgt Mick Wildney who is leaving the Battalion at the end of the tour after 22 years of first-rate service. His hard work in the company intelligence cell during the tour has benefited us all enormously and he will

be sorely missed not just in the company but across the Battlegroup. We wish him and Donna all the best in their new life outside the Battalion.

It has been a challenging tour for the company particularly in these latter weeks, there will be plenty of stories to be told – certainly enough to keep us ticking over till the next tour. *Maa'salama* (Go in peace). 2006 is going to be a big year...let's get it on.

The Suffolk Cup

CSgt IJ Snow writes:

During our tour of Iraq B (Suffolk) Company worked closely with the Iraqi Police Service (IPS) and the Iraqi Army (IA). In order to cement our relationship I decided it would be a good idea to show our Iraqi counterparts that, not only did we wish to forge relationships on a professional basis, but also on a sporting front. It was therefore decided that a five-a-side football competition would be run on a monthly basis with Camp Chindit being the venue. Cpl Dave Sands was tasked with fashioning a trophy worthy of this great sporting event. Once the bean tin was covered in tin foil invitations were sent out to all Police and Iraqi Army locations in the company's sector. The response was staggering with 12 teams entering.

As Match Day One drew closer you could feel the buzz of anticipation around Camp Chindit. With such high attendance it was decided that two leagues would be formed with the top two teams from each league playing in the semi-finals. At an early stage it was identified that the Multi National Force (MNF) would not have it all their own way with the IPS demonstrating their samba like skills. As the day progressed most senior members of B Company assumed that the



The Rover Group's chronic vehicle problems did not stop the OC.

The Vikings

trophy would be leaving Camp Chindit with pride of place being found in either Al Marbid or Al Rumaylah Police Stations' trophy cabinet. What they did not expect was the impact that LCpl Jason Tower would have on the competition, with his lightning passes and quality finishing he ensured that the Suffolk Cup remained on home soil within Camp Chindit.

Due to the success of Match Day One a date was quickly set for the second round of the Suffolk Cup. It would be worth mentioning that during the three weeks of close season an important transfer was made with the author promoting and leaving his beloved 6 Platoon to join the HQ team on a free transfer. WO2 Tim Newton also decided it was time to hang up his boots; his eye for goal would be sorely missed.

Match Day Two soon arrived and due to its ever-growing popularity it was decided the press would be invited. The competition began in very much the same vein as before with the MNF playing with aggression and the local teams demonstrating closer ball control and movement. The HQ team, hugely out-classed during Match Day One, started well with the author adding stability to the defence which enabled CSM Necky Riley to lead the line. It wasn't long before he rolled back the years and produced a moment of class. He managed to shake off the close attention of two defenders before turning and powerfully driving a left footed shot low into the net from a tight angle. This silenced a partisan 6 Platoon crowd who were favourites for the trophy. As the competition neared completion the soaring temperatures began to take their toll on the MNF teams and an Iraqi victory was inevitable. 5 Platoon again managed to scrape their way to the final and with a bit more luck could have retained the trophy. This would have been harsh on Al Arab Police the eventual winners as they had played the better football on the day.

I decided it was time to take the Suffolk Cup to another level and suggested that we challenge the IPS to an 11-a-side game with the venue being Az Zubayr football stadium. The invitation was readily accepted and the date set. A team was carefully selected from within the company and optimism was rife.

As the team approached the stadium it soon became apparent that the match was bigger than we had expected with locals lining the streets to the stadium and welcoming the MNF off the transport. The MNF won the toss and decided to kick off in traditional style with Maj Freddie Grounds starting the game. Please note he was substituted at the earliest opportunity. The MNF suffered an early setback when their inspirational team captain, Cpl Marty Blackley, suffered an injury and was replaced by Cpl Larry Holmes. During the reorganisation of the defence B Company fell behind when a well placed shot from 12 yards had on-loan keeper Sgt Simon Panter clutching at thin air.

With a strong wind in favour of the Iraqi team, B Company struggled to get out of their own half and it was no surprise that nearing half time they fell further behind with a close range tap in. During the half time talk I decided that changes had to be made with Sgt Simon Panter making way for Pte Spunky Coram to make his debut and the team playing with a 3-5-2 formation. The change reaped instant reward when in the 48th minute CSM Necky Riley did well to find Pte Luke Geater with a well placed long ball; his cross was met by LCpl Lewis Shenton, who slotted home at the second attempt from close range. During a period of B Company pressure we were unlucky not to equalise when Pte Madonna Field did well to break the offside trap and put in a well-angled cross only for the in-rushing Pte Geater to narrowly miss. The period of MNF domination was short lived and the Iraqi Police Service soon took control of the game, with them peppering the MNF goal at will. Pte Spunky Coram was producing a masterclass in goal and did well to keep the score respectable. In the 78th minute it was no surprise when the IPS made the game safe, a well-built move was finished off with a low shot that gave the goalkeeper no chance. To the relief of the MNF the team managed to limit the damage and was pleased to hear the final whistle with the score still respectable.

With the aim of bringing us closer to our Iraqi counterparts already being achieved and the imminent closure of Camp Chindit, we eagerly await the final chapter in challenging for the Suffolk Cup and bringing it back to its rightful home within B (Suffolk) Company's trophy cabinet in Pibrigh. With the date yet to be confirmed we can expect the final challenge to have as much vigour as the previous competitions.

Security Sector Reform - A Platoon Commander's View

Capt David Robinson writes:

Security Sector Reform (SSR) is the term given to the rebuilding of Iraq's security infrastructure in the post-Saddam era. With the focus lying with the Iraqi Army (IA) and the Iraqi Police Service (IPS), 1 Royal Anglian's main effort was towards developing these forces to a level of competency where a transfer of security control between coalition forces and Iraqi security forces could be achieved.

To this end throughout Op Telic 6 the Battlegroup has had the task of developing both police stations and Iraqi Army battalions alike. As part of this my own experience, and that of 5 Platoon, was of training and mentoring an IPS station in Az Zubayr called Al Arab and of running training courses for the Iraqi Army. Each platoon was allocated an IPS station to mentor, there were four in total in B Company's area of operations.

Al Arab IPS station was duly dubbed the 'worst of the bunch' of all the IPS stations to the south of Basra. With no budget, minimal sanitation, third world prisoner handling and a building literally falling apart around them there was a lot of work to be done. Pte Scotty Fryer however commented he likened it to home coming to Great Yarmouth.

The first two thirds of the tour concentrated on developing the police officers at the station. 5 Platoon carried out a number of training courses from Camp Chindit as well as constant mentoring of the IPS when they came on patrol with us. Needless to say the IPS soon became tired of seeing the likes of Cpl Larry Holmes and Pte Scotty Corless waking them up from their slumber to conduct joint patrols in the middle of the night. Throughout, the platoon worked hard to develop them and, as always, some responded more enthusiastically than others.

Towards the end of the tour the platoon was faced with a challenge when the American money for the rebuild of Al Arab was withdrawn. A typical Viking work around to the problem was conceived using minimal funding and maximum inventiveness. The IPS looked as if their world had collapsed when they were informed this workaround would require significant effort on their part. As the tour comes to a close the work on Al Arab is about to commence, hopefully enabling sustainable operations to continue from the station.

Working with the Iraqi army proved a wholly different challenge to that of working with the IPS. Their sometimes misdirected enthusiasm and undeniable love of afternoon naps made their work ethic fundamentally different to our own. 5 Platoon ran a number of training courses for the Iraqi army throughout the tour and got to know their ways well.

With the Vikings teaching everything from platoon Orbat to Obua drills, the Iraqi Army had more of an opportunity to conduct training over the four-day course than they had had in the entire previous year. They took to most activities keenly and, in some disciplines, proved very capable at demonstrating how not to do it. Sgt Keith Nieves, LCpls Jimmy Ryan and Jas Tower were keen to help them learn from their mistakes and develop them further. At the end of each course the platoons all had much praise for the course and had learned much but there was always much grumbling about completing a full working day, absurd idea!

SSR for the platoon has remained our main effort for the entire tour, a number of relationships have been forged and progress has been made. The Iraqi Security Forces are beginning to look like a force that can assume security operations in a fledgling, democratic Iraq. Although there are signs of corruption, mismanagement and idleness, the core of a security system is in place for the future. With 5 Platoon leaving Iraq soon we all wish them well in this challenge.

The Vikings



Brigade Reserve Strike Group - 1 RRW Warriors, 26 Engineer Regiment.

C (Essex) Company in Iraq

Maj James York writes:

Our six-month tour in Iraq is drawing to a close and the company can look back on a tour that has been varied, interesting and produced tangible results. After a period of training and equipping in theatre, no week has been the same for the company. We have worked with all of the Brigade's units and run several company group operations. There have been some frustrating periods, operations planned but not run, operations launched prematurely and long periods of waiting for the strike window, but overall the company has learnt much and delivered the effect ordered by the Brigade Commander.

During a slow start the company prepared

for possible operations. Our priority was search and detention operations, but all other eventualities were to be covered. This involved cross training with Warrior, boats, helicopters and training Istar liaison officers to work with helicopters and the Iraqi Air Force's own observation platform, the Seeker. WO2 Kelly, from the East of England Regiment, became double hatted as operations warrant officer and Istar liaison officer – anything to get out of the operations room. We also rehearsed extensively with RMP, scene of crime officers, Royal Engineer Search Teams and search dogs in order to prepare for search operations. All of this training has been used during planned and short notice operations. The change in threat during the tour following the use of passive infra red improvised explosives increased the tempo, but did not divert us

from our role.

We protected a variety of targets during the tour. The highest profile being the Queen's Birthday Cocktail Party at Basra Palace and the hottest being digging in around Rumaylah Bridge to allow the Royal Engineers to strip the bridge out. Both operations allowed us to work with the Iraqi Security Forces and were successfully concluded without major incident.

Short notice operations have been frequent and have kept the company on its toes. Often these were for route clearances tasks using our all arms search team, but sometimes the operations would be more complex. Complexity was usually in inverse proportion to the time we had for battle preparation. On one occasion the company had to move 80km, marry up with support helicopters, airborne Istar assets, establish



Maj Gen Riley with Maj York.

The Vikings

a signals re-broadcasting site and deploy platoons over 150 sq km in a matter of hours. On another the company had to descend on an objective in a hard line area of Basra and conduct a search with just 30 minutes for orders and marrying up.

Routinely the company has reinforced other battlegroups and has worked extensively with the Coldstream Guards Battlegroup in Basra City and the Danish Battle Group in Basra Rural North. Also part of our routine is Operation Essex, a counter IED operation that has snowballed, since its beginning as an aptly named company operation, to a brigade-wide operation.

Most in the company would say that the detention and search operations that we have conducted have been the highlight of the tour. The larger operations have been conducted and led by the Coldstream Guards or the Danish Battalion, with C Company forming the strike element. They have been

demanding for all involved. Planning has had to be detailed, rehearsals extensive and the execution has proved that no plan survives contact. As Lt Meddings says below, these operations have demanded much from our junior soldiers and commanders. Soldiers such as Pte Roberts, proved tenacious and firm in the face of escaping detainees, Pte Cooper was calm under pressure, Cpl Ferrand demonstrated leadership and drive by almost levitating his Multiple onto a rooftop objective and Cpl Duggan surprised all with his fleet of foot skills jumping between roof tops.

None of this work would have been possible without the equipment that was brought on line by the CQMS crew and the company signals detachment. Both of these departments have been truly tested. At short notice the company has created nets to cover over 80km, with up to seven nets on five different systems. Cpl Kerney and

his team of Cpl Butler, Moulds, Pemberton and Wright have succeeded in ensure communications are possible in a harsh environment. On the G4 front particular congratulations should go to Cpl Rice for his GOC's commendation, marking his outstanding contribution to generating a working company vehicle fleet.

It has not all been work and the tour has been broken up by several events and entertainments. LCpl Addlington organised an inter-multiple football league of Premiership proportions. Full match reports and a comprehensive results service (including Donkey of the Match), kept interest high and a hard fought final was won by 12 Platoon on Minden Day. Other Minden entertainment included Minden Munch. Using the company's good relations with the Theatre Dog Unit, all commanders had to run the gauntlet of 100m dash chased by an attack dog - Lt Meddings got the furthest leading to suspicions of dog doping.

With weeks to go we have had a successful tour and are looking forward to our recovery to UK. All of the company can take pride in the insurgents that now reside in detention or are heading for the Iraqi justice system as a result of operations the company has been intimately involved in. Soldiers can also take pride in their individual performances that have underpinned the multitude of successful company operations.

Search and Arrest Operations in Basra Province - a Platoon Commander's Perspective

Lt Will Meddings, OC 9 Platoon, writes:

Throughout our time in Iraq as the Brigade Reserve Company for 12 Mechanised Brigade, C (Essex) Company was fortunate enough to be involved in several important detention and search operations. Two of these were important enough to warrant coverage in the national and international press. These operations involved working as the strike company inside a cordon set up and manned by the Coldstream Guards, the Basra City Battle Group (BCBG). Both of these operations were very successful, having a real and lasting effect on insurgent operations in Basra Province. The detainees held from the second operation are believed to be directly responsible for the death of several MNF soldiers and civilian contractors.

In the two major detention operations the company was involved in I was lucky enough to be commander of the Entry Platoon, a job which may well have turned out to be a poisoned chalice, given the high profile of the operations. So how did the operations go, and what did we learn?

Right from the start of the tour C Company had been given direction from the Brigade Commander that we would have to make ourselves ready to carry out these types of operations at short notice. We dedicated a



Cpl Rice receives his GOC's Commendation from Maj Gen JB Dutton.

The Vikings

great deal of time and effort to getting realistic and worthwhile training in place to prepare ourselves for the intricacies of detention operations. Not being policemen (although several members of the company have, I am sure, spent time in police stations) we received tutoring from the RMP on evidence handling techniques ('whatever you do don't touch anything!'), and familiarisation with the Royal Engineer Search Team (REST) and the Theatre Military Working Dog Support Unit (TMWDSU). During initial training LCpl Adlington was arrested several times, as were Ptes Stancombe and Wright - even the CQMS became the target of a midnight raid!

In early June the company deployed into Basra City in preparation for a detention and search operation. Under very strict secrecy the company prepared to arrest an individual who had been tracked across Iraq to a location in Basra. During the day we split our time between keeping up the appearance of patrolling the city in support of BCBG and rehearsals for the entry. Sadly, due to the nature of our target and the need to narrow down his location further, we returned to SLB two weeks later. Although the operation was 'on ice', we continued to rehearse for it, finding a building in SLB with a similar layout and height to the target, allowing 9 Platoon to rehearse the entry and 10 Platoon to rehearse their ladder climbing skills in order to isolate the roof. Other tasks continued and the operation, now dubbed Op Secret Squirrel, started to fade into memory. When we did eventually move in and detain it was at short notice - the Brigade Reserve were out of SLB within an hour and a half, and through the door of the target house within seven hours of receiving notice that the target had arrived back in Basra.

On the second occasion we again supported the BCBG, this time in the detention of a large group of insurgents in the centre of Basra. Our previous experience paid off, allowing us to move much more rapidly, without rehearsal time, and working in pre-designated roles. Again 9 Platoon was designated Entry Platoon, although by the time the operation was carried out every platoon in the company was affecting entry into a building, of which there were three in this instance. We deployed under cover of an already established operation to deny the enemy the ability to plant Improvised explosive devices on the outskirts of the city - appropriately named Operation Essex. On arrival at the target the company was greeted by around 10 individuals standing around

their cars. All were desperately throwing pistols, ammunition, mobile phones and (found later) rifles into the undergrowth in an attempt to discard incriminating evidence. All were recovered by Cpl Duggan's Multiple by hunting through the reeds and bushes following the sound of the bleeping ring tones.

So how were the operations different? The main difference was the sheer volume of detainees, as well as the threat they posed. On one occasion the man who met us at the door immediately handed his pistol over, handle first. On the other we found the targets were all armed with several weapons, even if they did choose to give up rather than fight. The odds of 100 versus 15 obviously didn't appeal! The co-ordination of the bigger operation was more difficult (but not for me, thank God), with fast air, a surveillance helicopter and four platoons entering buildings or detaining suspects at the same time.

All said and done, C Company got a great deal out of the operations. Private soldiers were put under a lot of pressure in the entry teams, and all of them stepped up to the challenge well. Managing to be firm but fair with people who don't understand your language can be hard under stressful circumstances, especially when you look under their bed to find a 7.62mm machine gun and several thousand rounds. Even more so when you know they have already been responsible for killing fellow soldiers. Young soldiers kept their calm when they were in situations that had the potential to go noisy very quickly. Both commanders and soldiers learned a lot about flexibility and reacting to changing situations. The company also learned far too much about sitting in vehicles all night waiting to be given the go. Taking part in an operation involving Brigade (and Divisional) surveillance assets, as well as helicopters, search dogs and REST (sometimes all at the same time) is something few members of the Battalion can say they have done, as regularly.

My Deployment To Iraq

Pte Gary Lowe writes:

When I got to Battalion I got told that I would be going to Iraq sometime in August, after my 18th birthday. At first I just wanted to know exactly what date I would be deploying on, but after a while I didn't care as long as I got to deploy for at least a couple of months.

Before I deployed I had to complete two range packages specifically designed for the

theatre that I was deploying to. The first of the training package was Brigade Training, which was a week-long live firing package at Lydd and Hythe Ranges. The ranges included a snatch shoot and the formidable platoon defended house. The second of the two packages was the Optag training and this consisted mainly of briefings and lessons on the different culture in Iraq, as well as the possible threats that I might face. After the lessons and briefings we moved onto a few practical stands such as minor aggro and rules of engagement. We then returned to the Battalion and went on two weeks of pre-deployment training before deploying to Iraq on 13 August.

When I arrived in the theatre the first thing that I noticed when I stepped off the plane was the heat. Even though it was 11 o'clock at night it was still unbelievably hot. We had to sit for a while waiting for the transport to Shaiba. While I was waiting I was sweating unbelievable amounts and having to drink more water than I have ever had to drink in such a short length of time. We were put on buses and then escorted back to Shaiba in the dead of night. When I saw the lights of Shaiba from a distance for the first time I thought it was huge!

After arriving in Britannia Lines I and the other new soldiers were put into the transit accommodation where I spent the hottest two nights of my life, as there was no air-conditioning in the rooms. Luckily, though, the platoon I was going to was also based in Britannia Lines, so myself and Pte Hyett moved in to 9 Platoon lines. We then had to attend three days of RSOI training to get us acclimatised, after which we joined our platoon on patrols.

During my time I have been a lot busier than I thought I would be as we are the Brigade Reserve Company. We routinely conduct route searches and patrol the ground around Basra and Az Zubayr. I have also been on some very interesting and successful search and arrest operations, which the Brigade Commander personally congratulated us on.

My platoon has had a couple of interesting moments. The weeklong Optag package wasn't exactly the same as Iraq, but it did prepare me by giving me the basic drills I would need. At the time of writing we now have three weeks to go, and the admin machine is in full swing. We are all now looking forward to Christmas leave and some cooler weather!

The Vikings

CIS Platoon

Capt Phill Moxey, RSO, writes:

At the time of writing the CIS Platoon is beginning the preparations to move home from Operation Telic 6. From a communications perspective this has been the most complex deployment any member of the Platoon has ever done. Managing Bowman voice and data systems combined with PMR, Satphones, mobile phones and two IT systems has been a real challenge, one which has been met with the usual understated and professional approach people have come to expect from the platoon.

The advent of Bowman has led to a significant jump forward in communications capability. Secure voice radio nets down to platoon level has simplified command and control immensely and has helped ensure our operational security. The Bowman programme has also delivered HF communications with a degree of functionality and usability which would be alien to a seasoned Clansman user. This, coupled with the superior range of HF over VHF, has meant that the Battlegroup used HF as the primary bearer for all its nets, allowing effective communications across much of the area of operations. In an environment as challenging to communicate in as the desert and across distances as great as 130km this is no mean feat. It has also meant though that users have had to learn to trust HF and get used to its idiosyncratic nature: it may be good but it still requires patience and application to get true results. Previous Operation Telic tours have relied heavily on mobile phones, much to the



Sgt Fosker contemplates teaching the theory of path profile analysis to his opposite number in the Iraqi Army.

irritation of regimental signals officers, thankfully though, while remaining a vital and necessary piece of equipment, the phone has been usurped by the radio due to the success of Bowman while on the tour.

It is of course not all good news and there are still problems in some areas, most notably, in battery robustness and effective situational awareness (SA). The Theatre Logistic Support Regiment has demonstrated limited situational awareness on their re-supply convoys but within the battlegroups this aspiration has been hindered, primarily by an incompatibility

issue between Snatch Land Rover and Bowman. As the 7 Armoured Brigade tour progresses it is expected that this capability will improve.

The company CIS detachments have learned a great deal throughout the tour and Cpls Hayward, Cole and Kearney should be commended for their efforts. They have mastered the skills of secure communications to both helicopters and fast air, established firm communications links over significant distances and got to grips with managing satellite-borne IT systems. A similar story exists within the



Back row from left: Pte Hughes, LCpl Warner, Pte Mann, Cpl Bell, Cpl Naylor, Pte Bailey. Middle row: Cpl Mitchell, Cpl Kendall, Cpl Cole, Cpl Fosker, Sgt Romsey, Cpl Hogston, Cpl Brittain (R Signals). Front: Sgt Kulkarni, CSgt Cave, CO, RSO (now Adjutant), CSgt Rockham, Sgt Carter.

The Vikings



Modern day comms, Sgt Carter (front) and Cpl Naylor man a clutter-free digital operations room.

Battlegroup HQ only with another level of complexity added. Again, the work of the JNCOs and SNCOs here has been crucial; Sgts Kulkarni and Carter and Cpls Mitchell, Bell, Naylor, Nicholls and Fosker have provided a comfortable and supporting environment for the operations staff. It has been an interesting time for CIS staff in that 60 per cent of communications equipment currently utilised is theatre-specific and as such they are as new to it as everyone else. It has meant a steep learning curve and a need

to rapidly master new technology.

Overall, the CIS Platoon should be highly praised for their contribution to Operation Telic 6. Provision of communications is a thankless task that people only notice when it goes wrong. The platoon as a whole

holds a depth of knowledge and experience, particularly with Bowman, that would be hard to match in the Army and we are well placed to continue to provide C3I support to the Battlegroup in the coming training year.



Sgts Carter and Kulkarni.



Sgt Rumsey establishes the comms on Bowman.

The Vikings

Viking Mortars Lighting up Basra Rural South

*Capt Paul Steel, OC Mortar Platoon,
writes:*

The Vikings' Mortar Platoon had not fired live on operations for as long as anyone could remember so the prospect of deploying on Operation Telic with the very real possibility of using the mortars was one that everybody was looking forward to. Unfortunately the platoon was split into three multiples which were then spread across the rifle companies. Their primary role was to be normal patrolling multiples with the ability to mount two barrels each when required.

Soon after arriving the A Company multiple based in Basra Palace took on the task of providing support to patrols in the local area of operations. This involved the detachment being on five minutes' notice to move throughout the night in order to provide illumination for call signs on the ground and to act as a deterrent to insurgent activities across the Shat-Al-Arab Waterway. Cpls Butterick and Tinkler took control of this task and kept it up every night for

the entire tour as well as conducting their normal patrolling duties. This was the first opportunity we had to fire the mortars and the A Company Multiple didn't waste any time in rubbing it in with the rest of the platoon that they had fired the first rounds 'in anger'! However, it was not long before the other two multiples got in on the action and started to support various operations within their own areas. The C Company multiple, commanded by Sgt Grice, was part of the Brigade Reserve and was used extensively throughout the tour to support a number of different operations that allowed the mortar fire controllers a lot more freedom than that afforded to Cpl Butterick and Tinkler. Sgt Watson and members of B Company used the illumination in conjunction with routine patrolling within Az Zubayr to great effect, helping to deter and hinder the activities of the local insurgents.

One of the issues that became apparent very quickly was the multiple commanders' complete lack of understanding of fire discipline, with very few knowing how to correctly call for illumination support. This was a particular problem while working to call signs from other units who insisted on asking for 'five rounds fire for effect' which

would normally get a very short response from Cpl Butterick or Cpl Tinkler who would inform what they should actually ask for. This improved after the call signs involved had a brief cadre explaining to them how they should actually do it!

Other than the nightly task of supporting patrols from Basra Palace, we also supported a number of company and battle group level operations. Each section would provide intimate support to their relevant rifle company. The most notable occasion was towards the end of the tour when all three sections were deployed in order to support a large scale search operation. They were invaluable in deterring the insurgents from moving any of their weapons and munitions from the known hides prior to the operation commencing meaning the search operation was very successful. The mortar lines were able to work independently and it provided the young and sometimes inexperienced fire controllers the opportunity to advise company commanders on how best to employ the mortars. They often had to work with very strict constraints, ie ensuring that the flight paths of the rounds did not pass over populated areas. This meant that careful consideration was always required



Night firing on operations...Operation Chigwell.

The Vikings



Live firing at Breemar Ranges

when placing the mortar lines and selecting targets. The section commanders and mortar fire controllers were very professional in their approach and were never afraid to inform a callsign that they would not be able to fire onto a target if they felt it would be dangerous. There was only one occasion when B Company managed to put a round through someone's house. I have been reliably informed by those involved that the reason for this was due to the round malfunctioning; fortunately no-one was badly hurt. The platoon constantly proved itself as an invaluable asset to commanders on the ground and as the tour progressed was used more and more.

Overall the deployment on Operation Telic provided the Mortar Platoon with an excellent opportunity to do the job that they had been trained for. There was a number of varied tasks that allowed the mortar fire controllers and mortars lines to test themselves in a challenging environment.

Throughout the tour the platoon proved that having the mortars as an integral part of the Battlegroup was essential. Whether it be providing base security or as a deterrent during planned operations then mortars were always one of the most important assets that could be employed. The platoon performed to a high standard throughout the tour and the experience will have set them in very good stead for next year's Tesex and all other challenges that may be around the corner.



The Vikings

Echelon Company

Maj Bunny Nye writes:

Regular readers of *Castle* will be aware that Echelon Company is not a normal fixture within the Vikings' orbit. You are quite right. I as Quartermaster was given the honour of being both a company commander and quartermaster during an operational tour.

It seems a long time now that back in January this year Echelon Company was formed and was made up of personnel of HQ Company and its role was to support the Battlegroup during operations and be in a position to backfill the rifle companies if required. Therefore, Echelon Company completed the Optag training package alongside the rifle companies, and acquitted themselves very well. However, the CO expected nothing less considering the company was led by the QM, aided by the QM(T) and MTO, so you see there was a lot of experience to see the company through the training, not withstanding the remainder of the wealth of experience throughout the company.

This experience came to the fore in recent weeks, when the pace of operations stepped up. The company provided meals in place for Battlegroup HQ and re-supplied tired companies as they rotated through continuous 24 hour operations – as you would expect. However, our more unusual tasks included deploying MT Multiples onto the ground (with a very experienced commander, Capt Blanchfield, pushing aside OC Recce to deploy onto the ground with the cry: 'I've got my kit on now'). The RCWO, WO2 Mcleod found himself leading a re-supply convoy to support the Brigade Reserve – getting back in time to be behind the hot plate on their return. The hectic period proved the worth of all the training prior to deployment, as all departments, MT, Signals, RAO and LAD deployed at



Winners of the driving competition on Operation Telic 6. From left: Cpl Edwards (RLC), Cpl Bygraves (1 R Anglian) with MTO Capt Blanchfield.

one time or another.

The original deployment into theatre went well and it was not long before the Vikings were in complete control of their area of operations. To date, the tour has gone extremely smoothly and the last three months have seen the company continuing to carry out their day to day administrative roles

and more, because in a lot of cases we were doubling up our responsibilities to cover the R and R period. The last two months have been extremely busy with the normal inspections that you associate with G4 taking place. The logistic support inspection went extremely well, and as I write this article the Board of Officers checks are in full flow



RAO Department. Back row from left: LCpl Chance, LCpl West, SSgt McIntyre, Cpl Jackson. Front: LCpl Roberts, Pte Hodge, Capt Thomas, Capt Pack, Pte Skyers, LCpl Jarrett.

The Vikings



Capt Thomas and Capt Pack.



Capt Thomas recruits a new clerk!



Catering Platoon.

The Vikings



MT Platoon on Telic 6.

and I am pleased to report that the young officers involved in checking our equipment have been very thorough, identifying that the snow chains for all our vehicles were deficient. Bearing in mind that the average daily temperature is 45C I see little use for snow chains, even when winter descends on us as it never snows in SE Iraq!

The company is now preparing for the forthcoming equipment care inspection (ECI) and the preparation for the handover to 9/12 Lancers in October. However, on the operational front we have the Iraqi referendum sandwich between the ECI and the handover.

So you see, Echelon Company is in good order, mainly because all ranks have

supported each other throughout. I would like to single out my Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Freeman, who has made my life so much easier with his excellent work. This has allowed me to concentrate on my G4 responsibilities, thus ensuring the soldiers have received the best possible support available.

Personally, for me it has been a pleasure to command the Company, a company that everyone else turns to when they want something done. By tradition it is always the largest company, however during this operational tour we are the smallest company by some 25 soldiers, but still we completed everything that was asked of us, and hopefully to a high standard.

Bahrain Rugby Tour

Capt David Pack writes:

You would think that Iraq is not the best place from which to launch a bid for international sporting glory. However, with Operation Telic 6 drawing to a close, 12 Mechanised Brigade secured an entry to the Bahrain International Rugby 10s Tournament. WO1 Wilkins (an ex-Viking FSA and now coach of the Army under 20s) headed up the squad and hand-picked 20 players from across the Brigade.

As a Battalion we had two individuals selected to tour – Pte Ricky Griffiths (A Company) and Capt David Pack (Echelon Company). Pte Griffiths went as the first choice scrum half, Capt Pack as hooker and captain of the side.

The squad formed up the day before the tournament at Basra Air Station, where three training sessions were conducted on a very small and dusty patch of sand that was really the Brigade's five-a-side football pitch. Not ideal when we were hoping to release the silky running skills of the Fijian members of the squad upon arrival in Bahrain, but to be honest we were just delighted to get a rugby ball in our hands again and to make sure we hadn't forgotten how to catch and throw!

The tournament was conducted over two days in the blazing Middle Eastern sun. It is hotter than Iraq, *and* more humid. As a result the entire squad got fully utilised in our three group games against a variety of delightfully named expatriate teams (*The Bahrain Constructors* for example!). Fortunately a combination of power, pace and athleticism saw us comfortably through our first two games before we came up against one of the pre-tournament favourites and 12 times previous winners, our hosts Bahrain. What followed was a battle royal, which had a rather hostile crowd baying for blood and at one point three Bahrainian players lying prostrate on the ground. One of our players required 10 stitches in a head wound, we had to survive with one player in the sin bin for two minutes and it took a wonderful try by Pte Griffiths to break the deadlock late in



G2 G3 fusion in action.



Cpl Jackson, LCpl Jarrett and LCpl Roberts.

The Vikings



Ace of Spades - 12 Mechanical Brigade 10s rugby team.

the first half, before we eventually pulled clear with a second try before the death. This wonderful and entertaining game – enjoyed by well over 500 spectators – put us into the quarter-finals of the cup the following day where we were drawn against DHL (a side of uncompromising South Africans, New Zealanders and Brits). However, before that we felt obliged to be hosted by the side we had just beaten and were entertained to a fantastic evening in their clubhouse where we were able to truly forget that only 24 hours before we had been on operations.

The second (and final) day of the tournament consisted of the quarter-finals, the semi-finals and the final. We eased past DHL before playing a very physical Salford side in the semis. Again we won well, playing some sparkling rugby and

dominating the opposition in every aspect of the game. Our reward was a place in the final against another Army side (packed with Fijians and the defending champions). What followed was a bit of a showpiece that will live long in the memory of those who watched (over 1,000 in all).

The game was brutal, uncompromising and electric. Massive hits were going in all over the place, bodies littered the field by half time and only one score separated the sides. Sadly it was the RLC Regiment on the score sheet and not ourselves. In the second half we made half break after half break piling massive pressure onto the opposition, despite this they struck again with a penalty goal to increase their lead and it wasn't until there were only two minutes to go that we finally crossed their line to close the gap.

Sadly, there was no time for a restart and the game finished 8-5. At the time we were, to a man, devastated. However, on reflection we had played some wonderful rugby on a big stage, entertained everyone watching and pulled up just short. By no means the end of the world and a wonderful event to be part of. So, putting the disappointment of losing the final behind us we went into the clubhouse, sat down with our hosts and took the opportunity to be as normal as we had been for a long time.

Over the whole tournament we played some fantastic rugby, scored over 250 points and conceded only one try. It was an amazing experience, extremely rewarding and one which I hope we will have the opportunity to repeat, possibly as members of a Battalion side, sometime in the future.

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The Vikings

Presentation of the Iraq Operational Service Medals

Capt Phill Moxey, RSO, writes:

While most of us now expect quite a delay before we receive our medals, through some exceptional hard work by our rear party clerks and the Medals Office, the Vikings were able to present the Iraq Operational Service Medal to eligible members of the Battlegroup just five days after returning home. The Battalion hastily re-learned the joys of drill and over a two-day period became as cohesive and in step on the drill square as they had been for the six months in Iraq. The parade was designed to draw a line under Operation Telic and signalled the end of the official normalisation period. It also gave the Commanding Officer an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by our attached personnel

Although a simple parade, the Battlegroup looked thoroughly impressive as they marched, desert combat clad, onto the ATR Pirbright square in front of many friends and family. On a bright, crisp day Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE took the salute from the Commanding Officer before beginning to hand out the medals. The General was assisted by Brig WC Deller OBE (Suffolk Regiment, presenting to B Company with Maj Grounds), Lt Col CC Norbury MBE MC (Essex Regiment, presenting to C Company), Maj DL Clarke (R Norfolk Regiment, presenting to A Company) and Sgt BA Major (Cambridgeshire Regiment, presenting to D Company). With the Band keeping everyone entertained with *Is this the way to Amarillo?* by Tony Christie the sudden downpour of rain went unnoticed.



WO2 (CSM) Ellis receives his GOC's Commendation for Services in Afghanistan from Gen Sir John Akehurst.



The Commanding Officer leads the parade in the march past.

The Vikings



A (Norfolk) Company march off the square.

However, with Maj Freddie Grounds, (who handed over command of B Company to Maj Mick Aston in Iraq in August) taking around five minutes with each member of B (Suffolk) Company some people started to feel the rain.

The parade generated considerable press interest and the day was covered by *BBC*

Look East, Meridian TV, Press Association and a host of local newspapers. The highlight was the live interview conducted by CSM Reilly and family on the evening *BBC Look East* programme. The Battalion as a whole are very grateful to the Medals Office for their extraordinary efforts in ensuring the medals were ready in such short order. The

day was seen as a fitting way to round up what has been a very successful tour for the Vikings

Sgt Bert Major, now aged 84, was wounded at Sangarang when serving with the 2nd Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment. As it was impossible to move him he remained behind with others becoming the



Brig Deller presents the OSM to LCpl Robinson of B (Suffolk) Company.



Maj Clark presents the OSM to Pte Jarrad of A (Norfolk) Company..

The Vikings



Maj York, OC C (Essex) Company has to subtly whisper to his CQMS to 'get his arms up to shoulder height'.

first member of the Battalion to be captured by the Japanese. He made his own way to Pirbright by train from Great Yarmouth and on his return home he wrote to Mr Freddie Grounds, the President the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association...

'On Friday 4 November I went to Pirbright. Travel was good, both ways and on time. I arrived at Brookwood Station at approximately 1230hrs where I linked up with your son who was most helpful. He escorted me to Pirbright. In the Officers' Mess I was introduced to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Thorne MC and other officers, also the other attending guests. After a break and refreshments we were taken to the parade area by minibus where the Battalion was already on parade.

'Each of the guest representatives with their host were guided to the various companies, I of course was with the newly reformed Cambridgeshire Company. An attendant sergeant was with each of us bearing trays of medals. I handed out some 50 medals having a few words with each recipient.

'It was wonderful to take part on such an occasion. The men, all in their light combat uniforms, stood proudly in the coolness of the English weather. Following the medal presentation there followed the handing out of certificates etc. The Battalion was addressed by Gen Akehurst, the Padre led the prayers and the music was by the Band of The Corps of Royal Engineers.

'I was most pleased and proud to have been present and included in the day's activities. The march off of the Battalion was the capping point of a smart turnout.'



Pte Mavin receives the Commanding Officer's Commendation awarded to the CIS Platoon for their exemplary effort throughout the Bowman conversion period.



Cpl Tinkler, A Company 1st Battalion, meets the locals.



Pte Morrey, A Company 1st Battalion, gets another marriage proposal.



Sgt Culshaw meets the locals.



Pte Geater 6 Platoon B Company organises a football match with local youngsters.



5 Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, protecting Iraq's largest oil refinery.



B Company, 1st Battalion mortars fire to illuminate VCPs around Az Zubayr.



2nd Battalion PJNCO and Tactics Cadre students and DS final exercise at Otterburn.



2nd Battalion night exercise during Saffron Sands.



2nd Battalion GPMG drills, Exercise Saffron Sands.



Miss Saffron Sands.



Sgt Towe takes the plunge on Exercise Saffron Sands.



The victorious Poachers' football team.



'The Boss is a genius' - Sgt Morgan is clearly in awe of OC 8 Platoon - training for Saffron Sands.



Pte Blowers models the helmet mounted night vision goggles.



Exercise Lincoln Wanderer, B Company EER adventure training, Pte Davidge starts the descent.



East of England Regiment, Operation Marble Tor, Gibraltar, OCdt Andrew Mawby.



Exercise Eastern patrol.



Minden Band of the Queen's Division at Lincoln Tattoo.



Maintaining our close county links.



Standards are marched past at the Regimental Day.



The Regimental Band.

2nd Battalion The Poachers

The Commanding Officer writes:

The last six months have seen significant developments in the Peace Process in Northern Ireland; PIRA's declaration that they would 'dump arms', the Normalisation announcements and recent IMC reports have had a tangible effect upon the Battalion's operational tempo and laydown. Northern Ireland finally appears to be on the road to a lasting peace, albeit the isolated case of serious rioting at the Whiterocks Parade suggests that the Province may continue to suffer sporadic, localised turbulence for some time to come.

A hectic period of Public Order preparation early in the summer, was followed by a very quiet Marching Season in which commonsense generally prevailed. The Battalion, warned off to expect an operational deployment in 2006, capitalised upon this abnormally tranquil period by focusing on training. A two week battalion exercise in Otterburn had been planned as the culmination to our Return to Role training, thus we were delighted when HQ Land decreed that 2 R ANGLIAN would deploy from Northern Ireland to Jordan on Exercise Saffron Sands, an exercise ordinarily reserved for units based in Cyprus.

Conventional warfare training gathered pace and the G3 and G4 practitioners rose to meet the very real challenge of synchronising the deployment of battlegroup force elements from Northern Ireland, England, Germany and Cyprus. Our local operational duties taken over by 3 and 4 R IRISH, we headed off to the desert for 6 weeks of demanding and highly enjoyable training. The deployment to Jordan allowed all of us to focus on our core soldiering skills and gave junior commanders plenty of time to train their soldiers in detail. A short and ambitious Adventure Training phase saw nearly the entire Battlegroup participating in diving in the Red Sea, walking and climbing in Wadi Rum and visiting the ancient city of Petra.

D (Sp) Company completed their reinforcement cadres and integrated the Recce, Sniper and Machine Gun Platoons in a series of complex live firing scenarios alongside the Mortar and Anti-Tank platoons, in support of live firing attacks.

Throughout the first half of the exercise, the battlegroup enjoyed working alongside the Jordanian Armed Forces, who were most hospitable. Our joint training culminated in a large Weapons Effects Demonstration. The company and battlegroup phases of the exercise incorporated a significant amount

of live firing, including a memorable battlegroup live attack, utilising helicopters, against an enemy position on the Jebel Al Batra. An external validation team from HQ 2 Infantry Brigade provided a challenging and wide-ranging finale to the exercise - the Battalion was pitted against a determined enemy from A Company 1 RHF. We were most grateful for the unprecedented opportunity to be released from Northern Ireland as a battlegroup. Our conventional skills, which had atrophied in Northern Ireland, benefited enormously and we came back considerably uplifted by the experience.

On returning to Northern Ireland we immediately reassumed our operational role in support of the police and, as I write this introduction, a hoax proxy bomb has just been delivered to the front gates of Strand Road police station - it is getting better, but there is still some way to go!

Our sojourn in Northern Ireland has seen a steady reduction in military support to the police. This is laudable and has also allowed us to regenerate skills and invest across the battalion in depth. The Battalion is very fortunate to have a very clear operational focus for 2006 and we are now energising the work plan to satisfy the imminent Arms Plot move to Temhill.



Drums and piper in the desert - Exercise Saffron Sands in Jordan.

The Poachers

Operation Abdullah 1 - Exercise Saffron Sands 'Company Battle Runs'

*Lt Andy Wolstenholme, OC 6 Platoon,
writes:*

As B (Leicestershire) Company prepared to deploy into the deep desert on Operation Abdullah, a five-day Battalion scale live firing exercise, the magnitude of conventional skill fade brought about by two years in Ballykelly was mooted by the platoon commanders and sergeants, wondering if it would be acceptable to cordon an enemy ambush rather than getting hot and stressed fighting through. It was decided that we would not allow the police primacy in the matter.

The preliminary move for the exercise was a long vehicle move across the area. To break the monotony, exercise planning officer Capt Rich Bredin thoughtfully placed an ambush followed by a company hasty attack *en route*. For most it was the first experience of a live company attack, the realism augmented by the disarray caused by the initial ambush with the added pressure of the noon sun as a bonus. The attack was an emotional hour with 4 and 5 Platoons working hard up front, and 6 Platoon running in the kilometre from their reserve position to finish off the enemy before moving to the first night's harbour area.



Battlegroup attack.

With all movement from the harbour area cancelled for the night the focus shifted to actually finding a sandy patch to sleep, getting hot food on before last light and having an O group in a packed tent with the temperature raised to that of a blast furnace. With the mission achieved for the final objective at least, OC B Company, Maj Paul Leslie, put troops to task for the subsequent live company night attack - order of march:

4, Tac, 5 then 6.

The attack was an assault on a terrorist training camp and ran complete from the break-in to the destruction of enemy communications equipment - by the Battlegroup's Royal Engineer assets together with B Company's newly formed Assault Pioneer Section, led by LCpl Chris Burdass. Following a several hour delay caused by A Company misplacing



Lt Wolstenholme and Cpl Steel consider the next move.

The Poachers



A Company meet the local JAF company commander.

their entire vehicle allocation, live Milan and Mortars set the scene for the attack and provided a powerful visual and audio backdrop for the assaults which included a Russian trench system, a tented camp and a communications facility. The camp also included the terrorists' 25 metre firing range which was valiantly destroyed by One Section Six Platoon, having mistaken the zeroing targets for actual enemy targets, an easy enough mistake to make and rectified promptly by section commander Cpl Terry Steel who quickly identified the real enemy and exploited the attack to its conclusion.

The next move was to a battlegroup harbour from which we were to launch a recce patrol to scout out possible battlegroup assembly areas for subsequent operations. While 4 and 5 Platoons were deployed by Chinook to their areas, the remainder were dispatched concurrently to recover the fighting troops by vehicle at the end of the operation. The recce patrol troops secreted themselves into ideal observation positions as swiftly and stealthily as allowed by the ground. The enemy, provided by the Royal Highland Fusiliers, was soon sighted and luckily escaped as OC 4 Platoon, Lt Dave 'Face Time' Haggart managed to quell his 'cat-like' reflexes and overwhelming urge to make ready and engage the enemy, remembering in time that we were all

loaded with live rounds. The enemy, AKA the Ragistanians, must have smelled the killer instinct from B Company, as they didn't return at all for the remainder of the patrol, eliciting sighs of relief as the troops

caught sight of the vehicles coming to extract them back to the harbour. The relief was short lived though as the night journey which was to be conducted with no lights, using only night vision devices to drive and



Going native proves to be hard work for Capt Foden.

The Poachers

command passed along what can only be described as Route Death. After collecting a wayward machine gun detachment, 15km of pure off-road fear ensued with the scout vehicle commanded by the author, plunging headlong into cavernous wadis proving that the depth perception on the new night vision monocular is somewhat lacking. What the monocular lacked in depth it made up for in clarity as it highlighted perfect sparks from rocks grinding under tyres and fear in the eyes of drivers and passengers as the three fully loaded four-tonne trucks cascaded down a slope that a stunt double would demand danger pay for traversing. God bless those RLC drivers!

B Company returned from the recce operation to carry out a full scale search, for a Royal Engineer Sapper who had got disoriented walking the 50 metres from his sentry position to his sleeping bag and was luckily spotted by the Mortar Platoon, 2.5km away. Needless to say the company requested not to be in support of the Royal Engineers minefield breach the following day! What we were looking forward to, however, was the forthcoming battlegroup attack which would conclude the live firing battle runs. Having worked tirelessly from the outset of exercise, B Company were confident of their skills and drills and were looking forward to demonstrating our devastating efficiency and style on the battlefield to the rest of the Battalion. The site of the attack was not hard to guess. In true 'Poachers' style, commanders sought the highest, rockiest mountain on the training area and knew that it would be our objective.

After a morale boost in the form of fizzy pop supplied by our friendly CQMS, CSgt 'Gib' Dyson, B Company moved to our Release Point where we would get a final meal before the 11km tactical advance to battle and final objective. Another morale

boost first in the form of sand filled mortar bombs and Milan missiles to be carried by each man. It was rumoured that the commanding officer had put different coloured sand in for each company and was checking post-battle to ensure no-one had lightened their loads en route, just a rumour.

The advance to battle was demanding but excellently navigated by OC 4 Platoon and the company lead scout Cpl Steve Mactavish allowing us to reach the foothills of the 'Jebel' in the freshest possible condition. Anticipation was in the air as well as hint of perspiration born of looking up at the monster we were about to assault but we were equal to the task and arrived keen to assault. And assault we did, two up, aggressively echeloning through A Company's advance and straight into the enemy main defensive position causing some exercise casualties as well as some questioning looks to the safety staff. Four Platoon's surviving section, led by Cpl Ash Budworth, holed up in their captured enemy trench and suppressed the enemy as 5 Platoon tried the left flank. Unfortunately, the enemy depth positions were too numerous and pinned 5 Platoon down, necessitating 6 Platoon to come in from the reserve, fight through two enemy positions then provide fire support allowing OC 5 Platoon, Lt Adam Griffiths, to get to his white flag and withdraw his platoon to safety. 6 Platoon held the position allowing B Company Sgt Maj, WO2 Waghorn to deal with the casualties while 6 Platoon Commander briefed the Commanding Officer who subsequently launched C Company to eventual victory. The captured enemy position afforded excellent backdrops of the surrounding area, perfect for the battlegroup photograph, what a stroke of luck! Thus ended a challenging exercise allowing B Company and the



Up a bit...Lt Osbourne tries to get the Test Match score!

Battalion to go into the test exercise safe in the knowledge that our skills are honed and that we have retained our conventional cohesion through Ballykelly and possibly into Afghanistan.



Battlegroup attack.

The Poachers

Training a Company for Exercise Saffron Sands

Maj Mark Nooney, OC C Company, writes:

Transforming a well-drilled Northern Ireland company into an effective conventional light role infantry company takes a lot of work. Doing it while still in an operational theatre is a real challenge. That is the situation C Company found itself in as we moved closer to Exercise Saffron Sands, the first battalion size Overseas Training Exercise ever launched from Operation Banner in Northern Ireland.

Most of the hard work would be done in Jordan during the Exercise but there were key prerequisites that needed to be fitted in around operational commitments. Revision of conventional tactics, learning new weapon systems and revising some old ones not used in Northern Ireland, fitness and communications were among the objectives to be achieved. A company training exercise on Binevenagh training area in June identified the current standard of skills. Clearly a lot of work was required. Moving from verbal warnings and 'single, well aimed shots at a clearly identified target' to fire control orders and winning a firefight was a leap some found initially difficult to grasp. Despite this, and with ponchos flapping wildly in the wind while ration pack matches failed to light the hexi, C Company thought they were beginning to remember how it was all done.

Unfortunately at this point operations got in the way and C Company found itself



Beast me boys! C Company 2IC.



Sir...Is it really like this in Jordan?

The Poachers

on Ops 1, patrolling Londonderry and its surrounds, with little chance for more conventional training. As a new OC (me) turned up there was a good deal of sucking of teeth and prophetic speeches of the doom to follow - 'We'll suffer in Jordan...' and 'There's a long way to go yet...'. With these descriptive gems and the memory of Binevenagh in mind C Company devised a plan to cram some revision into two weeks before flying to Jordan.

As one would expect the Northern Irish summer aided us greatly in our preparations for the Middle East by raining almost every day. The platoon commanders toiled over producing a Jordan briefing board, Lt George Osbourne's IT skills proving to be central to the 'team' effort, while the 2IC, Capt Teare, came up with an Arabic crib sheet. This was thought by all to be very helpful although I question the usefulness of *How many camels for my pretty blonde daughter?*, and was positively disturbed by *Where do I fill up my camel?*

While the officers toiled over tasks set by an OC with too much time to think the JNCOs busied themselves with instructing on weapon systems and giving presentations on Regimental history (how this helped our preparation escapes me but the CSM was fairly insistent). Room in the programme was found for ranges, medical training and instruction on recovery of vehicles, essential given that half the exercise fleet broke down on route to Marchwood.

Conversations over one or two beers in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess confirmed that the training had gone well and the company management congratulated themselves with one or two more drinks. Then one or two more, and after that I'm sketchy of the details. It was generally felt that all we now required was our issue of desert clothing, a rifle, a shemagh around our heads, a dromedary and a quick viewing of *Lawrence of Arabia* and we were all set... *Inshallah*.

C Company's Exercise on Binevenagh Training Area

Lt Richard Lewis writes:

With Jordan rapidly approaching, every spare minute away from the operation cycle has been dedicated to ensuring that all the right boxes are ticked and that the troops are as prepared as they could be for a rigorous conventional exercise overseas.

Even though the beginning of July heralds the most important part of the marching season, the current relatively benign climate allowed C Company to conduct a three-day exercise on the local Binevenagh Training Area.

This was very much a back to basics exercise to address the inevitable skill fade that has occurred after spending much of our time talking to apathetic drivers in VCPs and sitting in sweaty QRF rooms on three minutes' notice to move... waiting...

However depressing this may sound QRF rooms are actually warm and comfortable, Binevenagh by and large isn't. It became

apparent that a few days roughing it in flooded shell scrapes was perhaps a good way to reintroduce the soldiers to the harsh realities of conventional operations. Furthermore, what better place to prepare for the desert environment than a hilltop peat bog?

The three-day exercise was broken down into three phases. Phase one was section level training involving lessons on obstacle crossing, extracting a casualty in contact, occupying a harbour and section attacks. Sections and platoons were also given time to work on their all important SOPs. Phase two was the recce phase with six recce patrols launched on a number of targets. The final phase allowed each platoon to conduct battle preparation before launching a deliberate platoon attack.

It was evident to see that this training was much needed however, with the guidance of the OC and CSM, who cut around and assessing much of the activities, the skills and drills improved rapidly. The company 2IC also worked hard ensuring that the company HQ bivouac area was a comfortable place to sleep in.

Numerous section attacks and recce patrols later, unusually wet weather ushered in the dawn and the final platoon attacks. The highlight of this was 8 Platoon's epic attack on the enemy stronghold. A good commander's plan for his attack should include deception and this certainly did because absolutely no-one knew what was going on. So much so that the enemy were wrong footed and subsequently routed.

With victory secured 8 Platoon were quick to enjoy the spoils of war which included the promise of 12 hours at PSNI Maydown in full public order kit as cover for the 12 July parade in Londonderry. As 7 Platoon performed so admirably they were invited too.

Finding the time to organise a demanding conventional exercise in Northern Ireland isn't easy due to the myriad of commitments that residential battalions still undertake. However, the exercise was hugely rewarding and provided the company with a solid platform from which to deploy to Jordan.

Support Weapon Cadres

Maj Nigel Johnson writes:

One of the advantages of being on Ops 1 at the later end of 2004 was that the Company moved itself lock, stock and barrel into a quiet police station on the outskirts of Londonderry and sat there for a month, largely left alone by the rest of the Battalion. And thus it was in late November for D Company, a company that was orbated and manned as a rifle company, and to which the words 'Mortar' and 'Milan' were nothing more than nomenclature for the different platoons.

The success of the peace process and the resulting low intensity of patrolling meant that any spare mental capacity was free to gaze into the future. And so it was that D Company started considering how to

convert itself from its current (and largely untrained) strength of 83 back to a fully trained establishment of 171. This task was, and continues to be, challenged by several continuing threads; first and foremost, the requirement to maintain operational capability to support the Police Service of Northern Ireland right up until the move to Ternhill. Secondly, and equally as important, was the need to source, train and integrate the reinforcements needed from the rifle companies without impinging upon their ability to support the police.

Thirdly was the constant requirement to balance the MS needs of the platoons' NCOs by sending them away on their various career qualifying courses. This is further complicated for the Milan-equipped Anti-Tank Platoon by the introduction of Javelin across the rest of the British Army. Warminster ceased all Milan courses at the end of last year, and has been running Javelin-only courses. This has therefore demanded careful management of the Anti-Tank Platoon's NCOs as, while they have attended Javelin courses as part of their career progression and in preparation for when we do receive the new system, they are then only qualified to do safety on Javelin, and not Milan.

The operational cycle really only allowed a four-week window (our Ops 2 period) for support weapon cadres to take place in August 2005. While at first glance this suited D Company, it was done at risk. There are still operational obligations imposed upon the Ops 2 company, and so it was that the platoons found themselves doing a full day's support weapon training in full public order kit at 15 minutes' notice to move in a Londonderry police station one Saturday. There was also some not insignificant pain to the soldiers (the need to prepare for field firing in Jordan, rehearsals for public order duties etc could now only be done at weekends). Furthermore, while the addition of Jordan on the forecast of events provided the perfect opportunity to conduct some testing support weapon live-firing at the end of the cadres, it also blew the company's leave (their 'carrot' after working nine weekends in a row) out of the water.

Trials and tribulations aside, thus it was that the mortar, anti-tank and machine gun cadres began in earnest the day the Company moved onto Ops 2. The realities of life here meant that two of the cadres (Recce and Snipers) have had to be left until Jordan itself. It has simply not been possible to free those individuals from their continuous operational commitments, and so while they have conducted 2-3 weeks of low-level, in-barracks training, they will conduct the bulk of their training in a concentrated cadre in Jordan. Similarly, the assault pioneer capability has been left embedded within the rifle companies, and so while D Company has had an 'over-watch' role on external course attendance, it has been beholden upon the rifle companies to get their chosen sections away on assault pioneer courses.

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Live-firing in Jordan.

The cadres have undoubtedly been a success and to a large degree, enjoyed by the soldiers as a break from the cyclical operations in Northern Ireland. The proof in the pudding will be the validation of the theory and teaching in Jordan, and many of the clouds outlined earlier have revealed their silver lining. The fact that the rest of the Infantry are well on the way with their Javelin conversion means that the Anti-Tank platoon has been blessed with four years' worth of Milan missiles to fire in the six-weeks of Jordan.

And so, as the Battalion prepares to fly out to Jordan, D Company can re-insert the word 'Support' into its title with 172 soldiers (the Battalion's current manning strength allowing us to be slightly over establishment). The success of the cadres has been in no small degree achieved through the willingness and resourcefulness of the NCO instructors, who have always sought to find all and any training opportunity. And finally, there are also several other lessons we have collectively learned by doing the support weapon cadres in Northern Ireland:

- If planning on doing training while ostensibly on stand-by for public order operations - warn the police first - they become concerned when troops with shields and batons start getting anti-tank guided weapon systems out of the back of their Snatch vehicle.

Observations...

...the distance run around the airfield appears to increase in direct proportion to the amount of weight being carried.

...the mortar fire controller's GPS system was clearly never designed with the Northern Ireland grid system in mind, and therefore it continually insists that it is located somewhere in the Bahamas.



A Milan detachment deployed on Exercise Saffron Sands.

The Poachers

Adventure Training During Exercise Saffron Sands

Capt Mark Dingle writes:

The aim of the adventure training package was 'to promote an interest in adventurous pursuits and develop team spirit and leadership qualities among soldiers participating in Exercise Saffron Sands through the medium of adventure training'. In addition the package was designed to develop a cultural understanding of Jordan in order to add realism to the overall scenario.

The programme was influenced exclusively by the acclimatisation training that was taking place concurrently at the main exercise area at Ma'an. As all the soldiers in the battlegroup had to rotate through a period of preparatory training, it was decided that a three-day rotation was most suitable and that company groups from within the Battlegroup would provide the framework on which to structure this rotation.

The package consisted of three options with the majority of soldiers (where unconstrained by numbers participating) able to choose what activity they wished to do. In terms of finance the most expensive option was the PADI scuba diver course and numbers participating in this activity had to be constantly reviewed and controlled to ensure that the financial budget was not breached.

Option 1 consisted of a two-day PADI scuba diver course. The first day consisted of a swim test followed by pool training with a comprehensive introduction to the practical skills required in scuba diving under the guidance of PADI instructors. This practical



Camel riding.

training was reinforced with PADI dive DVDs covering chapters 1-3 of the open water scuba diver course and the compulsory knowledge reviews on completion of each written chapter in the crew packs issued to each student. The second day's training took place at Seastar Diving's Beach Club (Club Murjan), which had a confined open water reef area. Students participated in an

open water dive to a maximum depth of 8m and then completed one further dive during which they had to complete the full range of skills achieved in the pool in a confined open water environment. This diving was supervised by a PADI course director, PADI instructors and by Cpl Crafer who is a BSAC advanced instructor. Finally, students completed the compulsory PADI exams



Petra - journey to the treasury.

The Poachers



Petra.

(with re-sits as necessary) and completed certification at the end of the second day before departing for Petra the following morning.

Option 2 consisted of pool training at Club Murjan for those who wanted to attempt a try dive under the close supervision of a PADI instructor before students proceeded into the confined open water reef area for a try dive in the sea, again under correct supervision. Maximum depth achieved for those participating in try dives was 4-6m. As a background activity to try diving and when the weather was suitable, students had the opportunity to try windsurfing under the tutelage of WO2 Coupe (RYA Level 3 instructor) and sea kayaking under the supervision of Pte Armstrong (Level 2 instructor). On the second day of this option all students were taken by a coach to Wadi Rum. The sights included the Nabatean Temple, Lawrence's Spring and Wall, the Burdah Rock Arch and Burdah Canyon, where soldiers were able to scramble from Wadi Rum to an adjoining valley. During the lunch break all soldiers had the opportunity to ride a camel for a considerable distance. After spending the night in a Bedouin campsite, where they enjoyed a traditional meal, each group was collected on the last day and taken to Petra.

Option 3 consisted of two days of climbing in the Wadi Rum area for small groups of soldiers who had previous climbing experience. These groups were supervised by Sgt Nelson APTC and LCpl Gorski 127 AYT. After the first day's climbing the group spent the night in the Bedouin campsite, where they were treated to the normal friendly Bedouin welcome and spent a night under the stars. The second day consisted of more climbing before returning to Aqaba to wash and clean up before departing for Petra on the third and final day with the remainder of the rotation.

All personnel who participated in adventure training visited the UN World Heritage Site of Petra on the last day of each rotation. While one soldier was heard to express his disappointment at the lack of a pool, which he had reliably heard existed, the majority found the experience to be educational and culturally beneficial. It certainly added depth to the exercise for most, if only as an opportunity to visit the venue for some scenes from the film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

In total over 625 participated in the

adventure training package. Overall the package was a resounding success despite the short notice that it was to happen and the difficulties of co-ordinating the planning from an operational tour of Northern Ireland with only a short recce to go on. The majority of soldiers thoroughly enjoyed the package and a large proportion stated their intent to complete further PADI diving courses in the wake of their experiences. Culturally and educationally the trip to Wadi Rum proved to be a success and added depth to the exercise as a whole.



Rock climbing.

The Poachers

Joint Potential Junior NCO and Tactics Cadre

Lt David Haggart writes:

This was to be the Battalion's first joint Cadre and so was always going to be something of the venturing into the unknown. Reports were that the Vikings had already run a similar combination of cadres and the results were very positive - so no pressure then! The JNCO Cadre was headed up by myself, with Cpl Waters as my 2IC and Cpls Steel, Cass, Blowers and Rawdon as section instructors. The OIC Tactics Cadre was Sgt Sean Taylor who was closely supported by Cpl Jay Greenhill. Luckily for myself the combination of cadres meant that we also benefited from the experience of the Tactics Cadre staff and the training officer, Capt Melia.

Initially, the cadre was run from Ballykelly with short exercises based at Magilligan Training Centre and on Binevenagh training area. The idea was to get all basic assessments and training along with the large amount of classroom based career leadership management covered before deploying to the mainland for the exercise. The cadre was always designed to be testing but Northern Ireland added its own tests in the shape of horrendous weather and the taxing ground of Binevenagh Mountain.

As would be expected, the early parts of the cadre with its return to conventional exercises, drill and high and intensive levels of fitness training was a shock to even the most prepared students system. At this stage the JNCO and tactics cadres were



Cadre enemy battle preparation on Exercise Poacher's Arrow.

conducting their own training and it wasn't until we deployed to Otterburn training area that they became fully integrated.

The combination of lance corporals from the tactics cadre in appointments as section commanders and privates on the JNCO Cadre as Section 2ICs proved to be very successful. With the established JNCOs able to aid the instructors in guiding the privates in appointment. After initially moving to Otterburn by ferry and coach, the joint cadre was given some short but valuable battle prep time in Otterburn camp. They were then whisked to the training area HLS to be flown by Chinook directly into battle

at Sculthorpe training area. This stage was a blank firing exercise at an old disused airfield, part of the Stanta estate. Students were practised in both Fibua and defensive operations over the course of three days, before conducting a fighting withdrawal and again being lifted by Chinook for the flight back up to Otterburn.

At this stage the students' mental strength was to be tested to the maximum. After three arduous days of pressure at Sculthorpe many of them were expecting to fly back to Otterburn for the live firing stage. How wrong they were! It is a picture that I will not forget, as I handed the instructions to LCpl



Section attack range, Otterburn - suppressing the enemy,

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Section attack range, Otterburn - the proven route.

Estwick and ordering him and his section to leave the helicopter at an unknown grid on the Otterburn training area. Each section then had to get their bearings and navigate along a difficult through route through the day and night, completing tasks and stands on the way, some more successfully than others! The FTX then moved on to involve a transition to live firing, which culminated in a live night attack.

The cadre finished with a successful pass-off parade in Ballykelly, witnessed by the GOC. The Commanding Officer then chose to promote the well deserving 17 to lance corporal in the Corporals' Mess, in front of their families and instructors. LCpl Stow was awarded best student, with LCpl Alderman proving to be fittest student and LCpl Haupt the most improved.

The Student's Perspective

LCpl L. Stow writes:

The Cadre formed up at the start of May and over the next six weeks we were to be pushed to our limits. This would see a total of 17 of us promoted to lance corporal. After our first parade we were placed in to sections, I was put in 2 Section commanded by Cpl Cass. The first week consisted of BPFA, ACFT, APWT and military general knowledge tests. During week two we deployed to the 'land that time forgot!' - Binevenagh Mountain. However, to get there we would have to complete the hardest CFT I have ever done. We started at the foot of the mountain and tabbed up before coming to what I can only describe as the steepest hill in the world. After finishing the tab there was just enough time for a change of socks and a brew before cracking on with the exercise.

The final exercise was just as testing. After successfully defeating the 'elite' enemy of the American Air Force Police at Sculthorpe we flew up to Otterburn to conduct the section and platoon live firing. That was after being promptly dropped off on the side of a hill and forced to navigate our way back to camp!

With the final exercise complete we were all in high spirits, but this was to be cut short as drill with the Provost Sergeant approached. On the first morning of drill we were all brought right up to speed with scenes reminiscent of 'Bad Lads Army,'

at times the only thing lacking was 1950s uniform! I had the extra task of learning the words of command for the parade, as I was to command it until Lt Haggar took over. On the morning of the cadre pass-off we all fell in at the side of the guardroom for a final inspection and a glass of port, to calm the nerves. I don't know about the rest of the lads but I would have needed a whole bottle to calm mine properly. The parade stepped off and it was one of the best memories of my Army career as we marched onto the square in front of friends and family.



RSM as the manoeuvre support sergeant - final attack.

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2 Royal Anglian Move to Ternhill

*Capt Phil Thompson, Unit Welfare
Officer, writes:*

Quote: 'Good tactics only survive contact with the enemy.' (Gen G Patton 1944)

Question: What is the difference between welfare and warfare?

Answer: ELF! (a noun describing a mythical creature with magical powers) (CSgt Hand 2001)

You may wonder why I start this entry about the unit move to Ternhill with a quote followed by a question. I trust that it will become apparent to you as you read through this article.

As unit welfare officer of the Poachers the responsibility for moving in or around 100 families, their kids, cats, dogs, fish, caravans, trailers, including the kitchen sink Uncle Tom Cobbley and all as you would expect fell to my staff and I. Hopefully this explains away the opening quote about good tactics, of which good prior planning is essential. The enemy in the case of our unit move have so far been many and varied and range from the predictable 'Get me out of 'ere as soon as possible!' to the more unusual 'But I like it here and don't want to go, can't I stay behind?' These contacts are quickly taken care of and overcome by superior firepower in the form of Elfs. I don't mean that my staff and I are mythical creatures or that we have magical powers, although sometimes I wish we did. What we do have in lieu however is a combined collective experience of over 100 years' service to the Crown, lots of common sense, and an ability to get things done and between us have had some part to play in the organising of eight different unit moves.

As I write these paragraphs 18 families have already departed the Emerald Isle for pastures new in Ternhill or further afield. The bulk of the families still remain here in Ballykelly and are preparing to move to the mainland in November and December, not long after returning from Exercise Saffron Sands in Jordan. As you can imagine for a task as complex as moving smoothly some 406 individuals to 11 different locations on 36 flights, or in 98 vehicles including their 45 dogs and also covering their food and hotel accommodation, the planning started as early as January this year with the first initial recce in February. The most important recce saw the wives visit in June. Most if not all who went on these visits will agree that the early signs of Ternhill are encouraging. Since then there have been numerous faxes, telephone calls and emails winging their way across the Irish Sea backwards and forwards to the DHE and removal companies in order to ensure that all eventualities are covered and that every one get housed and moved appropriately. So far things are going according to plan and we seem to be ahead of the curve and even winning the firefight.

As you know, to use another quote 'Fortune in war does not favour big battalions but those who are the best shots.' (Voltaire 1756). We've aimed for every foreseen eventuality and as yet have not missed our targets. I'm sure one or two may get through though, they usually do.

For most of our families Ballykelly has been a good proving ground for their relationships and commitment to each other. With a varied working practice, times and rates, with the changes brought about by the ever increasing return to normality in the Province and even a Jordan exercise thrown in for good luck most relationships have become stronger from this tour. Intelligence indicates that for the most part our families have enjoyed their time here, if not just survived it. I feel the role we have played as a station families office and the unit welfare office has facilitated an easier than expected transition into the tour for many of the families and the newly married couples. We hope to be able to continue to do so upon arrival in Ternhill. We know that there is a great possibility that once again we may have to hit the ground running so to speak because of the Battalion's possible future deployments. Such is life in today's modern Army. As the unit welfare officer we have already started thinking of a welfare support plan for those times of family separation, if needed.

We must not forget, or allow others to, that we are leaving behind a dozen or so Poacher families who are retaining their married quarters in Ballykelly. Most of these families are retaining their quarters because of the educational needs of their children, many of who will take finishing exams later in the year. We accept the fact that you may have difficult times ahead of you, being on your own and looking after the kids is never an easy task. Proudly and on behalf of your husbands we would take this opportunity thank you in advance for managing this difficult task so well. We will bid you all a sad but temporary farewell and look forward to your happy return in Ternhill.

To close then and to bring this article to its end I'll finish appropriately enough with an old Irish toast to all our readers but mostly to those gloriously noble creatures who have made my life as the unit welfare officer sheer hell, (sorry, I mean rewarding and fulfilled) we know these afore mentioned individuals as the Poachers' wives, the toast goes like this... 'May the roads rise to meet you, may you feel the sun on your back and may all your troubles be small ones.' All the staff at the SFO/UWO wish you all the best for the future in Ternhill and remember, the answer is only a question away!

Talavera Families' Day

Capt Andrew Houchin writes:

This year's Talavera celebrations had a lot to live up to after the success of last year's events, which had received a resounding thumbs up from all who attended. This year,

it was left to D Company to organise and run the event with A, B and C Companies playing a full part by organising a number of their own stands for the Families' Day.

The day focussed on a number of key events, most notably the Geoff Towler Trophy, a football match played between the Corporals' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, as well as the inter-company tug of war competition. However, there were numerous other stands that entertained both young and old including horse riding, paintballing, a junior assault course, bouncy castles, ball pits and almost any other piece of entertainment equipment that was likely to keep children amused for a few hours. The day was complimented by a superb barbecue that had a fantastic selection of meats and salads and made sure that no one went hungry.

The highlights of the day were without doubt the Geoff Towler Trophy football match and the inter-cCompany tug of war competition. The football match was a relatively even affair that was decided by a single goal scored by Sgt Taylor. However, a stunning volley by the RSM could quite easily have made it 2-0 had there been a Russian linesman available. The man of the match award went to CSM Lewis who combined extremely well at the back with Sgt Singleton to produce a dominant defensive partnership. That was not the end of the excitement however, as the trophy was delivered to the presentation party by way of plane and a parachutist. Happily, everything went without a hitch.

This left the floor open for the tug of war competition to take centre stage. The competing teams were made up of HQ, B and C Companies and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, fresh from their success on the football pitch.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dominated proceedings but by far the best contest was between HQ Company and B Company. HQ Company dominated the early stages and looked set for an easy contest but B Company held firm, slowly easing their way back into the Pull. It became a matter of pure stamina and eventually, the younger legs of B Company took over. This was the deciding factor in a quite brilliant contest and set them up to come second behind the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Drums Platoon rounded the day's events off with their customary near faultless display that left everyone to start preparing themselves for the night ahead. The entertainment for the party included an Abba tribute band, a quartet of dancers and the compulsory dodgems. It was an excellent do that gave everyone a chance to let their hair down and get together as a Battalion; an all too rare event these days.

And so the bar has been raised yet again with the likely location for next year's celebrations being abroad. No doubt something of substance will be laid on for all to enjoy and with any luck, those dancers will find their way out there too.

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Ballykelly Half Marathon

Capt Andrew Houchin writes:

There are a number of things in one's life that come back to haunt you, whether it be a mother-in-law, a case of mistaken identity on a hazy night out, or in the case of the Poachers, the Ballykelly airfield. There are some to which it has a strange kind of magnetism. Whether it be the gentle breeze rushing through their hair, or the simple fact that it is incredibly difficult to get lost, men and women alike continue to don their lycra and plough the concrete in their slowly wearing trainers. For most, one lap is enough, for some two laps is the limit, but prior to 29 July 2005 there had been talk of a few individuals who had trodden the tarmac three times in one sitting.

Rumours surfaced of irregular meetings between this small group of people. It was said that they got together for ritual blister-popping ceremonies and Solo-Enhancing-Imagination-Techniques (S-E-I-T) training, but primarily, Short-Term Memory Eradication (S-T-M-E) in order to make those laps a little less dull. However, on 29 July 2005, all that changed.

As part of the 'Fit for Life' week, it was decided that each company should enter a team of 12 to compete in the Ballykelly Half Marathon. The rifle companies duly entered their teams but OC D Company, deciding to add a little extra spice to matters, entered his entire company with the added bonus of 45lb plus their support weapons. With four weeks' notice, the platoons started their build-up training which for some involved 73 laps of Maydown PSNI Station. The training also included S-E-I-T and S-T-M-E; some took to these more fluidly than others.

As the day drew closer, it was pleasing to see the queue for the medical centre staying at a short trickle; it seemed the robust and technical training had been paying off. There was talk of hiring entertainment for the route around the airfield but it was decided that this would not help the troops to concentrate on trying to enjoy themselves while at the same time it was thought that it would halt their S-T-M-E. The night before arrived and the anxiety was clear to see in a number of the older members of the Battalion. A motivational speaker who had been booked well in advance unfortunately had to pull out. The reasons were not clear but the press secretary for the French Olympic Bid committee stated unforeseen circumstances.

Dawn on the 29th appeared fresh and rosy fingered but fortunately for the runners and 'tabbers', the Ballykelly micro-climate kicked in and the day took on a faintly grim feel. D Company started some 90 minutes before the runners and were looking to maintain a 75 min/lap pace. This, to their credit was achieved, finally coming in at a time of 3 hrs 30 mins. The first placed runner managed a very impressive time of 1hr 20 mins and seemed to be having a somewhat

easier time than everyone else; the hidden circle had started to show themselves. There were some excellent performances during that morning and everyone was rewarded with a splendid lunch at the end. Some were even heard to say 'gosh...that was splendid'.

And so it came to pass that the '3 Lappers Club' took their name. As yet, no T-shirt has been designed due to a rather unfortunate oversight; apparently the S-T-M-E training went one chapter too far.

Army Shooting Team

Pte Grant-Jones writes:

The NRA - National Rifle Association - was founded in 1859, originally to provide a focus for marksmanship for the newly formed Corps of Volunteers which had been raised to counter the perceived threat of invasion from France. The NRA was granted Royal Charter in 1894. The Royal Charter continues to this day for the promotion of marksmanship in the interests of defence of the Realm and performance of the volunteer forces for all services.

The Association organised the first group of competitions on Wimbledon Common in July 1860, on land where the founders of the NRA, Earl Spencer and the Duke of Cambridge, held memorial nights. Queen Victoria visited the first shoot and gave the prize of £250 to the best individual marksman. This set the pattern for the annual meeting which has been held each year, apart from during the two World Wars. The Queen's Prize remains the premier award for individual riflemen at the July Imperial Meeting, which is attended by competitors worldwide.

This year at the Imperial Meeting an extremely high standard was set from the outset, certainly higher than I have seen before. While competitors had worked hard throughout the year, there was one particular factor that assisted all taking part, the wind. The fact that the wind put little or no appearance in throughout the day meant that there were many more Highest Possible Scores (HPSs) on the scoreboard, and the highest standard so far seen.

Earlier this year, in March and April, I toured South Africa with the Army Target Rifle Club and I learned a great deal in judging the wind as there was never a still day on the ranges. The most useful experienced gained on the tour was, 'mirage is wind you can see; it gives you the true speed and direction.' This advice did a lot to bring up my score in South Africa and gave me something to focus on in my subsequent practices; however, I was once again foiled by the British weather, in the fact that the much anticipated mirage never appeared!

The first competition was the Army Championship Cup. This shoot included firing 10 shots to count at 300, 500, 600, 900 and 1,000 yards. I was in the precarious position of being defending champion. The feeling was unfortunately short lived as I narrowly missed out to Maj McLean, R

Irish. A disappointing start for me, however, I knew I had to raise my game for the next two major competitions, the St George's and the Queen's. Both competitions have two knockout stages to get to the final where last year I achieved the bronze medal. While I shot well enough to get through to the second round, a coveted place in the final evaded me this year; with first place going to a retired Canadian serviceman, scoring a HPS of 300 out of 300. In addition to receiving the Queen's Cup, the winner receives the traditional chair lift around the whole camp followed by a well-earned beer in the clubhouse.

I fared better in the St George's and entered the final with very respectable scores. I finished the shoot with a gap of only three points between me and the winner which I was particularly pleased with considering the increased standard this year. The overall competition gave me some points to work on for the coming year if I am to continue to compete against the more experienced shots, work that I am fully committed to put in if I am to get myself back to the converted final of the Queen's Cup.

Both the Army Target Rifle Association and the NRA have provided me with many opportunities to participate in a sport I enjoy, travel abroad and also to improve my marksmanship to the benefit of my platoon. I have been able to represent the Battalion in several shooting matches and have also represented the Army in home and overseas matches. I strongly encourage anyone who enjoys shooting to get in touch with their Battalion shooting officer to enable them to start participating more fully in what is both an excellent sport and a valuable soldiering skill.

Confessions of a Soldier

WO2 (CSM) Glen Jackson writes:

Now that I have your attention from the fairly alluring title, I hope that you will read on regarding a recent trip that I attended to Lourdes, France. I write this short article not as a Roman Catholic, but as a member of the Church of England, although I must admit, I am not an avid churchgoer! Some of you might be asking yourself what is Lourdes all about and that was the question I asked myself before arriving in France.

In outline, Lourdes, nestling at 420m above sea level in the foothills of the Pyrenees, was the site where 18 apparitions of the Virgin Mary were seen by Marie-Bernade, a young girl aged 14. These events took place from 11 February to 1 July 1858. Subsequently, Bernadette as she was known, began to be visited by groups of pilgrims, although she was under continual scrutiny from those in authority who sought to discredit the story of the apparitions and the message of the Virgin Mary.

Some time later the church authorities declared the apparitions to be true and work on building a church begun. Bernadette was later to be honoured as a Saint. Clearly, I have

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only highlighted key events of why Lourdes is internationally known as a centre of pilgrimage, commerce and tourism today.

Every year, Lourdes is the setting for the International Military Pilgrimage, with this year being the 47th. It is attended by over 25,000 Service personnel from 30 different countries. My role in this event was as Pilgrimage Sergeant Major, a job that was varied and enjoyable. I did find it a little bizarre that I was responsible for marching the whole UK contingent of 300 personnel including an Admiral of the Fleet, three Major Generals and numerous high ranking officers, ratings, soldiers and airman from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force and a band to all the activities over the weekend. It was amazing that without any prior rehearsal and the constant onslaught of traffic down what can only be described a confusing one way system, we actually reached each activity on time and more importantly, putting on a good show for all to watch.

During the evening, it appeared that everyone on the Pilgrimage congregated around a small number of bars to either swap military uniforms or just enjoy the more cultural aspects of Lourdes! My opinion of the Armys' Chaplains has certainly changed since attending this trip. This was largely down to the light hearted banter that occurred while at dinner... the Commanding Officer and I came to the conclusion that it was a little more reserved than normal due to our presence.

The highlight of the trip has to be our visit to Hosanna House. This is a voluntary organisation that helps ex-serviceman, dependants and children that have some form of disability. I only wish I could give them the credit they deserve in this short article, but they do a fantastic job and require volunteers all the time. At one point, a young boy with Downs Syndrome sang a hymn; you could have heard a pin drop as this young chap sang in perfect tune. I don't think there was anyone there that didn't shed a tear at that point.

I would like to end by recommending that if any of you have an opportunity to attend future military pilgrimages, serving or civilian, what ever your religion, church goer or not, make the effort. You will not be disappointed.

The Marathon Des Sables (7-18 April)

Capt Pete Connolly writes:

When I first heard about the Marathon Des Sables (*marathon of the sands*) it was 1999 and I was sitting in a classroom at Sandhurst listening to a talk from a legendary ex-Army officer called Chris Moon. Chris had a leg and arm blown off in Cambodia during a civilian de-mining project but had still gone on years later to complete the marathon. His story was one of sheer determination to succeed at all costs and ultimately overcome the limitations of his disability. It was an



inspirational story but as an overawed officer cadet I could never have imagined that six years later I would be competing in the gruelling desert race myself.

The event takes place each year in the southern Moroccan Saharan desert, and attracts competitors from around the world. The majority of runners and the event organisers are French, although there are plenty of British entrants - there were some 200-300 of us - and the remainder are made up of small groups from across the globe.

Despite the title of the event, this competition is no marathon - it has actually been described as 'the toughest footrace on earth.' It was first thought up and attempted by an ex-French Foreign Legionaire and a lucky group of his friends 20 years ago. Nowadays the event sees about 800 people race across 150 miles of the Sahara Desert in just seven days - nearly a marathon a day.

Each runner carries all his own rations, sleeping system (but no tent), powerbars, med kit, isotonic powder and compulsory emergency pack. Although one and a half litres of water is issued at each checkpoint (some 3-4km apart), at any one time the

competitors are usually running with two to three litres of water and a pack weighing 10-15kg. The majority of runners wear a lightweight top, sunglasses, sunblock, a hat with neck protection, shorts, silk gaiters to protect the feet from sand, and hardwearing trainers one or two sizes too big (the feet normally swell to fit them).

The Race Begins

Getting ready for the first stage - 29km sketch and map from the navigation road book. Stage 1.

Having spent a pitiful three days acclimatising in the Moroccan heat, I and the other 776 competitors, lined up at the start point keen and raring to get underway. We spent the first 30 minutes standing around enduring announcements and speeches from the psychotic Frenchman who originally invented the race 20 years ago. Only when this and the opening helicopter photographs had been taken did the countdown begin. '...trois, deux, une, allez, allez, let's go!' Amid the 30 or so frantic camera crews, the 20th Marathon Des Sables had begun!

Straight away I realised how much of a

The Poachers

hindrance my 15kg pack would be over the next six days. Despite doing plenty of training carrying a similar weight. I had nevertheless taken it easy in the 10 days prior to the event and had subsequently forgotten how unpleasant it was. I managed to set off at a good pace and found myself strangely nearer the front than the back. Despite this and after just 15 minutes, the front-runners, led by the Moroccan brothers who traditionally finish 1st and 2nd each year, were just a small cluster of dots on the horizon.

Having reached the first check point in good time I pushed on quite quickly towards the second. I was just several kilometres short of the checkpoint 2 when I encountered what would become the most daunting part of this race - the dunes section. These soft-sand dunes ranged from just 5m tall all the way up to 20m and were the key hurdle of each day. The larger dunes were completely soul sapping and forced all runners to continue at a slow walking pace. With every uphill step the foot sank into six inches of sand and slid back half a pace-two paces forward, one pace back!

With the dunes and checkpoint 2 behind me I knew I was close to the finish. I was climbing rapidly and approaching the crest of a hill, which I assumed, had the finish line just beyond it. I soon discovered that the event organisers were considerably more sadistic than anticipated. As I broke the skyline I looked down to see a huge open plain which stretched to a series of mountains on the horizon in the middle of which sat the blurred and distant image of the finish line and campsite. At least another miserable 4 or 5km to go!

Dragging my heavy legs behind me, I finished the first stage with painful cramp in both thighs, but also a real sense of foreboding about having only completed



Morning routine.

the second easiest stage of the six days and just 119th of the total distance!

The weather that night was terrible. The sand storms closed in around our campsite and we were battered from dusk till dawn. It

was as if the Sahara itself had taken offence to our presence in this desolate place and had tried to turn us back. At one point the legendary force field of protection around our tightly drawn sleeping bags must have faltered and I received the full weight of a wooden tent pole square on the face. Although my dashing good looks were intact it now made rolling over onto my front, which was the only way of sleeping without getting cramp in my thighs, near impossible.

The storm had passed by the morning but I still woke with relief when I saw our tent was still above us- albeit just inches from my face! The next day started in a similar fashion to day 1. Again, there was lots of 'hype' and celebrations at the start point but as soon as the countdown finished and the cheering became background noise muffled by my own breathing, it was simply me, my legs and my rucksack versus 37.5km of desert.

The tired feeling and stiffness in my legs would soon become a regular addition to the early hours of each morning and I found I needed the first 4-5 km to shake it off. It was rather convenient therefore that at 5.5km we reached the Jebel Amessoui; a hill feature that dominated the land around it in every direction. Although my legs were fairly loose by the time I arrived at the jebel there were



Ouch!

The Poachers



The view from the Jebel Amessoui and the ant trail of competitors in the distance.

certainly not ready for a one in two climb and soon I was plagued by cramp again. At the first checkpoint I consulted one of the medical team who gave me the equivalent of Bruffen and a tubey grip - the salt tablet! The French would have me believe that this was a modern day wonder drug from which no virus is safe. I started taking a tablet every hour that I was running and maintained this for the duration of the event. Although I failed to feel any real positive effects the fact that I didn't die is perhaps testimony that it couldn't have been all bad!

Once again I crossed the line with painful cramp in both thighs but so far, blister free. I made a mental note that once I regained the ability to walk without looking like a geriatric, I must gloat about my feet to my fellow team mates who were all suffering quite badly. This rapidly slipped off the to-do-list as I stumbled towards my tent and feebly piled into the floor as if my legs had been taken from under me. I was becoming increasingly concerned that my days of dancing the Naafi two-step were numbered.

Day three was 41km of the same sort of stuff: hard sand, soft sand, sand dunes, and the occasional pointy rock to bash one's toes against. The most unpleasant part about this leg, and the factor that made it probably my darkest day was the outrageous temperature we were competing in. Normally the temperature would reach its most uncomfortable between 11am and 2pm - the main bulk of each stage. Today the temperature climbed to 46C and seemed to linger forever. The ground was baking and I saw several people collapse into the first piece of shade they could find to avoid the unremitting heat. By the 33km point I was low on water, feeling very unsteady on my feet, and could feel several hotspots developing on the insteps of my feet. As I ploughed on I arrived at the crest of a

hill that I was convinced would yield the finish line.

To my dismay each crest would reveal yet another crest another kilometre away. I found myself out of water, exhausted, with painful chaffing on my thighs and becoming increasingly irrational. When I eventually crossed the line I headed for the medical tent, doubled over, and collapsed into the shade. I found myself being given the option of an intravenous drip and, rather than incur a one hour penalty, I politely declined.

After my most uncomfortable night's sleep so far I woke to find that my feet had also taken quite a pounding the previous day. I patched them up and rallied myself for the biggest challenge so far - the 76km stage. This stage is run over two days and competitors are given the option to rest halfway through (which adds time to one's overall result) or to push it out and take a rest day afterwards. My strategy was attempt the latter and I soon realised this would be much more difficult than expected. In the first 10km the route had us running unsteadily along the side of a steep sandy ridgeline. As I was running, and naturally putting pressure on the outside of my downhill leg, something gave way and caused me to cry out in pain. I had disastrously damaged the muscles and tendons down the outside of my left knee and thigh with 66km still left to cover. My routine for the remainder of the day and night was to run a few kilometres, walk a few and continue to pump my body with just enough painkillers to dull the sensation. About 12 hours later, through 46C temperatures, sandstorms and darkness I hobbled my battered body and confused mind across the finish line. During the last few hours of this stage I wandered alone through the darkness trying to spot the Cylumes in the distance that marked the route while trying to determine what was real and what my mind was imagining. Within minutes of crossing

the line the clapping and backslapping was a distant nuisance and I was firmly wedged into my sleeping bag; I would worry about the damage tomorrow.

After a well required, but not quite long enough rest day in the sweltering heat, I looked forward to getting the last two days out of the way. Although my pack was substantially lighter my legs felt four times heavier. It was clear that the body only had time each night to recover from a fraction of the damage inflicted upon it in the day and physical degradation had become a place I was forced to live in for seven days!

Even after the two-day 76km stage on days four and five, we were still staring down the barrel of a full marathon on day six and over a half-marathon on the final day. Even though the back of the race had literally been broken, the thought of doing the second longest leg so far was very sobering indeed. I set off as before expecting my body to loosen up in the first 4 or 5km but instead I found that my injured leg had stiffened painfully and it dawned on me that once again today's stage would be sponsored by Bruffen! The last day was even more agony and although people described it as a 20km sprint-finish it seemed to take forever. As my injury got worse I slipped down the rankings until on the final day my overall ranking was 310th out of 726. As the finish finally came into sight, I forced my body to run across the line but failed to appreciate the level of euphoria that other competitors were clearly experiencing. To me this had been a test of resolve and determination and the desert had failed to beat me. I looked down at my skinny and battered legs and quietly thanked them for somehow carrying me across 150 miles of Sahara. Once over the finish line, we were given a bottle of water, a medal but most importantly a haverbag containing the first 'real' food I had seen in a week. The taste of powerbars, freeze-dried food and energy drink had sapped my will to live and within minutes I had scoffed most of the items I had been craving for the last seven days.

The final count was as follows:

Seven days

244.7km

32 hours running

Nearly a stone of body weight lost

12 blisters

£2,200 raised for charity

With reflection, I have achieved much more than the stats above portray. To me this was always a legendary adventure story that had captured my imagination and lay dormant in my psyche for six years. It had been the hardest thing I had ever done and on those long, lonely desert tracks, it had taught me a great deal about myself and what drives the human body to achieve unimaginable feats of endurance. I had never been a front-runner but I had muscled through with survival at the forefront of my mind. I had indirectly answered a question that had plagued me for years and I felt I had exposed and exchanged some small part of my soul in that desolate place called the Sahara.

The East of England Regiment

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

For the East of England Regiment, summer and autumn 2005 have probably been the busiest period for any TA Battalion in living memory. The Battalion's third volunteer company has been deployed in Iraq and the companies at home have been busy in support of their families. At the same time Battalion Headquarters has been closely engaged in the development of the TA Future Infantry Structure (FIS). Rather than a quiet summer in the Regiment's Shires the remainder of the Battalion was running fast to provide our civic authorities and Old Comrades' Associations with the support they deserved to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two. With a Company OTX in Gibraltar and the main annual Battalion Camp on Dartmoor we are all looking forward to Christmas for a break.

More detail of 3 Company's tour appears below but I should record here the pride felt by the wider Regiment in the company's achievements. The company acquitted itself extremely well in both the 2 PWRR Battle Group and the 1 R Irish Battle Group. This semi-independent company was employed as if it was a Regular company on the same tasks as other companies in both battle groups, which is breaking ground for the TA. In the longer term, 3 Company's soldiers and commanders have gained operational experience which will be invaluable in future training.

Debates about the size of Battalion have in the past been conducted by senior officers in distant headquarters and at the end of

the process Battalions were simply invited to conform to the new pattern. In the recent round of restructuring, however there was no one size fits all and a wide consultation process provided the opportunity for most to have their say. This Battalion made its case based on the unusually high number of both individuals and formed companies deployed on operations. There is no doubt that the resulting proposals are a good balance between achieving the operational output and achieving representation in the counties on which the whole Regiment is based. We await confirmation with mixed feeling because while we look forward to becoming a full member of the R Anglian family we will also be sad to lose our very strong WFR Company to the Mercian Regiment.

The Battalion concluded its training for COIN operations as 3 Company deployed and has since focussed on offensive operations. The offensive operations CAST and Battlegroup FTX, which were covered in the last edition, culminated in the Battalion offensive operations field firing package on the Feldon area near Catterick. There is no doubt that these live firing attacks, making full use of grenades, and supported by live indirect fire inspired the slickest platoon drills in our offensive operations training. The Battalion was pleased to be able to show off its skills to two senior visitors, GOC 4th Division Maj Gen Kerr and ACDS (Reserves and Cadets), Maj Gen The Duke of Westminster.

With 3 Company in Iraq and a second composite company on an OTX in Gibraltar the summer's training theme of patrolling was appropriate for relatively depleted

companies. The culmination of our patrolling was at our main Battalion Camp on Dartmoor, which included a Mission Rehearsal for Cambrian Patrol. Last year's team based on the Recce Platoon achieved the Battalion's first success at Cambrian Patrol and we hope to reinforce that success with two well-prepared teams in this year's event.

We are all clear that delivering challenging and progressive training is what really retains the soldiers but we are aware that other activities with the wider military and civil community are also important to the Territorial soldiers. 2005 saw the Battalion's first bespoke exercise for our local cadet contingents and we intend that this will be an annual event. Support to our Old Comrades' Associations in every county as well as at the R Anglian and WFR Regimental Days has reinforced these important links. Our first Regimental Representational Event for those that support us in East Anglia took the form of a band concert and supper at Bury St Edmunds.

The Band were superb and though we do not know how much of the babble in the Mess afterwards was useful networking and how much was just old friends catching up – we hope to make this an annual event in both East Anglia and the East Midlands to thank both our Reservists' employers and the Regiment's supporters in the Regions.

In closing we should highlight our passing a recruiting landmark as all six companies exceed 100 per cent private soldier manning. The challenge for us all in 2006 will be to maintain these figures in order to achieve full manning in trained soldiers and in JNCOs.



The Battalion, and in particular A Company, supported the R Anglian and Royal Norfolk's Association tent and fielded a Recruiting Display. The Regimental tent was visited by HRH The Duke of York, CDS Gen Sir Michael Walker, the Colonel of the Regiment Maj Gen John Sutherland and the Lord Lieutenant as well as hosting a reception for those who support the Regiment and its recruiting.

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Exercise Eastern Patrol

Exercise Eastern Patrol was the name of the Battalion's two-week annual camp on Dartmoor, which was conducted at the end of September, early October 2005. The camp had four aims: to train teams for the Cambrian Patrol, to conduct a recruit cadre, to conduct advanced signals training and to carry out driver training.

The main aim during the camp was to prepare the Battalion's three Cambrian Patrol Teams. Over the first six days a series of teaching, skills stands were conducted by the teams on the usual Cambrian Patrol activities, such as river crossing, first aid, NBC etc and on the ones identified specifically for this year, such as conduct after capture, Artillery target indication and media handling.

During the second week a rehearsal took place over a 48-hour period, with the teams covering 22km and being tested at ten stands. The A Company team, led by Sgt Sherlock, and a mixed team led by Capt Adrian Coulson achieved a high Bronze standard, with the E Company Team, led by Lt Alex Horner, achieving a Silver standard. It is hoped that the teams can sustain this level for the actual Cambrian Patrol.

The Recruit Cadre was run by WO2 Rushmere and started out with 23 recruits; of these 16 passed and were awarded their



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berets. Of those who did not pass out, three were immediately discharged and the others will rejoin training at the appropriate stage. This last group includes Pte Knight-Kirby who broke his leg while crossing a stream!

The advanced signals training was conducted by the Signals Platoon and dealt with both conventional and CCRF signals matters. The final exercise saw a 370km HF link being established from the depths of the moor to 36 Signals Regiment in London. The final aspect of the camp was the driver training which saw 32 conversions to B, C and D licences, as well as two C and E licences being obtained. The cross country day, on Fremington Sand Dunes, turned out to be extremely exhilarating for all who took place.

The middle Saturday of camp was taken as R and R in Plymouth. Sunday was given over to a stirring Drumhead Service, taken by Padre Paul Whitehead, and inter-company football and volleyball competitions which were won by D Company. There were also a number of visitors to camp. These included the East Anglian Press on 29 September, Col Sneath (Deputy Honorary Colonel, D Company) on 2 October and the Commander 49(E) Brigade, Brig Crane, on 5-6 October.

Exercise Eastern Patrol was an extremely enjoyable event which not only prepared the Cambrian Patrol Teams, but also continued the Battalion's Recruit Training effort and improved the overall capability of the Battalion.



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Exercise Marble Tor, Gibraltar, June 2005

OCdt Andrew Mawby writes:

The East of England Regiment has a strong and proven track record of overseas deployments, both on operations and on exercise. 2005 has so far included a two-week overseas exercise to Gibraltar, Exercise Marble Tor, which I was lucky enough to participate in. For the exercise, the Battalion sent Minden Company, a composite organisation made up of troops from across the Battalion. Taking place on the Rock of Gibraltar, Exercise Marble Tor is not traditionally known as an infantry exercise due to the relatively small training area. However, with considerable imaginative planning and best use made of every resource, an outstanding exercise was conducted.

On 7 June, late in the evening, 'Main Body I' assembled at South Cerney Joint Air Movements Centre in Wiltshire. It should have been a simple operation; check in, load baggage, move to RAF Lyneham, and fly to Gibraltar at dawn. In reality, the script was a little different to that; the format was the same, just a more relaxed timescale.

Having finally arrived in Gibraltar over a day late, we stepped off the Hercules to be greeted by the oppressive heat. Reeling from that first blow, the troops of Minden Company received the mandatory security briefs and moved to settle in.

The exercise provided a round robin of three-day activities for platoons to cycle through, all culminating in a 36-hour Company FTX. The round robin training consisted of tunnel fighting and Obua operations, adventurous training and a



OBUA.

military aid to the civil community (MACC) Task.

The first of the stands was the OBUA and tunnel fighting package. The first day saw

revision of OBUA skills in Buffadero village, providing the opportunity for commanders to practise in their new appointments, and for newly trained soldiers to learn OBUA for the first time. For the second day, the troops descended into the Harley Street tunnels where all soldiers learned tunnel-fighting techniques for the first time. The reduced visibility and alien environment made the training challenging, but equally rewarding. The third day of the rotation was a platoon exercise, which saw the soldiers deploy to Rosia Bay, from where they patrolled onto the Buffadero Training Area and cleared the village of enemy. They completed the attack by pursuing the routed enemy into the tunnels where they subsequently destroyed them.

Tunnel fighting operations were certainly new to many of us but were excellent in that they forced us to work effectively as a team, where swift and efficient passage of information was often what made the difference between success and failure. In such a confined space, most often in darkness and always strictly tactical, we found the tunnels package a steep learning curve with little room for mistakes. It was however the sort of training all soldiers join the TA to do; demanding and strenuous low-level infantry tactics, but immensely rewarding.

The adventurous training package was the first opportunity for many TA soldiers to attempt sailing, kayaking, canoeing



Cpl Blackburn.

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or windsurfing. With instructors drawn from across the Army, every soldier made considerable improvements in the various activities, despite them being made even more adventurous by a two-day plague of jellyfish! Even with the additional incentive not to fall in, all soldiers found themselves challenged and discovered something new about themselves. The pitched naval battles between kayaks and canoes in the bay were a sight Nelson would have been proud of!

The third round-robin stand was a MACC task, where soldiers refurbished the Royal Anglian Way. This scenic path around the west side of the Rock starts on Queen's Road, and links up Rooke Battery, Hayne's Cave Battery, and finally the Old Queen's Road. The path was first dug in 1968 by soldiers of 2 R Anglian, but has suffered neglect over the past few years and was not easily traversed by tourists.

The refurbishment of the Royal Anglian Way was a great success as the MACC Task, and all three platoons worked extremely hard in very hot conditions to accomplish a great deal, nicknaming it the 'Burma Railway' in the process.

As a result of considerable effort by soldiers in searing heat, the path has now been cleared of all overgrowing vegetation and has had all landslides removed. With key features such as Rooke Battery also receiving a fresh coat of paint, the Royal Anglian Way is once again a very appealing tourist attraction.

During the time each platoon spent on the MACC Task, all soldiers without a TA Radio Users (TARU) qualification could attend the cadre being run at Buffadero Training Centre. I was one of the troops on



Pte Sutcliffe completes MACC plaque.

the TARU Cadre, and particularly enjoyed the final exam where we moved around the Rock between stands with nothing but a PRC351 radio for directions. Particularly entertaining was Cfmn Power being relieved of his Magnum ice cream by a couple of Barbary apes, the inhabitants of the Upper Rock!

The Company FTX was a buzz for me as it was a chance to put new skills into practice. The Royal Gibraltar Regiment provided enemy for the purposes of the exercise, and they were very good, not least because they were all communicating in Spanish so none

of us could understand a word! After a day in the confines of the tunnels, a gruelling tab through the night (up and down the steep slopes of the Rock) and an awesome final assault on the FIBUA village, everyone ended the exercise on a massive high with countless war stories ready to tell friends back home.

Exercise Marble Tor was outstanding in every way, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks participating. Without question it continued the tradition of high quality overseas training within the East of England Regiment.



Still no plane!

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Exercise Marble Tor – the FTX

Maj Simon Watson writes:

I had received my orders from the Commanding Officer and had completed a preliminary estimate when it dawned on me that, firstly, if this were not an exercise then I could well be committing my company to a large number of casualties and, secondly, I would have no real idea as to what the tunnel complex was like.

The first part of the FTX was to be the clearance of the tunnels under Gibraltar from the Burma Adit along to Calpe Hole passing by way of Fosse Way and then the Great North Road. I developed my plan which was to put my lead platoon in until it had cleared up to Maida Vale. Company Tac would follow on behind then 2 and 3 Platoons, with the CAP and CSM's group to the rear.

After moving off, the lead fire team soon came under contact. In tunnel fighting it really is a section commander's battle as he is the only one who can really see what is going on other than the two private soldiers who are leading the way. It became apparent that the CAP was in the wrong position and should have been right up at the front as casualties came in thick and fast. Lt Andy Baker kept up the pressure and echeloned his troops through realising that constant fire and manoeuvre was the only way to break through the enemy's hasty and very irregular defensive positions.

The fighting so far had all been carried out in the light in wide tunnels and we were already learning lessons which we thought that we had learned in the tunnel ops training a few days before. I always find it bizarre that



2Lt Greenwood.

no plans survive contact with the enemy. We changed the way we were communicating as the PRR and 349s we were using were becoming overloaded with the amount of instructions and information being passed. Once the lead platoon had reached their LOE, Rock Adit, we stopped and echeloned forwards Lt Alex Horner's Platoon.

We then worked our way up the Great North Road flushing out more pockets of enemy in Peterborough Chambers before going firm, reorganising and grabbing a hasty drink. The tunnels were hotter than we anticipated and the humidity was intense.

No matter how much training we had done on the outside in the blazing heat as well as the training in the tunnels themselves during these fights we found that we became hotter than before. Was that the adrenalin? I suppose so. Lt Horner had to flush out small pockets of resistance in the brigade HQ which was completely pitch black. This took time and needed recce by fire to surpass any would-be attacker from ambushing the lead man. In these narrow chambers it was difficult to give fire support other than with men giving it over each others' shoulders. More casualties ensued and the work load of the CAP and the rear platoon increased. 'Were we winning this one?' entered my mind many times?

With that scrap finally completed, we pushed on with the last echeloning platoon taking point.

Newly promoted Lt Iain Greenwood pushed his troops on with gusto in the knowledge that the enemy were nearly beaten, or so he thought. I had to echelon Lt Baker's weakened platoon through in order to enter the darkened Calpe Hospital with Lt Greenwood's platoon nearly becoming combat ineffective due to its high casualty rate following withering rates of fire from the enemy resistance.

The enemy finally beaten I received orders to sweep the Upper Rock. We exited the tunnels to trudge up to Governor's lookout for a 'lie up' before the next task. Boy it was hot! Once up at the top we administrated ourselves and then set off on the next task. Moving along the roadways and trackways, Lt Horner swept the Royal Anglian Way once more as he had done in the MACC task during the first week of camp. No enemy were spotted, having fled for their lives. We then harboured up on Spur battery having put in an observation post previously to report on movements in the village, the final



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resting place as it turned out for the enemy. Radio orders were then received to clear the Harley Street tunnels and then assault Buffadero village. Handily it coincided with the Brigade Commander's visit and so he arrived to see the 2IC's fire support group emerging from the tunnels having cleared out a few enemy devils in double quick order to get to their allotted position on time.

The guns opened up and a rejuvenated 1 Platoon charged with extra fire support from 2 Platoon into the first house and started their clearance. It all started well with lots of firepower in support. Then 2 Platoon moved too far forward to get into their launching position for their objective and took quite a few casualties in the process. I assigned one of their call signs to act as a cut off as the 2IC warned me of fleeing enemy. With 2 Platoon depleted I had to launch the reserve instead and then cobble together another element to be able to launch on to the last few buildings. We finally swept the village - however our ammunition reserves were very low and the casualty rate was high.

Many lessons were learned in what was a relatively short exercise (36 hours) but one which I shall never forget especially since it never rained once!

R and R Trip to Tangiers, Morocco

Lt Alex Horner writes:

The whole company mustered early at Devil's Tower Camp for a day trip to Tangiers, save for a few humbugs, who wallowed in their pits. The coaches rocked up and we set off into Spain to catch the Fast Cat over to Tangiers. A few delicate looking souls from the previous evening's indulgences, so a good job that the C'at had a kiosk for coffee and pop and the lounges provided shade and comfy-chairs!

Upon landing in Morocco, the tour guides of 'Bland Travel' quickly rounded us up, got us on the coaches and began an informative drive around Tangiers. The guides were knowledgeable folk and passed snippets of history, folklore and fact onto us as we cruised through the streets. It was a fairly fast paced tour as we drove through the miasma of urban development, each quarter telling its own story of this rich colonial city. One of the most interesting points was that Tangiers is an international city in the sense that it accepts many currencies, its inhabitants can converse in different tongues and this all stems from the different world powers who have all contributed to shaping modern day Morocco - its influences are predominantly English and French but after World War Two, many countries rotated responsibility in a government role until independence was granted. We meandered through an area of plush housing, built at the cost of around 600 Euros per square metre, we were told. Camels. Arab men selling their wares, other coach loads of tourists - we had seen a lot and had only been off the ferry for an hour!

We de-bussed and began a tour on foot as



we were ushered through narrow streets and alleyways, constantly heckled by the various salesmen of one description or another. You really had to keep your wits about you or you'd find yourself being boxed off by three or four Moroccans, each talking over each other and ignoring all pleas for mercy. 'Eh mista, come, come... I gib you good price? Please, how much you pay? How much?' Oh no, you talk berry silly! Ok, 20 Euros...' And so it went on. All day, in fact.

The heckling and haggling was punctuated by the various stops we made. Among these, a visit to a purveyor of fine rugs; silk, Persian, 'magic carpets', all richly embellished and of a high standard of craftsmanship. Then onto an interesting talk in a Herbalist/Natural Remedy store, with treatments and cures for just about anything, but between these stops the alleyways were becoming heavily congested with traders pushing their watches, jewellery, lamps, rugs, Fez's and trinkets at us from all angles. Most people found this a little irksome after a while, but it proved to be actually rather fortunate for me. I was lucky enough to bump into an official Rolex street vendor would you believe? He assured me that he was an agent of Rolex and after some serious haggling I managed to snap up a genuine Rolex Oyster watch for only 100 Euros! That was a saving of at least a couple of thousand pounds and 100 per cent genuine - after all, he told me so!

We did get some respite as we took lunch in a rather nice restaurant, complete with live music and a belly dancer! This seemed to be the highlight of the day for many of the lads if all the digital camera flashes were anything to go by. The waiter was attentive and drinks followed empties in smooth succession.

Our heads were spinning by the end of it and most people were positively relieved to be back on the ferry, able to relax without fear of being challenged to strike a deal! Last ditch efforts were made to extract those few remaining shekles we had between us - the guy stood by the coaches with photos of us walking through the streets at £1 per snap anyone?!

Back in Gibraltar, laden down by all our 'treasures' of Tangiers, we all swapped stories of our trading and dealing, and all agreed that we'd been 'fleeced en masse' but that it had been a good day all round.

Operations in Built up Areas and Tunnel Fighting

Lt Andy Baker writes:

The East of England Regiment deployed to Gibraltar in company strength as part of their annual camp requirement in June 2005 to undertake a Marble Tor exercise. The exercise consisted of various phases, with the initial part consisting of a rotation of each of the Minden Company platoons through operations in built-up areas (OBUA) and tunnel warfare, adventure training and a military aid to the civil community (MACC) task. Each of the stands lasted for three days and provided the build-up training for the company level tunnel and OBUA FTX exercise.

The three-day package for OBUA and tunnel fighting consisted of refresher training for OBUA in the Bufferdero Training Area OBUA village on Day 1, an orientation and introduction to tunnel fighting on Day 2 and

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a platoon level exercise on Day 3 combining the two different types of fighting. EER have recently finished a period of offensive operations training over the last six months and so Day 1 was a refresher for most of the soldiers and a good opportunity for the platoons to start working together. The resident Royal Gibraltar Regiment (RG) instructors assisted the three-day training period and their unique knowledge of the tunnels helped develop the tactics that the company would be using in its final exercise.

Gibraltar has a long history of being used as fortress and to help assist this, more than 35 miles of man-made tunnels have been excavated into the rock at various points in the past. The main tunnel systems were developed during the Second World War and at its peak housed a garrison of 16,000 soldiers to protect the strategically vital entrance to the Mediterranean. Tunnel fighting would appear to be unique to Gibraltar but it has applications in many of the current operational theatres in the Middle East, although the tunnels are different in construction to areas such as the Tora Bora tunnel system in Afghanistan they still provide an ideal training ground for preparation for any deployments to these areas. The tunnels used for the training, which are owned by the MOD are not open to the public and so the soldiers would otherwise have not been able to visit this restricted area of the tunnels.

Tunnel fighting was new to most of the soldiers of Minden Company but with help from the RG instructors the clearance tactics were quickly picked up and proven tactics from jungle and OBUA environments were adapted for this distinctive type of warfare, although there was large level of innovation from the rifleman upwards. Additional challenges for the commanders included the restriction on the freedom of movement of echelon formations, poor reliability of radio communications and reduced ambient light for night vision devices. The section commanders within the company were heavily relied on in co-ordinating the clearance of the intricate tunnel system and it provided a real proving ground for them to demonstrate their command and control ability.

The final day of the package consisted of the final test exercise for the platoons. The exercise started with the insertion of the platoon by Gibraltar Squadron's Rigid Inflatable Boats and then moved to a deliberate attack on the OBUA village followed by a tunnel clearance. The exercise was thoroughly enjoyed by the soldiers because it allowed them to put into practice what they had learnt over the previous two days.



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Bosnia

Capt Tim Irwin-Parker writes:

September 2004. The next roulement for Operation Oculus begins. Their training package completed, the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards prepare to leave their public duties in London District behind and head out for an operational tour of Bosnia. Shortly to join them, individual reservists and TA personnel are already in training at RTMC Chilwell. Regular soldiers from other regiments are also preparing to augment the 1 Grenadier Guards Battle Group. Among both groups are Royal Anglians.

The flight from Brize Norton to Banja Luka goes out via Pristina, Kosovo. Even in early October the temperature there is still warm to say the least, around 30C. After the aircraft was refuelled and various people and kit loaded on and off, on we flew for the short leg up to Banja Luka, Bosnia. As you fly in, you can clearly see the mountainous nature of the terrain and all the many isolated villages in the hills and valleys.

On the short road trip from the airport to Banja Luka Metal Factory (BLMF), Bosnia first strikes you as relatively 'normal' these days. With advertising billboards everywhere, new motorways, smart cars in traffic and new buildings under construction there seemed to be plenty of signs of prosperity. In fact, the area initially reminded



October weapons haul.

me of parts of the lower Italian Alpine region – er, no - think again! This was Banja Luka, (predominantly Serb) and the second largest city in Bosnia, and one which had always been well behind the lines for the whole of the war. Ethnic cleansing had taken place in the area. Of the 47 pre-war mosques in the city, (one of which was over 400 years old), all were destroyed during the war. Some have now been rebuilt with Saudi

money, and in a pattern repeated all over the country, the new mosques are normally the newest, well built construction in the area. Ethnic tension is still bubbling away beneath the surface, as our translators (of mixed ethnic backgrounds) were quick to remind us and in certain areas, this practice is causing much resentment in the Serb and Croat communities.

Times have changed in Bosnia. It has



Royal Anglians in BLMF. From left: Maj Hare, Maj French, Capt Irwin-Parker, WO2 Brown and Lt Hicks.

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been more than 10 years since the country tore itself apart in a vicious civil war that compelled the international community to act. The military forces under a UN mandate, UNPROFOR, have long since given way to NATO. The NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) evolved into the Stabilisation Force (SFOR). 1 Grenadier Guards would be the last Battalion to deploy to Bosnia under the NATO flag. In December 2004, SFOR was also consigned to the history books to be replaced by EUFOR, the new European Force. British forces in the country now amount to just a battlegroup plus with all the attached tri-Service elements necessary to sustain it and add to its capability, as well as various Headquarters Staff and liaison teams in Banja Luka and Sarajevo.

Based at BLMF and operating throughout the whole of NW Bosnia, the 1 Grenadier Guards Battlegroup fell under the command of Multinational Task Force (North West)(MNTF(NW)); an organisation based on a brigade formation, but with only one battlegroup plus under its command. Under command of the Battlegroup was also a Dutch rifle company, based down in Bugojno.

Dispersed throughout the area of operations are the Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT). These are the local SFOR/EUFOR presence in each major town and form a vital link with the local communities. Each house was about a section plus strength allowing them to conduct patrols of the wider area whilst maintaining a local presence at the LOT house. Their main role is collecting intelligence and reporting any incidents in the local communities. LOT was more than just our eyes and ears though. They also gave our forces a more approachable image by allowing people to interact naturally with their new 'neighbours' and



February brought Arctic conditions and 10ft snow drifts in places.

report information without having to make a journey to a SFOR/EUFOR main base. The LOT houses in our area were occupied by a mixture of British, Dutch, Canadian and Chilean personnel, with the South Americans managing to wangle one right next door to a pizza shop. Needless to say, that particular LOT house was a popular diversion from the MSR and a favourite RV!

The main SFOR operations undertaken were 'Harvest' and 'Harvest plus' operations; the difference being that Harvests are the passive, voluntary surrender of weapons whilst Harvest plus is a more active stance where buildings and homes are actively searched and cleared. In between the main

battlegroup operations, smaller company and platoon operations took place called 'Mosaics'.

Within days of arriving we were on our first major battlegroup operation – a 'Harvest plus' – searching through peoples' houses and belongings for illegal weapons and munitions in the south of the AO, around the mainly Croat towns of Livno and Tomislavgrad. The locals were all very co-operative and no trouble at all. I cannot imagine the same task being that easy in the UK! We found all sorts of things, from wrapped up AK47s hidden in barn rafters, to land mines in a dog kennel! In 2 weeks we recovered quite a haul; 464 small arms



The author checks weapons permits with a federation policeman.

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The author returns from a recce as the RN try to knock him over.

(mostly AK47s), 100,000 plus rounds of ammunition, 940 hand grenades, 109 rifle grenades, 38 anti-tank rockets, land mines, detonators and 94kg of explosives!

With the transition to EUFOR, the deployment changed to Operation Althea and the scope of operations widened to actively target criminal activity. On top of the 'Harvests', we started conducting Vehicle Check Points (VCPs) to interdict the movement of illegal goods, drugs, arms and people trafficking. Some of these were Eagle VCPs with the Navy fly boys doing a great job flying down tight canyons and dumping us all in deep snow at every available opportunity! We also started collecting vast amounts of intelligence on traffic movement and started a vehicle database, with every available clerk or anyone who claimed they could operate a computer furiously inputting data. Other tasks we undertook were supporting a Dutch Special Forces 'lift' operation and helicopter insertions to search suspect buildings for any sign of Persons Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWiCs) or criminal activity.

The main EUFOR operation of the New Year (a VCP operation) was planned under the name Operation Blizzard, but changed to Operation Spring Clean nearer the time. I think they got it right the first time! Standing out in the middle of the night on a dark deserted road with the snow coming in sideways was certainly a memorable experience, as was driving around in arctic conditions with half the locals parked sideways on in hedges or ditches! Our Forward Operating Base (FOB) resembled a Swiss-cheese rather than a factory and every piece of available plastic and cardboard

was utilised to plug shell holes in the walls in a vain attempt to keep some heat in. As Company 2IC primary responsibility for all the VCP and traffic data collection fell to me. After I had rediscovered the joys of not sleeping for several days, the company commander re-jiggled the orbat as every available spare body and even those not spare was put to work as clerks. In fact the unhappy RAO was stripped of all available clerks back at Battalion HQ as the company command posts, in the FOBs, came to resemble more office than operations room, with lines of computers and printers, as whole rain forests were churned through. One of the other highlights of the operation definitely had to be pursuing a convoy of petrol tankers down the road one night to find out what their true destination was to be; an episode more akin to the whacky races than a military operation.

It wasn't all work though. On 5 November, our Company celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Inkerman and went white-water rafting on a local river! Plus the joy of a multi-national operation brought us the Dutch coffee house 'Echos' - but fortunately caffeine addiction was the only vice to be found! Prior to Christmas the custom of 'Hanging the Brick' took place, when the Guards celebrate their victory at the Battle of Waterloo, by parading a brick from Hougomont Farm which they held against the French. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, in fancy dress, defend the 'sacred item' against the attacks of the other ranks. This is usually a very messy affair but was rather more limited in our multi-national environment. After all it just wouldn't do for a passing European to get

covered in, er 'goo' shall we say!

Christmas was the usual celebrations with a great rendition of "a PIFWiC in a Pear Tree" (the 12 days of Christmas) by 11 officers and warrant officers plus the RSM who sang "9 old slings!" The Grenadier Guards' Band also visited to proudly show the Multi-National force that the British are best at these sorts of things, plus perform for the locals as well.

The Royal Anglian contingent in Banja Luka consisted of Maj Glyn French as OC Pan-Balkan Support Squadron (PBSS), Maj Roger Hare SO2 G2 MNTF(NW), Capt Dave Glover OIC Cazin LOT House, WO2 Brown as RQMS LOT and in 1 Grenadier Guards Battlegroup - Capt Tim Irwin-Parker (2IC Inkerman Company) and Lt Dave Hicks (2IC No 2 Company). In February yet another Royal Anglian appeared in our midst, as Maj Richard Pattison took up his post as COS UKNSE.

At one point, with both the company commanders absent, 2 of the 3 manoeuvre companies fell under Royal Anglian command. At evening meal, one of the platoon commanders suggested to the CO that a Royal Anglian coup was underway to take over the Battlegroup! Needless to say, the CO was not amused! The situation was rectified 48 hours later when OC Inkerman Company arrived back from leave and OC No 2 Company was hauled from his sick bed!

The weather didn't disappoint either: I have never seen snow fall so fast! In February the night-time temperatures were regularly dropping to -25C and we were out there in it. Those winter clothing issues came in very handy. A successful and interesting tour!

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Exercise Lincoln Wanderer 5-7 August 2005

Li A Garner, B Company, writes:

Twenty-six soldiers from B (Lincolnshire) Company, the East of England Regiment, deployed on Exercise Lincoln Wanderer over the weekend 5-7 August. This diverse platoon-size group included, to name but a few, school teachers, students, refuge collectors and civilian managers. These few brave men and women changed out of their daytime roles and into their military garb at 1930hrs ready to be launched into the Peak District with the minimum of fuss. Not forgetting, however, that in true military fashion the advance party, the company old and bold, under command of CSgt Thompson, who is both old and certainly bold, departed at 1330 hrs. Thus, by 2200hrs the unlikely group, which now consisted of young and old (Pte Jago, 17 and a half, Cpl Metcalf MBE, 62), arrived at the New Barn Camp Site in Birchover in the White Peak area of the Peak District.

On arrival the main body found the position to be well established. The company tents, 12x12s, orange ridge tents, odd looking dome tents of various shapes, sizes and colours, had been placed in an almost perfect circle along with the Bedford truck, a silver Golf and the field kitchen. All gaps in the defences were quickly plugged by the prompt arrival of three troop carriers, earlier hired from Hertz. John Wayne would have been proud of Cpl Finlay's frontier style



Pte Cranfield and Pte Dennis prepare to climb.



The B Company crew.

The East of England Regiment



Pte Cranfield and Cpl Willey lead the way.

circle. However, the indians were replaced by holidaying civilians and the site owner's mixed group of animals, such as, peacocks, deer and African water buffalo. Thus, the group settled into its first evening by talking war stories around the one swinging gas lamp in the 12x12 tent.

As the next day arrived, the keen group awoke not to the digital bugle call trialled by the Fusiliers in London (source Radio 2), but to the sound of bagpipes being played by the CQMS's group via CD. After the call to breakfast the group split into its three sections, and under the watchful gaze of Acclimatize Outdoor Pursuits, a civilian run adventure training company, deployed to various start points in the White Peak Area ready to start the team challenge event.

Ten hours and 15km later, with a host of tasks completed, such as rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and a 5km orienteering course (that's an extra five on top, as pointed out by a number of observant soldiers) the three sections headed back to the protection of the ring of steel in Camp Thompson. The weary crew were watered and fed in the style of a barbecue and light drinks before settling in for the evening's patrol programme.

After a quick map appreciation and snap orders, Cpl Day led a keen evening patrol across Stanton Moor in search of the 4000-year-old stone circle of the Nine Ladies. Day's patrol encountered minor resistance from patrolling Druids before arriving on target. The 400-year-old Nine Ladies, thankfully, were protected by a ring of impenetrable Druids. Day's crew returned and were subsequently debriefed prior to some down time and preparation for the next day's activities.

The final morning saw a similar routine to the first and the bag-pipes were joined by screaming peacocks. By this stage the hostiles, civilian vacationers, had begun to wander in and fraternize with the troops in exchange for simple things, such as, hot water. However, sadly, the circle was dismantled and the three sections from the previous day split into two larger groups and went off caving and climbing over Black Rock. B Company's brief encounter with

adventure training for this year came to a close at 1600hrs with the return to Lincoln and Grimsby TA Centres.

This type of short adventure training exercise should never be underestimated and

the weekend was worth its weight in gold as far as retention is concerned. Many soldiers were introduced to adventure training for the first time, which was one of the main aims of this exercise.



With verbal support from LCpl Donnor, Pte Robinson negotiates the wall.

The East of England Regiment



Exercise Eastern Cadet

Over the weekend 15–17 July, the EER hosted a cadet training event aimed at introducing ACF cadets in to how a TA Battalion worked. The exercise was called Exercise Eastern Cadet and was held on STANTA.

Over 50 cadets arrived at West Tofts Camp on Friday evening and after a short brief were settled into their accommodation. Each ACF Company with an EER Detachment in their TA Centre was invited, out of these five ACF Companies attended with a 10-cadet section and at least one adult instructor. Therefore the five sections for the exercise were: CNA Battery, Norfolk ACF, A Company, Suffolk ACF, A Company, Leicester and Northamptonshire ACF, C Battery Nottinghamshire ACF and 3 Company Hertfordshire ACF.

The training started on Saturday morning with a round robin of four stands, these were: platoon weapons, support weapons, Istar and assault pioneers. Each stand was aimed at the maximum 'hands on' instruction and the key focus was to introduce cadets to equipment and procedures that they would not normally experience in the ACF. The stands lasted until evening meal, which was a barbecue in West Tofts Camp. After the barbecue, each section was given a set of patrol orders by an EER NCO and then took part in Exercise Eastern Encounter, which was a patrolling exercise over STANTA which lasted until midnight. The exercise aimed to practise some of the skills learned during the day and involved patrol actions on, including an ambush.

Sunday morning saw the two platoons split between a section attack circuit and SA80 live firing on Archers' and Curlew Ranges. Most of the cadets agreed that these activities were the most enjoyable. There was then a short ceremony where the Training Major presented certificates of attendance to all cadets.

The exercise was a great success both for the cadets and for the heightening of our TA and Regular Battalions' profiles in the ACF. It is intended to run a similar exercise next year at STANTA over the weekend 21–23 July and we hope that more ACF companies will be able to participate.

Deployment of a Formed Company on Operation Telic 6

Maj K E Spiers, OC 3 Company, writes:

Selected as company commander for 3 Company, a composite TA company deployed on Operation Telic 6, I realised that all my experience of 19 years' TA service would be required to ensure that the company would be prepared to deploy and carry out its role as a company in the Rear Operations Battlegroup (ROB) in MND (SE) alongside its Regular counterparts. As the ROB, then 2 PWRR was already in theatre, the company was to be attached to 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards for G1, G3 and G4 support prior to deployment.

The company was drawn from not only the East of England Regiment but also the Royal

Irish Rangers, 52nd Lowland, 51st Highland and attached Arms giving the company over 14 different cap badges. With this in mind the importance of creating the company's identity and focusing all the soldiers on that, to prevent any inter-capbadge rivalry was important. This was done by drawing their attention to the fact that the company would work as a Regular company within the Battlegroup we were to be attached to.

The training was assisted by the Guards and the East of England Regiment but planned by the company, this in itself increased the workload and in hindsight a better plan would have been for the company to have attended a pre-prepared training programme organised and run externally. If a company is to be deployed to work alongside Regular companies, pre-deployment training should be conducted by the unit the company is to be attached to, thus allowing full integration.

On leaving the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre the company was a formed body of men, however that was it. The company had no stores, no signals equipment, no IT or stationery, in fact the company had only the soldiers and their personal weapons. Although support came from the Guards and the East of England Regiment the additional burden of developing an equipment table for the tour was considerable. If a company is to be deployed there should be a complete equipment table to enable it to train for its role with the equipment required. With the assistance of the Guards and EER the company was able to produce structured and effective training, culminating in a week at

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Lydd ranges using as many of the specific-to-theatre ranges as possible.

Again the package, although workable, was not the most efficient; the OPTAG package was an individual reinforcement package and did not cater for a formed unit. This could be resolved as before by joining the host unit in time for their OPTAG and Tesex, therefore proving a company's capability and allowing a commanding officer to deploy it with a full understanding of their capabilities.

With deployment imminent the company was ready to deploy and fulfil its taskings effectively; of that there was no doubt. The enthusiasm to succeed at anything it was set was evident. I knew then that we had achieved that first task of creating a professional and cohesive unit from so many disparate parts.

We arrived in-theatre with a strength of 96 which gave us 18 teams to deploy on our first task of Shaibah Logistic Base Security Company. This involved three key tasks:

- Security of the main and east gates;
- Fence line security;
- Patrolling of an operations box (100km sq).

The gate security was something that we had trained for and was a standard task that the company took in its stride. The fence line (14km in length) was a real security risk and was to be one of our focuses along with patrolling the operations box. Additional combat power was required and this came from the Recce Platoon of 2 PWRR. With a perimeter this large it was something the company had had no real previous exposure to. Its ability to adapt quickly meant operations were planned using the additional manpower to secure vulnerable areas of the perimeter and this led to the capture of one individual as he broke in, and three as they tried to flee. The joint operation with the Recce Platoon was a success and showed the professionalism of the company as they worked closely in unison with their Regular counterparts.

Maximising patrolling in the operations box was to lead to more training as the helicopters in use in-theatre needed



Cpl Topping talks to schoolchildren.

The East of England Regiment



Sgt Lowe at a VCP.

familiarisation training, something that had not been covered in the UK. Once done, mission command was used within the company as platoon commanders booked their own helicopters to conduct their tasks. Noticeable achievements were several platoon-level operations into local villages flown in and out by Merlin, and many Eagle Vehicle Checkpoints giving a high presence on the ground.

With escorts being the next tasking, which involved providing force protection for logistic convoys throughout southern Iraq, a new training issue became evident. With the lack of Snatch 1 or 2 in the UK the company's drivers needed conversion in-theatre; this added to the daily routine during the security company tasks. This task was enjoyed the most by the company, although the most gruelling in time and potentially the most dangerous, particularly the latter part of the tour with the new improvised explosive devices the insurgents started to use. This was a role that was unusual to the company but it adapted quickly as in all its tasks and carried them out to a very high standard; proven when one convoy was contacted by a device which detonated 20m in front of the lead vehicle. All the soldiers involved responded professionally and dealt with the situation until relieved.

The final tasking the company had was providing the force protection for the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility, a sensitive task of high strategic importance, which once again the company carried out

professionally.

Mid-way through the tour the ROB changed to 1 R Irish, which meant an adjustment for the company, having spent three months becoming accustomed to the way one Battlegroup operated to then

change. Although many processes were the same, some were not. As the company was now working with its third Battlegroup from mobilisation it adjusted its posture and continued with its high level of performance.

The company suffered injuries sustained during training, illnesses and welfare issues, leaving a total to complete the tour of 83. Having said this four of the company have extended to stay on for Operation Telic 7 serving at a different location with another incoming TA Company.

3 Company have acquitted themselves beyond expectations and produced excellent results alongside their Regular counterparts. Although the deployment was a success and we proved ourselves time and again, there are key areas that would have made the whole process smoother:

- Equipment Tables prepared for prior to their mobilisation.
- Mobilising the company in time to join their host unit for its training to ensure early unity, including all the support from G1 to G4.
- Ensuring the correct orbat is mobilise with a percentage allowed for losses during the tour due to injury and welfare.
- Ensuring an understanding of the company's role at all levels, not assumptions that, because it is a TA company, that it is therefore just a security company.

All of 3 Company soldiers have been an example to any soldier of how to overcome any situation with drive, enthusiasm and professionalism. It has been an honour to command such an excellent company that has performed to the highest standards regardless of the conditions.



Escort duties.

The East of England Regiment

WO2 (RQMS) B Tunstill

Maj RP Grenfell writes:

Minden Day 2005 saw the retirement of Brian Tunstill after a long and distinguished military career of 45 years. Brian joined the Army in October 1959, completing his training at the IJLB Plymouth and Oswestry. He entered full service via Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds, going on to join the 3rd East Anglian, eventually moving on to the Pompadours.

The years between 1962 and 1968 saw Brian as a member of the Mortar Platoon rising from driver to sergeant, during which time he had met and married Jenny in the November of 1965. In 1968 he was posted to Forest Gate E7 as a recruiting sergeant returning to his Battalion in 1970, now in Paderborn, as CQMS of Command Company. In 1973 he was posted as QPSI with the Mortar Platoon of 5 Royal Anglian rejoining the Pompadours in 1975 as CSM HQ Company in Cyprus. In 1979 he took over as TQMS before moving in 1982 to 2 Queens firstly as RQMS eventually taking over as WO1 (RSM) for his final tour of Regular duty. He then took up his appointment as RQMS (NRPS) with 6 Royal Anglian later to become the East of England Regiment. This saw Brian start and finish his full career in Blenheim Camp.

Brian has always been involved in Regimental life, he was a leading light in the Sergeants' Mess Past and Present Club. This was recognised when he was a guest at the resurrected event this year. He



Stan 'The Man', Brian Tunstill, Bob Grenfell and Tony Jones at Brian's retirement dinner held at Bury St Edmunds.

has been awarded, not one but two C-in-C Commendations for his outstanding work. He has often been seen strutting down fairways at various golfing events. Brian does not intend to sit back in retirement. He and Jenny have two daughters, Jasmine and Sam, who have given them four grandchildren Cameron, Bethany, Megan and Oliver. He intends to spend more time with them. He has also undertaken to do

some voluntary work at a local hospice.

Brian is renowned throughout the Regiment as a man of immense professionalism, of the utmost integrity and with an encyclopaedic knowledge. Above all this he is an extremely proud and dedicated family man. All at the EER will miss him, and we wish him a long and happy retirement, a sentiment which, I am sure, is echoed throughout the Regiment.



Cpl Tunstill commanding his Ferret on exercise in 1965.



WO2 Steve Woolcott taking over from Brian Tunstill.

The East of England Regiment

The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment

It has been a busy year again for the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment who have been in high demand to perform at not only military functions, but also at many civilian venues.

The majority of musical training is carried out weekly on a Tuesday evening and also some weekend rehearsals as forecasted in the Band's diary. The Band has also strengthened its relationship with the Corps of Drums EER thus allowing both units to perform as a Marching Band at various Association functions and also several Beating Retreats.

Many Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner Nights are undertaken but, due to the limited performance space available, the Full Band has been replaced with smaller combinations from within the Band. This in turn allows all members of the Band to perform in the various groups that we have introduced. To date we have both a woodwind quartet and quintet, a brass quintet, a four-piece dinner band and even a saxophone group. Recently all of these groups have performed at many functions throughout the year including such venues as RAF Wittering, RAF Alconbury, RAF Cottesmore, RAF Henlow and they have supplied musical support for several civilian functions. With the fact that the Band is TA, it is very difficult to undertake full military band engagements during the working week, therefore, these groups have eased the burden on those unable to commit to events other than on a normal rehearsal day.

The Band has a wealth of talent and also the majority have full time employment

in civilian life. We have a magistrate, a Customs and Excise vetting officer, several teachers, a chiropodist and masseur, a police officer and several individuals who run their own companies. With all this in mind, attendance on and forecasted rehearsal has been 85 per cent and 95 per cent on any engagement over the last six months, showing that all have great dedication to their part time employment.

Some of the Full Military Band Engagements that the Band has undertaken over the last 12 months have been:

Bourne Abbey Church

This has become a yearly event over the past five years and is one that the Band relishes. The concert is in aid of a local Bible Society and is organised by an ex 7 R Anglian officer, Mr David Harding. The church is forever straining at the seams with more and more people wanting to attend. To this end, David is looking at hiring a bigger venue next year and we hope to incorporate the Corps of Drums EER into the concert.

Castle Theatre, Wellingborough

This again has become a standard yearly event although two years ago saw a change of venue. In previous years the concert has been held in a local school in Wellingborough, but again, an ever-increasing audience demanded a bigger venue. The organiser, Mr Tony McArdle secured the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough upgrading the audience capacity to 500. There was not a spare seat to be had on the evening.

SSAFA Concert, Hichingbrooke

This was a new venture for the Band. Some 18 months ago the Band PSI was approached

by the Bandmaster, Warrant Officer Graham Sheldon of the RAF Wyton Volunteer Band, to enquire whether we would consider performing a joint concert with his Band. The Band heralded this as a fantastic idea and so planning commenced. The concert was a complete success. The Performing Arts Centre in Hichingbrooke was packed to capacity and early indications show that we raised a substantial amount for this very worthy cause. It is hoped that this will become a yearly concert also.

Representative Event, Bury St Edmunds

This event was a new idea by the Commanding Officer EER. The main intention of this venture was to increase the Regiment's presence in the recruiting area and also to reintroduce the EER to the R Anglian Regiment. It was also seen as an opportunity to 'show off' the versatility of the Band to the varying agencies that have supported the Regiment in the past. With this in mind an 'At Home' evening was organised to include a light fork supper and then a short concert by the Band. Guests started to arrive at the TA Centre, Bury St Edmunds at 1900hrs and were shown to the Officers' Mess where drinks and a light supper was served. Musical entertainment for this part of the evening was supplied by Sgt Taylor, Cpl Evans, LCpl Ainley and LCpl Allen who together make up the woodwind quartet. Military hosts from the Regiment looked after the guests and at 2020hrs the dulcet tones of SSgt Gardner could be heard sounding a 10-minute call to the commencement of the concert. All then moved from the Mess to the drill hall and settled down for a short concert by



Buglers serenade the CO and Honorary Colonel.

The East of England Regiment

the Band.

A varied programme had been chosen purposely by the Bandmaster, WO1 Hudson, not only to include all types of music but also to show the Band off to its full potential. Obviously there is only so much one can do in an hour, however, the feet started to tap and even the odd person was caught singing along. LCpl Allen gave a first class rendition of Gabriel's Oboe, the Band performed the very tricky Overture L'Italiana in Algieri without flaw and the March compilation of Sousa filled the drill hall. It was felt that things might get out of hand when armed with a Post Horn each, SSgt Gardner and Musn Hobson performed the New Post Horn Galop, in fact, at one point it looked as if the CO was about to be musically attacked by these two individuals.

Amarillo

Half way through the concert the Bandmaster needed a rest, so the CO very kindly agreed to take the baton and conduct the Band in an arrangement of that good old Tony Christie classic 'Amarillo'. It has to be said that it is suspected that the CO had done this before as the tempo was good and the baton was going in completely the right direction. Believe it or not, the Band did follow the baton and all arrived safely at the last note at the same time.



The CO conducts.

The concert finished with a roaring selection of Frank Sinatra favourites culminating with the ever popular 'My Way'. Following this were the Regimental Marches and the National Anthem. The whole evening went down extremely well

indeed. Very favourable comments were made about the Band and the performance that they produced. These Representative Events are to be conducted bi-annually with a Concert in May and a Beating Retreat in October of each year.

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Special Features

A Poacher in the Commandos

Maj John Wright writes:

This is about my tour with 2nd Brigade 10th Mountain Division (The Commandos) US Army, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad last year. Before you pull up a sandbag I should explain how I got there. In August 2003 I was posted on exchange to Fort Drum, New York to 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) to work in the division headquarters as their G3 Plans Officer. Fort Drum is the Division's home and of course everything is well resourced and big, as you would expect in America. The separate units (now at four infantry brigades, an aviation brigade with 62 aircraft and a support brigade) have access to a large training area (Sennybridge x 3) and only have to drive 5km down the road to the airfield to deploy anywhere in the world. The camp itself has supermarkets, swimming pools, a cinema, hobby centres, fast food, youth services for all sports and activities, garages and so on and all big. You could even go hunting with bow and arrow in the forests in camp for big deer if you feel you must.

While I was enjoying all this and working at Division doing my bit for their version of Future Army Structure, known as Transformation in April 2004, The Commandos were tasked to deploy to Iraq within six weeks, in response to an upsurge in violence initiated in Fallujah following the murder of four US civilians. Commandos' commander was Col Mark Milley and was known to the Poachers, especially B Company, for looking after us while in Afghanistan when we trained the Afghan National Army. He requested me for his S3 Plans, the Division and British Embassy were delighted to be rid of me. So I was in.

I will not give you a chronological account of the tour, but my top five lasting impressions instead, which is the ground, our lines of operation and operational tempo, joint operations with the Iraqis, suicide bombers and the Commandos' first mosque raid. Our mission was lengthy but was essentially to defeat the enemy while reconstructing services and institutions in the area of operations (AO).

The Commandos' AO occupied most of west Baghdad about 15km from the west boundary of the Green Zone to the western part of Abu Ghraib town excluding the infamous prison, which was some comfort. The southern part of the AO included the heavily irrigated farmland south of Baghdad international airport, and the north included all the suburbs up to the city limit with farms beyond. One and a half million people live in the AO, some wealthy but mostly poor. The infrastructure was once comprehensive and reasonably advanced but for the last 15 years, unsurprisingly, is in a pitiful state. Most people, despite the ever present threat of violence, struggle to make a living, water is often contaminated, electric supply is unreliable and often stolen from mains cables and the sewage network has collapsed. Consequently, sewage flows above ground and power is lost sometimes as HMWWV antennas pull down flimsy DIY power lines strung across the street.

Irrigated farmland is prosperous and common around the periphery of the city but movement is channelled and especially vulnerable at bridging sites crossing canals. The theatre main supply route ran through the AO again subject to attack at bridging sites and as it enters the urban areas at the numerous junctions and flyovers. Most improvised explosive device attacks directed at convoys passing through the AO were often successful although the Commandos maintained route checks and clearances and occupied the ground during movement windows. Seven manoeuvre battalions occupied AO Commando, although this increased periodically for surge operations; one of which was the 303rd Iraqi National Guard (ING), the first ING battalion to receive its own AO. Engineer, field artillery and air defence battalions all assumed the infantry role and were very effective. Route Irish, the link between the airport and 1st Cavalry Division's (then 3rd Infantry Division's) headquarters and the Green Zone, drew most attention being the subject of frequent suicide bombers and co-ordinated attacks mostly on conspicuous soft skinned 4x4s driven by various civil servants and the like. And it was hot.

I mention the Commandos' lines of operation to show that the US effort is not all about dealing with the security situation, being just

a fifth of the whole as the mission indicates. The other lines were the development of; Iraqi security services (the ING and police), essential services, local governance and economic pluralism. This dominated the way we did business and throughout the most violent periods the other four lines continued to evolve with no let up. It is disappointing, but a reality that our efforts were only measured by enemy successes to observers at home. I think we made great headway with the other lines, certainly the Iraqi security forces and essential services. The tempo of operations spiked in reaction to events but notably following the Fallujah offensive. There were up to 60 incidents a day, although it was hard to distinguish one from the other sometimes. To quote Col Milley: 'We are getting our asses kicked'. IED attacks increased to 362 in the monthly period and the enemy got braver and co-ordinated attacks with IED, RPG and MG became common. The Deputy Commander's team was attacked in such a way, but thankfully no soldiers were killed, he lost a vehicle and his own had an RPG wedged in the armour. His team killed six enemy. The initiative was taken back with a combination of factors. Streamlining the decision process, which in my mind was too slow, was one. The other was, while ground domination continued, the reserves were tasked to act on any intelligence held on suspected enemy. Usually conditions for an arrest required developed intelligence criteria, which took a long time to mature, so we simply arrested everyone who had a photo in our files. We also acted on the numerous tip-offs no matter how small but with care and overwhelming force to avoid a trap; this looked good but produced a low strike rate. However, incident rates fell. The Commandos were also lucky, a mosque raid (more later) and the quick thinking of a platoon commander led to the arrest of two enemy cells in the AO, were some examples. The infantry platoon commander, acting on a tip off from a passing helicopter, managed to first cut-off escape for an enemy ambush and then led his men into the canals and reeds to capture 12 enemy with a 12.5mm MG and assorted RPG and rifles. The undergrowth was so thick it took eight hours to get them all even with thermal imaging from aviation support.

The joint operations were initially very simple but effective cordon and search. Planning conferences were difficult at first with two cultures at odds; the US obsession with detail and facts to a level that should really concern a team commander contrasted with the Iraqi absolute submission to God's will...ie no detail. It didn't help that we didn't trust our Iraqi counterparts, for the first meeting we were given an RV and just told: 'do joint ops' with Iraqis. At the RV we were confronted by lots of shifty... well, gangster types complete with cigarettes, big jewellery, moustaches, cheap suits and bad cologne. I kept my rifle made ready. After four hours of pain we left with an agreed task, purpose, time and location for all the separate elements, it would have to do. The US provided the cordon, inner and outer and the Iraqis (police and Ministry of Interior commandos) were to conduct the 'search' to provide an Iraqi face. I have no idea what the Iraqi forces did within the cordon but after two hours at Endex they had 60 'prisoners' and about 90 weapons of various sorts. It was not a good time to be an innocent military aged male civilian there that day. The upside was that subsequent operations became more detailed and precise, which was good for Iraqi SF confidence and the start of transition of security operations.

The suicide bombers or, as the US call them, vehicle borne IEDs (VBIEDs) became prevalent toward the end of the tour. They attacked military patrols, civilian 'collaborative' targets and static locations, of course the trend now is for indiscriminate sectarian attack, even harder to defeat. Some were huge, trucks full of explosives and shells, others mostly a car with three or four 155mm artillery shells - powerful enough. It is an effective tactic, if spectacular enough it gets world attention and also we Westerners find it difficult to understand how the enemy adopt such a weapon, which promotes fear. Most attacks occurred on Route Irish as mentioned, but static military sites or civil/military building projects were targeted. The worst was 500m across our boundary when 45 people were killed, 39 of whom were children, when two bombers drove into a crowd at the opening of a new schoolhouse. The Commandos assisted

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with casualty evacuation as best we could, but this obscenity will become one event of many. We had reason to think a fair portion of bombers were not spiritually motivated murderers but proxy bombers with families facing death if they did not comply, particularly those aimed at military targets. Nonetheless a great deal of effort was spent searching for these weapons, but with little success.

The mosque raid was a first for Baghdad since the removal of Saddam. It started during another joint cordon and search when a satellite patrol saw weapons being moved into a mosque about three kilometres to the east. Positive identification was a trigger for a cordon and search of a mosque. The cordon was in place in half an hour and the search moved in three hours later with all conditions met. The conditions being Muslims only to search prayer rooms, the combat camera team had to record the activity, no dogs permitted, it had to be seen to be Iraqi led and any mullahs were to be treated with respect.

The cordon stopped movement in and out of the mosque as it

should but was attacked by a sniper killing a private soldier and injuring a platoon commander. The platoon commander is lucky to be alive, the round passed through his head cutting his optic nerves, blinding him but causing no other significant damage. He remained conscious throughout and complained of having a slight headache, well you would. The search was a success, 35 men arrested, in a mosque holding 30 rifles, ammunition, RPG and launchers and 57mm rockets, as well as cash and two computers. The event was captured on film and Baghdad's evening news broadcast shoeless Iraqi soldiers entering the mosque, discovering weapons and a dejected mullah under arrest on a chair in the shade with his cronies in the baking in the sun in stress positions. It was well received and violence in that part of town was reduced greatly, but at a cost.

Those were my five lasting impressions. In conclusion I must say it was a great experience and privilege to work with the US Army and especially the Commandos. For Royal Anglians out there I thoroughly recommend a US Army exchange, don't miss the opportunity.

Minden Band of the Queen's Division

After a flying visit to 2PWRR in May to support the Albuhera Day celebrations in Iraq, the Band returned to the UK ready for another busy summer season. We also said farewell to a very important character within the Band over the last eight years, our Director of Music, Maj Tim Arnold. Maj Arnold has moved on to pastures new with a posting to Glasgow to a department within manning and records.

Through the month of June the Band performed its usual 'bread and butter' engagements under the direction of the Bandmaster (WO1) Chris King, with various Mess functions and dinner nights. The band made an appearance on two separate occasions at Kneller Hall (RMSM); one was for the MOD conducting exams and the second for the Kneller Hall summer concert season. While at RMSM we picked up a temporary Director of Music, Capt Steve Button of the Australian Army Band service. Capt Button, over here in the UK as part of Exercise Long Look, stayed with the Band for just over two weeks taking us for various engagements including a Beating Retreat at Shrivenham and also one of our regular engagements, a Schützenfest in Schießbahn, Germany. During this time the Band was only 18 strong due to the fact that we loaned a number of our musicians to the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division as they were the duty band at RMAS Sandhurst.

Once the Band had been reunited we continued with our recruiting drive as we performed and played host to various schools from

areas all over the UK at the Army Exhibition for Schools here at Basingbourn. July saw the Band extremely busy for the first few weeks. We performed at Brighton for our first World War Two commemoration of the year. This was followed by four days at the Royal Show in Warwickshire where we performed various arena displays as well having the jazz band, *The Bottle Openers*, and brass quintet play on the bandstand. From Warwickshire we moved to RAF Uxbridge, where we joined forces with the Normandy Band, the Central Band of the RAF and the Band of the Royal Marines. Following two days of rehearsal, the massed bands of the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force formed up at the top of the Mall and stepped off on our way to play outside Buckingham Palace for the Biggest World War Two anniversary celebrations the country has seen since VE-Day itself. The Minden Band was back at Buckingham Palace the next week to provide entertainment for one of the Queen's famous garden parties. Then to Lincoln for the Lincolnshire Tattoo held in the grounds of Lincoln Castle, this was Maj Arnold's final engagement. It was at this point we welcomed our new DOM, Capt Simon Haw, former Bandmaster with the Band of the AGC. We continued the month of July with a concert at Chatteris, Cambridge, a parade to welcome home 2 PWRR in Ternhill and our soul band *Mind and Soul* performed at the Norfolk Yacht Club for a Dinner Dance. We finished the month by playing for the Minden Day reunion for the Suffolk Regiment at Bury St Edmunds.



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The Band took a very well deserved leave over August and came back to more of the same, with concerts in Felixstowe and Eastbourne and into September when the Band continued with passing out parades for ATR Bassingbourn. During this time 10 members of the Band joined with the Regimental Band of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment to help them on their summer camp in

Marrekech, Morocco. This included four days in Gibraltar and 10 days in Marrekech performing various engagements from marching displays to formal concerts.

We now look to the future as we await the new structuring and organisation of the Corps of Army Music which is to take place very soon.

Pompadours Return to Berlin after 40 Years

Martin Gilbert, Member of the Royal Anglian Association Colchester Branch writes:

In June four ex-Pompadours returned to Berlin after an absence of 40 years. Keith Plumb, Tony Turner, Mike (Lordy) Nelson of D Company and Martin Gilbert of B Company made the sometimes emotional and often hilarious visit to the once divided city to revive memories of the Pompadours' much talked about tour of 1964-66. Flying out from Stansted we arrived late evening at Schönefeld Airport, situated in the old East Berlin - ahead of us were four days of leisurely sightseeing and reminiscing.

The first task was to make our way to our hotel located in the heart of the city near to the world famous Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church on the Kurfurstendamm which was bombed by the allies during World War Two leaving the ruined tower as a memorial to peace and reconciliation. With the help of Barbara Fuller, a Berlin resident and friend of mine, we travelled by train to the main station in the capital - the Zoologischer Garten, or known to all as the Zoo Station. From here it was only a short walk to the hotel and after checking in, the priority, if only to stop Keith whingeing, was to find the nearest Schnell Imbiss for the mandatory currywurst, chips and lager. This was not going to be the last of the currywurst saga but more of that later, and so to bed to ensure our energy levels were up to the sightseeing, eating and drinking tasks that lay ahead.

The following day, after a healthy continental breakfast, we made our way to one of the many sightseeing bus tours. These are very good value with English commentary throughout the tour and allowing you to get on and off wherever you wish along the route. Making our way along the Kurfurstendamm, along the edge of the

Tiergarten Park in Potsdamer Platz we crossed into what used to be East Berlin. Along the way we were amazed at the rebuilding programme, which had taken place since the fall of the Wall 15 years before. Gone are the old Soviet style, drab office and accommodation blocks now replaced by stunning, modern buildings which make great use of glass, steel and space.

Our first stop off point was Checkpoint Charlie where some of the Wall has been retained as a tourist attraction along with the guardhouse, complete with sandbags and flags. A more poignant reminder of the Wall and all that it stood for were the hundreds of wooden crosses close by, each one erected in the name of a person killed while trying to escape from the East into the West.

Back on the bus we made our way further into the old eastern part of the city, past Alexander Platz, the Berliner Dome, along the main thoroughfare Unter Den Linden (*under the limes*) and onto the Brandenburg Gate.

We were keen to get off here and walk the few hundred yards along the wide boulevard, with the column of the golden Victory Angel in the near distance, to the area of the Russian War Memorial at Tiergarten. This area is completely open to the public now, a far cry from the days of 1965. We spent some time walking around the memorial reminiscing of those heady days when on duty guarding the Russians. Behind the memorial stands the Russian Guard Room with many photographs on show. Tony was able to confirm that he had remembered the exact spot where the sentry box had been located all those years before. Reliving the times marching up and



At Checkpoint Charlie. From left: Tony Turner, Keith Plumb, Mike Nelson and Martin Gilbert.

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down the pavement during the day and at night swapping lighters, watches and girlie mags with the Russian Guards for their hats, boots and belts etc was great fun.

Behind the Memorial is the Reichstag. This was rebuilt by Sir Norman Foster and is proving to be the most popular tourist attraction in Berlin. However, due to the large crowds and queues we walked on to what in our day was the exclusion zone in front of the Brandenburg Gate, probably the most symbolic aspect of the Wall. Here we lingered and swapped stories before moving on to the recently opened memorial to the Holocaust victims.

Back on the bus to Charlottenburg Palace with more stories of 'Rocking Horse' deployment positions before Keith got his wish and we made a break for a late lunch. Fortunately for three of us there were no Imbiss stalls in sight and so we were able to indulge in a long, civilised lunch outside in the sun talking and watching the world go by.

Returning on the bus for the remainder of the journey it was noticeable that we had spent a large part of the day using buses, that had run through the city and past famous tourist spots, without getting caught up in traffic jams or doodling along at a snail's pace. Furthermore, gone were the dear old trams and with typical German thoughtfulness the tram's rails had been replaced with tree lined verges, all adding to this city's appeal. In the evening we went to the Europa Centre for a meal. Built in 1965 it was the first multi-storey shopping centre (22 floors) in Berlin, crowned with the revolving Mercedes star to demonstrate to the East the strength of Capitalism and West Berlin's will to assert itself.

On the way back to the hotel, Keith still felt the need for a currywurst, so we relented without too much arm twisting and stopped at another Schnell Imbiss. At this early stage we had now notched up 16 currywursts; could we make it to 44?

The next day we decided to take the City Boat Cruise along the River Spree and canals that meander through the city. This was a very leisurely event and gave us a new perspective of the massive rebuilding that has taken place since the fall of the Wall, especially around the area of the Reichstag where the walkways and public places have been completely regenerated. A truly fantastic sight.

The third day was for us the highlight of the trip. We first paid our respects at the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery just off the Heerstrasse, on the edge of Spandau. This was a very moving time for us all and a time of reflection. Among the many headstones we located one from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, Pte S Mitchell and two from the Essex Regiment, Ptes Leckie and Golding.

After a light lunch at Barbara Fuller's house, she then acted as our driver and tour guide to Wavell Barracks in Spandau where the 3rd Battalion was stationed 1965-66. Wavell Barracks now forms part of the local health and safety executive and is not open to visitors. However, the barracks remain exactly as they were 40 years ago. We managed to talk the guard into opening the gate at our old guardroom. Photographs were taken of our group in the very same place that Lordy, Keith and Tony had formed up as part of an honour guard in 1965, of which Lordy had brought along the original photo. Further time was taken to take photos of the accommodation blocks where we had all served - a very thought provoking time for everyone.

We then made our way to Brook Barracks which backs onto Wavell Barracks. Brook is now used as a commercial retail park and so gaining entry was not difficult. In the car we made our way through to Wavell Barrack's cookhouse, parked up and then strolled over to the football pitch and main square. Reminders of our days there came easily, each of us trying to out do the others with stories from the past. Its all still there, the Naafi Club, Sergeants' Mess, Officers' Mess, cookhouse, gym and accommodation blocks (although these are fenced off) and of course the very famous pig pens, much remembered by B Company personnel! The return was a very moving time for all of us and one we shall never forget.

After a quick tour around Spandau (by the way Spandau Prison has been demolished) we made our way to RAF Gatow where the airport has been handed over to the German Army. From there we made our way to Kladow where lunch (currywurst again!) was taken on the banks of the Havel looking over to Wannsee Beach.



At the Brandenburg Gate.

A gloriously sunny afternoon in a beautiful setting brought back memories of boateraft on the Havel and of the many days out in the Grunewald.

Back to Barbara's house for a true German meal before making our way to the Irish Bar in the Europa Centre where a group was playing music from the 1960s which again brought back memories of the past. On the way back to the hotel the Schnell Imbiss was raided once again!

Our last full day in Berlin, so where do you go?...to the Olympic Stadium of course. We made our way there by bus and for a small entrance fee you can wander around the stadium that will hold the finals of the World Cup in 2006. It has been refurbished in preparation for the finals including the addition of a new roof. Again visiting here brought back memories as Keith had actually played in the stadium for the Berlin Brigade during our tour. Directly behind the stadium is the Maifeld where the Queen reviewed the Berlin Brigade during her visit to the city during our tour. Of course we were all on parade that day so more memories came flooding back. We then walked along Olympic Way, stopping only for the obligatory currywurst before making our way to Theodore Heus Platz, the site of the old Edinburgh House and Naafi/cinema complex.

Sadly that was the end of the trip, we said our farewells in the evening to our tour guide and friend, Barbara Fuller. We didn't quite make the 44 currywurst target as by the end we were all sick of the sight of them! An evening meal at the Europa Centre ended what had been a truly unique and most enjoyable experience. We left at first light the following day.

We would recommend a visit to Berlin for anyone who has served there. The transport system is excellent and inexpensive, as are the bars and restaurants. There is plenty to see and do and the Berliners are as friendly as ever. Flights from Stansted take just over an hour and believe it or not cost less than £50.

Special Features

Windsurfing - Youth And Masters' Raceboard World Championships

Maj Dave Gilchrist, Area Secretary at Warley, writes:

The World Youth and Masters' Raceboard Windsurfing Championships were held this year at Sopot on the Baltic in the Bay of Gdansk, Northern Poland. Over the last eight years I have managed to enter this event most years, with this my sixth world championships.

The Bay of Gdansk, while part of the Baltic, is fairly sheltered by a low-lying peninsula, which means the bay becomes quite warm in late summer (22-25C sea temperature - warmer than anywhere in the UK most years), and the prevailing northerly winds can be quite strong which makes for an ideal windsurfing venue. Little swell and waves only serve to add to its attraction. This year though, the winds were mainly west-south-westerly, which meant that our course was to be always set well out to sea some two miles off. On the shore it was very hard to tell what the actual wind was on the course itself and furthermore it could take 30 minutes to sail out to the start line!

Ten races were scheduled for the five-day event and the race officers' stated intentions were to run two each day if wind conditions permitted. Due to the distant start line we were also warned to expect back-to-back (one race run straight after the first without a break ashore) racing which means being away from shore for up to four hours potentially! Quite serious implications for windsurfers with little or no on-board storage capacity! Thankfully, we had the Royal Yachting Association providing a coach boat upon which we could place refreshments and equipment.

Overall there were more than 240 entrants from a total of 19 nations. In the youths we had 20 British entries with cause for cautious optimism in the various classes ranging up to 17 years of age. In the masters there were four British competitors who included my friends Rod Davis (veteran over 55 years) and Janet Pain (lady veteran over 50 years) plus myself also a veteran (of some four years qualification being 59 years). A further category of master in the fleet was grand master (45-54 years).

So to the actual racing! The first day saw fairly strong winds ranging up to force 5 which caught many competitors out having too large a sail size rigged. Happily, I was able to hang on to my 7.5 metre and



Maj Gilchrist with his trophy.

score two 11th places in the two races, which placed me nicely in the lead of the veteran class. The second day saw winds force 6-7 with gusts of 40+ knots so not unsurprisingly no races were attempted! Pity though as the wind eased back to force 5-6 at around 5pm but by this time the race committee had called it for the day!

Day 3 saw the winds moderate with force 2-3 and three races were completed. Some controversy here among competitors as, according to the sailing instructions and notice of race, we had to



Maj Gilchrist and Ali Masters.

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have planing conditions (this means sufficient wind to bring the board up on to the plane, travelling at around 15mph) prevailing, before a third race could be sailed on the same day. Hardly planing conditions even for those with the recently allowed 9.5 metre sails up! Anyway yours truly managed an eighth and two 10th places which with the sole discard (scoring system permits one to discard your worst result provided it is not a disqualification) now kicking in made my total with five races, 39 points. Rod Davis by now had 45. Still in front, but anything could still happen with only half the event sailed. I had to admit to some pre-race nerves at this stage, realising that I was actually leading the world veteran class meant my experiencing a nervous tummy upset (no, nothing to do with the excellent Polish beer)! Prior to the fourth day racing I actually left my breakfast on the surface of the Baltic, happily before the start of the first race!

Day four saw lighter winds with a further three races and more controversy. (Some of our juniors had really excelled in the strong winds and had been leading their respective classes. Sadly the lighter wind racing did not really suit them and understandably were not keen to have the third race on both days three and four). Again reasonable results for me with a poor 13th but supported by a ninth and a sixth. This meant my counting score after eight races was 65 points - a lead of 12 over the next competitor. However, with a possible two

more races there was no room for complacency.

Going into the final day the winds had by now become very light and by early afternoon it was beginning to look like we might have already had our last race. The race committee however thought otherwise and called us out to the start line which took 45 minutes of very fluke offshore winds to reach! One 'pumping' race (windsurfing rules permit you to make your own wind by 'pumping' the sail) ensued when I was able to record a hard-worked-for seventh which sewed it all up for me with 72 points. Going ashore with the postponement flag flying I felt great elation knowing that I was now home and dry even if we had to go out again. A very happy and proud windsurfer now knew he was the 2005 Raceboard Veteran World Champion and just to put some icing on the cake I had sailed well enough on the last two days to manage third World Grand Master (overall ninth place).

Rod thankfully hung on to his second veteran place with 93 points (overall 13th) and Janet also sailed well coming in second lady (overall 21st). Rod and Janet are both fellow London Windsurfing Association sailors, all of us on that Association's committee and we regularly sail and compete together. In the Youth fleets we had a major success with a runaway victory in the Aloha class (Juniors) where Ali Masters easily won giving GB the youngest and the oldest Raceboard Windsurfers in the world!

Marlborough College's Plaque to VCs, GCs, and Winners of the Albert Medal

Maj Pat King writes;

As an Old Marlburian I had received papers for the OM Club Day on 8 October 2005, and immediately responded when I saw notice of the VC, GC, Albert Medal plaque dedication and unveiling ceremony. Shortly after that the Regimental Secretary rang me to ask if I was going, and if I was whether I could represent the Regiment. I replied that I would be delighted to do so. The Regiment has two VCs who went to the College, Capt John Randle from 2nd Battalion the Royal Norfolk Regiment, killed in winning his VC at Kohima, and Capt (later Brig) Charles Foss of 2nd Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment who won his VC in 1915 at Neuve Chappelle and who died in 1953. As I was commissioned and served in the Bedfords and also served 16 years later on in the Vikings I was faced with a quandary of which tie to wear. I decided to keep totally neutral and to wear the Reggie tie!

I had last set foot in the College in the 1960s, and although able to find my way around found it incredibly changed. What hit Winifred and me straightaway was the friendliness of all there, whether beaks, general staff or pupils. All went out of their way to guide us round. We began with coffee at the master's lodge (for headmaster read *master* and for teachers read *beaks*), where we were met by Mrs Ros Longland, wife of Brig Tom Longland (2 R Anglian), who is on the staff as Bursar's secretary and who was a fantastic guide to all the guests. The CCF then escorted us to the chapel for a very pleasant service with excellent music and very good singing from the choir. The sermon was given by the Dean of Lincoln, and we had all the old favourites... *I vow to thee my country, Psalm 150* and *Jerusalem* to name but a few pieces.

Then to the memorial hall. The CCF provided a guard of honour, not in combat kit but in No 1 Dress, consisting of both boys and girls. It was inspected by two Field Marshals (Lord Inge and Sir John Stamer) among others and was incredibly well turned out. After a speech of welcome we came to the dedication ceremony itself. The Dean led the service and we paid tribute to all those who had died in battle from the college, with the *Silent Tribute, Last Post*, and *Reveille*. Lt Col Eric Wilson VC, East Surreys, who had won his VC with the Somaliland Camel Corps in Somaliland in 1940, the only surviving VC from the College, was then invited to unveil the plaque. Aged 93 and as upright as a 60-year-old, he stepped forward and said a few words, remembering all who had died from the College, and then reminded us of those who received awards for valour and those who, due to the fog of war, were not seen doing their brave deeds and ended up with nothing. Some plaque! It stands at least 14 feet high and the carved names must be at least six inches high.



We then retired for a reception and superb lunch.

At the reception I met four old mates I had not seen for 50 years, Maj and Mrs Trevor Stevenson Knox, and a Gunner OM to whom I had handed over my job in MFO Sinai in 1983. What a small world! John Randle's grandson Franky was supposed to have been present and I tried desperately hard to find him only to be told by Ros that he had not shown up. There were no members of the Foss family present. The College had invited all the families and the Regiments and Services of all the winners of all three categories. It had been a lovely day, well worth attending, and one which Winifred and I will remember for a long time to come.

Special Features

Royal Navy Task Force 150 – A Regimental Perspective

Maj Simon Andrews writes:



I have been serving with the UK Maritime Battle Staff since August 2003. This is the Royal Navy's only operational level deployable headquarters and could be equated in simple terms to one of our own land divisions. I certainly claimed no maritime expertise before arriving on the staff (unless being a RYA coastal skipper counts!) but found a niche for myself within the information operations area. Clearly, I picked up a lot of naval background information along the way and speak with un-nerving 'authority' on such wide ranging issues as submarine moving havens and Casexs, airspace management in relation to carrier based operations as well as a smattering of amphibious bluff speak.

Clearly this had impressed the necessary naval authorities within the Maritime Battle Staff as in April 2005 I was packed off to become what the RN call the staff operations officer (SOO) for Task Force 150 (TF 150) in the Arabian Sea. Despite the unfortunate girly sounding name, the SOO is effectively the chief N (not G) 3/5 focus. However, owing to the fact that the TF had an Italian COS, I effectively took that appointment as well.

HQ TF 150 is based in Bahrain, co-located with US Naval Forces Centcom, and commands the coalition maritime contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom. Its area of operations covers from the top of the Red Sea down to Kenya, across the Indian Ocean to the Seychelles, then north to the Indian/Pakistan borders and west along to the Straits of Hormuz at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, an area of some 2.4 million square miles. Typically the TF has between 4–12 ships under command to conduct maritime security operations (put simply policing and boarding of maritime traffic), ISR and target development, engage in theatre security co-operation (engaging with regional nations to co-operate and eventually replace coalition forces in the policing of waters in their areas) as well as the broad conduct of information operations.

It is a hugely dynamic area. The main threats are clearly terrorist related, although the majority of activity seems more to be dealing with the, yet unproven, link to terrorism of emigration, human trafficking, and smuggling of both arms and drugs (and the problem for us in the case of smuggling of identifying what is 'ordinary decent crime' and historically part of the indigenous societies' way of life as

opposed to terrorist related). We have seen examples of all varieties of threat less the overtly terrorist related. Some 1,000 people a month are assessed as moving by sea from North Somalia to Yemen starting from the port of Bossasso alone. We have intercepted only a fraction of these. Frankly, as there is yet no proven link between terrorism and these illicit activities, we should not be doing so as it is not part of our stated mission. Yet the reality is that we do stumble into them as the photograph shows. It is hard to believe but over 100 people were jammed into the boat shown. Sadly four were recovered dead from the sea while another five were missing in the rush to leave the boat on the approach of coalition warships.

However, we are having great successes. Our engagement with regional nations is bearing fruit particularly with Yemen, Djibouti and Oman where we are able to support maritime based training activities by these nations in developing their own capabilities, in particular their coastguards. It can be frustrating work at times in terms of trying to tie down decisions you thought had been agreed to by these countries into actual execution reality, but the interaction with national and international training teams *in situ* in these countries means an easing in co-ordination problems. However, our greatest overt successes have been drug related.

At the time of writing, the TF has boarded and seized over six tonnes of hashish in two separate incidents. This has been the result of close co-operation between ourselves and our intelligence arms, careful analysis of course track data of suspect dhows together with sophisticated intelligence and maritime air cueing. The result has been materially successful while unearthing a goldmine of wider intelligence value.

My time with the maritime battle staff, and particularly this deployment with TF 150, has been hugely interesting. The Navy are a rum lot; their working practices are certainly different to ours, but with big plus sides to it. They also remain highly bemused by Army uniforms though I suspect that I do not help the situation as I can get away with a certain liberal interpretation of Regimental dress regulations. However, they are certainly a fun lot and they like the Army; can you blame them? If you have the chance, engage. You will not be disappointed.

Golf

Infantry Golf Championships

Capt Mick Abbs writes:

From a subjective viewpoint, it seems that nowadays, while not universally acknowledged, the opportunity to participate in representative sport has diminished somewhat. It was then, with great enthusiasm that four members from the Regiment had the opportunity, to 'push the capbadge' at recent golf events.

The Infantry Championships were held at Prestatyn, North Wales, in wet and very windy conditions over two days in late April. Such was the wind strength, day two was almost deemed as unplayable. An indication of the conditions was borne out by the scores returned by even the most capable players. From the Regiment there were

four entrants, Capt Abbs/Cpl Gelder from the Poachers with WO1 Tate (RSM RTMC) and WO2 Shaw (4 Div SLST) both Vikings. In the individual competition Capt Abbs and WO1 Tate were selected for the Infantry Squad, with WO1 Tate winning the scratch runner-up award and Capt Abbs being awarded his Infantry Colours for golf.

The team competition required three players per regiment. The already registered Poachers' team, now already depleted by non-availability, was now defunct, and it was decided to change the name to R Anglian, incorporating WO2 Shaw. (WO1 Tate was already playing for RTMC Chilwell). We finished in fourth place out of

Special Features



Capt Abbs and WO1 Tate at Saunton

23 teams, beaten only by Royal Irish units. Unfortunately, due to impending operational tours it does not seem likely that the same level of participation will be possible next year.

It was after the Infantry Championships that the Infantry squad was selected for the Inter-Corps Championships held at Saunton in North Devon. On 11 May the squad assembled at Saunton with myself and WO1 Tate lining up for the Infantry B Team. Each team had five players who played scratch matchplay, with the winner earning his team a point.

In the first round we beat the Royal Signals B team 4 and 1 and then in the afternoon we took on the might of the REME, in a hard fought match winning 3 and 2. The semi-final had the extra edge the next day, as the A team had been knocked out, and we were on new ground. Again we ran out winners against the RLC B team 4 and 1. Ecstatic by this stage and receiving many plaudits, we arrived



Infantry B Team – Runners Up - Inter Corps Golf Championships 2005

on the tee to play in the final against the Royal Engineers. We knew we would have our hands full as their team consisted of two scratch players, both multiple winners of Army competitions and Combined Services members, and three others below three handicap! A valiant effort was made but the Engineers ran out winners by 4-1. All in all, a very successful period, where the good name of the Regiment was once again reconfirmed in Army sporting circles.

Pension Matters – Do You Need Help?

Col Tony Winton writes:

One of the first letters addressed to me in my new and lowly incarnation as a second lieutenant in the 1/3 E Anglian Regiment was from an eagle-eyed department in the Ministry of Defence. The letter was to remind me that as I had been commissioned after my 21st birthday I could not expect to receive a full pension on my retirement aged 55, so that I would not be disappointed I suppose. No chance of a mis-selling claim there I now realise. No one reading this article who has received this sort of advice at this sort of age will be surprised to know that I 'binned' it at the earliest opportunity. That was in *Balykinler* in 1963.

Now, fast forward to 15 September 2005 and the bus pass has arrived. Heralded by frequent correspondence from the eagle-eyed Department of Work and Pensions, I filled in many forms and read many explanatory pamphlets in the fond hope that I have understood all and missed nothing. I am now facing the possibility of living for the next 30 years at the same level of income that I now receive. So what?

There is not a lot you can do if you are the same age as me and are only just beginning to think about it. But we all know that the thinking Royal Anglian of today is making plans and financial provision for his future even at the tender age of 21. Just in case you have not been quite as wise as you might have been, and you are approaching the end of your service and a pension is in sight, then *now*, as in *today*, is the time to start doing something about it.

The reason you should be taking an interest in your pensionable future is because the Armed Forces Pension Scheme has been radically overhauled. The changes were introduced on 6 April 2005. You are no doubt receiving briefing notes and sitting through well rehearsed *Powerpoint* presentations designed to help understand what

is on offer and how it will benefit you in the future. Serving soldiers will be required to select whether to join the new scheme or stay in the old one – a difficult decision as each scheme is better in some aspects, worse in others. The wrong or right decision will inevitably affect your pensionable income for the rest of your life.

So the next question you will already be asking is: 'Where can I possibly go to get a balanced, informed and sympathetic advice on which way to turn on this most crucial decision from someone, somewhere that is familiar with the problem and can give me wholly unbiased advice?'

Look no further, help is at hand, and you can all access the information in complete confidence that you are talking to the experts. The Forces Pension Society campaigns to improve the pensions of retired service personnel and their dependants as well as those who are still serving. It also helps members with their individual pension problems. The society has around 45,000 members, serving and retired independent of the MOD, entirely funded by the members. In addition to the confidential one-to-one pensions advice there are a number of additional benefits that membership of the FPS brings, eg: discounts with RAC Recovery, Avis, BUPA, access to the MOD Discount Brochure, travel and travel insurance and most importantly two copies of the magazine *The Pennant*, annually.

How much? £20 a year (£1.75 per month) is a small enough price to pay for advice and benefits provided and the potential to affect your long-term income should you decide to subscribe. To find out more contact the Membership Secretary at: Forces Pension Society, 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL. Tel: 020 7820 9988. Fax: 020 7820 7583. Email: memsec@forpen.co.uk. Web: www.forpen.co.uk.

Special Features

Obituaries

Maj CS Drake TD

Maj Colin Stuart 'Paddie' Drake attended Christ's Hospital School, Horsham during the Second World War and then entered Sandhurst at the end of 1947 before being commissioned into the Royal Artillery.

Paddie left the Army after 13 years' service and eventually joined Pauls, the manufacturers of malt and animal foodstuffs, where he eventually became the company's director of personnel and training. He joined the TA and in 1971 he became second in command of the newly formed 6(V) Royal Anglian (his death means that there are now only five founding members of the Battalion – Ron James, Paul Raywood, Dick Shervington, Duncan Stewart and Tim Swayne). On leaving the TA he became Chairman of the Suffolk County Cadets Committee.

On retiring from Pauls he became a scholar, reading a degree in Fine Arts at the University of Essex, specialising in Romanesque Fonts. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1997.

Paddie was a popular officer who was a regular attender of 6 Royal Anglian Officers' Dinner Club. He is survived by his wife Ann.



Maj FFR Ayers TD

Maj Frederick Felix Beedam Ayres TD. Fred joined 4 Royal Norfolk in 1939 expecting to be away for a fortnight on a TA camp but returned in 1945. He served with the Essex Regiment, 4 Suffolk and was a founder member of 6(V) Royal Anglian when it was created in 1971. Being a financial wizard with Jewsons he was appointed Paymaster and the assistance given to the post holders of the company accounts was legendary.

Fred served for 40 years in uniform during which time he was awarded four TEM and TD medals.



The Gallantry Medallists' League

The Gallantry Medallists' League is second only to the VC and GC Association, and embraces all holders of second level gallantry awards, both military and civilian, within the Commonwealth.

Holders of the following second level gallantry awards qualify for membership:

United Kingdom

The Distinguished Conduct Medal
The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal RAF
The George Medal
The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal RAF (Flying)
The Distinguished Service Order (when awarded for Gallantry)
The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross

Australia A Cross of Valour
A Star of Gallantry

Canada The star of Military Valour
A Star of Courage

New Zealand The Gallantry Star
The Bravery Star

Any holders of these awards who would like to join the GML should write to the following for an application form:

The Secretary
The Gallantry Medallists' League
Tudor Cottage, Wick Hill, Finchampstead
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3SW

Today's membership is drawn from seven countries and all are welcome to take part in all of our activities, particularly the biennial Musters held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and the Victory Services Club. The last Muster, held over the weekend of 15th and 16th September 2001, included a delegation of 58 members from Australia, as well as members from Holland, Denmark and Spain.

The cost is minimal (a single payment of £15.00 secures Life Membership) and those who choose to join can be assured of a warm welcome into the League. Age is no barrier - at present our oldest member is 94 and our youngest is still in his twenties.



Regimental Association

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

www.royalanglianassociation.co.uk
 (Webmaster: noelmuncey@ddmc.org.uk)
 President – Brig RM Brunt CBE

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association has the following objectives:

- To maintain the history, tradition, *esprit de corps* and comradeship of all present and past members of the Regiment and antecedent Regiments.
- To assist former members of the Regiment who wish to remain in contact with former comrades.
- To advise and assist, where possible, members of the Regiment to obtain employment in civilian life.
- To support the Regiment in every possible way, in particular by promoting the Regiment within our counties.
- To refer for consideration by the Benevolence Committee of the Regimental Benevolent Charity, in times of need those past and present members of the Regiment and antecedent Regiments and their dependants, widows or orphans of those serving or who have served.

All who are serving and who have served in the Regiment are automatically members of the Association. All those who have

served in our antecedent Regiments are also members and widows and dependants of past members are eligible for membership as 'honorary members'.

The Regimental Day

The Regimental Day took place on 4 September 2005. This is the third time that it has been held at Duxford and once again the event was blessed with fine weather. This year saw Maj Dick Gould at the helm for the first time helped by CSgt Keeble of the East of England Regiment and members of both Regular Battalions.

The first cars started to arrive by 0900hrs and it was not long before the car parks started to fill up. Many of the early arrivals, fearing a hot and sunny day, made a beeline for the grand marquee. By the start of the Drumhead Service around 2,000 people had arrived and it was encouraging to see a significant increase in the numbers of Royal Anglians attending.

The Regimental Chaplain, Martin Franks, having taken credit for the good weather, gave his normal amusing address which was



Images from the Regimental Day.

Regimental Association



Images from the Eagle and Garter Dinner.

followed by the march past and address by Colonel of the Regiment. The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment played during the lunch that followed. As usual there were a number of activities to entertain the children and many took the opportunity to visit the Regimental Museum and the rest of the Imperial War Museum.

Throughout the day tickets were sold for the museum raffle, the draw for which concluded the day's activities. The raffle raised a total of £1,500 and the prize winners were: 1st (£500) Cpl M Morris, A Company, 1st Battalion; 2nd (£100) LCpl DK Swain, D Company, 2nd Battalion; 3rd (£50) WO2 Ellis, Rear Party, 1st Battalion.

The date for the 2006 event is 10 September.

The Eagle and Garter Dinner

The annual Eagle and Garter Dinner was held at Bassingbourn on 23 July. Brig Colin Groves presided and it was pleasing to see some new faces, which included Don Kinloch and Charlie Dutton. Next year's dinner will be held on 22 July 2006 and further details can be obtained from Maj Bob Potter – 01206 573498.

New Branches

It is hoped to establish a number of new Royal Anglian Association Branches soon:

Ipswich: A number of past members of the Regiment at the Regimental Day expressed an interest in forming a Branch in Ipswich. Would anyone who is interested in joining such a branch please get



in touch with the Regimental Secretary at RHQ. Tel: 01284 752394 or email: regimental-secretary@anglian.army.mod.co.uk.

West Essex and East Herts: It is hoped to establish a new Branch to complement other Branches in these counties. The Area Office is based at Warley on the outskirts of Brentwood next to a TA Centre that has a modern bar facility and good public rooms. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact the Area Secretary, Maj Dave Gilchrist, Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3BN. Tel: 01277 213051. Email: ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com.

Cambridge: A Branch based in Cambridge is in the process of being formed. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact RHQ.

Regimental Golf Summer Meeting

The Regimental Summer Golf Meeting was held at the Ely Golf Course on 1 July. The weather was perfect with a warm day, a few clouds and low humidity. This was in complete contrast with the day before when a downpour flooded the putting green and three of the holes.

The morning started on time at 0800hrs with threes going out to play 18 holes to compete in three competitions; - the Medal Scratch, Medal Handicap and Stableford. These were won by Steve Horton, Ev Leyland and Derek Sly, an ex-Lincoln playing with the Society for the first time. The runners up in the morning were Ken Rowe, Chris Tate and Les Greenaway.

It was particularly good to see Stan the Man back out on the course with Pat MacDonald. In fact Stan made his presence more memorable by winning the Nearest the Pin on the 12th hole and Steve Horton won it on the 6th hole.

In the afternoon 18 holes with a Four Ball Better Ball competition were played. The winning partnership in the afternoon was made up of John Lee who was playing his last game while serving as Area Secretary Lincoln, and Jeth Jethwa. The silverware was presented to the winners in a short ceremony after the rounds and a quiet drink at the end of a long day was enjoyed by those who did not have to rush off. The state of the course was excellent, the weather kind and the company good. A most enjoyable Summer Meeting.

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting held at St Neots Golf Club was kindly organised by Graham Taylor. The winners were: Nine hole yellow ball - Les



Autumn meeting participants.

Greenwell, Steve Horton, Jeff Duckett; Four ball better ball - Jeff Jethwa, Bill O'Driscoll; Nearest to pin - Steve Horton; Longest drive - Kenny Rowe.

The Queen's Division Triangular Golf Competition

The annual match between the three Regiments of the Division was played at Canterbury on 20 May 2005. After the forecast of rain, the weather held and apart from a few minor showers, the game was

Regimental Association



Front from left: Carl Gelder, Andy Thomas, Jeff Jethwa, Rob Shaw, Graham Taylor. Rear from left Pete Woodcock, Les Greenaway, Mick Abbs, Bob Potter, Chris Tate.

played in fine weather. By 0830hrs all members of the team assembled in the clubhouse, having arrived from many different places across the country. The effort and time given by players, coupled with the competitive nature of team composition, to travel to this event, underlines the high regard in which this meeting is held.

This year a strong team was selected by the Assistant Regimental Secretary, five of whom were single figure players. After a tight morning's play, the teams sat down to their customary sumptuous lunch with the R Anglian team leading by one point from the PWRR.

This score at the halfway stage was not uncommon in previous years, and often overturned in the later play. Unfortunately, the RRF had two players who failed to show and therefore were at an early disadvantage. However, not wishing to dwell on their misfortune, the afternoon performance by the R Anglian team surpassed most expectation, and hammered home the advantage, gaining 25 points from a possible 30. It was the first time for five years that the Regiment had won the cup, wresting it from the tight grasp of the RRF.

Pompadours on the Bank

WO2 Alan Dent writes:

Twenty-seven Pompadours fell in for round three of the series, on a blistering hot day at Decoy Lakes, Whittlsey, Peterborough on Wednesday 22 June. It was good to see old familiar faces once again, some with more hair... Steve Mabbutt and Bob Isbell around the jaw line anyway and some, with considerably less than the last time we all met. It was also good to see Charlie Dutton at his first match looking fit and strong as ever.

This event was to be split over two lakes, Beastie and Horseshoe and was designed to enable the stronger angler to fish against others of similar ability and vice versa for the weaker ones. Pegs drawn, purple shirted anglers disappeared into the distance to set up their tackle, secret baits and methods, to await the whistle for the start of the match.

1030hrs signified the start and it wasn't more than a few minutes before rods were bent double and elastic was being stretched to its limit in various areas. Steve Bulbeck, Steven Farmery and Paul Hallybone were soon into some of the hard fighting carp that were resident in abundance in Beastie Lake and it was a similar story on Horseshoe where Phil Pacey, Dave Wright and Dave Farmery Junior were all doing the business. Eric Sykes, of Mortar Platoon fame made a valiant effort to enjoy his day fishing, after a series of illnesses that effectively rendered him disabled and, although he managed to get on his box and start catching a few, he couldn't quite go the distance.

As the relentless heat continued to beat down, Pompadour anglers were being given a stern test of their skills and tackle as they tried to extract big carp from their habitats. Steve Bulbeck, who fished

shallow with pellet all day, was catching well and Paul Hallybone, fishing cat meat on the deck, was also accumulating a big weight. Steven Farmery, son of Dave, who started the Pompadours' Fishing Club many years ago, was also hauling reluctant carp out of Beastie at will, eclipsing his dad who was struggling to keep up with him!

Over on Horseshoe, Dave Wright was eclipsing all around him, in a performance that totally belied his current league position bringing some big carp to the net. Phil Pacey and Dave Farmery junior were making valiant efforts to keep up with his catch rate and were both fishing well in the searing heat.

Both myself and Steve Richmond, both having enjoyed considerable success with the Battalion football team for many years together, were again, for the third match in a row, pegged together. With Malc Wood also fishing next to me, a fine battle was taking place between the three of us. Elsewhere on both lakes, fish were being caught and lost readily and as the end of the match approached, minds were on the weigh in and the after match drinks, which couldn't come fast enough!

The results show a tremendous weight for Steve Bulbeck, enabling him to win his third match in a row and good back up catches for Paul Hallybone, Dave Wright and Steven Farmery. Mention must also be made of Dave Wright, Phil Pacey and Dave Farmery's performances on Horseshoe Lake. The day ended with prize giving, a few well-earned cold drinks and final insults!

If anyone else wishes to take part in what is always a fantastic day's fishing call me on 01733 578727. You will be made extremely welcome.

Regimental Association



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

Museum

Miss Kate Thaxton, the curator, was surprised to receive a call from the Medal Office in June to say that they had the medals of Lt George Knowland VC and thought the Museum might like them. His six campaign medals subsequently arrived, but not unfortunately his VC. This was presented to his widow during the War by King George VI and later stolen. It has never been recovered.

The school holiday competitions, run by the curator, continue to be very popular. Encouraged by members of the museum staff in period dress, children have designed and made paper hats and other accoutrements for Nurse Edith Cavell and Admiral Lord Nelson.

During the Association Dinner Mr Ron Stokoe presented to the Museum a model of the *MV Georgic*, the troopship on which 2nd R Norfolk returned to UK from India in late 1947. It was made by M Booth in 1953, presented to the Association in 2003 and due to the perseverance and determination of a group of ex-2nd Battalion soldiers has now been beautifully restored. It is a reminder of the period leading up to Indian Independence which has not received a great deal of attention.

60th Anniversary Commemorations

Members of the Association have taken part in numerous commemoration events both in the county and further afield. Mr Ray Segon carried the Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Standard on Horse Guards parade on 10 July, Maj Fred Ayers attended the lunch at Buckingham Palace as did Mr Stan Rasberry and Arthur Brighty. Elsewhere, Mr Ben Turner carried the Gorleston and Gt Yarmouth Branch Royal Anglian Association Standard at the major event held in Norfolk on 10 July, the Tattoo at Bayfield Hall near Holt.

The Association Weekend

The dinner, held on 24 September at the TA Centre, Norwich was attended by over 150 people. Our Regular Battalion was represented by Maj David Stefanetti and our Territorials by Capt Tam Steele and CSgt Glen Keeble (ex Pompadour). The event was supported by a



Maj Gen Sutherell reviewing the Old Comrades.



Maj Stefanetti, Dmr EER, Capt Steele and Col Taylor at the Association Dinner.

grant from the Big Lottery Fund to whom we extend grateful thanks. The grant enabled the Committee to provide a champagne reception, a better quality meal and additional waitresses - which all helped to create a very special evening. The oldest member present was 92 years old, and some of the World War Two veterans were among the last to leave. Our Chelsea Pensioner, WO2 Moy was last seen marching purposefully towards the Royal British Legion Club!

The Association Service in the cathedral the next morning was well attended. The Rev Canon William Sayer gave a moving address and afterwards over 30 veterans paraded for the President of the Association, General Sutherell.

We were delighted that World War Two veterans from the Royal British Legion, the Normandy Veterans and other Regimental Associations were able to share in our commemorations.

Pilgrimages to North West Europe

The Royal Anglian Regiment values its links with its antecedent Regiments and its Regimental Council has directed that the memorials in North West Europe continue to be cherished and where possible the links with the local communities fostered. With this in mind Gen Sutherell, the Colonel of the Regiment joined the Suffolk, Royal Norfolk and Essex Regiment Groups in Normandy this summer, and in 2006 and beyond, RHQ the Royal Anglian Regiment will organise



Off to a night club after the Association Dinner - Leslie Dobbs (86) Arthur Storey (87) and George Osborne (88).

Regimental Association

an annual trip to the Continent in order to maintain the links, visit the battlefields and memorials and honour the dead. It is fortuitous that the principle memorials of the Norfolks and Suffolks are very close together in the same commune, and the Essex and Royal Lincoln memorials are not too far away. Hopeful the stalwarts of past pilgrimages will join the Royal Anglian trips in the future.

Farewells

Maj Andrew Athill, the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the East Anglian Regiment died on 17 August aged 85. The church at Morston was full for his funeral with many Regimental ties in evidence and a big turnout from those who served with him in Cyprus in 1956 and who attend the North Elmham Cyprus Reunion.

Maj Fred Ayers died on 6 September. He enlisted before the war, served in the Essex Regiment and the Suffolk Regiment in the war and postwar with 4 R Norfolk until its demise and then with 6 R Anglian as its paymaster. For many years and up to two months before his death, he acted as treasurer for the Association and ran the 4th Battalion Dinner Club. He was a wonderful servant of the Regiment and highly respected.



The late Maj Andrew Athill with the Lord Lieutenant at the Royal Norfolk Show.



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

Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE

Capt John Richards writes:

Members attending the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association this year witnessed a particularly sad event – the decision of Maj Gen Dick Gerrard-Wright to relinquish his role as our President.

General Dick joined the 1st Battalion shortly before I did in 1950, when the Lincolns were stationed in Egypt at Moascar Garrison near Ismailia. Subsequently, after a spell as ADC to the GOC Northern Command (General Evans) he served with the Battalion in Goslar,

Berlin and Malaya, where he was 2IC C Company before taking over the key role of Adjutant.

1960 was a year that some of us would prefer to forget – it marked the final loss of identity for our great county Regiment with its long and distinguished history.

General Dick, among others serving at that difficult time, played a key role in the formation of our successors – the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, the Poachers. As their Commanding Officer during frequent tours in Ulster, he served with distinction



General Dick with a group of French students at the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

Regimental Association

and stamped his own personality on the Battalion and all who served under him. He knew all his soldiers' names and the names of their wives too. In the early seventies, as Brigadier commanding the pivotal 39 Brigade in Belfast; after a hard day's work at headquarters he was out most nights visiting his troops 'at the sharp end' wherever they were on duty. In other words, he was 'a soldier's soldier' in a situation where personal leadership counted for so much.

His career continued onwards and upwards, from promotion to Maj Gen as GOC Eastern Command, followed by a posting to London running our 'part-time' Army - the Territorials.

People like General Dick, however, never retire! He took on the challenging civilian role of Secretary of the Hurlingham Club in Fulham, then finally (as 'Poacher' turned Game-keeper?) joined that select group of senior retired officers who carry out security vetting for the Ministry of Defence.

On becoming President of the Association, he would be the first to admit that General Sir Christopher Welby-Everard was a 'hard act to follow'. I have no doubt though, that every one of us who has experienced his influence in that role, would agree that his contribution has been outstanding. His personal input to the refurbishment and re-launch of our Regimental Museum at the Old Barracks in Lincoln, for instance, is in itself a remarkable achievement in difficult circumstances. It is also a tribute to his dedication to the Regiment and all that it stands for.

His total involvement with the Regimental Association speaks for itself - I would only like to add that, having known him so well as a personal friend since those days in the Canal Zone in 1950, he is (apart from his military qualities) a very human being with an engaging personality, a huge sense of humour and a genuine zest for life.

In saying a sad farewell to General Dick as President, we also welcome most warmly his successor, Lt Col Simon Bacon of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Spalding Branch

The Spalding Branch played a major part in the parade and concert held on 14 August to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Trevor Snell as Chairman of Spalding Remembrance Association organised the event. The Salute was taken by the Queen's Champion Colonel John Dymoke (Commanding Officer of 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment 1966-1969).



The Queen's Champion, Col John Dymoke, meets South Holland veterans.

Trip to Burma

Roger Parlby writes:

A memorable visit to Burma in February was a very special occasion. The trip, organised by Orient Express for holders of the Burma Star, was enjoyed by a party of 23 ex-Servicemen with their companions. Battlefield sites were visited, including Mandalay, and at each one someone from the party remembered the particular battle and explained what had happened.

The War Graves Commission Cemetery north of Yangon (Rangoon), the resting place for 27,000 Allied war dead, was a moving experience. Despite searing heat the grass is kept green and flowers are planted between each grave.

A luxury cruise up the mighty Irrawaddy on the Road to Mandalay

was curtailed after two days when a sandbank stopped progress. While the main party set off for Bangkok and home, I flew to Sitwe on Burma's west coast and then took a fast ferry to Ramree Island where I landed after a three-and-a-half hour sea trip. A Jeep and an English-speaking guide were available and I found the exact spot where my landing craft hit the beach on 21 January 1945. The 1st Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, in which I served as a platoon commander, spearheaded the assault undertaken by 71 Brigade of 26 Indian Division. Gen Bill Slim, commanding 14th Army, needed Ramree to establish an airfield in order to support

33 Corps and 4 Corps.

I drove along the west coast route of Ramree over which the Lincolns fought 60 years ago. The countryside was little changed and I discovered Black Hill where I took my first fighting patrol to dislodge some Japs in a bunker. Later, at Ramree town, I climbed Pagoda Hill where, on February 9 1945, Lt Col CAC Sinker DSO, commanding the Lincolns, hoisted the Union Jack.

The story of 1,000 Japanese being eaten by crocodiles as they tried to regain the mainland is well known and is featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the greatest disaster inflicted on human beings by animals.

I learned a grim-sequel to that incident from a 78-year-old Burmese who was introduced to me at our Ramree Town guesthouse. He remembered a British soldier, who was captured by the Japs, being tied to a pole in a field and left in the sun for three days without food or water. The soldier would not give the Japs any information and on the third day an angry Jap officer drew his sword and cut the prisoner's throat. Local folk watched the execution in horror and later, when the fleeing Japs wanted boats to negotiate the mangrove swamps, locals provided them, but once in deep water capsized the craft. Crocodiles did the rest.

The next day I took a fast ferry through the swamps where so many Japs met their end and four hours later regained Sitwe and flew back to Yangon before going on to Bangkok and London.



Roger Parlby revisiting the site where C Company of the 1st Battalion the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment was ambushed when Japanese troops mortared them as they crossed the paddy.



Roger Parlby in jungle green uniform during the Burma days.

Regimental Association



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

Minden Reunion

The Minden Reunion is usually the highlight of the Association year and this year was no exception. Numbers on the day were probably about the same as last year but the entertainment programme was bigger and better than in recent years. The Band of the Irish Guards played for the Old Comrades parade and beat retreat at the end of the day. In between the crowd were entertained by the Reydon Corps of Drums, the Long Melford Corps of Drums, the Khaki Chums (a re-enactment/living history group) and the Glen Morrison Pipers. The Minden Band of the Queen's Division put on an excellent display during the afternoon and we very much hope that they will be able to support our Reunion in 2006.

We were particularly pleased that the TA soldiers of the East of England Regiment were able to take part – and that their Colours were on parade for the Old Comrades' March Past. We look forward to their participation in future years.

The whole event was supported by a grant from the Lottery Fund to whom we are very grateful.

Maj Stan Bullock writes:

Again what a really wonderful day. For those unable to attend we are truly sorry and hope you are fit and well to attend next year. For those too weary to attend you really did miss a great day that was attended by well over 1,000 and who were entertained to the full.

The officers held their annual dinner at lunchtime at Culford College, this was very well attended and was a great success which proves that as you get older you do actually get wiser. If you are unable to travel long distances and stay up until the late hours and

be fresh and full of vigour the next morning then the answer is to change the rules. Hold a lunch time meeting allowing those who have a distance to travel to start early in the light and after lunch have a nice long rest in your host's sitting room, early to bed and up for Minden Day. What a brilliant plan thought up by the officers' dining committee.

As usual the Friday prior to Minden Day is when the wheel starts turning and various bodies arrive to provide tentage, loos and the proverbial skip, all to be located and checked in. The tentage was increased this year to provide shelter for the Band of the Irish Guards who were in attendance for the day. Saturday was spent preparing the site by sweeping up and moving items left lying around plus carrying out all the tasks for the special day. Our work party from Stowmarket as usual plus the Bury St Edmunds Suffolk Branch were again in attendance as in the years gone by and their help is so very much appreciated.

Sunday morning and the day starts with the putting out of the parade ground flags and roping off of areas. Early arrivals are wandering around and the woods are starting to fill up with the array of cars, vans and caravans. It is really a sight to see year after year those families who park in the same spot and unload everything for the day and just thoroughly enjoy everything by sitting and watching the day's programme.

The church service was conducted by our very own Padre, Rev Ken Reeve, who once again produced a serviceman's service and gave one and all something to think about for a long while. Brig Deller gave his update talk and everyone is grateful for his continuous interest within the Regimental frame and updating us with the facts. It was



Minden Day - the march past.

Regimental Association



Minden Day 2005.

a pleasure to have the Colours of the East of England Regiment at the Church Service and on parade.

Led on by the Band of the Irish Guards to the tune of *Speed the Plough* at least 250 Old Comrades marched onto parade behind the Colours of the East of England Regiment and a small detachment commanded by Maj Glynn French. The applause from those watching was very much appreciated, again this year if a proportion of those watching were marching as they are entitled to, the square would have been full. The parade was addressed by the Worshipful Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, Cllr Stefan Oliver, his words being very much appreciated by all attending. The Colours were then marched off and the parade dismissed from the square. The Band then marched from the square to their own quick march and what a splendid sight they looked.

Then followed the Royal British Legion Drums from Leiston who gave a fine display of marching and music followed by Drum Majorettes *The Hot Shots'* performance of very intricate baton twirling and movements. In addition the Reydon Corps of Drums gave a very professional display of music and entertainment and I am sure that if a certain little lady on parade could have been made a star the crowd would have made it happen.

The Band of the Queen's Division 'The Minden Band' then gave a fantastic performance and had the crowd standing in appreciation. Their music and marching were superb and the intricate displays of marching were a pleasure to watch, a medley of tunes including *Post Horn Gallop* (played superbly) had the audience absolutely enthralled and as they marched off they had a standing ovation. We really do hope that next year all efforts are made to have our very own Band back again to entertain us. To all members of the Minden Band our sincere thanks for your very professional performance and our sincere thanks for coming to our day.

Again this year we were delighted to see World War Two vehicles on parade with David Hardy and his 'mini' plus new and varied vehicles that were of interest to all and sundry. It was decided not to have the vehicles parade around the square but at the last minute this was changed to the delight of the audience and the appreciation was enjoyed by everyone. The Glenn Morrison Pipe Band at long last were enticed to attend our day and our thanks to Roy Frost and Mick OJ Smith for all their efforts on achieving this. What a brilliant display was given as they swirled and weaved their way around the square playing all the favourite Scottish tunes that we all know and

love so much. A wonderful volume rising and falling on a Barrack Square that had heard the tunes so many times so very many years ago. We do so hope that we shall have the pleasure of the Pipes again in the next year's programme.

Taff Gillingham and his very valiant band of volunteers '*The Kahki Chums*' gave a majestic display of the Suffolks during the ages and the variation of uniforms and webbing and weapons used over those periods. A very knowledgeable person is our Taff and he certainly held the attention of the audience during his programme.

The finale by the Band of the Irish Guards flanked by the Standards of the Suffolk Regiment OCA and many other Standards including our very welcome Royal British Legion colleagues concluded the day's activities and a very moving and touching display was enjoyed by all attending. Even the bar tent, run so efficiently by Chris and his team, was nearly empty as the Beating of Retreat was beautifully played with precision and expertise that only a Band of such calibre can produce. A wonderful sight to see, a beautiful sound to hear and a pleasure to be there on such a memorable occasion.

My sincere thanks to all of my helpers, especially my very precious wife Jenny, who spent the whole day in that '***** tent', sorting out raffle prizes problems and to KC Jones. Thank you Pippa and Tim, Marge and Derrick, Sylvia and Dot and last, but not least, Col Tony Taylor who actually does tie all this together to produce the birthday parcel at the end.

To all those concerned about my health, many thanks...I am fine it is very good of you to ask.

Museum

The museum continues to receive bequests and artefacts for the collection. The diary of Capt CAH Brett, written when he was a prisoner of war during the Boer War, has now been transcribed. It provides a valuable insight into the activities of the Suffolk Regiment from the day they were called forward for service in South Africa up to the Battle of Colesberg.

We have recently received the medals and papers of Sgt Ron Hughes, 5 Suffolk, who died in July 2005. His papers provide an unusually detailed record of his service, particularly his time as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, and include, among many interesting items, a letter from the Army's legal department calling him as a witness in the War Crimes trial of a Japanese officer.

The museum has also received from Capt Charles Trollope his

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father's photograph album from the First World War and other memorabilia. Both these bequests will be placed in the archives within the Suffolk Record Office.

60th Anniversary Commemorations

Over the summer our members have taken part in numerous commemorations around the county and more widely.

The standard of the Suffolk Regiment OCA was carried on Horse Guards Parade on 10 July by Mr Derrick Johnson of Bury Branch, with Mr Colin Smith taking over for the long march to Buckingham Palace. Maj Ken Mayhew and Capt John Perrett attended the service in Westminster Abbey on 10 July and Capt Frank Matthews and 'Taffy' Lewis went to Buckingham Palace.

Meanwhile all the branches were represented at the parade in Bury on 10 July. The parades in Stowmarket and Beccles to commemorate VJ-Day were a poignant reminder of the suffering endured by men from East Anglia at the hands of the Japanese.

Farewells

Mr Gwyn Button died on 24 August. He served with 4 Suffolks and was a FEPoW. He was a member of both the Norfolk Branch of the Association, and the Beccles Branch. He had been on parade in Bury St Edmunds on 10 July and at Beccles only two weeks before he died. His lasting memorial is the research he carried out into the fate of the men of 4 Suffolks in the Far East - the results of his labours are held in the Suffolk Regiment archives and provide a valuable source of information for enquiries.



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

It has been a very busy time since the last issue of *Castle* for the Association members. The first event on 12-15 May involved the Bedford Branch partaking in a flower festival at St Paul's Church, Bedford. In the Regimental corner of the church a great display of flowers was set among various Regimental items. During the July and August period members were especially active due to the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two. World War Two veterans either went to the event on Horse Guards Parade on 10 July or had an invitation to Buckingham Palace. The St Albans and the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch members with their Standards attended a Service of Commemoration at St Albans Abbey on the same day and the other branches attended their local 60th anniversary end of the war parades.

At Letchworth two of our members, Messrs R Hope and D Swanton, had a very busy time in July as they had received invitations to visit two schools where they gave talks on the role of the Regiment during the war and showed the children items of military interest. The third visit was to the Hitchin Museum, which had a large exhibition covering the war years. Here many Regimental items were on display and the pair were on hand to answer questions about the Regiment's role in the war. The final event was with the Letchworth Branch of the Royal British Legion who held a parade and family day. Once again they set up a display of items of Regimental interest which many at the event visited.

The Association's Annual Dinner and Dance

The Association Dinner and Dance held at the Castle Hall, Hertford on Saturday 14 May 2004 was a great success with over 160 members and their friends attending. Because this was a special anniversary year we invited Standard Bearers of other ex-Service Groups to join the Branch Standards and at the opening of the evening we had a very fine show with the Standards entering the hall to the Regimental March which was followed by the hymn *I Vow To Thee My Country*. The Standards then marched off to the Royal Anglian Regimental March.

The Essex Yeomanry Band played during the dinner to their usual high standard and we were provided with first class music afterwards for dancing. Unfortunately Brig Robertson was unable to attend this year so our Vice President, Maj Robin Medley, hosted the evening. In his speech he welcomed Mayor of Hertford Cllr Peter Ruffles and Col Morgan, the President of the Essex Regiment Association and Mrs Morgan. He went on to give a brief outline of the achievements of the Association in the last year and finally thanked Stan Mansfield

for continuing to arrange the annual dinner. After dinner there was dancing and the evening concluded with 'Land of Hope and Glory' and everyone marching round the hall behind our various Standards. It was agreed that it was one of the best dinners ever held.

The 16th Foot Officers' Lunch

The Officers of the Regiment held their lunch for the sixth year at the 'Lion Hotel', Buckden, on Thursday 23 June. It is agreeably nice to know that we seem able to maintain our numbers for this event which has been in the Association calendar for some 20 years now. It was a particular pleasure to welcome our President, HM Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire S Whitbread JP this year who served as a National Service officer in the Bedfords in the late 1950s. This was the first time he had attended but hopefully we will see him on many future occasions. The meal was, as usual, excellent and it was not until after 3.30pm that the party finally broke up. By popular request the venue will remain unchanged for next year.

National Service Day

This year was also the 45th anniversary of the ending of National Service and on 26 June a coach party of members of the Association went to a memorial and reunion day at the Arboretum in Alrewas in Staffordshire. The coach party of 47 members and wives travelled to Alrewas to celebrate this special day, picking up members at Letchworth, Dunstable, St Albans, Watford, Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted arriving at Alrewas just after midday and as there was perfect weather a picnic lunch was had in the pleasant surroundings of the arboretum. There were ex-National Servicemen from all over the country attending this reunion. The Order of Service started at 1330hrs with the Standard Bearers staking up their positions, among whom three were from the Association. A Naval Guard of Honour was provided by *HMS Forward* and members formed up behind the Standard Bearers and took part in a march past. There was a welcoming speech by Cdr David Childs RN CBE and a message from Her Majesty The Queen was read out.

After the service there was a laying of wreaths at the National Service Memorial, followed by the playing of *The Last Post*. The Service ended by singing *Land of Hope and Glory* and a final march past by all the ex-National Servicemen who attended. The arboretum is so vast that time was not available to visit all the memorials, however time was found to visit the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental plot with its tree and members also visited the Suez Veterans Memorial. A successful day and it is hoped to repeat this

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event in 2006.

Band Concert

On Sunday 21 August a military Band Concert was staged at the Castle Hall in Hertford, which was organised by Stan Mansfield, the Secretary of the Hertford Branch. It was a superb evening with the Essex Yeomanry Band playing music to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War Two. The concert started with the Standards being paraded to the Regimental march *Mandolinata* which was followed by *I Vow to Thee my Country* and *The Royal Anglian March*. After which a selection of music from the movies followed, including *The Dambuster's March* and *The Great Escape*. Everyone then joined in the sing-a-long to great war time favourites. The finish was real *Last Night at the Proms* with the waving of Union flags and singing *Land of Hope and Glory* and the National Anthem. A great night was had by all with the Essex Yeomanry Band in great form. All the proceeds of the evening went to SSAFA.

Blenheim Sunday Service and Lunch

The Bedford Branch Committee, when arranging functions decided to celebrate Blenheim Day (13 August 1704) by attending morning service at the Church of the Transfiguration at Kempston and afterwards having lunch in the Keep. The church has a new vicar who was very enthusiastic for this event and on Sunday 14 August 61 members and wives attended which doubled the congregation. Col Winton read the lesson and Capt Crisp said the prayers. A good service which was followed by tea or coffee in the Church Hall and then off to the Keep where the bar was open for free drinks prior to lunch with wine at the tables. After lunch Col Winton welcomed all. The Branch had great support from the Luton, St Albans and Hemel Branches.

The Royal Anglian Regimental Day at Duxford

It was a very hot and sunny day for this event, which is always a favourite with members of the Association. Five of the 30 Standards on parade were ours and the 3rd Battalion marching contingent composed of ourselves and The Essex Regiment members was once again one of the largest on parade. Most members soon got into shirt sleeve order after the parade and made for the bar to quench their thirst and to get into the shade. There was no marching band or Corps of Drums to finish the day this year which was a little bit of a letdown, but otherwise it was a good day out when one can meet old friends of yesteryear.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

As there was no report in the last issue of *Castle* there is a lot to report this time. The Association is still in good shape and we have had a busy year with the 60th anniversaries of VE-Day and VJ-Day celebrations. Several members and their wives joined the local Royal British Legion for an enjoyable day out to the D-Day Museum at Portsmouth on 3 September 2004. They particularly enjoyed seeing the tapestries depicting D-Day. On 18 September 2004 our autumn fish-n-chip supper was once again a very enjoyable evening with bingo and an excellent raffle.

Our Regimental Reunion Lunch on 7 November 2004 was once again very well attended with 100 members and wives sitting down to an excellent meal prepared by our new caterers at the Mayflower. After the meal a guest from the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian

Regiment, our guest of honour, talked about the activities of the Battalion which was much appreciated by our members. We had an excellent raffle with many prizes.

Col Cockman OBE, Deputy President, again represented the Association at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 11 November 2004. A number of members were on parade with the Standard at the Hertford Town War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday when our wreath was laid. A wreath was also placed on our Regimental Memorial in All Saints Church before the Remembrance Service began. Our Standard and members attended the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment's Wreath laying and Reunion at Kempston and joined other members present for a very enjoyable lunch.

Several members made up a table at the Royal British Legion's annual curry lunch in Hertford on 20 March 2005. Our spring fish-n-chips supper on 16 April was another successful and enjoyable evening with a full house in the Club Room at the TA Centre. Again there was bingo and a raffle.

On 8 May a short service was held at the town War Memorial on the 60th anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe, then a wreath was laid on behalf of the Association. Everyone present then moved to the Castle grounds where a Drumhead Service was held using the drums from the Regiment. Our Standard was carried by Roger Francis and the event was well supported by the general public.

The popular Army Benevolent Fund Beating Retreat at Haileybury took place on 19 June 2005, on the main square of the College. The Band of the Scots Guards was joined by the RBL Youth Band for a colourful ceremony with many Standards, including ours, paraded.

Roger Francis volunteered to carry the Association Standard at the Veterans' Parade at Horse Guards Parade in London on 10 July. It turned out to be a marathon task and a very long day. He was accompanied by the Hertford Branch of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Standard Bearer Stuart Tyler.

Association members joined the RBL coach to the National Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire on 26 June. This was to dedicate an oak tree which was planted last year in memory of our fallen comrades in the two world wars. We had a fraught start as the coach arrived two hours late resulting in us curtailing the ceremony. It was the same day as the National Serviceman's Parade at which the Padre was officiating. However, we had time for a short dedication ceremony at the tree before moving off to watch the parade. Roger Francis carried our Standard and Stuart Tyler carried the Hertford Branch Standard of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association at the dedication and on the parade afterwards.

On 14 August a wreath laying ceremony was held at the Hertford War Memorial to celebrate the 60th anniversary of VJ-Day. This was followed by a Remembrance Service in All Saints Church and afterwards everyone was invited into St John's Hall next door for afternoon tea.

We had an excellent evening on 21 August 2005 in the Castle Hall with the Essex Yeomanry Band playing. A rousing rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory* had everyone on their feet singing and waving Union flags in a grand finale.

Members attended in glorious weather the Royal Anglian Regimental Day at Duxford which was an enjoyable day. On 4 October another fish-n-chip supper was held and on 4 November our Regimental Reunion Lunch is at the Mayflower at Hertfordbury.



**The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association
and
The Royal Anglian Association (Cambridgeshire)**

All Ranks' Dinner

More than 70 members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, Royal Anglian Regiment sat down to a formal All Ranks' Dinner at the Lion Hotel Ramsey on 9 April 2005. This was the first such dinner since 1987. The guest of honour was Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CB CBE, Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Other guests included Mr Freddie Grounds DL, Association President and Col W Badcock MBE.

Members are drawn from ex-members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, D Company, 6 Royal Anglian, the Royal Anglian Regiment and Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. Lt Col David Denson TD said: 'It was an excellent occasion, one which we aim to make an annual event. We were very pleased to have the support of Maj Gen Sutherell who gave a fitting reply on behalf of the guests'.

Annual Cambridgeshire Regiment Association Service

Association members gathered at St Peter's Church, March for the annual commemoration service earlier this year. Representatives from March town council, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force and a number of townsfolk joined the service which was conducted by the Rev Anthony Chandler. Mr Freddie Grounds DL, Association President and Col Colin Elsdon DL read the lessons.

Organised by the March Branch of the Cambridgeshire Regiment

Association, the Chairman Mr Bob Anderson, said: 'This year's service was extra special as this year marked the 60th Anniversary of the ending of the war'. Four members of the Regiment who saw service in the Second World War proudly displayed their medals. The Branch Standard was carried by Cadet Woodjets from the March Detachment Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force.

Annual Service of Remembrance and Parade

The Annual Service of Remembrance and Parade took place on Sunday 5 June 2005 at Ely. The Dean of the Cathedral, the VRev Michael Chandler conducted the service and received the various Regimental and Branch Standards. The Rev Alan Jesson TD, Chaplain to the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, preached on the theme of Remembrance.

The President accompanied by representatives of branches laid wreaths in the Regimental Chapel and the *Last Post* and *Reveille* were played. The City of Ely Military Band played throughout the service. The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr A Duberley CBE was in attendance together with Brig RM Brunt CBE representing the Royal Anglian Regiment. Other dignitaries in attendance were the Mayor of Ely, Cllr Bryant Watson and Mrs Watson.

After the service the parade formed upon Cathedral Green and were congratulated by Brig Brunt who also took the salute.



Col Colin Elsdon DL leads the Cambridgeshire Regiment members in the march past.

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The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire with 13 members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment who served in the Second World War.



Cambridgeshire Army cadets learn about medals worn with pride. Left to right Walter Rookes (Cherry Hinton) Col Wally Badcock MBE (March), Percy Legge (Downham Market).

Following the parade an excellent tea was provided by the Army Cadets in the Hayward Theatre and the chance to meet Old Comrades. There were several old comrades from the Second World War present who lined up for a group photograph.

Officers' Dinner

The Regimental Officers' Dinner was held on 7 May at the Cadet Headquarters, Waterbeach. Entertainment before and during dinner was provided in an exemplary manner by the Corps of Drums of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. The President of the Association,

Mr Freddie Grounds, presided and welcomed the guests; the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr Hugh Duberley CBE, and his wife and the Cadet Commandant, Col Roger Burgess OBE. Grace was said by the Rev Maj A Jesson TD and a telegram of best wishes from Her Majesty The Queen was read out by the Secretary, Col Colin Elsdon DL.

Col Burgess gave a full report on the progress of the cadets during the year stating that the force is now in a very strong position having some 600 cadets with a full complement of officers and adult instructors. During the year there have been several successes

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including an award winning first aid team and combat team.

The Lord Lieutenant congratulated the cadets on their enthusiasm and wishes them every success in the future.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Dinner

On Saturday 4 June the 56th Annual Dinner was held at Waterbeach when 42 members sat down to dine. After the dinner the Chairman, Mr Herbie Taylor, welcomed the guest of honour, Lt Col Roger Herriot, Deputy Commandant of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. Colonel Roger responded and gave an update of the activities of the cadets during the year. The dinner ended with the singing of the traditional song *The Cambridge Boys*.

It was announced with regret that this was to be the last annual dinner and next year it was to be amalgamated with the newly formed All Ranks' Dinner Club. The first dinner of the club was held at the University Arms Hotel on 12 November 1949, at a cost of 10 shillings and sixpence, with some 60 members attending. The club came into being at a meeting held in the Drill Hall, East Road, Cambridge on 10 February 1949. One of the members present on that evening was Mr BA Major (Bert), the very same Bert Major was present at the final dinner on 4 June 2005.

Thanks were expressed to the Chairman, Herbie Taylor, for looking after the club for many, many years and for Mrs Taylor for helping to clean the Regimental silver and supporting Herbie over the years.

News from the Branches

Whittlesey and Peterborough

The Association President, Mr Freddie Grounds, presented members of the Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch of the Cambridgeshire Regiment whom served in the Second World War with a statuette of Field Marshal Slim at a lunch held at Ramsey St Mary.

The Branch Chairman said that the branch decided to present the statuettes to the members who served in World War Two as a token of appreciation for support to the branch and to provide a permanent keepsake for them to remember. Pictured above right, from left: Jesse Matthews, Jim Carter, Fred Templeman, Mr Freddie Grounds (Association President), Eddie Davies, Len Woods, Cliff Burgess.

Lt Col Wally Badcock MBE describes his visit to Thailand

On 21 October 2004 my wife, Mary and I took a flight from Heathrow accompanied by our daughter Diane and son-in-law David, to arrive



in Bangkok some 13 hours later. This was Mary's and my third visit to Thailand within the last ten years and perhaps more important, as it could be our last, due to advancing years.

After two days rest we all made our way by coach to Kanchanaburi to visit the War Cemetery where some 8,000 PoWs lay, including many Cambridgeshires, who lost their lives building the notorious 'Death Railway'. On entering the Cemetery, despite having returned twice before, seeing again row upon rows of graves and the large Memorial Cross at the far end stirred up an emotion, which I found very difficult to control. After paying my respects at the grave of my brother, William Faircliff, I was privileged to lay a poppy wreath bearing the Regimental Crest, at the base of the Memorial Cross, on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Regimental Association, to honour *all* who lost their lives during the building of the railway. During this time, we were accompanied by the curator of the new museum, which is situated alongside the cemetery. We had met him previously in the museum, having been introduced by a member of his staff as 'one of the originals - whom we don't get many of these days'.

Unfortunately, timings not being under our control, we were unable to visit the cemetery at Chunkai, where many more Cambridgeshires have been laid to rest. We then made our way to the existing steel and concrete constructed bridge over the River Kwai and sought the remnants of the original timber trestle bridge 100 yards or so further downstream.



The remains of the River Kwai timber bridge.

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Eventually, we continued on our journey by coach and long-tailed boat up the River Kwai Noi to our hotel in the jungle. This comprised Thai style living accommodation, where we stayed for three more days. During this time we made further trips by long-tailed boat up river, visiting an ethnic village of very basic bamboo buildings, no roads, no running water, no electricity, but full of friendly and happy people. The next day we were taken to 'Hell Fire Pass' at Konyu (Konu), recently reclaimed from the jungle. This cutting through solid rock comprised two sections: the first approximately 500 yards long and in places 25 feet deep, and the second 80 yards long and 80 feet deep. At the entrance to this pass was another new Museum giving full details of the terrible conditions suffered by PoWs, working sometimes 18-hour shifts, at an appalling cost in human life. Those concerned with the reconstruction of this section of the railway had done their best to recreate the conditions under which PoWs had to work and are commended on the result.

Included in the itinerary was a trip upriver to the site of the PoW camp at Kinsaiyok, where the stream ran through the camp creating a waterfall into the river far below and where today there still exists the remains of a Japanese cookhouse upstream from the PoW camp.

Leaving our jungle home of a few days, we travelled to Kanchanaburi by long-tailed boat, coach and train, which we joined at its present terminus at Nam Tok (Tatso). The train journey over trestle bridges and a wooden viaduct, built on a ledge hewn from the rocky hillside at Wampo, was triple-tiered and some 200 metres long, high above the river Kwai Noi far below. It brought back vivid memories of the suffering, hardship and many deaths the building of this section had caused. Much of the original woodwork remains but some reconstruction is evident.



The group at 'Hell Fire' pass.

We detrained at Kanchanburi and made our way by coach to Bangkok. There we stayed one or more nights before moving on to Hua Hin, a seaside resort on the shores of the Gulf of Siam, to complete our stay in Thailand.

Perhaps one point of interest, especially to ex-PoWs was a conversation with the courier, Mr Pong. I asked him if he was related to Mr Boon Pong who had received the George Cross for his help to PoWs in captivity. He said that Mr Boon Pong, although not related, was well remembered by the people of Thailand, and he was still living.



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

Royal Tigers' Weekend

Royal Tigers' Weekend this year was held on 25-26 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 well attended. The annual dinner was then held and it is most pleasing to report that once again attendance was good, with 154 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.

On Sunday the weather was kind for the annual service, which was held again 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.

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.

Remembrance Services

At 11am on 11 November 2005 an Act of Remembrance took place at Royal Tigers' Wood, Bagworth. The ceremony was led by Col WG Dawson TD DL and the Standard was paraded by Mr B Horobin. A wreath was laid by Mr R Gill on behalf of the Royal Tigers' Association.

The Chairman of the Association laid a wreath in the Regimental Chapel on 13 November 2005 (Remembrance Sunday), as is the annual tradition, during a short service with prayers and the Regimental Collect.

The Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War

Mr John (Dixie) Dean and Mr John Sheppard DCM had the honour of being invited to lunch with Her Majesty The Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace on 10 July 2005 on the occasion of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Maj VM Roussel MC and Mr RP Savage represented the Regiment at the special commemorative service in Westminster Abbey attended by 2,000 veterans. Also, after the death of her husband, Mrs M Biron was accompanied there by their eldest daughter.

Capt PW Rogers MC, Mr LV Cheney, Mr T Sansome, Mr R Vincent and Mr D Foran represented the Regiment among the 10,000 veterans at the nostalgic, reflective and commemorative events on Horse Guards Parade during the afternoon.

About 200,000 people packed the Mall to greet Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh after they arrived back at the Palace from Horse Guards Parade where they had carried out a review of the many thousands of veterans. They had been preceded by 724 Standards, including the Royal Tigers' Association Standard carried by Mr Denis Foran, and a 150-strong tri-service band.

The final highlight came with the flypast of 20 aircraft of the Allied nations of the Second World War, the final plane being a Lancaster which dropped 1,000,000 poppies to remember those who died in the war.

As part of the celebrations, there was during the preceding week an excellent open air 'Living Museum' in St James's Park which re-enacted exhibits from all over the UK and attracted many thousands of visitors. Part of this was in the Guard's Museum nearby, where

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Mrs Rita Sugrue looking at the painting of her great-great-grandfather, Sgt Philip Smith VC, with Carol Cuneo, the artist's daughter.

six Cuneo paintings were exhibited, including this Regiment's painting of Sgt Smith winning his VC at Sevastopol in 1855. At the reception after the opening of the exhibition by the Chief of the General Staff it was with great pride that Mrs Rita Sugrue, a great-great-granddaughter of Sgt Philip Smith, with her husband Peter, were able to be present, where they met Carole Cuneo, the daughter of Terence Cuneo.

This weekend will last for a long time in the memories of all the members of our Regiment and others who attended the ceremonies.

Royal Leicestershire Regimental Museum

Slow but steady progress has continued to be made on our new Regimental Museum since the report in the last edition of the *Green Tiger*.

The fundraising appeal has now raised over £225,000 towards the 'matched funding' we agreed when we were awarded the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, so we still have some way to go before we hit our promised target of £250,000. 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 continuous steady progress towards our target is wonderful news, and the appeal remains open.

After the huge success of the two Minden Band concerts in the De Montfort Hall, it has been decided to hold a third concert, which will take place on Monday 10 April 2006. It promises to be another very popular and wonderful evening, so please note the date in your diaries! Tickets (£18, £16, £12 and £10) will be on sale from the De Montfort Hall box office (0116 2333111) in early December 2005.

The builders eventually started work on the fabric of the Newarke Houses Museum on 31 October 2005 and they should finish about February. Meanwhile detailed plans are being made for the new displays. We have already spent some of the acquisitions and Development Fund by buying six lots of important medals at a recent auction. Leicester City Council, as the landlord of the building, has found extra money to deal with various difficulties that have inevitably arisen in and under the building, and we are very grateful to them for their major contribution. Overall, so far, the project remains more or less on budget.

We still have quite a long way to go to secure our Museum. On present plans, it should open quietly in the summer of 2006, with a formal opening later.

Visits to the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Loos

A party of 35 left Melton Mowbray and Leicester on 22 September 2005 to attend the ceremonies to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Loos in France where so many men of the Regiment died. On the Saturday morning we began the day with a visit to the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at 'Duds Corner' where so many members of the Leicestershire Regiment are listed on the panels as having 'no known grave'. Everyone agreed it was impossible to stand in front of the panels without being overcome with emotion, many admitting afterwards that they could not fight back the tears that filled their eyes.

The next stop was the cemetery at the Dressing Station, St Mary's, where the people of Haines held a service of remembrance and our Association Standard, carried so ably by Mr Denis Foran, with the Standards of other regiments stood alongside the French Standard bearers. We then joined the people of Haines at an exhibition of Great War articles and artefacts and *vin d'honneur* while the pipers of the London Irish Rifles entertained the crowds on the lawn outside.

Once refreshed we were then joined by the contingent from the King's Own Scottish Borderers in their tribute to Piper Laidlaw VC. At the opening of the Battle of Loos Piper Daniel Laidlaw climbed onto the parapet of the British line and played his pipes to encourage his comrades attacking the German lines. He then turned and advanced with them up the slope and was hit twice before being stopped. Two of Piper Laidlaw's grandsons were present at the re-enactment of the incident. His great-grandson, himself an accomplished piper, played the pipes as he retraced his great-grandfather's footsteps.

On Sunday morning we paraded with all the other military contingents and the people of Loos for a service and wreath-laying ceremony at the cemetery at Loos followed by a march past led by the pipers of the London Scottish Regiment and the London Irish Rifles.

There were too many other events in this memorable weekend to report here, but we send our thanks to Mr Cis Keightley for giving us the opportunity to share in such an experience, for his organisation and never ending good humour.

Congratulations

The Association sends its heartfelt congratulations and thanks to Mr Fred Norwich who has completed 50 years as a member of the Royal Tigers' Association General Committee.

Regimental Association



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

On 10 July, the official Commemoration Day marking the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two, the Essex Regiment Association was represented at a number of important functions both in the county and in London. Four Standard Bearers were on parade in London and one at Chelmsford Cathedral. Mr Sid Roser carried the Association Standard, Mr Pat Mulhall the 4th Battalion Standard, Cdt Cpl D Orr, from King Edward VI School Chelmsford, the Chelmsford Branch Standard, and Cdt Sgt A Bennett from the Essex Army Cadet Force, the Barking and Dagenham Colour. At Chelmsford Cathedral Mr George Denny carried the Thurrock Branch Standard. In addition Maj P Barrass with Mrs Barrass were at the service in Westminster Abbey, Maj Bob Filby MC and Mrs Filby at the luncheon at Buckingham Palace together with Mr Peter Giggens accompanied by his daughter. Capt Jim Townrow MBE, Mr Arthur Griffiths, Mr William Firth and Mr Roy Engwell attended the celebration on Horse Guards Parade.

The service in Chelmsford Cathedral was led by the Dean of Chelmsford, the VRev Peter Judd, in the presence of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex, the Lord Petrie. The Essex Regiment Association was represented by Col Geoffrey Morgan OBE DL, President, and Col Dick Shervington TD who, together with the Dean, led the Act of Remembrance.

The visit to Bayeux took place in June with a service at our memorial

to the 2nd Battalion situated in the grounds of the Museum, on 7 June, the day that Bayeux was liberated by the Essex Regiment supported by the Sherwood Rangers, in 1944. Short services were also held at our memorial in Essex Wood and at Tilly Sur Seullles.

Our annual reunion took place at Warley on 26 June with the service commencing at 2pm. Once again we were blessed with fine weather and with a full chapel we were set for another memorable day. Maj the Rev Martin Franks MBE, Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Anglian Regiment, conducted the service and the address was given by the Rev Tony Rose, who, during his time as an Army Chaplain from 1976 to 1994, served with both the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment. We were pleased to welcome once again Brig Roger Brunt CBE, Deputy Colonel who, surrounded by civic dignitaries from Essex Boroughs, took the salute. Brig Brunt also spoke to the Old Comrades before tea giving them up to date news of the activities of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Another pleasant duty he had to perform was to present Colonel of The Regiment's Certificates of Appreciation to Capt John Youles, Chairman of the 4th Battalion Comrades Association, Mr Mick Chapman Honorary Secretary of the 4th Battalion Comrades Association and Mr Ron Crisp, Chairman of the Thurrock Branch.

After tea, Comrades gathered in the garden at Blenheim House and were entertained to an excellent display by the Band of King



CSgt (now CSM) A Bennett, Essex ACF.

Regimental Association

Edward VI School Chelmsford. As usual we were grateful to Maj Gilchrist and his staff for organising another splendid day. At next year's reunion we shall be dedicating a Pew End to Maj Gen Michael Holme CBE MC who died in 2004. An appeal towards the cost was generously contributed to.

Thurrock Branch

Peter Giggins, Hon Secretary writes:

The year started with a service we attend every year with our Standard at the West Thurrock Memorial Ground Gate. This is a World War One memorial, now a memorial stone has been added to commemorate World War Two. All Associations in Thurrock are usually represented.

In April, the branch was asked for a member to attend a memorial service in Hornchurch to the Anzacs (Australian and New Zealand Expeditionary Force), arranged by the Heritage Centre. This was followed by a buffet in a house that was used as the Anzacs' convalescence home. Our representative, George Newark, was well received. It appears that the Essex Regiment and the Anzac Regiment served together.

On 5 June we travelled to Normandy by coach from HQ Warley and it was good this year to see several family groups with us. We arrived in Bayeux early evening for a meal and time to explore the town. The next day we attended the Normandy Veterans' Service at Bayeux Cemetery, this was a much smaller event this year, but still well presented. Wreaths were placed on the Cross of Sacrifice. On 7 June, this being the anniversary when the Pompadours with an armoured unit of the Sherwood Rangers liberated the City of Bayeux in 1944, a joint service was held, conducted by Maj the Rev Martin Franks MBE at our memorials in the grounds of Bayeux Museum. The Pompadours Memorial at Verrieres Wood, 'Essex Wood', and Tilly sur Seullles were visited and a short service conducted. Wreaths were placed on the memorials. A very good reception was enjoyed at Tilly sur Seullles. The next day we visited the Monet Gardens. They were greatly enjoyed, especially the water gardens. Travelling home it was agreed by all that it had been a very satisfying trip.

Our Regimental Reunion at Warley was held on 26 June. This again was very successful and great to see our chapel nearly full. The weather was kind to us for our gathering on the lawn afterwards at headquarters. Our thanks to the Regimental Secretary and his staff for all the arrangements.

There were plenty of VE/VJ end of war celebrations in July. The main date for most veterans was 10 July in London. Some attended Westminster Abbey, others went to Horse Guards where several displays were held, including the start of the Parade of Standards led by the Queen for the journey down the Mall to the Palace. I attended the luncheon at Buckingham Palace accompanied by my daughter, where we met Maj Bob Filby MC and his wife, Bob being another Pompadour. It was a grand event, with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and most of the Royal Family attending. Late afternoon

we saw the arrival of the Parade of Standards at the Palace and the poppy drop from a Lancaster bomber. A day to be remembered.

The Regimental Day at Duxford is always a good event, especially for meeting Old Comrades. As I mentioned before, there seemed to be more family groups...it is good to see younger people involved.

4th Battalion Comrades' Association

MG Chapman writes:

In the 60th anniversary year of the end of World War Two the Association has been extremely busy with members attending commemoration events, countywide, as well as supporting our own, Essex Regiment Association and Royal Anglian Regiment Association reunion opportunities.

The London Borough of Redbridge organised a parade through Ilford town centre and service of thanksgiving in St Mary's Church, Ilford on Sunday 8 May to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War Two. 36(E) Signal Regiment (our successors at the Gordon Road TAC) exercised their right of Freedom of the Borough of Redbridge. The Association was invited to take part and was represented by the officers, members of the Comrades Council and a limited number of invited Comrades. The Standards of the



Col Geoffrey Morgan and Lt Col Brewer talking to the Pearly Queen.



From left, Lt Col Brewer, Lt Ken Canler (veteran of Cassino) Maj A Fisher, Capt JH Youles and Essex contingent, Ilford parade march past.

Regimental Association



CSgt Andy Pinewood with Standard Bearers Sid Roser and Pat Mulhall.

Essex Regiment Association and the 4th Battalion Association were paraded. After the March Past, where the salute was taken by the Mayor of Redbridge, all were again conveyed by coach to St Mary's Church for a Service of Commemoration conducted by Fr Jonathan Kester. Once the Service was over all partook of an excellent 'alfresco' buffet laid out in the church grounds provided by Redbridge Council before returning to Gordon Fields by coach to join members of 36(E) Signal Regiment in their 'Families Day' celebrations. It must be commented on that of the marching contingents that fittingly we had the largest proportion of World War Two veterans on parade. Our oldest member was Lt Ken Canler at the age of 95, who had travelled all the way from Fakenham in Norfolk to be on parade.

Of the World War Two era we also had George Skinner, Larry Bennett and Lilian Wynn with us, as well as representatives from the post war 4th and the 4/5th Battalions. Our thanks go to Maj Williams of 3 Group, North East London ACF for providing the escort party (Royal Anglian Cadets) to our Standards, to the staff of 36(E) Signals Regiment for the arrangements made to look after us on the day.

Our own Summer Reunion was held earlier this year on Saturday 21 May and saw 53 of us meeting in the TAC at Warley. Entertainment in the form of a good old-fashioned sing song was provided by the

Pearly Kings and Queens of Hackney, Shoreditch and Southwark. Although numbers attending were inevitably reduced from last year, the afternoon was deemed a great success, the entertainment being especially well received. A computer generated slide show of photographs of events and preview of the work in progress on the Historical Records of the Battalion on CD-Rom generated a considerable amount of interest and favourable comment. To ensure that mounting future events such as this are viable to mount, we do rely on the continued support of the membership.

Members have also attended the Royal Anglian Regiment Day at Duxford, Commemoration and VJ-Day Services held at Loughton and the Major General's Review on Horse Guards Parade. Our 4th Battalion Association Standard has been paraded at Ilford, Bayeaux, Duxford, and the National Commemoration Day Parade on 10 July, carried by Deputy Standard Bearer Mr P Mulhall. A series of lunches hosted by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 36(E) Signal Regiment at Ilford on a Sunday have afforded us further opportunities to meet at a very moderate cost to members, and have been well attended and we extend our thanks to the Mess for their invitation.

Since my last report we have sadly been notified of the passing of two members, and where notification has been received in good time the Association has been represented at the funerals by Chairman Capt JH Youles and other member of the Comrades Council.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Colchester Branch)
New members continue to join the Branch and in recent months we have welcomed Richard Bruce and Roy Norman (both Vikings), and David Holmes (Pompadours). We look forward to seeing them at the various Branch and Regimental functions. We also record with sadness the recent passing of Keith Smith, one of whose last wishes was to be present at the Regimental Day on 4 September, and he made it.

The by now traditional summer barbecue evening at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess was held on 2 July, combined with a Race Night, and much enjoyed by all present. Next on the calendar in mid-July was the Colchester Military Festival where we were represented by our new Standard Bearer, Gerald Dorritt. Gerald has taken enthusiastically to his role and has also taken part in VE and VJ-Day celebrations in Dunstable and Colchester.

The run up to the New Year will include participation in the Colchester Civic Service on Remembrance Day (and of course a curry afterwards!), and the Christmas gathering on 3 December – this year at the TA Centre.

During the course of the summer, committee member Martin Gilbert took a trip down memory lane – returning to Berlin after 40 years, with fellow Pompadours Keith Plumb, Lordy Nelson and Tony Turner. Martin's article and photos appear elsewhere; we think he covered most (but not necessarily all) of what they got up to!

Anyone who would like to join the Branch should contact the Secretary, Brian Davenport, at 36 Catherine Hunt Way, Colchester CO2 9HS, 01206-564919. Email davenport@colchester1737.freerve.co.uk.

Officers of the Branch: Chairman Tony Downes; Treasurer Colin Ladley; Secretary Brian Davenport; Assistant Secretary Alan Swaep; Members Martin Gilbert, Mick Henson, Geordie Pattison and Bob Potter; ex officio Rod Allen.

Regimental Association



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

Annual Reunion 2005

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held in the Guildhall, Northampton on Saturday 16 July. The Management Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting were held, as usual, prior to the dinner and were chaired by the retiring Chairman, Col Peter Worthy. 160 members and guests attended the dinner in the magnificent Great Hall of the Guildhall. After dinner the President, Gen Sir John Akehurst, read the loyal message from Her Majesty The Queen, proposed the Toast and then addressed the Comrades. He then paid a tribute to Col Peter Worthy who was retiring as Chairman of the Association and Acting Area Secretary. A very generous sum of money had been collected from Comrades and friends towards a gift and he was presented with an antique French chiming carriage clock, some gardening tools and a handsome cheque.

On Sunday 17 July there was a static parade of Comrades for inspection by Gen Sir John Akehurst outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre followed by a service conducted by Rev Simon Tebbutt. The theme of the service was the 60th Anniversary of World War Two. Gen Akehurst laid the Regimental wreath, paid a tribute to the late Princess Alice and read the lesson. Mr David Knight read the Exhortation. Our thanks to the Rev Tebbutt for conducting the service and to the members of the PCC for their sincere welcome and hospitality in the church rooms afterwards. A buffet lunch was arranged in the Sergeants' Mess at Gibraltar Barracks after the service by Mr Bob Pochin who, with his wife, manned the bar and looked after everyone. The lunch was well attended and the comradeship continued well into the afternoon.

5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Reunion

The annual Reunion Lunch was held once again at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel on 8 May, hosted by Maj Richard Hill who referred to what the 5th Battalion were doing 60 years ago. Col Peter Worthy, in his speech, commented on his memories of 60 years ago. Next year's lunch will be on Sunday 7 May 2006.

70th Battalion Northampton (Young Soldiers) Reunion

The 14th Reunion Dinner took place in Kettering on Friday 7 October in the Conservative Club. The guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Kettering, Cllr and Mrs Matt Lynch and Col and Mrs Anthony Swallow. A convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday 8 October the Mayor entertained members and friends to lunch in his Parlour where a handsome sum was raised by the raffle towards the Mayor's charity.

Royal Anglian Gathering

Another excellent Reunion, with even higher numbers of former members of the Northamptonshire Regiment, 2nd East Anglian and 2nd Royal Anglian attending, many of whom do not attend other Regimental Reunions. It was rewarding to see so many old friends. The weather was much better than last year, with brilliant sunshine



Mr David Knight.



Mr Ray Ogle.

and a warm breeze. The day started with the AGM followed by the Drumhead Service, after which the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen John Sutherell presented certificates of appreciation for services to the Regiment to Mr David Knight and Mr Ray Ogle.

The March Past of Comrades of the 2nd Battalion was commanded by Mr David Knight and led by in-pensioner Shack Shailes, resplendent in his scarlet uniform.

The beer and food outlets were as good as last year, with the majority attending bringing their own picnics.

Next year's Gathering is planned for 10 September 2006.

Diary Dates

7 May 2006: 5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Lunch, Barnsdale Lodge.

10 May 2006: Officers' Luncheon, Army and Navy Club, London.

22 July 2006: Annual Reunion, Northampton

Deaths

Adnitt: In York on 21 June 2005, aged 89, Capt Gordon P Adnitt, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.

Moore: In Hampshire on 2 July 2005, Lt Col Harold H Moore. Late 5th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment.

Nott: In Torquay on 1 June 2005, Maj Michael H Nott, late the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Petch: In Kettering on 15 August 2005, Maj Alan WM Petch MBE TD, late the Northamptonshire Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment.

Tear: In Leicester on 25 June 2005, aged 89, Capt Ralph O Tear, late 58th Foot the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Association Branches

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Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

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Peterborough Branch

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Affiliated ACF and CCF

Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force

Some 200 army cadets from all over Bedfordshire thoroughly enjoyed this year's annual camp at Bodney Camp, STANTA in Norfolk.

The youngsters, aged between 13 and 18 took part in a two day military training exercise – setting up 'bashes' outside overnight, cooking and eating army rations, patrolling, guarding and 'tabbing' – tactical movement across country. First aid, navigation and target shooting skills were tested. There was also a drill competition and best kept billet pennant award. But it wasn't all hard work and no play. There was a day trip out to Pleasurewood Hills in Great Yarmouth and discos in the NAAFI for those with energy to spare! Cadets also got an introduction to off-road motorcycling on 100cc Honda trials bikes organised by a former member of the Royal Signals motorcycle display team, the 'White Helmets'.

At our Sunday Service, cadets laid 60 red carnations on the altar for the 60th anniversary of VJ day. A very special guest was present - Mr Wilf Goddard who, as a member of the Suffolk Regiment, was a Far East Prisoner of War for over 3 years.

Staff Sergeant Jon Barkhat, who commands Kempston Detachment, was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate and Lieutenant Andy Hampton received his third clasp to the Cadet Medal, having been associated with the cadet movement for over 20 years.

Distinguished visitors included Padre Majre, the Assistant Chaplain General for the Army, Lt Col Peter Dixon - Regimental Secretary of the Royal Anglian Regiment, Col Julian Lacey - Secretary Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, East Anglia and Major General Grant-Peterkin, who is chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association.

46 year old Bedford man, Staff Sergeant Nigel Bradding became a hero of the hour when he was first on the scene of a horrific motorcycle accident outside the camp gates. He used his military medical training to administer emergency first aid and alert the emergency services. Paramedics and the Norfolk Air Ambulance arrived quickly and took over care of the badly injured 22 year old



Affiliated ACF and CCF

Cadets at the grave of Pte Coleman, the Lincolnshire Regiment.

Brandon man. Beds ACF adult instructors assisted and helped carry the young man to the air ambulance. We were all pleased to hear that he is now well on his way to recovery.

During our period at annual camp our Padre, Captain David Lowe, former padre of the 6th Battalion conducted a service of

remembrance at the grave of 435 Private Coleman O W of the Lincolnshire Regiment. The grave is in the cemetery surrounding St Mary's Church West Tofts. Pte Coleman's date of death is recorded as 24 October 1916. A search has been made of the Commonwealth War Graves website but no trace was found of Pte Coleman.

Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force

Four Cambridgeshire Army Cadets added more medals to their collection when they won the Army Cadet Force Eastern Region First Aid Competition at Waterbeach Cadet Training Centre.

Cambridgeshire Army Cadets battled against eight teams from across East Anglia to win first place in a competition designed to test first aid knowledge by means of both theory and practical testing. The team, consisting of Cdt CSgt Laura Conway, Cdt Cpl Cheskia Tyler, Cdt Cpl Charlotte Greeno and Cdt Cpl Nick Slater, are all based at detachments around the Cambridge area. The intensive competition was run under the watchful eyes of Cambridgeshire St John Ambulance. Sgt Maj G Waterson, county first aid trainer said: 'It was a tremendous achievement which was well deserved. The team trained hard for this event and we are very proud of them. They are looking forward to the National Championship'.

The team goes forward to the national finals in October to be held at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. A team from Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force won the National Championships in 2003 and look forward to a repeat performance in 2005.



Lt Col Jackie Alan presents medals to the winning team.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force

Battlefield Tour

In the spring 10 cadets and two instructors from Buntingford Army Cadet Detachment conducted a battlefield tour in Belgium, this is the second year that the Detachment has visited Ypres and various sites associated with the Ypres Salient of World War One. In particular we were interested in sites associated with the former Hertfordshire Regiment, which is now part of the Royal Anglian Regiment to which we are badged. At Tyne Cot Cemetery, we located the grave of Pte C Spicer, of the Hertfordshire Regiment who was from Walkern. The cadets were able to pay their respects and Cdt Harrop, also from Walkern placed a cross at the grave.

On the Saturday evening the Detachment took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, which is held every night in memory of those who fell during the Great War. Three senior cadets from Buntingford laid wreaths at the Menin Gate during the ceremony, on behalf of the Army Cadet Force, the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal British Legion. Back in Hertfordshire the cadets maintain three war graves at Layston Cemetery in Buntingford for soldiers who fell in World War One as part of their *Cadet in the Community* project.

Anniversary of the End of the Second World War

The main service to commemorate the end of the Second World War was held at St Albans Abbey in July and Hertfordshire ACF provided the largest uniform contingent led by the Commandant, Col Ian Macleod. The Hertfordshire Banner was present with a Cadet Colour Party. The congregation was welcomed by the Dean of St Albans and during the service veterans recounted their memories of the war, at the end of the service those present gathered in the

sunshine outside the Abbey where many of the veterans congratulated the ACF on the smartness of their turnout.

Annual Camp

In August we took over 300 cadets to West Tofts Camp on Stanta training area for our annual camp. The cadets had a very active time putting to use all the skills they had learned in the previous 12 months. They were involved in fieldcraft training, shooting, map and compass, drill and obstacle training culminating in a three-day exercise which was enjoyed by all, particularly the seniors who had a river crossing as part of their final scenario. A visit was also arranged to the nearby tank museum at RAF Honington.

There was plenty of time for adventurous training which included rafting, canoeing, mountain biking, archery and power boating among others.

On the middle Sunday after the Drum Head Service the cadets marched past with the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Sir Simon Bowes Lyon KCVO, taking the salute, accompanied by the Cadet Commandant, Col Ian Macleod, Mr David McMullen, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and Cllr Bryan Hammond, Chairman of the Hertfordshire County Council.

Sport was not forgotten and there were a number of competitions, tug of war, five-a-side football, swimming and volleyball. It was a good year for Royal Anglian badged units with the Hitchin Detachment winning the Inter-Detachment Cup, Cdt CSgt Lauren Booth from the Hoddesdon Detachment winning the Commandant's Cup for the best cadet of the year, Cdt CSgt Dan Park being presented with his Master Cadet badge by the Lord Lieutenant and Cdt CSM Perry from the Hertford Detachment being appointed Cadet RSM for the County.



The cadets from the Buntingford Detachment at the Menin Gate ceremony.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire meets cadets.

Ware Detachment

In September Royal Anglian badged Ware Detachment moved from their cadet hut back into the drill hall at Ware; the move was prompted after years of problems with the old hut which, due to its

remote location, had regularly been subject to vandalism which in turn had led to difficulties with recruitment. Newly commissioned 2Lt Kirsty Lyon is hoping that the new Detachment's location in the centre of the town will bring a boost to recruitment.

Leicester, Northants and Rutland Army Cadet Force

The day has arrived, all the permanent staff and the willing Volunteers assemble in the various locations ready to join the convoys of vehicles needed to take all the equipment up to Thetford ready for the start of another hectic two weeks of annual camp.

We arrive at Thetford about 1300hrs and the business of preparing the camp starts. Lots of accommodation, stores, messes etc to take over and prepare for the arrival of the first party. Thousands of blankets distributed, brushes and dustpans counted, mattresses checked and we are about ready for the first (Northamptonshire companies) to arrive.

Saturday morning all the preparations are in place and the first batch of coaches start arriving, 400 plus cadets to debus place in the correct accommodation, ensure they have all the spare bits left on the coaches. A,D,E Companies all present and correct, nominal rolls completed, and ration rolls handed into RHQ we are about ready to start.

The Commandant's opening address and the various camp tours, stores ordered and everyone settled in just about completes Saturday's routine.

Sunday morning Reveille sounds at 0630hrs (still an ungodly hour) and everyone is up and about getting ready for the day's activities,

which is a day's military training at company level to hone the skills ready for the remainder of the week and to get the cadets back into the military way of performing.

Monday starts the week's programme with A Company deploying to the Orchard to start the two-day exercise. D and E Companies going either to the ranges or their adventurous training phase. And so the week progresses. Everyone is back in camp by Thursday evening ready for the Sergeants' Mess Dinner.

Friday, the final day is taken up with a county competition day where all the companies take part in various stands and the finals of the evenings sporting activities take place. Honours being evenly distributed among the three companies. An Officers' Mess Dinner and a cadets' Disco just about ends week one and Saturday is spent handing over to the Leicestershire Company and the Northamptonshire cadets heading home after a great week.

Week 2 starts with another 400 plus cadets to settle in. Leicestershire cadets starting out on their programme which runs basically the same as the previous week. All in all a very successful camp with a lot of tired cadets happily heading homeward and a lot of tired adults breathing a sigh of relief that another camp has gone well with no major dramas.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force



Skegness detachment on their visit to the Royal Anglian Regiment Day at Duxford on 4 September 2005 with Concorde.

A total of 150 teams took part in the International Services Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley 7-10 July. Teams came from Australia and Canada and competed against Army, Air and Sea cadets from the UK

with Lincolnshire fielding 2 teams. The highest placed cadet from Lincolnshire ACF was Mathew Corrin of the Horncastle Detachment who was placed 11 in the Cadet 100.



A flight in a Chinook to their training area was a highlight of annual camp for senior cadets.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Ben McNally, Matthew Richards, Jade Colliver, James Crute and Peter Barnes, of Louth, Skegness, Brookenby and Mablethorpe Detachments, get stuck into some rifle drill on the square at Longmoor Camp.

The annual camp was held at Longmoor over the period 14-20 August. The camp was for more senior cadets and one of the highlights proved to be the arrival of a Chinook helicopter which flew them into a training area for the start of their two-day fieldcraft exercise. Adventure training, campcraft, drill, patrolling and sport made up a busy programme. Prior to the Officers' Mess Dinner the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire presented Mr Eric Sharpe, the county public relations officer with first and second clasps to the Army Cadet Force Medal.

Members of the Skegness detachment attended the Royal Anglian Day at Duxford on 4 September. The shooting team had a most successful shoot at the 49 (East) Midlands Brigade Skills at Arms Meeting on the weekend 24-25 September. The team of Brett Cartwright, Mathew Corrin (Horncastle detachment) and Danny Williamson and Nicholas Sibbons (Newport Detachment) won the Earl Roberts Rifle Team Competition.



Callum Baker, Peter Hill, Martin Jasinski and Robert McCrea of Sleaford Detachment return from their three star adventure training at Longmoor Camp.

Norfolk Army Cadet Force

This year 122 cadets from Britannia Company, Norfolk ACF went to annual camp at Ripon in North Yorkshire. They took part in a very varied adventure training package, which included caving at Goyden Pot, canoeing on Ripon Racecourse, climbing at Cow and Calf Crags on Ilkley Moor, mountain biking, hillwalking and off-road motorcycleing.

The company won the Camp Competition Cup which included boys and girls, football, volleyball, archery, march and shoot, basketball, swimming, tug-of-war, drill, beating the Norfolk's other

two companies badged Engineers and Artillery.

Sandringham Platoon won the Annual Royal Norfolk Cup Competition which recognises achievements in training.

Earlier in the year LCpl Hannah Appleton from Walsingham Platoon represented the company taking part in Joint Services Cadet Expedition to Kenya 12 July to 7 August.

2Lt Ivan Smith is congratulated on his commission in May this year after being successful on his Cadet Commissioning Board at Westbury.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Suffolk Army Cadet Force

On a glorious June evening, in the beautiful gardens of our former Suffolk ACF Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Tony Pollard, Suffolk ACF hosted the annual garden party to show local dignitaries what Suffolk ACF is about. It was heartening to see present Maj Gen Jack Dye CBE MC DL, a sprightly 85, who handed over as Suffolk ACF Honorary Colonel to Gen Tony in 1992. It was fascinating to hear of his exploits on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

The first aid team won a bronze medal at the Regional competition held at Waterbeach in June and Cdt Matt Dickerson of Stowmarket won a silver medal as the individual reserve.

Coaches SSI Trevor Willoughby, SI Pete Fowler and the Suffolk ACF Girls 2005 tug-of-war squad are to be congratulated on becoming National Champions at Colchester in July. The team were Sarah Revell, Felixstowe RA; Lindsay Harvey, Ipswich Holbrook Guards; Kelsey Coyne, Ipswich QRL; Katie Barnes, Ipswich RTR; Alicia Crewe, Rebecca Ford; Katie Hinton, Kesgrave Para; Laura Day, Ali McLaren, Karen Rose, Stowmarket R Anglian; Linsey Rumbell, Wattisham AAC.

At all the Suffolk celebrations to mark the end of World War Two, Suffolk ACF cadets were prominent in parades and commemoration services.

At annual camp Rolleston on Salisbury Plain, 280 Cadets, of whom 100 were female, and 76 adults, assisted by 1 and 2 R Anglian, 14 Signals Regiment, the East of England Regiment and RAMC, had a wonderful experience – abseiling, adventurous training, assault course, camping, fieldcraft, first aid, helicopters, initiative tests, military training, mortars, mountain biking, orienteering, signals, survival techniques, swimming and target rifle shooting. On several occasions the SACF Parachute Display Team were seen in action at the Joint Services Parachute Training Centre, Netheravon. SSI Christine Forskike, our admin officer in Ipswich SACF HQ, raised over £650 in sponsorship for the East Anglian Children's Hospice from her parachute jump. The pink jump hats of Commandant Col Paul Denny and our Hon Col, Col Paul Long OBE, were much



The Honorary Colonel.



Cdt SSgt Matthew Porter.

admired!

Cdt SSgt Luke Harris of Bury St Edmunds (Royal Artillery), A Company, was the 2005 winner of the unique Suffolk ACF Brooks Stick. Awarded annually to the most outstanding Suffolk cadet, it is named in honour of Col RW Brooks OBE who gave 44 years of service to Suffolk ACF and was Commandant 1935-1947. Cdt SSgt Sarah Revell, Felixstowe (RA) detachment, C Company, was promoted on appointment as the new County Cadet RSM and Cdt SSgt Mathew Porter, Beccles (R Anglian) detachment, A Company, has been appointed as County RSM from 1 April 2006. Cdt SSgt Olli Hare, Haverhill (R Anglian) detachment, was enlisted into the Royal Anglian Regiment in September 2005. B Company training officer Capt Malcolm Cole has been appointed as OC B Company in succession.

Exercise Viking Cadet 2

Members of 160 Army Youth Team ran a weekend for cadets from Ratcliffe College, Oakham School and Loughborough Grammar

School 23-25 September. The weekend proved to be challenging and demanding and included river crossing, ambushes and patrolling.



Affiliated ACF and CCF



Getting wet on Exercise Viking Cadet.

Bancroft's School CCF

Under Officer Daniel Clack writes:

This year saw the highest possible intake of new recruits, which is in itself a testament to the popularity of the CCF. The new recruits worked hard, especially at the St Martin's Plain field weekend, and all passed their 'Shooting and Safety' tests. In November the Remembrance Sunday Parade was a great success and all of the cadets should be proud of their performance.

At the end of the spring term, the biennial review gave the contingent an opportunity to present the wide range of activities undertaken by both the Army and RAF sections. The inspecting officer was very impressed by what he saw; the guard of honour, the range of stands, the obstacle race and the march past, and reflected this in his report.

During the Easter break adventurous training gave many of the older cadets a challenging but highly enjoyable week. Despite occasional bad weather, all cadets pushed themselves and made the week a great success.

Army Camp in July allowed the Army section to put into practice

the skills they had been learning all year. These varied from shooting on the ranges, leadership tasks, climbing or kayaking, battle drills, exercises run by the Cadet Training Team and our own 'Night-Ex'. This week gave the younger cadets many new and exciting experiences, and the older cadets a chance to test their command and leadership skills.

To make the CCF a success takes an enormous effort from all involved, from the young cadets to the NCOs, and especially the officers and staff. This year the contingent had a large group of strong U6 NCOs, which made the running of the contingent much easier than it might have been.

Both the week-to-week running of contingent activities and the events and camps require meticulous planning, and the contingent is lucky to have such committed officers and staff. It is therefore with sadness that we say goodbye to WO2 Spiers, who has been invaluable to the contingent, both in organising and running the stores, and teaching and helping at camps and adventurous training for many years.

Gresham's School CCF

Annual Camp was at Nesscliff this year - our first visit to that part of the world. The Summer Field Day involved a group training as static-line parachutists and a further 80 cadets undertaking Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions in the Peak District; Silver expeditions took place later in the summer in North Wales and the Yorkshire Dales. LCpl Martin was selected for the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Leadership Course at Argonaut, New Brunswick, where he was selected as best British cadet and invited to return in 2006 as Staff Cadet. Other cadets attended Royal Navy leadership courses and camps, while the RAF Section Camp was at RAF Marham. In July, the OC-designate RN Section organised a trans-Scotland kayak expedition. We are very pleased to have appointed a new Shooting Master, Mr Freddie Grounds, whose name will be familiar to members of the Regiment. We are grateful to Capt Colin Scoles for "holding the fort" in the period leading up to Freddie's appointment. The Michaelmas Field Day saw the contingent deployed to the usual variety of activities - a 24-hour patrol exercise, fieldcraft, map reading, signals and REME work, white water kayaking, shooting, expedition work, caving, climbing and RAF visits. We are delighted that 2Lt George Seal-Coon, an Old Boy of the School, has recently been commissioned into the Regiment.



Gresham's CCF Combat Cadet Team.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Oundle School CCF

Maj Cris Symes writes:

Oundle CCF continues to flourish. The CCF Band has been successfully reinstated after many years and with luck the band will be fully operational and looking very smart for Oundle Town's Remembrance Parade in mid-November 2005, followed soon after by a Passing Out Parade of the Army JNCO cadre, due to be inspected by 49 Brigade Commander.

The Army section deployed 51 cadets down to Salisbury Plain Training Area. This was the first time in many years that Oundle had undertaken a 'Green Camp' – that is to say, unsupported by any Division or Brigade level central organisation. Highlights included a major exercise and also live firing of the Light Support Weapon, in which several cadets classified as Marksmen.

The RAF section deployed 15 cadets to RAF Lossiemouth in NE Scotland. Full use was made of nearby training areas and all cadets got to fly. Having to fly with lifejackets was a novelty which cadets had not previously experienced. Other highlights included being trained on the use of RAF fire-fighting equipment.

The Shooting Team performed well at both the Public Schools and Imperial Meetings at Bisley. The team of 11 firers performed well enduring the hottest week of the year. Although no silver was won the team improved on last years performance by coming 11th in the VII (out of 60 plus schools). They came second in the regimental trophy missing out by three points and 4 of the team were individually placed in the cadet top 100. Following the schools' meet 6 members of the team remained to fire in the Imperial Competition. Oliver Smith achieved a place in the second round of the Queen's Trophy and all the other firers achieved respectable placings in their various competitions.

Woodbridge School CCF

The CCF team's sharp shooting earned them first place at the prestigious 49 Brigade Eastern District Cadet target rifle meeting which was held at the Beckingham Ranges in Lincolnshire, defeating Oundle, Oakham and Uppingham in the final rounds.

The team, below, included captain Freddy Weller, Nick Bartholomew, Henry Fisher, Toby Basey-Fisher, Sam Mace, Felicity Sylvester, Trystan Jones and Robbie Wilhelmsson.

Harry Howes and Josh Colby took part in the Cadet Reserve Pairs coming third in their first major competition with Nick Bartholomew coming third in the individual Cadet Dozen Championship Shot.



Book Review

Talavera

by Peter Edwards

TALAVERA

Wellington's Early Peninsula Victories 1808-9

PETER EDWARDS



The Battle of Talavera in July 1809 was one of the battles that made the reputation of Arthur Wellesley – soon-to-be Duke of Wellington – when the British fought the French in Portugal and Spain during the Napoleonic Wars.

Peter Edwards (ex-Northampton and 2nd Battalion) has produced the first detailed modern study of one of Wellesley's great victories. It examines the Battle in the context of earlier British actions at Rolica, Vimiero and Corunna and gives a blow-by-blow account of the action based on many little-known first-hand sources.

These battles saw all our predecessors well involved: the Norfolks (9th and 54th Foot), the Suffolks (12th and 63rd) the Lincolns (10th, 69th and 81st) the Northampton (the 48th), the Essex and Bedfordshires (56th and 16th) and the Leicesters (the 17th Foot).

£19.95 from the Crowood Press, Marlborough, SN8 2HR or £15.96 via their website: www.crowoodpress.co.uk.

Orbat for the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2005

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col EEC Thorne MC
Maj HR Bell (RRF)
Maj CS Calder
Maj SA Franklin (RA Chd)
Capt MA Nicholas
Capt DH James Roll
Capt JN Haskell (RE)
Capt DT Pack (AGC)
Capt LM Thomas (AGC)
WO1 Buff AL
WO2 Newton TR
SSgt Foster S (AGC)
SSgt McIntyre P (AGC)
Cpl Woolliscroft DE (AGC)
Cpl Jackson CD (AGC)
Cpl Nation AM (AGC)
LCpl Chance KK (AGC)
LCpl Jarrett JL (AGC)
LCpl Roberts AW (AGC)

Echelon Company

Company Headquarters
Major SJ Nye MBE
WO2 Freeman MA
CSgt Neal S
Pte Hodge KL (AGC)
Pte Tuttle C

QM Department

Capt SD Robinson
WO2 Robinson I
Sgt Howard D
Sgt Lennon B
Sgt Richardson I
Cpl Brown N
Cpl Codling P
Cpl Hardy B
Cpl Nicholls B
LCpl Baxter NS
LCpl Borgenvik J
LCpl Boyle M
Pte Harris M (AGC)
Pte Holder A (AGC)

Rover Group

SSgt Cosgrove A
Cpl Hogston DJ
Cpl Buff D
LCpl Murton T
LCpl Warner G

RAP

Capt Thavapalsundaram S
Sgt Johnson SM
Cpl Peyton I
Cpl Horne S
Cpl Martin JR (RAMC)
LCpl McLaughlin R
LCpl Rouxel TJ
Pte Bailey D (RAMC)
Pte Evans M
Pte Evans J
Int Cell
Capt TW Gregory
Lt R Graham (RIR)
CSgt Keating G
Cpl Stevens RJ

Cpl Wood R
Pte Skyers NC
Pte Fox TC

CIS Platoon

Capt PC Moxey
CSgt Rackham MR
CSgt Cave GA
Sgt Carter A
Sgt Kulkarni C
Sgt Rumsey SJ
Cpl Bell CJ
Cpl Cole WE
Cpl Fosker S
Cpl Kendall A
Cpl Mitchell D
Cpl Naylor J
Cpl Nicholls MB
Pte Bailey OJ
Pte Hughes M
Pte Mavin CR
Pte Clements LE

MT Department

Capt P Blanchfield
CSgt Wright O
Cpl Cain P
Cpl Feaks J
Cpl McKenna JF
Cpl Moore MJ
Cpl Pierce A
LCpl Chandler DW
Pte Barnett NJ
Pte Duggan S
Pte Davies LW
Pte Lynch JE
Pte Sayce NA
Pte Stevens SD

REME (LAD)

WO2 Taylor WA
SSgt Granfield J
Sgt Dobinson VE
Sgt Garrett SM
Cpl Durdell S
Cpl Horrocks A
Cpl Russell R
LCpl Reed D
LCpl Roylance SJ
LCpl Simpson N
LCpl Southard C
LCpl Strawbridge-Wood MD
LCpl Thomas LD
LCpl Waller CA
Cfn Bird S
Cfn Grigg J
Cfn Hodgins JC
Cfn Parry T
Cfn Thorley A
Cfn Maddams AJ
Cfn Roylance S
Cfn Wallace DW
Cfn Watson MD
Cfn Wright L

RLC (Catering)

WO2 McLeod C
Sgt Hay A
Sgt Williams A

Cpl Bygrave P
Cpl Edwards A
Cpl Gibbs AC
Cpl Henderson P
Cpl Otto N
Cpl Pettit M
Cpl Storey D
LCpl Brown CN
LCpl Jackson NC
LCpl O'Brien MD
LCpl Tudor C
Pte Abernethy K
Pte Bolia N
Pte Mensah F
Pte Quiakira SN
Pte Watts GS

A (Norfolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj JD Hughes
Capt LO Stamm
Lt Karim P (EER)
2Lt PC Goodier (AAC)
WO2 Butler C
WO2 Jay L
WO2 Ramm P
Sgt Patten J
Sgt Stone RA
Cpl Cartwright G
Cpl Cole WE
Cpl Dodd MJ
Cpl Hayward AM
Cpl Marshall L
LCpl Barfield MAP
LCpl Flight MC
LCpl Groves LL
LCpl Walker M
LCpl Jones TW
Pte Dindayl AS
Pte Freebairn CMJ
Pte Jakes MW
Pte Keeble SJ
Pte Mall J
Pte Morrey SD (AGC)

I Platoon

Lt GJR Hudson
Sgt Head ST
Cpl Johnson BH
Cpl Vickery RJ
LCpl Rogalski JM
LCpl Watts G
Pte Browne SR
Pte Burke SJ
Pte Cook NBR
Pte Cooper WP
Pte Cowley TR
Pte Cross DF
Pte Feltham JD
Pte Fish TA
Pte Goddard PA
Pte Jarrad DK
Pte Mason DAK
Pte McCabe HR
Pte Meighan KJ
Pte Oliviero FG
Pte Pearson JK
Pte Pryke AA

Orbats

Pte Prior WM
Pte Redotford SA
Pte Richardson RM
Pte Rudkin MP
Pte Sullivan DJ

2 Platoon

Capt RA Smit
Sgt Ratten J
Sgt Wallis RCJ
Cpl Byrne-Evans DR
LCpl Findley T
LCpl McGee BJ
LCpl Tilley RH
Pte Andrews CB
Pte Bergman JWG
Pte Brace TD
Pte Chatfield SPM
Pte Fisher CL
Pte Glover AR
Pte Green PJ
Pte Griffiths RD
Pte Hesson TH
Pte Highton KJ
Pte Johnson AJ
Pte Nicholls SM
Pte Njite ML
Pte Okotie JT
Pte Stephens MTC
Pte Stephens NW
Pte Tilbury NR
Pte Vasilakis CJ
Pte Wallace DW
Pte Whaites NL

3 Platoon

Lt DAW Jaggard
Sgt Panter S
Sgt Rix NJ
Cpl Moore RW
Cpl Sell PR
LCpl Chadwick DW
LCpl Cornish PMG
Pte Bailey AB
Pte Bowyer MJ
Pte Clark AS
Pte Coleby P
Pte Duffy NJT
Pte Holt TJ
Pte Leonardi MP
Pte Mazieriel SE
Pte Murray DP
Pte Penney S
Pte Ranns RS
Pte Rouse CMJ
Pte Sayers JL
Pte Sivewright C
Pte Symonds LA
Pte Turner BN
Pte Tuva JT
Pte Van Der Merwe WJ

4 Platoon

Capt PR Steel
Sgt Crabbe TAR
Cpl Morris MJ
Cpl Tinkler AP
LCpl Djemal OA
LCpl Ferrand JWC
LCpl Leighton MD
LCpl Mercer S

Pte Aldridge J
Pte Brooks JC
Pte Burgess GA
Pte Byers AW
Pte Chumbley LA
Pte Crookes AJ
Pte Edwards I
Pte Frodsham AR
Pte Hawkins A
Pte Manning R
Pte Morawaski SD
Pte Moy L
Pte Reynolds KL
Pte Smith MC
Pte Taylor RI
Pte White SW
Pte Worster PA

B (Suffolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj MP Aston
Capt TJPB Coleman
WO2 Riley D
CSgt Snow I
Sgt Hatch SP
Sgt Wildney MJ
Sgt Rumsey SD
Cpl Pratt JJ
LCpl Carson A
LCpl Havis HJ
LCpl Mataceva A
LCpl Oakes GD (AGC)
LCpl Reilly L
Pte Coram CEJ
Pte Earl LS
Pte Haldenby J
Pte Hills AD
Pte McCluskey PJ
Pte McIlroy IS
Pte McCgrane AJ
Pte Rayner SJ
Pte Veal SP

5 Platoon

Lt DJ Robinson
Sgt Nieves K
Cpl Holmes CJ
LCpl Rose MAG
LCpl Ryan JO
LCpl Smith DJ
LCpl Tower J
Pte Anderson MD
Pte Blewett BWW
Pte Burnell CM
Pte Carruthers MC
Pte Collins MM
Pte Corless SA
Pte Cox TA
Pte Davis JP
Pte Dunsmure CJ
Pte Fryer SC
Pte George CJ
Pte Greenfield WJ
Pte Hunt KJ
Pte Knowles DAH
Pte Murphy WJ
Pte Rix J
Pte Rueker OS
Pte Sheppard AJ
Pte Sones GM
Pte Webster WJW

Pte Whatley TS

6 Platoon

2 Lt DN Broomfield
Sgt Culshaw JJ
Cpl Blackley MJ
Cpl Thorne S
LCpl Jackson NJ
LCpl Mason TB
LCpl Perkins AS
LCpl Shenton LB
Pte Alford DD
Pte Archer AF
Pte Dennis SWJ
Pte Farnsworth S
Pte Field AG
Pte Garcia RL
Pte Geater LJ
Pte Harrison RF
Pte Howell PJ
Pte Kenny E
Pte Kushinga S
Pte Mann T
Pte Perry JM
Pte Rogers WV
Pte Rolph IJ
Pte Sessions NJ
Pte Smith MJ
Pte Thompson JH
Pte White B
Pte Williamson MN

7 Platoon

Lt OB Orminston
Sgt Woodrow ML
Cpl Waters MD
LCpl Ashby LD
LCpl Cooledge AD
LCpl Meadows LG
LCpl Owens DD
Pte Auckland MP
Pte Barke RW
Pte Barrit DMT
Pte Barker AJ
Pte Brown IJ
Pte Crouchen MAG
Pte Davey GR
Pte Donnachie CJ
Pte Dowd SL
Pte Firmin REJ
Pte Gilbert L
Pte James TD
Pte Jarvis MT
Pte Pearson MA
Pte Perkins KD
Pte Sloan AR
Pte Smith ATH
Pte Tollerson GD
Pte Thrumble JST
Pte Turner BK

Support Platoon

Sgt Love NJ
Sgt Watson RJ
Cpl Willsheer MI
Cpl Smith BI
LCpl Brown GP
LCpl Farrar AD
LCpl Jarvis NC
LCpl Johnson D
Pte Armstrong FS

Orbats

Pte Crowe JJ
 Pte Cuccinello MJ
 Pte Curtis KP
 Pte Grange-Cook D
 Pte Griffiths MS
 Pte Kinsey MJ
 Pte Pudwell AJ
 Pte Robinson DSG
 Pte Shepard TJR
 Pte Sianokevi R
 Pte Silvey R
 Pte Smith AL
 Pte Tennyson K
 Pte Wade B
 Pte White GA
 Pte Young AD

C (Essex) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj JA York
 Capt PMJ Kelly (RRF)
 WO2 Granfield DT
 WO2 Kelly WG
 CSgt Clark S
 Sgt Baxter GRG
 Cpl Butler FM
 Cpl Edwards AJ
 Cpl Gomer WA
 Cpl Kearney PM
 Cpl Rice CM
 Cpl Russell CM
 LCpl Adlington JW
 LCpl Brown CN
 LCpl Cook SC
 LCpl Hammond RA (AGC)
 LCpl Tudor CT
 LCpl Wallace AE
 LCpl West EA (AGC)
 Pte Abernathy KS
 Pte Adamson MJ
 Pte Athorn LD
 Pte Henty SR
 Pte Moulds SJ
 Pte Pemberton CS
 Pte Pickles AD
 Pte Stancombe GR
 Pte Wright RJ
 Cfn Wright L

9 Platoon

Lt WJ Meddings
 Sgt Kitson JC
 Cpl Guy AW
 Cpl Mulley KMJ
 LCpl Garner DA
 LCpl James BL
 LCpl McPhee SM
 LCpl Metcalfe SH
 Pte Casburn AP
 Pte Cooper LB
 Pte Dunster JJ
 Pte Edwards DE
 Pte Emmett BJ
 Pte Ghazalli SJ
 Pte Harman A
 Pte Hill JF
 Pte Himfen MW
 Pte Howard SI
 Pte Hyett ML
 Pte Kerin ARP
 Pte Khan MTS

Pte Kirby AK
 Pte Langridge GRJ
 Pte Lowe GJ
 Pte Rutherford R
 Pte Toublic GK
 Pte Wyatt RS

10 Platoon

Capt PM Martin
 Sgt Ielden MJ
 Cpl Butcher MJ
 Cpl Price AT
 LCpl Ehret KH
 LCpl Soar DR
 LCP Stewardson MRL
 Pte Bonnell JJ
 Pte Brace NB
 Pte Day SJ
 Pte Down CJ
 Pte Drinkwater WG
 Pte Facal KJF
 Pte Frampton T
 Pte Gibbs JM
 Pte Harris L
 Pte Horner MA
 Pte Kent PM
 Pte King JK
 Pte Langton A
 Pte Malembe KV
 Pte Raitlon RJ
 Pte Rensch DJE
 Pte Roberts BR
 Pte Roets LJH
 Pte Smith KS
 Pte Strike IK
 Pte Ware RM

11 Platoon

Lt MOG Taylor
 Sgt Shand CS
 Cpl Armon S
 LCpl Everitt MP
 LCpl Farrugia D
 LCpl Knight J
 LCpl Mayer B
 LCpl Tait MT
 Pte Alden WD
 Pte Bailey DJ
 Pte Cobb SC
 Pte Davitt CA
 Pte Dowsett DJ
 Pte Ford TM
 Pte Henning P
 Pte James SM
 Pte Jones DR
 Pte Juby SJ
 Pte Lake BW
 Pte Long JL
 Pte Prior DA
 Pte Rawson TA
 Pte Rowley JA
 Pte Saumi S
 Pte Sawyer MS
 Pte Spanton BR
 Pte Todd RM
 Pte Turner DT
 Pte Vaughan TDC
 Pte Watson DW

Reece Platoon

Capt ASM Dobbin
 Sgt Hill J

Cpl Ling D
 Cpl Pindar A
 Cpl Roberts J
 LCpl Burrell J
 LCpl Cowell T
 LCpl Eggleton P
 Pte Emmett SP
 Pte Evans D
 Pte Gwarisa T
 Pte Kirkham B
 Pte McKelvie A
 Pte Neil A
 Pte Owusu G
 Pte Pluck K
 Pte Prinns R
 Pte Robinson ML
 Pte Wanjau EH
 Pte Watkins T
 Pte Webster P

Op Telic Rear Party

Maj D Stefanetti
 Capt T Jones
 WO2 Ellis A
 WO2 Goodman D
 WO2 Jewell C
 CSgt Garvie A
 SSgt Mattocks P
 CSgt O Grady T
 CSgt Woods M
 Sgt Coomber L
 Sgt Howard J
 Sgt Portlock J
 Sgt White I
 Cpl Allen C
 Cpl Bloss J
 Cpl Blundell R
 Cpl Bonner D
 Cpl Brown A
 Cpl Carter P
 Cpl Elliot E
 Cpl Franklin A
 Cpl Freeman M
 Cpl Jackson A
 Cpl Phair R
 Cpl Sands D
 Cpl Ward W
 LCpl Bushell J
 LCpl Brown G
 LCpl Eggleton J
 LCpl Ellis M
 LCpl Everitt M
 LCpl Gibbs A
 LCpl Goodchild S
 LCpl Goodship I
 LCpl Jackson S
 LCpl Kelly D
 LCpl MacDonald R
 LCpl Norman R
 LCpl Ramsey P
 LCpl Robinson M
 LCpl Skinner K
 LCpl Tischler W
 Pte Alden W
 Pte Anderson M
 Pte Bonnell J
 Pte Bryant M
 Pte Cambridge A
 Pte Cater D
 Pte Chapman G
 Pte Chatfield S
 Pte Dudley R

Orbats

Pte Faulkner S
Pte Fish T
Pte Firmin R
Pte Fletcher J
Pte Flounders C
Pte Glover A
Pte Gurung I
Pte Hancock G
Pte Holt T
Pte Horner M
Pte Hubbard B
Pte Johnson S
Pte Jones LC
Pte Kerner S

Pte Kinsey M
Pte Long J
Pte McCloud D
Pte Mountain D
Pte Murphy J
Pte Nadriviva L
Pte O'Reilly L
Pte Perkins P
Pte Pryke A
Pte Railton R
Pte Rensch D
Pte Restall S
Pte Shepherd K
Pte Small A

Pte Smith S
Pte Smith D
Pte Stockwell
Pte Strike I
Pte Stringer M
Pte Sullivan D
Pte Tanner-Tremaine J
Pte Tate G
Pte Terrell C
Pte Tennyson K
Pte Todd R
Pte Trussler S
Pte Wallace D
Pte Walter S
Pte Weeks G

Orbat for the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2005

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col DP O Driscoll
Maj JCJ Wright
Capt MA Dingle
Capt GP Foden
WO1 Rainey AJ MC
CSgt Lawrence GCB
Cpl Saunders SJ
Pte Mitchell PA

HQ Company

Maj LM Ives
WO2 Coupe D
CSgt Gray M
Sgt Headland CD
Cpl Jack JA
LCpl Fleming RJ
Pte Jennings L

QM Platoon

Capt FA Ralph MBE
Capt PG Martin
WO2 Bartlett AJ
WO2 Cutts S
Sgt Percival DC
Cpl Elliot KAG
Cpl Franklin SP
Cpl Jack J
Cpl Rickman DJ
LCpl Blanchard DC
LCpl Benstead JM
LCpl Oliver JR
LCpl Parsons A
Pte Connolly SJ
Pte Harrison AL

RAP

Cpl Wright RJ
Pte Jubb PL

Sergeants' Mess

Sgt Sands S
Cpl Westley JJ
Pte Arnold GS

Officers' Mess

Cpl Herron C
Pte Dawson D
Pte Garner DR

Pte Peacock KM

Welfare Office

Capt PS Thompson
CSgt Hand WE
Cpl Whorlton MW
LCpl Rowe D
Pte Wade PJ

Training Wing

Sgt Walker AR
LCpl Fleming R
Pte Peart S

Miscellaneous

Cpl Sheerin P
LCpl Riggs KW

Padre

Maj T Butler

MT Platoon

Capt MJ Abbs
Sgt Foster AR
Cpl Addison SJ
Cpl Cooley J
Cpl Inglis MJ
Cpl Lawrinson CA
Cpl O'Leary S
Cpl Robinson D
Cpl Thomas GMA
LCpl Atkins RA
LCpl Bryl S
LCpl Budd P
Pte Clarke R
Pte Crozier DF
Gdsm Hutchinson CA
Pte Jones D
Pte Mayes MLM
Pte Thompson R
Pte Cooke PTG

Drums Platoon

Sgt Vazquez N
Cpl Towe SW
LCpl Eastwood GJ
LCpl Eglin DC
LCpl Stephens D
LCpl Swain DK

LCpl Whittle MA
Dmr Bellamy J
Dmr Dunstan DJ
Dmr James MD
Dmr Jones RS
Dmr Mason NJ
Dmr McKenzie R
Dmr Neve CJ
Dmr Qalica S
Dmr Read M
Dmr Rosson P
Dmr Sims AJ
Dmr Swales CS
Dmr Tennyson K
Dmr Williams DP
Dmr Qalica SR

Provost Section

Sgt Headland C
Cpl Tambling MA
LCpl Lawson SP
LCpl Stow LAH

RCMO

Capt RJ Bredin
Cpl Gelder CM
Pte Freund AP

Signals Platoon

Capt JD Inch
CSgt Lamb AB
Sgt Singleton SL
Sgt Summer ADW
Cpl Gale JS
Cpl Latter AA
Cpl Lyles G
Cpl Turner CJ
LCpl Dunt A
LCpl Hinds J
Pte Bowen RH
Pte Cooper A
Pte Hooley CM
Pte Jones PD
Pte Morgan SL
Pte Pattinson S
Pte Robinson MC
Pte Rogers AR
Pte Thomas R
Pte Vout RJ

Pte Wara SV

G2

Capt SF Roberts
CSgt Richards GC
Cpl Tate JS
LCpl Howard MC
LCpl Miller ARH
Pte Hughes GO
Pte Lucas SM
Pte Turner JT
Pte Phillips RL

Essex

Cpl Kirk P
Pte Barrow S
Pte Brown CI
Pte Chambers CH
Pte Croft B
Pte Ferguson SP
Pte Inchley KT
Pte Jacques ST
Pte Johnson DM
Pte Kent JW
Pte McCloud DLR
Pte Parker MD
Pte Rogers MP
Pte Rose JM
Pte Smith SD
Pte Upsall MJ
Pte Watling MC
Pte Wilson JF

Close Observation Platoon

Capt RJ McNeil
WO2 Morson RS
CSgt Appleton A
Sgt Clarke M

A (Lincolnshire Company)**Company Headquarters**

Maj SF Nicholson RRF
Capt MR Cook
WO2 J Philips
CSgt Donovan K
Sgt King SD
Cpl McCourty SN
Cpl Young DJ
LCpl Freeman GC
LCpl Lowther NJ
Pte Brooks DT
Pte Hammond A
Cpl Williamson IJ
Pte McQueer M

1 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Lt DW Turner
Cpl Budworth ACW
LCpl Davidson LA
LCpl Moore DA
LCpl Williams GDP
Pte Conlon JP
Pte Heydon CP
Pte King TK
Pte Llewellyn SJ
Pte Ogden SL
Pte Rice GS
Pte Vincent SJ

2 Platoon**Multiple 1**

2Lt JM Lanham
Sgt Graham SD
Sgt Greenhill JP
Cpl Waters T
Cpl Wells GR
LCpl Cripps CJ
LCpl Jackson CT
LCpl Langston KR
LCpl Styles D
Pte Austin JD
Pte Blanchard LAB
Pte Burchett WD
Pte Carey CD
Pte Carter SF
Pte Cox MF
Pte Denison CRG
Pte Frodsham AR
Pte Gutteridge E
Pte Hughes P
Pte Jackson IC

B (Leicestershire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj PS Leslie
Lt OI Faruque
WO2 Waghorn LA
CSgt Dyson RJ
Cpl Macmahon K
Cpl Siney DP
LCpl Haupt GW
LCpl Otty A
LCpl Pett LMJ
LCpl Presley JR
LCpl McPherson NT

4 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Lt DJ Haggard
Sgt Glascodine SG
Cpl Mactavish SJ
LCpl Baxter SD
LCpl Birkin D
LCpl Mitchell MD
LCpl Morgan JMD
LCpl Thompson DJ
Pte Blowers PJ
Pte Brown JD
Pte Gibson MA
Pte Goldie AD
Pte Kenny M
Pte Marshalleck AG
Pte McIntyre JR
Pte Metcalf RM
Pte Morawski AM
Pte Presland SA
Pte Price KJ
Pte Ridgewell MP
Pte Takala AB
Pte Thompson R
Pte Tokai RPV
Pte Tyrrell C
Pte Virdee BS
Pte Wheatley GW

C (Northamptonshire)**Company****Company Headquarters**

Maj MAP Nooney PWRR
Capt JM Teare
WO2 Lewis B
CSgt Farrall DA
Cpl Moorhead S
Cpl Smedley IT
LCpl Quinn JP
Pte Heaton AN
Pte Perkins M
Pte Pett TM
Pte Shaw MJ
Pte Walters MJ
Pte Wharton NJ

7 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Lt AR Macleod
Sgt Taylor S
Cpl Cass NJ
Cpl Cousins R
LCpl Almond PK
LCpl Conroy JD
LCpl Djemal OA
LCpl Gillespie SG
LCpl Hickey AJ
Pte Briggs GC
Pte Bukavesi PTS
Pte Carney TM
Pte Daley AJ
Pte Denton TM
Pte Handyside CJ
Pte Harding AE
Pte Hogg PD
Pte Jordon J
Pte Marshall PM
Pte Moffatt SE
Pte Murphy GC
Pte Parker EG
Pte Rowe CG
Pte Sawbridge A
Pte Slater SL
Pte Thompson DT
Pte Wallis KDP
Pte Webster ADW
Pte Weston DC
Pte Williams CL
Pte Windle SJ

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj NA Johnson
WO2 Heeley WL
CSgt Marshallsay J
Cpl Charlesworth N
Cpl Sumerton CR
LCpl Dunt AM
LCpl Greenwold G
LCpl Knight PD
LCpl Sutcliffe MS
Pte Borrill MJ
Pte Faversham JP
Pte Hewitt D

Orbats

Mortar Platoon

Multiple 1

Capt PD Connolly
 CSgt Chillingsworth J
 Sgt Booth DS
 Sgt Guppy P
 Cpl Batty S
 Cpl Fawcett TR
 Cpl Fox C
 Cpl Waqairoba P
 Cpl Watret DR
 LCpl Green LJ
 LCpl Isaacs DK
 LCpl West OM
 Pte Aldridge J
 Pte Burgess GA
 Pte Byers AWB
 Pte Clarke DE
 Pte Finnerty SJ
 Pte Haynes CL
 Pte Horncastle L
 Pte Huggins RRH
 Pte Hyde RH
 Pte Ireland WA
 Pte Joy GC
 Pte Patel R
 Pte Powell RB
 Pte Shortie AS
 Pte Smit SR
 Pte Stevens MA
 Pte Walker AD
 Pte Walker MS
 Pte Welsh N
 Pte Woad DA
 Pte Yates GL
 Sgt Perry R
 Cpl Baird CA
 Cpl Bradley M
 Cpl Cook SW
 Cpl Ireland M
 Cpl Lawrence MJ
 Cpl Palmas MT
 Cpl Penrose T
 Cpl Seaton-Norton SA
 Cpl Spray DJ
 Cpl Tremain MD
 Cpl Whitley J
 LCpl Abbott SI
 LCpl Ashbridge AR
 LCpl Burgess TP
 LCpl Estwick L
 LCpl Jackson CS
 LCpl Jakabus DW
 LCpl Keightley DJ
 LCpl Martin DJ
 LCpl Newitt CM
 LCpl O Grady L
 LCpl Pegg ST
 LCpl Randall M
 LCpl Silva UM
 LCpl Straw R
 LCpl Wilkinson MA
 LCpl Bates AJ
 Pte Brown K
 Pte Bvron PB
 Pte Fields KA
 Pte Frazier RM
 Pte McNamee SJ
 Pte Murphy M
 Pte Perry D
 Pte Rowe MN

Pte Shand TJ
 Pte Smith CL
 Pte Taylor AD
 Pte Underwood P
 Pte Zmija DMI

RAO

Capt M Ryan
 2Lt TAG Tilbury
 WO2 Marritt DG
 SSgt Burrus A
 SSgt Peters A
 Sgt Clowes MW
 Sgt Southern JL
 Sgt Tracey AT
 Cpl Knowles JK
 Cpl Charlesworth N
 Cpl McMahon K
 Cpl Moorhead S
 Pte Jewit LD
 Pte King 39 D
 Pte Manning RM
 Pte Mitchell CP
 Pte Pope NM
 Pte Sandon MA
 Pte Sharmen
 Pte Ward AE
 Pte Ward TR
 Pte Wareham D
 Pte Wu MH

3 Platoon

Multiple 1

2Lt BT Hawes
 Sgt Mattingly PA
 Cpl Gage AMJ
 Cpl Rawdon JL
 LCpl Bates MJ
 LCpl Hartshorne O
 Pte Bagwell S
 Pte Bluer MS
 Pte Couldstone SM
 Pte Docherty RJ
 Pte Garrett RJ
 Pte Gilbert R
 Pte Harvey MR
 Pte Holland LM
 Pte Iliffe DT
 Pte Ireland AJ
 Pte Ireland JA
 Pte Johnson LD
 Pte Kean JG
 Pte Key JR
 Pte Leavesley C
 Pte Longdon CH
 Pte Richardson MJ
 Pte Thompson PR

5 Platoon

Multiple 1

2Lt AJ Griffiths
 Sgt Deakin SA
 Cpl Lang CL
 Cpl Smart ST
 LCpl Burdass JC
 LCpl Harness JA
 LCpl McGowan LM
 LCpl Moore KR
 LCpl Thompson MJ
 Pte Abbs SP
 Pte Blyth R

Pte Butcher JE
 Pte Cakau JMC
 Pte Chapman JA
 Pte Davis TE
 Pte Grant-Jones JO
 Pte Green ARP
 Pte Harlow JB
 Pte Henderson SRJ
 Pte Kirk SA
 Pte Morawski SD
 Pte Parker CP
 Pte Parsons AM
 Pte Quinn CST
 Pte Saunders CJ
 Pte Shaw GD
 Pte Smith DMT
 Pte Woods SS

6 Platoon

Multiple 1

Lt AN Wolstenholme
 Sgt Groom P
 Cpl Steel TJ
 LCpl Coulbeck I
 LCpl Hassall RM
 LCpl Hume JR
 Pte Brightmore DJ
 Pte Brown MNT
 Pte Crookes AJ
 Pte Gore S
 Pte Grantham S
 Pte Inkson CJ
 Pte Johnson R
 Pte Koryczan MJ
 Pte Lewis TR
 Pte Oliver BJ
 Pte Parker AC
 Pte Pratt NK
 Pte Salter RW
 Pte Walton DJW
 Pte Warmesley MGW

8 Platoon

Multiple 1

2Lt GE Osbourne
 Sgt Morgan D
 Cpl Crabbe T
 Cpl Frisby SJ
 Cpl James K
 LCpl Alderman RN
 LCpl Baron JP
 LCpl Beard K
 LCpl Collingwood CN
 LCpl Law L
 LCpl Rawdon EE
 Pte Baldry SO
 Pte Coskun KH
 Pte Fairbrother J
 Pte Griffin BJ
 Pte Henderson ID
 Pte Jones MJ
 Pte Johnston M
 Pte King AVK
 Pte Keable LD
 Pte Lewaicec PM
 Pte Martin CJ
 Pte McDermott SJ
 Pte McCrae WP
 Pte Morris AP
 Pte Reeve DS
 Pte Sasardesain AJ

Orbats

Pte Walters LJ
Pte Worster PA

9 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Lt RM Lewis
Cpl Vandyback TD
Cpl Wakefield BR
LCpl Shiels AR
LCpl Knight SA
Pte Barrow R
Pte Irvine WJI
Pte Milton RL
Pte Park R
Pte Patrick NJ
Pte Ralph SA
Pte Smith SMS
Pte Watson IW

Milan**Multiple 1**

Capt AJF Houchin
CSgt Townsend C
Sgt Carter RM
Sgt Smith JR
Sgt Symon T
Cpl Blower CP

Cpl Crafer RD
Cpl Handforth JC
Cpl Thurman MO
LCpl Elkington AA
LCpl Holvey DL
LCpl Peacock JC
Pte Adamson SM
Pte Bellamy AB
Pte Breakspear EBR
Pte Camilleri MW
Pte Cusick RS
Pte Dreczewicz MJ
Pte Fitzgerald JR
Pte Harrison J
Pte Koroibulileka S
Pte McGrath RA
Pte Norton N
Pte Oram PA
Pte Smiter DA
Pte Summers AN
Pte Thompson SA
Pte Uzela M
Pte Wandless PG
Pte Walker L
Pte Weetman AS
Cpl Williamson IJ
LCpl Dinnal OO

LCpl McPherson NT
LCpl McQueen M
LCpl Shaw C
Pte Greenwold G
Pte Hamlet N
Pte Plant AD
Pte Somuah A

Medical Centre

Capt G Sanders
Capt CAJ Phillips
Sgt Pulfrey SR
Cpl Clarke DA
LCpl Murdoch A
LCpl Walsh JP
LCpl Woodward CR
Pte Jubb PL
Pte McKenzie RA
Pte Stainton G

Dental Centre

Capt KM Whyte
Cpl Wood L
LCpl Storey C

APTC

SSgt Lamb DT

Orbat The East of England Regiment As at October 2005

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE
Maj M Googe
Maj DG Vincent MBE
Maj PC Whitehead CF RACHD
Capt TJ Irwin-Parker
Capt MW Wray
WO1 Breen NH
Sgt Ball NT

Regimental Administrative Office

Capt DJ Pope
Maj CP Vince
WO2 Coleman R MBE
Sgt Smith PJ

HQ (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Company

Maj GW French
OCdt Mawby AE
WO2 Brown SM
WO2 Russell MJ
WO2 Starie MFG
Cpl Fox C
LCpl Perkins KE

RRTT

WO2 Rushmere MBE GI
Sgt Dunn MJ
LCpl Seely MF

Medical Section

Sgt Cooke MD
Cpl Blackburn MA
LCpl Clarke DJ
Pte Hurrell CL

Signals Platoon

2Lt IG Greenwood
CSgt Welsford RD
Sgt Bygrave DP
Cpl Lanaway GD
LCpl Burgess GM
LCpl Catchpole CD
Pte Baker RL
Pte Doolan PJ
Pte Drummond J
Pte Gillespie S
Pte Heffer LA
Pte McLaren NB
Pte Ordish AE
Pte Pusey AE
Pte Scott RS

Quartermaster Department

Maj RP Grenfell
WO2 Woolcott ST
Cpl Plume SC

LAD

SSgt Alexander S
SSgt Carter RWE BEM
SSgt Smith AG
LCpl McLoughlin J
Cfn Power NA
Pte Clark SL

Catering Platoon

WO2 Stoker E
Cpl Rogers AK
Pte Wainwright ST

Motor Transport Platoon

WO2 Bailham JE

CSgt Cummings D

Sgt Street MA
Cpl Hunt WJ
Cpl Morris MP
LCpl Strong GJ
LCpl Fallon JV
Pte Allsop AC
Pte Scales SL

Recruits

Pte Hewart J
Pte Hyland BIT
Pte Knight IE
Pte Lees JA

Royal Anglian Band

WO1 Hudson PCH
WO2 Temple JD
SSgt Ainley MJ
SSgt Fraser JM
SSgt Gardner M
Sgt Fraser RM
Sgt Hall PA
Sgt Taylor P
Sgt Thompson DG
Cpl Auffret MR
Cpl Carey NJ
Cpl Evans AM
LCpl Ainley C
LCpl Allen HS
LCpl Andrews JL
LCpl Auffret EC
LCpl Blackman JA
LCpl Lock JR
LCpl Sharp GC
LCpl Thompson RG
Bdsm Barrett NJ

Orbats

Bdsm Elvin LBC
 Bdsm Elvin MJ
 Bdsm Fairhall PG
 Bdsm Glover GD
 Bdsm Hobson JC
 Bdsm Hobson SF
 Bdsm Marsland L
 Bdsm McKeown C
 Bdsm Mills MBE GA
 Bdsm Proudfoot TD

Drums platoon

Sgt Clark BJE
 Sgt Nightingale P
 LCpl Cheetham MS
 LCpl Howe AJ
 Pte Bottomley PD
 Pte Britchford DAJ
 Pte Eames MH
 Pte Field EP
 Pte Jones PR
 Pte Nixon DM
 Pte Reed DJ
 Pte Richardson AJ
 Pte Wells JH

A (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj RG Rogers
 Lt AM Baker
 Capt T Steele
 OCdt Poulton G
 WO2 Rushmere GJ
 WO2 Self JE
 CSgt Roe IP
 CSgt Keeble GJ
 Sgt Evans AM
 WCpl Stone MN
 Cpl Feaks JE
 Pte Summers SW
 Mrs Meyrick K
 Mr Green MBE MCD

Medical Section

WCpl Andrews A
 Cpl Galea DP

Catering Section

Cpl Baldwin CM
 Pte Sullivan AM

Company Administrative Office

WLCpl Harnett CA
 WPte Wells CL

Company LAD

LCpl Bunn SE

1 Platoon

Lt Walters M
 Sgt Sherlock M
 Cpl Jones S
 Cpl Hall MC
 Cpl Rolph DG
 LCpl Fallon ME
 LCpl Sanders DH
 Pte Allen SPA
 Pte Biss MJ
 Pte Christian JN

Pte Coman IM
 Pte English V
 Pte Fahey AHVF
 Pte Fielding LP
 Pte Haworth PS
 Pte Hill CH
 Pte Knott SE
 Pte James DA
 Pte Mason OD
 Pte Mawer JG
 Pte Patrick SN
 Pte Rees SF
 Pte Sharpe MP
 Pte Tacon JN
 Pte Ulph A
 Pte Waddup JJ
 Pte Walden MG
 Pte Webb NE
 Pte Wilson RJ

2 Platoon

2Lt NG Heppleston
 Sgt Brown JL
 Cpl Casey VM
 Cpl Baker DS
 LCpl Colledge MEE
 Pte Bell JI Pte Brown GP
 Pte Carter J
 Pte Crossman A
 Pte Howard AR
 Pte Lehman MJ
 Pte Pickess JK
 Pte Read DJ
 Pte Reeve JR
 Pte Smart J
 Pte Stokes LSC
 Pte Sutor IM
 Pte Sutor AD
 Pte Wong NS
 Pte Woodhouse J

Mortar Platoon

Lt M Sumners
 CSgt Fuller PJ
 Sgt DeKretzer MW
 Sgt Hatch SP
 Cpl Adams EA
 Cpl Pollard KL
 Cpl Walter ND
 LCpl Beavis CW
 LCpl Chambers KJ
 Pte Canning DA
 Pte Steward AP
 Pte Sayer EJ
 Pte Walker SE

RRTT

Capt RWL Robinson
 WO2 Butler C
 Sgt Stone RA
 LCpl Nash DM
 Pte McMurtry JE
 Pte Gough PD
 Pte Nash DM

B (Lincolnshire) Company Company Headquarters

Maj IM Sackree
 Lt A Garner MBE
 Capt B Saunderson
 WO2 Redhead S
 WO2 Limb J
 CSgt Osman MW
 CSgt Thompson B
 Cpl Finlay FA

RRTT

Sgt Craven R
 Cpl Day MT
 Pte Wilson R

Signals Detachment

Sgt Beard RT
 LCpl Goldsmith A

Clerical Detachment

Sgt Smith PJ
 Cpl Cook MR
 LCpl Browning EJ
 Pte Thomas YJ
 Mrs Vincent D

MT Detachment

LCpl Henderson KP
 LCpl Long CPA

Catering Detachment

SSgt Lock RAH
 Cpl Metcalfe DE MBE
 Cpl Willey N
 Pte Hilton ADJ
 Pte Clarke K
 Pte Wadkin K

Medical Detachment

Sgt Cooke MD
 Pte Bailey DJ

REME Detachment

Cpl Chester AP
 LCpl Spence PMJ
 Mr Clarke R

4 Platoon

Lt G Thompson
 CSgt Taylor JLG
 Sgt McCurdy AJ
 Cpl Davidson KM
 Cpl Hardy MG
 Cpl Sheils W
 LCpl Grant SP
 Pte Britteon P
 Pte Carson PM
 Pte Carter BW
 Pte Curry MA
 Pte Fyfe SPR
 Pte Gould JJ
 Pte Gould N
 Pte Hopkins RD
 Pte Marks SM
 Pte Martin AH
 Pte Matthews LLR
 Pte Ramsden MP
 Pte Rusling SP
 Pte Spencer T
 Pte Swanson KP

Orbats

Pte Sweet A
Pte Wilson JP

5 Platoon

OCdt White S
LCpl Blakeman GP
LCpl Donnor DP
LCpl Prescott MT
Pte Coleman DJ
Pte Cook BT
Pte Cowie AB
Pte Davidge JPC
Pte Deegan W
Pte Dennis LD
Pte Duncan C
Pte Freeman R
Pte Fuller AR
Pte Garner MR
Pte Hilton ADJ
Pte Jago LS
Pte James J
Pte Marley NA
Pte Marshall LH
Pte Raymond PW
Pte Robinson BG
Pte Robinson JE
Pte Rogers J
Pte Slater CL
Pte Smith KJ

Recce Platoon

OCdt Holman M
Sgt Oldenburg F
Cpl Dolby MR
Cpl Kelly A
LCpl Bisset AD
LCpl Sibbons WR
Pte Beyst M
Pte Bramman S
Pte Cranfield NA
Pte Dorr RD
Pte Foley M
Pte Heeney A
Pte Ion J
Pte Kane S
Pte Spinks A
Pte Sterling CM
Pte Tyler MD
Pte Vamplew JA
Pte Wilson TN
Pte Wayne J

C (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj DJ Sommerville
Capt TD Smith MBE
Lt MJ Bevan
WO2 Kyffin D
WO2 Kelly WGR
WO2 Webber IW
CSgt Upsall JF
Sgt Gadsden PN
Sgt Tayler G
Sgt Nagra AS
Cpl Bailey JR
Cpl Woods GA
Cpl Neighbour DJ
Cpl Holmes MA
LCpl Mackness BD

Pte Clay MT
WPte Matley H
Pte Wooldridge D
Mr Cockram G

Assault Pioneers

CSgt Nagra BS MBE
WO2 Marriott D
Cpl Hague P
LCpl Lucas DP
Pte Carter LT
Pte Cragg T
Pte Hurst DO
Pte Jenkins GJ
Pte Mattley H
Pte Poultney EG
Pte Redman M
Pte Peters GD

7 Platoon

Lt AG Swift
OCdt Hume KP
OCdt Mason SM
Sgt George NA
Cpl Payne L
LCpl Gillan PA
LCpl Macaulay IR
LCpl Parker MDE
LCpl Tew MN
Pte Blythe RE
Pte Broad HJ
Pte Carr D
Pte Frain AD
Pte Fletcher RW
Pte Kassam S
Pte Mattin DAC
Pte Newitt LW
Pte O'Dell CL
Pte Parker DA
Pte Steel L
Pte Urwin J
Pte Wooldridge D
Pte Wooldridge T

8 Platoon

OCdt Gamble AW
Sgt Hunter AJ
Cpl Hambridge BL
Cpl Wragg A
LCpl Roach SD
Pte Clarke MJ
Pte Doudie NT
Pte Hayward WM
Pte Harris TL
Pte Haithcock L
Pte Hentrich PS
Pte Jeary RP
Pte Jacobson DJ
Pte Kerslake ME
Pte Lambell JS
Pte Mathews RA
Pte May TOR
Pte Moore AA
Pte Owens JS
Pte O'Dell CM
Pte Price PJ
Pte Parkar RS
Pte Rae ST
Pte Rose SP
Pte Spriggs MA
Pte Thacker SP

Pte West ET
Pte West R
Pte Wood J

D (Nottingham and Derbyshire (WFR)) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj AC Smith
Capt DJ Elsam MBE
Lt CM Massingham
WO2 Cresswell IA
WO2 Pickering JR
CSgt Waiton DR
CSgt Simcox ML
Sgt Hoey AM
Mr Winfield AP

Signals Detachment

Cpl Black AC
Pte Musson MA

Admin Detachment

Cpl Massingham SE
Pte Hume M
Pte Wood T

RAP

Cpl Simcox ESM
Pte Toporowski J

MT Detachment

Cpl Shaw MA
Pte Stokes C

R.I.C Detachment

Cpl Develin ND
Pte Boycott DJ

RRTI

WO2 Hancock M
Sgt Puttick CD
Cpl Ellis AM

10 Platoon

2Lt PD Karim
Sgt Leighton CM
LCpl Charles A
LCpl Hicks M
LCpl Howl P
LCpl Peach JA
Pte Best DN
Pte Braddock JW
Pte Bramwell AP
Pte Briggs A
Pte Buckland CS
Pte Carlin RM
Pte Clarke CA
Pte Fleming S
Pte Flint CS
Pte Gent AS
Pte Gent K
Pte Goodband LD
Pte Godber JD
Pte Haddock ATJ
Pte Johnson KM
Pte Kenny A
Pte King RS
Pte Lacey-Hatton N

Orbats

Pte McCorkell IJ
 Pte Middleton JL
 Pte Morrow LS
 Pte Radford MS
 Pte Roe AAK
 Pte Rodgers CP
 Pte Rowley AC
 Pte Tonner PF
 Pte Walker DS
 Pte Walsh PA
 Pte Williams CMW
 Pte Wilson M
 Pte White AR
 Pte Woodward G

11 Platoon

2Lt TA Wopat
 2Lt CR Bowman
 Sgt Saville SD
 Cpl Stuart M
 LCpl Hill J
 LCpl Lowe MJ
 LCpl Spencer RA
 Pte Armstrong SJ
 Pte Blewitt IJ
 Pte Clarke PD
 Pte Coy-Stevenson JH
 Pte Dunne SJ
 Pte Hackland MR
 Pte Hewitt IJ
 Pte Jackson RJ
 Pte Jones KR
 Pte Milner LL
 Pte Prince J
 Pte Upton WJ

SF Platoon

ACapt AG Dickson
 WO2 Gorski JM
 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 Sutcliffe N

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 Capt PD Thurston
 Capt AJ Coulson
 WO2 Brazier MD
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 Pte Hatt J
 Mrs Argrave L

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 CSgt Head CJ
 Cpl Crawley PE
 LCpl Bartlett VJ
 Pte Hacker S
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 Mr Barlow J

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 Pte Robins JB
 Pte Plair SR
 Pte Luckins RW

MT Detachment

Sgt Chapman P
 Cpl Cain PF
 Cpl Lelliott SW
 Pte Weightman SB

Medical Detachment

LCpl Ellerbeck MF
 Pte Wynn TL

13 Platoon

Lt D Stanhope
 Sgt Pugh I
 Cpl Jeffree JP
 LCpl Cox CJ
 LCpl Collinson S
 LCpl Davies J
 LCpl Butler S
 Pte Barton JW
 Pte Bedwell JM
 Pte Bidwell TJ
 Pte Chamick SJ
 Pte Chilton SA
 Pte Dray AF
 Pte Fahey SJ
 Pte Fordham LD
 Pte Frisbee MP

Pte Greenan A
 Pte Harrison JM
 Pte King JD
 Pte Lovejoy II
 Pte Partridge PS
 Pte Pickess JM
 Pte Proops CJ
 Pte Westgarth S

14 Platoon

Lt AJ Homer
 Sgt Duffy JG
 Cpl McLatchey DP
 LCpl Brown C
 LCpl Kelson RW
 LCpl Lawrence L
 LCpl Stratton RJ
 LCpl Templeton MB
 Pte Avey SF
 Pte Brett SL
 Pte Browne EBJ
 Pte Bees JD
 Pte Chalk JWA
 Pte Chambers JA
 Pte Chapman MP
 Pte Clark-Tunnicliffe MCT
 Pte Clark L
 Pte Gosden A
 Pte Hatt CA
 Pte Knight-Kirby PM
 Pte Kovacs IR
 Pte Taylor AG
 Pte Trew MP
 Pte Vickers CRJ
 Pte Walker A
 Pte Wenham DT

MG Platoon

CSgt Cavedasca P
 Sgt Low B
 Sgt Neal T
 Cpl Marns JF
 LCpl Breese RF
 LCpl Cockerell MJ
 LCpl Gayler LD
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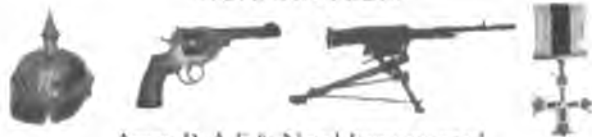
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