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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT



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The road to self discovery requires a map... and astrology is that map.

The path to wholeness can take a lifetime. Since ancient times, people have looked at the arrangement of the planets in the sky and noted corresponding patterns with events here on earth. By charting these patterns over thousands of years, the study called Astrology developed. But what can an ancient science offer to our modern life?

Self Awareness

If you wanted to build a house, you would need some raw materials - such as bricks and mortar, tools and some expertise. So, typically, you'd look around to see what you already have and obtain what you don't.

Understanding yourself through astrology is a bit like knowing what tools and raw materials you have in the tool shed that is your Self. Each person has a unique combination of planetary energies determined by the positions of the planets in the solar system (including the Sun and Moon) at their moment of birth. This is what astrologers call your Birth Chart. Since the planets are in constant movement through the sky, the specific pattern of your birth chart won't be repeated for thousands of years. So your birth chart belongs only to you. When an astrologer looks at your chart, he or she is analysing and interpreting the meaning of this unique pattern.

When your birth chart is professionally interpreted, you gain insight into the set of talents, strengths, weaknesses and drives with which you were born. A professional astrologer looks not only at who you are, but at your approach to life, your inner emotional needs, how you communicate, your relationship style, career path, and much more.

A good understanding and acceptance of these facets of your Self, will enable you to work consciously in your life and within your relationships and to take responsibility for your actions. You become aware of what you've got and how best to use it. You also gain an awareness of your relationship needs and by fully accepting these, you will be better able to relate to others.

The Events of Our Lives

Our journey through life is a series of ups and downs, phases of great joy, difficult disappointments, lessons to be learned, and advantages to be taken. In astrology, these phases (called Transits) are due to the current planetary movements interacting with your birth chart placements, and can last anywhere from a few days to a year or more.

A transit brings various life issues to the surface, which means each transit presents us with opportunity. If, for example, relationships are causing you difficulty, there might be a transit activating that part of your life. Whilst the transit causes stress and this isn't always pleasant, it is really an opportunity to examine relationship issues, bring them to consciousness and consequently to grow and develop.

There are many different types of transits, some difficult, some easy, affecting all the different areas of our lives at different times. Understanding the particular lessons to be learned during a transit, enables you to consciously use the

energy constructively.

Compatibility

Professional astrologers use a technique called Synastry to look at the interaction between two people's birth charts. This can determine how you and your partner interact on an emotional, physical and intellectual level. Every relationship has easy areas and difficult ones. Part of Synastry is highlight these issues without judgement. Understanding your own relationship, enables both you and your partner to use the challenges to keep the relationship interesting and to rely on the strengths to hold you together. Interestingly, people who themselves have stressful birth charts tend to need easier relationships, and vice versa. It is as if we all need some challenge in life to keep us going, and if we don't have it in our own life, we seek it outside.

Am I in the Right Place?

Finally your physical location in the world can determine if there are particular issues which will predominate your experiences there. The astrological technique which identifies these areas is called Astro*Carto*Graphy (A*C*G). The configuration of planets in your birth chart reflects the planetary formation around the earth at the time. Each planet has four "activation zones" around the globe and an A*C*G Map is literally a world map displaying these different planetary zones. Like your birth chart, it is unique.

When you travel around the world, moving through these zones, you are, in effect, activating different parts of your birth chart and arousing the corresponding planetary energies.

In your Sun zones, you will find that your individuality "shines" with the Sun's energy. Under a Moon zone, you will experience the soothing mothering Lunar influences and many people find that they fall in love under their Venus lines. Elsewhere you'll find that Jupiter brings you abundance and Saturn will enable you to get your act together or sort out your fears and inhibitions.

You don't have to travel to these zones to feel their effects. Just dealing with people from these zones will also activate these energies. The effects of an A*C*G line can be profound. Many people have benefited from visiting an A*C*G line whether it is for jump-starting their career, a healing process, finding the love of their life or just to find a good place to rest and rejuvenate.

Summary

For hundreds of years, by using the different facets of astrology, people have gained an insight into their purpose in life and their place in the grand cosmic design. By using this insight to better understand yourself and those you love, you can consciously achieve better outcomes and be more fulfilled in your activities. Astrology provides you with a means of looking clearly without judgement, accepting, loving and embracing yourself and others for who you are they are - warts and all.

Karen Chiarello, Equinox Astrology,
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December 2006
Vol 14 No 2



Editor: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE

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Front cover

The Colonel-in-Chief meets members of the Regimental Police 1st Battalion.

Back cover

Cpl Young, A Company 2nd Battalion, on patrol in Basra City.

Regiment Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk



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From the Colonel of the Regiment



I write this foreword in the week our 2nd Battalion, including 18 members of our 3rd Battalion, returned from what has been one of the most demanding operational tours undertaken by any Royal Anglian Battalion since our formation in 1964. Seven months of hard, grinding effort through the heat and dust of the Iraqi summer, working to build the capability of the Iraqi security forces and enable the development of the civil infrastructure in Basra, while at the same time battling numerous and aggressive armed gangs well equipped with modern small arms, heavy weapons and lethally sophisticated improvised explosive devices.

It has taken great professionalism and courage in the face of considerable danger, but also humanity and restraint in the teeth of provocation. As pointed out to me by Commander 20 Brigade, it is the combination of these qualities that has made the Battalion so effective in this most complex and demanding environment.

On 17 November at Tern Hill members of the Battalion were presented with their campaign medals, witnessed by veterans who had served variously in Normandy, Korea, Malaya, Suez, Cyprus, Borneo, Aden, Dhofar, Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and by the families who have carried the brunt of separation and worry. These medals have been earned the hard way. All present mourned the loss of Ptes Lewi Lewaichi and Adam Morris, and were acutely conscious of the suffering endured by those wounded and mutilated during the tour. The Poachers have done the Regiment proud, and we all wish them a well deserved period of recuperation before addressing the challenge of moving to Germany in mid 2007.

In the same week our Colonel-in-Chief, whose first Regimental visit was to the 2nd Battalion in Basra in September, visited the 1st Battalion at the Lydd Training Area where preparations to take up the operational baton are well underway. This pre-operational training for Afghanistan is being developed on a firm base of operational experience in Kabul in 2002, Iraq in 2005 and success on Tesex, and is being conducted very thoroughly with a sharp professional focus.

Thanks to a vigorous and continuing Regimental recruiting effort, and the careful nurturing of our people within units, the 1st Battalion, like the 2nd Battalion, is fully up to strength in Infantry, and they will be given additional depth for operations by a wide range of attachments. These include 15 members from our 3rd Battalion, which has already sent 106 of their people on operations in 2006 - 20 per cent of the Battalion strength - and has also mobilised a formed platoon for operations in Kabul in 2007. None of us should have any illusions about the severity of the challenge that faces the Vikings. They take over as the lead Battle Group in Helmand Province from the Royal Marine Commandos as the snows melt and

the traditional Afghan campaigning season begins. It behoves all of us in the Regiment, serving and retired, to give them the strongest possible support in any way we can.

Crucial to that support will be the 3rd Battalion, the County Associations and the Regimental infrastructure. It has been greatly encouraging to see the way the five components of the Regiment are working yet more closely together. The 3rd Battalion and Associations supported the 2nd Battalion well throughout their Iraq tour, but particularly when casualties were sustained. Territorial Companies and ACF Cadets are marching with veterans at County Regiment Memorial Weekends.

The 3rd Battalion is sponsoring two annual Regimental events, this year in Northampton and Bury St Edmunds, to help raise the Regimental profile. They are also running an annual training weekend for ACF senior cadets from our county contingents, this year with support from 1st Battalion. Battlefield tours and pilgrimages have been conducted to Normandy, Cassino, and the Somme, involving not only members of the County Associations, but also officers and soldiers from Regular and Territorial county companies and cadets from the County ACFs. On 14 October there was a memorable commemoration at Ely of the 90th anniversary of the capture of the Swaben Redoubt at the core of the Somme battlefield by 1/1st Cambridgeshire Regiment. This was led by the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, but supported by RHQ, and attended by our Colonel-in-Chief, who is also President of the Somme Association, members of D (Cambridgeshire) Company of 1st Battalion, HQ (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Company of 3rd Battalion, a strong contingent of Cambridgeshire ACF and relatives of those awarded medals for gallantry on 14 October 1916.

These are but some examples of a coherent and co-operative approach that will be indispensable if we are to sustain the strength and spirit of our Regiment in the years ahead. It is not by chance that the Regiment is well manned, operationally effective, with high morale and well founded in our 10 counties. It is the direct result of thoughtful, even handed leadership and sustained commitment and hard work by so many in the Regiment over several decades and the fact that we really value our people. We have much to be proud of, but must never be complacent. We will only continue to succeed if we adapt and constantly strive for excellence.

I hand over as Colonel to Lt Gen John McColl at the end of March next year and, after nearly 39 years service, join those for whom I have so much respect among the ranks of the Old Comrades. Amanda and I are immensely grateful to you all for your support and friendship, and wish all members of the Regiment, serving and retired, the very best for the future.



The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Colonel of the Regiment

Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CB CBE DL

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

3rd Battalion: 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

Pakistan

5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment

South Africa

First City Regiment

Regiment de la Rev

The Regiment is affiliated to 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC(V)
and to the Worshipful Company of Poulters

1st Battalion has a Bond of Friendship with *HMS Norfolk*

Civic Honours

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 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: Capt AN Wolstenholme

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 Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

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

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

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

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.freereserve.co.uk
 Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion

Elizabeth Barracks,
 Pirbright,
 Surrey GU24 0DT

Lt Col SW Carver
 (Des Lt Col JH Woodham MC - June 2008)

2nd Battalion

Clive Barracks, Tern Hill,
 Market Drayton,
 Shropshire TF9 3QE

Lt Col SJR Browne MBE

3rd Battalion

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

Lt Col M Googe TD

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Capt AJ Griffiths
 Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Maj SJ Nye MBE
 RMA Sandhurst: Capt DH James-Roll
 Army Foundation College Harrogate: Vacant
 Cambridge University OTC: Capt T Irwin-Parker
 East Midlands University OTC: Lt Col FMG de Planta

Personalia

Commissioning

The following were commissioned on 11 August 2006

2Lt NGV Denning
2Lt BJ Howes

The following were commissioned on 15 December 2006

2Lt MO Driver
2Lt GEJ Wyndham

Promotion

The following has been selected for promotion in 2007

Maj SD Etherington

Postings

Capt RJ McNeil	from 2nd Battalion to SRR	January 2006
Maj CD Davies	from JSC and Staff College to HQ ATRA	June 2006
Capt DJ Glover	from CRF to 1st Battalion	June 2006
Maj AG Grinonneau	from JSC and Staff College to DMOC	June 2006
Lt Col DG Vincent MBE	from 3rd Battalion to HQ DInf	June 2006
Capt AK Dart	from 1st Battalion to G15 TACP	August 2006
Capt MA Dingle	from 2nd Battalion to DGS	August 2006
Maj DA England	from COS(W) Warfare to HQ Inf	August 2006
Maj IRM Hall	from HQ 4 Division to JACIG(E)	August 2006
Maj JD Hughes	from 1st Battalion to BOWTAG(G)	August 2006
Maj NA Johnson	from 2nd Battalion to DI Trg	August 2006
Maj PA Muncney	from 1(UK) Armd Division to ATR Bassingbourn	August 2006
Maj NDB Charlwood	from PJHQ(UK) to ICSC(L)	September 2006
Maj DGH Hunter	from Inf Battle School to JSC and Staff College	September 2006
Lt DAW Jaggarr	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	September 2006
Col AJC Wild MBE	from JSCSC to DG Log Land	October 2006
Lt Col DP O'Driscoll	from 2nd Battalion to MOD A Block	November 2006
Capt AP Wolfe	from HQ 4 Armd Brigade to Inf Battle School	December 2006
Lt Col AM Wylie	from BDS(W) to Australian Staff College	December 2006
Maj APR Bowman	from GL Section to ICSC(L)	January 2007
Lt AJ Griffiths	from 2nd Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	January 2007
Maj TB Mellar	from BOWTAG(Jt) to ICSC(L)	January 2007
Maj PA Muncney	from HQ 1 UK Armd Division to ICSC(L)	January 2007
Capt OB Ormiston	from ATR Bassingbourn to 1st Battalion	January 2007
Lt GE Osbourne	from 2nd Battalion to ATR Winchester	January 2007
Capt SF Roberts	from 2nd Battalion to OPTAG (Ops)	February 2007

Retirements

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

Maj PD Bailey	June 2006
Maj M B Dicker	June 2006
Lt Col EEC Thorne MC	June 2006
Capt CJR Teare	August 2006
Capt STG Otter	September 2006
Maj CJ Pearce	September 2006
Col RJ Ladley MBE	September 2006
Capt LO Stamm	November 2006
Capt TW Gregory	November 2006
Capt AJF Houchin	November 2006
Capt CJ Tate	January 2007

Regimental Matters



The Colonel-in-Chief discusses the capability of Javelin with members of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

Visits by the Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visited the Regiment on three occasions between September and November of this year.

On 12 September, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, he visited elements of the Poachers in Basra City.

On 14 October he attended a service at Ely Cathedral to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the capture of the Swaben Redoubt by the 1/1st Cambridgeshire Regiment. Following the Service he met veterans, relatives of those who had fought in the battle and cadets from the Army Cadet Force.

On 15 November the Colonel-in-Chief visited the 1st Battalion at Lydd and Hythe. The Battalion was in the middle of its training package prior to deployment to Afghanistan in March next year.



The President of the Cambridgeshire Regimental Association and the Colonel-in-Chief at Ely.



HRH is shown the Grenade Machine Gun during his visit to the 1st Battalion.

Regimental Matters

New Deputy Colonel of Regiment Appointed



Brig AJK Calder OBE has been appointed to succeed Col NH Kelsey as the Deputy Colonel with special responsibility for the 3rd Battalion.

Brig Tony Calder was commissioned in 1963 and joined 1 East Anglian in Felixstowe. Staying with the Battalion and 1 Royal Anglian he served in Aden, Germany, Catterick and Northern Ireland. After Staff College in 1976 he rejoined the Battalion in Celle before being appointed Chief of Staff of Task Force Hotel (later to be 20 Armoured Brigade). After leaving the National Defence College he served for a short time in the MOD before being appointed to command the 1st Battalion in Oakington and Londonderry.

Further appointments in the MOD followed before an appointment in HQAFNORTH. His final appointment was as Commander 54 (East Anglia) Brigade in Colchester; at the time the 5th and 6th Battalions were under command. He is currently a project director with GSC UK Ltd but continues to live in Colchester. His eldest son, Charlie, is currently commanding D Company, 1st Battalion. Brig Tony was Honorary Colonel East of England Regiment 2002-2006.

The Castle Network, formerly the Tattershall Club

The Tattershall Club is an informal gathering for retired officers, serving officers and their friends in London.

Meetings will take place, starting at 17.30hrs, on the last Thursday of every other month. The meetings will take place on a rotational basis with a representative host at each of the venues in Canary Wharf, the City and Whitehall. The following have agreed to organise evenings...

Canary Wharf - Stephen Romilly (steve@romash.co.uk) Tel: 020 7418 2217 (w) or 07973 143920 (m).

The City - Tom Gregory (thomas.gregory@gs.com) Tel: 020 7771 3968 (w) or 07720 440935 (m).

Whitehall - Mark Dingle (mark.dingle950@mod.uk) Tel: 07866 438489 (m).

Details of future events will be published in *Castle* and will be sent out on an email distribution list. If you wish to be added to the list you should email the above.

Future events for 2007 are...

25 January - Corney and Barrow Bar, 9 Cabot Square, Canary Wharf.

29 March - The City.

31 May - Whitehall.

The RC Chapel at RMA Sandhurst



As a result of the article in the last edition of *Castle*, Capt Kieron Tansley (3rd Battalion) generously donated the money required for the crystal in the RC Chapel which is engraved with the badge of the Regiment.

Changes to the Day's Pay Scheme

The Regiment runs the Regimental Benevolent Charity, the aim of which is to provide the relief of persons who 'are in need, hardship or distress and are serving or former members of the Regiment or Former Regiments or dependants of such persons'. Last year the Charity gave out £67,200 in general grants and support to former soldiers and their dependants, as well as over £11,000 in grants to those still serving.

Such giving is funded by the generous donations made by the majority of those serving in the Regiment, from private to general, through the Day's Pay Scheme. AFPAA (Glasgow) draws down voluntary Regimental subscriptions based on a percentage of one day's amenable annual pay. This is deducted each quarter through individual pay statements and applies to all Arms and Corps. The gift aid scheme allows the Regiment to claim back from the Inland Revenue the tax that officers and soldiers have already paid through the generous personal contribution. This gives us a further 28 per cent from the taxman.

When the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) replaces AFPAA existing pay system, the current arrangements for Regimental Subscriptions paid by officers and soldiers will become unsustainable through the introduction of a commercial off-the-shelf pay system.

In order for this financial drawdown service to continue future subscriptions will have to be collected under Payroll Giving in 12 monthly instalments.

Payroll Giving is a government-backed initiative to assist charities in England and Wales. This is deemed to be a more efficient scheme than the gift aid scheme in that subscriptions are deducted pre-tax and distributed to the Regiment on a monthly basis, as opposed to the current quarterly basis. The introduction of payroll giving also provides a direct tax benefit to individual subscribers.

The JPA system is not able to cope with a huge number of variations so a generic percentage has been selected which will come as close as possible to maintaining the same contributions by members of the

Regimental Matters

Regiment. However, in some cases, this will mean a small increase in contributions by up to £0.21 per month for soldiers. No action needs to be taken by anyone to continue their donations.

The changes are...

Officers

To go from 175% to 210%

- (1) Maj + £ 2.11 annually or + £0.18 per month
- (2) Capt + £ 3.57 annually or + £0.30 per month
- (3) Lt + £ 7.26 annually or + £0.60 per month
- (4) 2Lt + £ 9.48 annually or + £0.79 per month

Other Ranks

To go from 100% to 120%.

- (1) WO1 + £0.85 annually or £0.07 per month
- (2) WO2 + £1.37 annually or £0.11 per month
- (3) SSgt + £1.89 annually or £0.16 per month
- (4) Sgt + £2.61 annually or £0.22 per month
- (5) Cpl + £1.23 annually or £0.10 per month
- (6) LCpl + £2.56 annually or £0.21 per month
- (7) Pte + £2.66 annually or £0.21 per month

The generous support given to this Charity by all ranks enables the Regiment to make a difference to someone who has fallen on hard times. It is hoped that all will understand the reasons for the small increase and continue to give generously.

Benevolence

The Benevolent Charity continues to assist those serving and retired members of the Regiment who are thought to be in financial need. In the six months up to 30 September a total of 59 cases involving Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers and dependants were dealt with by the executive committee with £19,964 being granted, an average of £338 per case.

The main source of income to the Charity continues to be subscriptions made under the Day's Pay Scheme. In the last year serving officers and soldiers contributed a total of £95,896 (including income tax recovered). To those who do contribute a big thank-you and to those who don't remember that one day you might need financial assistance.

The following is an extract of a letter received from a former member of 1st Battalion 3rd East Anglian Regiment and the 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment:

I am writing to thank you so very, very much for granting the payment of £400 towards the bankruptcy fees that I and my wife

have had to try and find. Along with the grant made by the Royal British Legion your very generous grant has meant that the fees have now been paid in full.

The relief and peace of mind these grants have brought us is immeasurable and it is hard for me to find suitable words to express my sincere thanks for your immense kindness in our hour of need. Although I am thanking you I am, of course, thanking the Regimental Association and whoever else contributes towards these funds for ex-members of the Regiment.

Thank you for taking up your valuable time. I just wanted to give you our thanks for helping make life bearable once more. It is so nice to know that, after all these years, the Regiment still cares enough to help this unworthy person.

The Regimental Tie

At the Regimental Council on 3 November 2006 it was decided that the present Association tie (blue background with red and yellow stripes) should become the Regimental tie, replacing the blue tie with red castles. Personnel of course can continue to wear the old tie. The new Regimental tie is available from the Regimental Shop at a cost of £5.50 (polyester) and £15.50 (silk).

Normandy 2007

It is planned that a trip to Normandy with veterans from the Suffolk and Essex Regiments will take place from 5-8 June 2007. It is hoped that soldiers from the 2nd and 3rd Battalions will join the party. Anyone who is interested should contact RHQ as soon as possible for further details.

Next Edition of Castle

Contributions for the June 2007 issue of *Castle* should reach the editor no later than **15 April 2007**.

Deaths

RHQ has been notified of the following deaths:

Col GL Aspell TD DL on 11 July 2006. Deputy Hon Colonel Leicestershire 1979.

WO2 RF Russell on 26 October 2006 (*see Obituaries*).

Rev Maj MD Franks MBE on 9 June 2006 (*see Obituaries*).

CSgt R Freydank on 31 October 2006. He served in the Band of the 3rd Battalion.

Col JP Macdonald on 22 October 2006 (*see Obituaries*).

Col RP Bailly OBE on 27 October 2006.

**Visit
the
Royal
Anglians
on
the
Web**



<http://www.army.mod.uk/royalanglian/index.htm>

Mainly About People



Brig RJ Randall taking annual inspection in 1975.

Col Roland Ladley left the Army in September 2006. He wrote to the Editor, 'Pictured [above] is Brig Dick Randall inspecting Wells Cathedral School's CCF in 1975. The picture was pride of place outside my classroom as I took responsibility for teaching maths to children at the school in September – that's serendipity for you. Peter Randall (Brigadier Dick's son and an ex-Pompadour) and I have remained in close contact since he left the Army. We now live within 30 minutes of each other near Bristol. For those of you interested in how the career change is going I will write an article for the next *Castle* once I come up for breath. I now understand why teachers need long holidays!'

On 2 July 2006 Jeremy Prescott, Eddie Thorne, Peter Dixon and Duncan Gregory together with Capt Richard James and Lt Col Mike Beard ran the British 10km London Run. They ran for the daughter of Pte Joseva Lewaicei who was killed in Basra in May 2006. A total of £5,269 was raised; the picture shows the mother of Pte Lewaicei's daughter receiving the cheque.



The mother of Pte Lewaicei's daughter receives the cheque from a member of the High Commission in Fiji.



The team minus Eddie Thorne, who was late!

Mainly About People

Col Alasdair Wild has moved to become Assistant Director Operations in Director General Logistics (Land). Logistics is a new challenge for him and he was greatly relieved to find Lt Col James Woodham and Maj Simon Etherington residing in offices nearby.

Lt Col Michael Kinson wrote to the editor with some photos of the Royal Tigers' Weekend. He is now a town and district councillor for Warwick West.

2Lts Nick Denning and Ben Howes were commissioned into the Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade on 11 August 2006, both have joined the 1st Battalion.



From left: Capt James-Roll, OCdt Denning, OCdt Howes and the Colonel of the Regiment.

Col Nick Kelsey's retirement as Deputy Colonel on 6 October brought to an end 43 years of service. The photo, below, shows 23971490 OCdt Kelsey (without headdress) of St Andrew's University OTC perched on the walls of Fort George in October 1963.



Col Christopher Dale was presented with the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families Association's (SSAFA) Prince Michael of Kent award at their London AGM on 20 July. This is the Charity's top award for excellent service. Christopher was Regimental Secretary 1988-1996 and, on retirement, he volunteered to be the SSAFA Suffolk County Secretary before taking over the chairmanship of the county fund raising committee.



Christopher Dale, with his wife Simone, receiving the award.

CSgt Keeble, the QPSI of A Company, 3rd Battalion is the winner of the Poulter's Prize for 2006. Having completed a full career in the Regular Army CSgt Keeble joined the 3rd Battalion in 2001

DMaj Towe, 2nd Battalion is congratulated on winning the Director of Infantry's Cutler's Sword Competition for 2005. The sword is awarded to the NCO who has displayed the best prospects for the development of drumming in the Infantry.



DMaj Simon Towe with ex-Poacher David Haslar, now Beadle at the Cutlers' Hall, and Lt Col Mike Beard representing the Director of Infantry.

Mainly About People

Richard Blyth with fellow Royal Anglians, serving and non-serving, who have a total of 244 years' service to the Royal Anglian Regiment between them. Back from left: WO2 J Jethwa, Maj L Cook, SSgt J Lowe, WO2 A Dent. Front: WO2 (RQMS) R Morson, Richard Blyth BEM, Mr S Holmes.

Richard Blyth joined the 1st East Anglian Regiment, aged 19, at Bury St Edmunds in September 1961. He was at Dovercourt Camp, Essex and his first posting abroad was to British Guiana as part of the Reconnaissance Platoon in February 1962.

On return, the Battalion moved to Felixstowe Camp, until they were sent to Aden in January 1964. It was here that the Battalion amalgamated into the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. In September 1965, he moved with his Battalion to Celle in Germany until the autumn of 1969. In September 1965, he moved with his Battalion to Celle in Germany until the autumn of 1969. During this tour, Richard trained on the AFV 432s as part of the mechanised role and became familiar with motor transport of all kinds.

Somme Barracks in Catterick Garrison was next on the list but, it wasn't too long before the Battalion were sent to Ebrington Barracks in Londonderry for a two-year tour. After the rigours of Northern Ireland, a much more pleasant posting to Cyprus for two years in 1973 became the reward. Richard was now an integral part of the MT Platoon and its activities.

He left the Battalion after Cyprus and did tours of duty with the KAPE Team and Tiger Company, before re-joining his Battalion

in Tidworth in 1975. During this time, he was sent to Portadown, Northern Ireland, where he was promoted to corporal and worked with the ACE Mobile Forces, Norway till 1979. At this point, the 1st Battalion again returned to Celle in Germany and became the Unit's Stalwart Section Commander; a job he felt was his most memorable from his long career. Tours of Batus, in Alberta, Canada and a jungle tour of Belize followed until the Battalion moved back to the United Kingdom, to Oakington Barracks, Cambridge in 1982.

Richard Blyth was de-mobbed from the Regular Army on 8 July 1983 after a long and distinguished career in the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment where he made so many friends and colleagues. It was fitting therefore that Richard was awarded the British Empire Medal for his outstanding services to the British Army.

He joined the NRPS TA with the 5th Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in April 1984 as the MT corporal and enjoyed a further career of 10 years in the Army until premature redundancy in February 1994. However, he wasn't to say goodbye just yet, as he has stayed on as a civilian driver at the TA Centre until his full retirement on 15 December 2006.

The Regimental Museum

(Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk)

The most important news concerning the museum is that the Imperial War Museum (IWM) has signed a Statement of Intent that will keep the museum at Duxford until at least 2025. As was pointed out in the last edition of *Castle*, Duxford is a superb site and the strong partnership with and advice from the IWM is invaluable in helping us maintain and improve the standard of our own displays. With a long security of tenure now guaranteed, planning for the museum's future has become very much easier.

Turning to improvements - a new feature, a Regimental scrapbook, has recently been added. It features news cuttings about the Regiment's activities, supplemented by the regular illustrated bulletins provided by the Regimental Secretary. Also, within the next few months, a long-term and reasonably costly project will come to fruition. Some £15,000 is being spent to review, hugely enlarge and make available the Museum's video collection (we now hold some 280 clips of varying quality). The cost would have been a great deal more but for the enormous amount of hard work done by Col Nick Kelsey and Lt Col Trevor Veitch, aided by Trustee Peter Randall. When the new touch-screen projection hardware is installed, their work will make significant improvements to the clips available for viewing both in the Museum and for serious researchers in the archive collection.

Staying with things visual, a new photographic display was launched at the Regimental Day showing the 2nd Battalion ably doing their stuff in Iraq. Thanks are due to Capt Andy Wolstenholme and Capt David Haggart for obtaining the pictures. The display also featured a brief description of the Cambridgeshire Regiment's World War One success at the Schwaben Redoubt because 2006 marks the 90th anniversary of this memorable victory. Both exhibitions will remain in the Land Warfare Hall at Duxford for the rest of the year.

The Regimental Day itself was a great success from the museum's point of view. Photographs and videos of all four past and present regular battalions were on show, and a large collection of badges was kindly provided by Terry Edge and Alan Cole. The museum is grateful to all those who supported the raffle, the proceeds of which go towards the upkeep of the Museum. In this connection, the Trustees are particularly indebted to the RSMs of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Mr Buff and Mr Rainey have personally overseen fundraising activities in their respective battalions and the results have



The museum office.

been those that only Regimental Sergeant Majors can achieve.

Currently, the Museum is registered, which means an outside body ensures that it remains up to standard in the service it provides, but by 2008 new regulations will require the museum to become accredited. That process will be much more demanding than registration and a



Terry Edge manning the museum tent.

The Regimental Museum

working party chaired by Maj William Reeve and including Andy Murkin, the museum officer, and Martin Boswell, the curatorial advisor, is already planning for a successful transition. Their initial attention is focussed on the proper establishment of the reserve collection at RHQ. A local government grant of nearly £1,000 has been obtained to help with the storage and environmental controls required to bring this about.

The Museum website is also attracting more and more attention according to webmaster, Rob Plumb. The average number of visitors has increased still further to about 2,500 a month. The high quality photographs from the 'Desert Vikings' exhibition - the 1st Battalion in Iraq, 2005 - can now be seen on the site.

We are always on the lookout for donations and our grateful thanks go to Sgt Headland, 2nd Battalion, and Messrs KL Gittins, JL Young and Tony Valentine and to Capt JM Holtby of the Queen's Royal Lancers Museum for the items they have given to the collection. The museum office has been re-decorated and a good start has been made on a photograph gallery there. It mainly comprises battalion and company groups, Mess pictures, major personalities and sporting teams that cannot be displayed in the museum. The office environment has also benefited from a generous donation of furniture from former 3rd Battalion officer, Gordon Brown, aided and abetted by others in the forms of Peter Williamson and Dick Gould.

Now to the help we need from you, the *Castle* readers: We are still on the lookout for yet more suitable film or video material. We are particularly interested in that covering:

1st East Anglian: British Guiana, 1962

3rd East Anglian: Malaya, 1959-62

1st Battalion: Aden, 1964-65; Norway, 1974-78; Bosnia, 1995

2nd Battalion: Afghanistan, 2003

4th Battalion: Malta/Libya, 1965-68; Bahrain, 1969-70

In addition, we would be very interested in any film covering early Northern Ireland tours, 1971-72; BAOR (APC exercises of any vintage); UN Cyprus - in particular, the OPs and other duties; and Berlin - film covering duties such as the military train, Spandau Prison or border patrols.

If you happen to capture any current news stories and other broadcasts on video or DVD, send a copy along to us. All the films we have are catalogued and available for viewing, by appointment, at Duxford.

There is still plenty of room on the office walls. If you have a group, or team, or any other photograph, which you think would add to this collection, do get in touch.

If you have anything else like local press cuttings for the scrapbook or archives; medals, badges, or other objects for the collection and display, please don't be shy in sending them along.

If you live near enough to Duxford and have some time to spare, trustee Maj Michael Jarvis, who has put a lot of work into building up the volunteer team, would be pleased to hear from you.

Contact details for all of the above: Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, Duxford Airfield, Duxford, Cambridge, CB2 4QR. Tel: 01223 497298. Email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freemove.co.uk

Colin Groves
Chairman of Trustees
Andy Murkin
Museum Officer

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum
http://www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk/

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THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT MUSEUM

Welcome
To the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum website, here you will find all the information you need about the Museum and how to access it, museum and services related to the Royal Anglian Regiment.

The Royal Anglian Regiment is the Regiment of the ten Counties of East Angles and the East Midlands and was the first Large Regiment of Infantry. This Museum covers the history of the East and Royal Anglian Regiments since the amalgamations of the former County Regiments from 1968-00. [View the full history](#)

A virtual tour
Take a look at what you will see when visiting the Museum. [View the virtual tour](#)

Download a Royal Anglian walking map
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Download a Royal Anglian walking map. [View the map](#)

Diary Dates 2007

February

- 3-4 5th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner Club, Belgium
 9 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire ex-National Servicemen's Reunion, Kempston

March

- 9 Regimental Council Meeting, Canary Wharf
 10 6th Battalion/EER/3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner, Bury St Edmunds
 12 Freedom Parade, Bedford
 13 Freedom Parade, Grimsby
 14 Freedom Parade, Northampton
 15 Freedom Parade, Hinkley and Bosworth
 16 Freedom Parade, Luton
 20 Freedom Parade, Leicester
 22 Freedom Parade, Lincoln
 24-25 Poacher Reunion, Spalding

April

- 20 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Cocktail Party, London
 21 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Dinner, Norwich
 22 Royal Norfolk Regiment Almanza Service, Norwich

May

- 6 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (Battleaxe Division) Lunch
 9 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Lunch, London
 12 Beating Retreat and Reception, Lincoln
 Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Past and Present Dinner, Thetford
 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Annual Dinner and Dance, Hertford
 Cambridgeshire Regiment Officers' Dinner, Waterbeach

June

- 2 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Lunch, Norwich
 3 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association Reunion, Lincoln
 4-8 Regimental Visit to Normandy, Normandy
 9 Cambridgeshire Regiment Reunion, Ely
 23 2nd Battalion Day, Tern Hill
 23-24 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association Weekend, Leicester
 24 Essex Regiment Association Reunion, Warley
 28-28 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich

July

- 14 Eagle and Garter Dinner, Bassingbourn
 28-29 Northamptonshire Regiment Association Weekend, Northampton
 28 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Lunch, Culford
 29 Minden Reunion, Bury St Edmunds

September

- 2 Regimental Day, Duxford
 28 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Lunch, Warley
 29 Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association Dinner, Norwich

October

- 13 Band Concert and Reception, Essex
 Cambridgeshire Regiment All Ranks' Dinner

November

- 2 Regimental Council Meeting, London
 Officers' Annual Dinner, London
 6 Essex Regiment Association Cathedral Service and Salamanca Lunch, Chelmsford
 8 Field of Remembrance, Westminster
 11 Remembrance Day
 18 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Wreath Laying and Reunion, Kempston

December

- 1 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Lunch, London

Can You Remember?

40 Years Ago



Support Platoon transport of C Company, 4th Battalion, dives ashore in North Africa on Exercise Desert Frost.

Christmas in Aden for the Pompadours must have been a real treat, especially having completed their unit move from Berlin to Tidworth just three months previously. Luckily, minds were taken off the heat and attacks by a good number of Christmas puddings generously supplied by the Colonel-in-Chief, HM The Queen Mother.

The 1st Battalion assisted RAF Cranwell by supplying troops to

act as enemy in an escape and evasion exercise, the first time the Army have delayed the RAF and not the other way round!

The Poachers were earning their keep in Cyprus, and looking forward to their return to Felixstowe in July. The 4th Battalion were spending their days in Malta exercising with the US Marine Corps and hosting numerous visits from sun seeking officers!



The Corps of Drums of the 3rd Battalion at Christmas in Aden – front, from left: Ptes Hanson, Arnold, Oakes, LCpls Ford, Gobey, Royal, Phare and Howell. Back, from left: Ptes Gallagher, Berry, Baker, Holohan.

Can You Remember?

35 Years Ago



Support Platoon of Tiger Company, 4th Battalion, with a Hawker Hunter during their emergency tour of Gibraltar.

1972 saw 1, 2 and 3 Royal Anglian serve in the Province. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were both posted to Belfast, the Pompadours from Paderbourn, and the Poachers from Munster.

The Vikings completed their two-year accompanied tour of Londonderry with the tragic loss of two of its soldiers, 2Lt Nicholas Hull and Pte John Ballard, but their heads held high for a professional job well done in deteriorating circumstances.

The 4th Battalion had swapped the sublime surroundings of RMA Sandhurst and Mons for a six-month emergency tour of Gibraltar.

The Volunteer Battalions were hard pressed, attending training camps and ensuring that numbers remained healthy.



Right: Members of B Company, 1st Battalion, joke with the Prime Minister during a surprise visit to Derry.



Montage of operational photos taken by the 1st Battalion in Derry in January and February 1972.

Can You Remember?**30 Years Ago**

C Company on the march during Exercise Hardfall in Norway.



SSgt Meen explains Wombat to members of the US National Guard, politicians and the 7 Royal Anglian Anti-Tank Cadre.

1977 saw the Vikings exercising in Norway, Italy, Jamaica, Guyana and Denmark, eliciting the comment from their 2IC at the time that the 'training cycle is like a folding bicycle, small wheels and no breaks.' I'm sure that both Regular Battalions would agree that this analogy could now be applied to the Operational Cycle!

The 2nd Battalion were part of the UK Mobile Force, and attended excessive TEWTs, an exercise in Denmark and an emergency tour of Belfast, Skill at Arms competition and freedom parades.

The Pompadours were resident in Cyprus, having a hard time meeting all the demands placed on them. An exercise in Malta, inter-platoon competition, defence exercises and some sporting success in athletics (Capt Peter Field set a new record for discus and Pte Lennie Paul and LCpl Jimmy Hume took 1st and 2nd place in the 100m at 11.00 and 11.01 seconds respectively!) meant the year passed relatively quickly.



The Commanding Officer at the head of the march past during the Queen's Jubilee Parade at Happy Valley, Episkopi, Cyprus.

Can You Remember?

20 Years Ago



2Lt David England leads 5 Platoon, 1st Battalion, during the Battalion's first Ceremony of the Keys in Gibraltar.

A sigh of relief took the Vikings from Londonderry to Gibraltar, but there was only a slight drop in the pace of life for the Battalion, who were responding to periods of hyperactivity on The Rock.

The 2nd Battalion left Colchester after four years to move to Trenchard Barracks, Celle and were slightly apprehensive as to what their way of life in the BAOR would bring. The Pompadours continued with their unaccompanied tour of Belfast and were finding their incredibly large area of responsibly very demanding, although naturally they returned to Minden having completed 'one of the most demanding, but enjoyable' tours to date. The 5th Battalion took part in Exercise Yeoman's Canter and the 6th enjoyed success at the TARA Skill-at-Arms Meeting and conducted their first battalion cadre weekend for some considerable time.



Right: Ptes Toon, Wake and Richardson work on one of the 2nd Battalion's Ferrets in Celle.



The 5th Battalion provide a Guard of Honour for the Deputy Colonel in Chief, Princess Alice during her visit to Peterborough in May.

Can You Remember?**15 Years Ago**

New lance corporals pass out from the last Pompadours' PJNCO cadre, with Londonderry as the perfect backdrop.

The 1st Battalion continued with their high level of training in Colchester in preparation for Exercise Lion Sun in Cyprus.

Numbers cadres were run for Mortars, Milan and Recce followed by live firing at Salisbury Plain.

The Poachers began refresher training for its Warrior gunners and commanders, as well as NCO refresher training.

The Nordic Ski team were Infantry Champions and the Boxing team were crowned Army champions. Meanwhile, the Pompadours were on their final operational tour prior to being merged.

The Steelbacks took part in Exercise Polar Dawn, the 6th Battalion won the TA UKLF Tickle Competition and the Tigers mounted a good number of exercises, including 'Tasteful Tiger,' a cooking competition!



Right: D Company, The Tigers on a FIBUA exercise.

Below: The Steelbacks march through Peterborough.



Can You Remember?

10 Years Ago



The Poachers' Army Novice Boxing Team - Army Champions 1997.

The Vikings completed a demanding tour of West Belfast before getting settled into Oakington and undertaking several freedom parades.

The Battalion still found time for sport, despite the high operational tempo and enjoyed success in cross-country and orienteering.

The Poachers were engaged as the Combined Arms Training Centre Battlegroup in Warminster and were also crowned as Army Novice Boxing Champions for the fourth time.

The 6th Battalion won the 49(E) Brigade Military Skills Competition, coming first and second while The Tigers helped the Leicestershire Royal British Legion launch their annual Poppy Appeal with a charity abseil.

Right: 'Miss Poacher' joins members of the Battalion on one of A Company's Warriors.



Below: The Vikings' Surveillance Platoon on top of Divis Tower.



Can You Remember?**5 Years Ago**

The East of England Regiment on Exercise Eastern Thistle.

Having completed a very exciting tour of Kabul, the 1st Battalion were beginning preparations for Operation Fresco and their epic conversion to Bowman in Pirbright. The Poachers prepared for and deployed on NIBAT 4 tour of Northern Ireland, which included the fireman's strike, before committing troops to exercise in Belize as well as the Queen Mother's funeral.

The East of England Regiment were involved in a good number of large scale exercises throughout the country, including an excellent and very successful camp in Barry Buddon.



Staff from the Vikings' PJNCO Cadre.



Sgt Freddie 'King Rat' Dyson prepares to 'take out' HRH The Duke of York, as he laughs at Lt Martyn Cook's feeble attempts to get some face time during Exercise Panther Cub in Belize.

1st Battalion The Vikings

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

Surprisingly, 2006 has turned out more or less as we expected. The highlight of the year so far has been the Battlegroup Tesex which took place in May on Salisbury Plain. Despite a limited training period of only 11 weeks, the performance was impressive and the required CT4 level of competence was achieved.

Since then we have had a reasonably 'normal' period when we have taken the opportunity to carry out some of the more routine activities. A large NCO cadre has trained the next generation of junior commanders and we also ran a pre-Brecon cadre for all six Regular battalions in the Queen's Division. Both A and B Company (with elements of D Company with both) have spent six weeks in Canada providing the OPFOR for other units. Meanwhile C Company has completed freedom parades in Chelmsford, Colchester and Thurrock - the first the Battalion has done for a few years. More recently, in September, we launched a major recruiting drive to ensure we remain one of the few fully manned infantry battalions into 2007.

We have also found time to celebrate Minden Day in style this year - with a parade and an all ranks party as well as the normal traditional activities. A bit of sport has been possible, in particular the Battalion football, rugby, cross country and orienteering teams have had regular run outs. Internally, the Officers' Mess won the annual cricket match (again!) and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess levelled the honours in the golf match. We await the deciding football match in December with interest!

At the time of writing two Viking teams are preparing to compete in the Cambrian Patrol competition and the remainder have just started the first week of pre-deployment training for our Afghanistan tour next year. A packed programme will see us on the ranges at Lydd and Hythe, on exercise in Norfolk and Salisbury Plain and hopefully finishing our training in Kenya early next year. We are due to take over from 45 Commando in Helmand in April 2007. Busy, but exciting times certainly lie ahead.

Operation Viking Thrust

Sgt Wallis writes:

Operation Viking Thrust was a recruiting drive that took place during September aimed at increasing local understanding of the Vikings. CSgt Neal and I spent the early part of the month travel around the recruiting area conducting reces on possible locations, managing to cover over 1,000 miles each! The team was then split in half and unleashed on East Anglia, with Recruiting Team North under Sgt Wallis working out of Bassingbourn and Recruiting

Team South with CSgt Neal working from Colchester.

The operation took place between 11 and 23 September during which time the team was very well supported by the RRT commanded by Sgt Kulkarni.

Operation Viking Thrust was co-ordinated with a number of Freedom Parades conducted by C (Essex) Company in the towns of Grays, Colchester and Chelmsford where they were very well received. The drive was concentrated on the bigger towns and cities of the area such as Peterborough, Cambridge, Colchester and Southend. However, they also spent time in the smaller areas trying to spread the Viking word. The days generally consisted of setting up a recruiting stand in the town and speaking to as many of the locals as possible. There was lots of interest everywhere they went, with Sgt Wallis managing to get himself on to the local radio stations Q103 and Radio Cambridgeshire to try and plug where the teams were going to be. The end of each week culminated in a slightly bigger display in Yarmouth town with a catalogue of resources on the seafront. The RRT with the recruiting stand, the AYT with the climbing wall and ex-Sgt Maj Marsh came along with his laser quest, which was a great hit with the kids.

The end result of both teams' efforts was over 300 potential Vikings, with over 100 of them booked on to the Viking Encounter in Colchester on the spot. All these names have been handed to the local recruiting

offices for them to work on over the next few months. As well as gaining a number of possible recruits for the Vikings we also managed to increase the local knowledge about the Battalion and what we will be doing in the future. Operation Viking Thrust was a great success but is only the first stage of the recruitment process. We now wait with interest to see how many will get to Catterick and how many finally arrive here in the Battalion.

Cambrian Patrol Training

Lt Sam Perrin writes:

Having been approached by my company commander to lead a Cambrian Patrol I jumped at the chance as I was aware of its international reputation as one of the toughest and most prestigious patrolling exercises in the world. The problem was, would the soldiers in my company share my enthusiasm for voluntarily going to 'Sennyfridge' in November? It turns out that I actually had to select a short list of 22 soldiers from around 40 initial expressions of interest.

This then dropped to 12 as early as the first week with Heartbreak Hill two days in a row and the difference between a BRDM and a BTR in the training programme. However, I was left with a determined group of soldiers, one just a week out of Catterick, who were bright and fit enough to undertake the patrol. The early training took the form of a week's



Cambrian Patrol training.

The Vikings

in-camp training involving a night out on the back area. The Sergeants' Mess have yet to forgive me for waking them up with GPMG fire and several chorley grenades at 0500hrs as the patrol was crashed out of the harbour. This week importantly started the process of building a sense of camaraderie as a group and banter which would be what got us through those long cold nights in Brecon. I have in fact just finished convincing Pte Wright that he should not do the trek over the Brecon Beacons tomorrow in light of the fact that he basically snapped his ankle on the Black Mountains not seven days ago. This is the kind of spirit and determination that has been so impressive so far and will hopefully lead to us giving a good account of ourselves on the patrol.

In the early weeks of October the training took the form of classroom instruction on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays on first aid, AFV recognition, CBRN and other core infantry skills. It turns out that Ptes Himfin and Garner read gun magazines in their spare time which is scary depending on how you look at it. Tuesdays and Wednesdays were reserved for walks over the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons carrying 80lb or more. LCpl Howe, being a keen NCO, likes to take his own personal CQMS store with him on the tabs and carried 120lb on one. I assured him he didn't need 10 per cent of everything but he won't have any of it. Navigating through in the dark is a skill that can only be improved through practice and I worried about Ptes Gordon and Spanton who seemed very intent on catching sheep, which they have still not achieved.

At the time of writing we are optimistic and raring to go...watch this space.

Afternote: Both Viking teams (a composite Battalion team and this C Company team) successfully completed Cambrian Patrol on 3 November. It is of note that the Battalion Team won a prestigious gold medal - one of only a handful presented to the 88 teams that took part.

Tesex 06

Capt Tom Gregory writes:

When the new Commanding Officer arrived to take command just before Christmas some clear objectives were set for 2006. The Battalion had four months between January and April to train and prepare for Tesex, followed by a less intensive mid-year period of consolidation, and finally a very busy last few months of pre-operational training. At the time of writing we have completed two out of three phases, and the pace of life seems set to increase in the run up to Christmas. The early part of the year however, was dominated by Tesex.

The last time the Battalion was assessed on Wessex Warrior was in November 2004, and it was clear to everyone at the start of the year that there was much work to be done in order to shake out the cobwebs following six weeks of post-tour leave either side of Christmas. The Battalion was unlucky from the point of view that we were the first



WO2 Taylor and CSgt Smith.

major unit in 12 Brigade to be tested, and so the 'training year' had effectively been condensed into three months. Meanwhile the enemy on this occasion was the newly renamed 1st Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (alias *The Dukes*). They had only just returned from Germany and, like us, had spent the majority of 2005 focused on Iraq. One thing was clear though - the Battalion needed to achieve an impressive result in order to maintain its profile within the Brigade and the Infantry. The end result was a three-nil drubbing and a glowing report from Battlegroup Training Unit (BGTU). Phase one; job done!

Most readers will be familiar with the format of Tesex, whereby weeks one and two are spent going through a series of exercises

designed to deliver the unit to a state of training which can be assessed. Low level platoon and company training, force on force missions, and plenty of planning practice for the headquarters formed the initial focus. On this occasion the Battalion was also keen to fuse new and distinctive elements to the all arms battle: the addition of the King's Royal Hussars Interim Medium Armoured Squadron (CVRT mounted), and the desire to re-configure D Company assets into large and mobile Fire Support Groups, gave plenty of opportunity to experiment.

The results from the first two weeks were good. The companies, ever reliable, were setting high standards and attracting good comments from BGTU, while the Headquarters, which had spent much

The Vikings

time improving the planning drill over the previous two months, was hitting top gear just at the right moment. In fact it soon became clear that BGTU were convinced on the ability of the Battalion to conduct CT 4 level operations before the actual main event!

Week 3 represents the high point of Tesex; three back-to-back missions against a motivated and well resourced free play enemy. All this supported by technology assisted assessment and debriefing. Mission 1 was the defence. On this occasion the Battalion sat deep, some 4km west of the Berril Valley, and waited to take on the enemy through a combination of forward screening and positional defence. The plan worked, almost too well for B Company's liking, as their huge efforts on the defensive position were never actually tested. The enemy were defeated before that part of the main defence area was reached. One-nil.

Mission two was the seizure of Copehill Down Village. After numerous discussions on the 'best way in' the Commanding Officer eventually went for an air mobile assault from the west which, despite some early setbacks, eventually saw the Battalion clear more of the village than any other battlegroup in recent times - an accolade the BGTU staff were all too happy to bestow on the boys.

Mission three was another fly forward, this time to destroy the enemy in place in the vicinity of Sidbury Hill. Some of the 'older sweats' were heard to remark on how similar they found the operation to the days of 24 Brigade in Colchester, and there was no doubt that a level of embedded knowledge regarding air manoeuvre at sub unit level assisted in the fast planning and execution of the mission. The fight for the Main Defensive Area was a long one, with all three companies made to work hard to gain footholds across open terrain which favoured the defender. Eventually the mission was won.

Some major plus points were the success of Anti-Tank Platoon with the new Javelin system, the integration of the very capable Intermediate Mobile Armour Squadron, and, as we have come to expect, the high standards of soldiering set by the Viking platoons. By the end of three weeks on Salisbury Plain the Battalion had achieved that which it set out to do. So with heads held high and reputations intact we moved towards summer full of confidence for the tough year that lies ahead.

Machine Gun Platoon Short Term Training Team - Sierra Leone

Capt Dave Robinson writes:

While the rest of the Battalion was involved in Freedom Parades and Batus deployment the Machine Gun Platoon, in a rare break from its ceremonial commitments, was given the opportunity to go to Sierra Leone. Its role as a Short Term Training Team would be to



On the ranges.



Dmr Cuccinello finds love at first bite!

The Vikings



DMr Rouse (left), DMaj Love and Dmr Cuccinello at the end of the course.

quality around 80 members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) in Light Role GPMG while giving the men of Machine Gun Platoon an opportunity to get away from life in barracks for a three-week period.

Deployment was via Gatwick Airport and the infamous Astraeus Airlines! The West-African adventure began immediately on arrival at Lungi Airport with over-willing porters, over-powering salesmen and a group of very foreign-looking Vikings stuck in the middle. Transfer to Freetown was via a dilapidated Russian HIP transport helicopter. Upon first sight of it Dmrs Deano Prior and Rouse were seen to pay complete attention to their safety brief with a look of justified concern on their faces.

Once we survived our journey and had settled in our shared accommodation with RSLAF, the platoon wasted no time in getting to know Freetown in preparation for the cadre. Needless to say it was a sheepish bunch that appeared for the first day of the cadre and the one hour drive to the Armed Forces Training Centre in Benguema. Dmrs Frank Armstrong and Anthony Pudwell were notable in their ability to sleep through the treacherous road conditions on route to training

Training RSLAF was a real pleasure. Unlike other foreign armies they were keen to learn, receptive to instruction and happy to be taught by the British. Unfortunately their enthusiasm was rarely tainted by experience, which resulted in a number of incidents on the range which would have raised more than a few eyebrows at Bisley. Thankfully the skilful instruction and forceful intervention of the likes of CSgt Andy Faupel, Sgt Nathan Love and Cpls Andy Tinkler and 'Monkey' Meadows ensured all a safe and productive package. By the end of both packages the Machine Gun Platoon had trained up 80 members of RSLAF as GPMG(LR) gunners and selected a number to return on the instructors cadre to be run by the Royal Marines in late 2006.

The trip provided the opportunity for the platoon to have a well-deserved working break from Battalion. All who attended had an excellent time with no complaints.

While we worked hard there was plenty of opportunity to explore Freetown, visit some tropical beaches and even indulge in a spot of sea fishing where Dmr Jonathan Cuccinello managed the finest catch of the day. Overall a very worthwhile activity that should be recommended to other units who have a bit of spare time on their hands

The Queen's Division Pre-SCBC/PSBC Cadre

Sgt Simon Panter writes:

I was lucky enough to take part in this year's Divisional Pre-Brecon Cadre at Pirbright, along with Maj Messenger, Cadre OC, WO2 Dave Granfield who did most of the ground work, WO2 Micky Taylor(RRF), Sgt Jamie Hassan, Sgt Mark Lockhart(RRF) and Cpl Chris Holmes.

The course dates were 10-28 July 2006, with two weeks in Pirbright and one week in Brecon. The aim of the course was to select and prepare appropriate JNCOs to go on and successfully complete both Junior and Senior Brecon. After much planning, preparation and recce, the course started with some 40 students from across the Division, from Iraq, Germany and UK Land based units.

The first two weeks was a mix of skill at arms lessons, ranges, mapreading, minor tactics, orders, all of the Start Standard Tests and of course fitness. All students soon came to know and love Heartbreak Hill. Most of the physical tests such as the Personal Fitness Test and the two and five-mile runs were conducted in Pirbright, and for good measure some Battle PT was thrown in to try and

The Vikings

replicate what the students would go through on their respective courses... 'The fitter you are the easier the course will be'.

An LMG (AWA) range day was conducted at Ash Ranges to qualify all on the weapon system prior to the courses. The Divisional Lieutenant Colonel came down for a chat with the troops at the Range which was well received. The lance corporals were shown how to prepare and plan a skill at arms period and then had a chance to deliver teaching practices and lesson plans to give them a heads up, which the corporals then critiqued. The students were shown and taught the complete estimate and orders process both in the classroom and practically while in Brecon.

After two weeks of in-camp lessons and training it was time to put it all to the test, with a week-long trip down to Brecon. Thirty-two students had managed to make the journey and some 30 support staff made the trip to Farm 7 at Sennybridge. Flag 24 greeted the students at the drop off, who then made the short walk to Farm 7 which acted as a bit of area familiarisation. After a short period of administration the troops got themselves together and were issued with the appointments (or 'disappointments' as the students thought of them). It was then time to occupy a patrol harbour, as a lot of the students had not done this for some time. All found this a valuable exercise to remind and revise themselves of routine in the harbour. From the harbour the troops conducted section attacks, recce patrols and navigation exercises around the area. As much of the training area was used as possible for familiarisation purposes, as some of the troops had not been down to Sennybridge before - scandalous! We also found time to do the Brecon Eight-Miler from Piccadilly Corner, as well as the Brecon Three-Miler, to give them some food for thought. While at Sennybridge a trip into Dering Lines was

organised where the troops were given a brief by the RSM and instructors from Junior and Senior Division. The aim of the brief was to give the troops an idea what is expected of them on the course. The NCOs found this a very worthwhile visit.

To finish the course and the week down at Brecon all had to complete the infamous Fan Dance from Cantref to the Storey Arms where the coach would be waiting. The day started early, with students setting off from Cantref at 0700hrs. Then it was up Cefn Cyff to Fan Y Big, which got the heart, lungs and legs working well in preparation for Jacobs Ladder, which most of us know and love. It was a lovely day up there on the Fan with some spectacular views but not all seemed to appreciate the beauty, although I can't think why! I always find coming down Beacons Way the hardest part as the feet are pounded to the front of your boots and you soon find any hot spots. With Exercise Fan Dance finished at the Storey Arms, it was time for the long journey back along the M4 to Pirbright for administration, wash up, final interviews and a few well earned beers in the Cpls' Mess.

Out of 40 students who started the course 32 finished although not all of these were successful in being selected for their relevant course. Having a Divisional Pre-Brecon Course is vital and I hope it will continue with a permanent base from where it can be conducted. The course content and course continuity must remain, and students certainly benefited from having a number of high quality instructors from across the Division.

Overall it was a very good and worthwhile course, which was echoed by the comments made in the validation. Of course the real worth of the pre-course will only be realised once we see the final reports from Brecon - but the early indications are good. Roll on the next one and long may it continue.

Vikings Play the Bad Guys in Canada

2Lt Graham Goodey writes:

Some nations just won't learn from their mistakes; every summer, for over 30 years now the East Albertans have launched an unsuccessful invasion of the capitalist and affluent Western Alberta, and this year, it seemed, would be no different. This year, however, the East Albertans managed to recruit a Motor Rifle Regiment consisting of a company from 1 Royal Anglian, supported by 2 or 3 squadrons of King's Royal Hussars. As a motor rifle company working from Sturgeons (a CVR(T) variant designed to look like Soviet BMPs), the Viking commitment to the Batus Opposing Force (OPFOR) would require dismounts, a role fulfilled by A Company and subsequently B Company, as well as CVR(T) crews from Recce Platoon and contingents from the Anti-Tank and Sniper Platoons.

Having arrived in Canada and serviced the vehicles, a task which required sterling work from the Recce Platoon crews, the OPFOR Battle Group deployed for an initial ten-day period of training. Although under constant bombardment from the hordes of mosquitoes, the battle group was soon moving as a unit complete with Corps and Brigade Recce. Combat Recce Patrols and an Armoured Vanguard preceding the Main Body.

After a short break the OPFOR deployed for the two-week Tesex part of Exercise Medicine Man 3 and were set against the Blue Force (BLUFOR), 1 Staffords Battle Group. After a week of building up from platoon to company and then battle group level engagements, where it has to be said that the OPFOR had by far the better results, the 'competition proper' began. The first mission saw the OPFOR given the thorny task of an opposed river crossing



A brave insurgent takes on a tank!

The Vikings



A Company in a prairie leaguer.

within a narrow corridor with BLUFOR in defensive positions preventing the crossing. Having successfully and quickly dealt with the defending recce screen, the OPFOR moved swiftly to lay a bridge and exploit forward.

The day was narrowly saved for BLUFOR by the appearance of three Challenger 2 on the heights overlooking the crossing which promptly destroyed the bridge on its run in. The second mission saw the OPFOR on the back foot in defensive locations. Well sited positions and excellent work from the Sturgeons and King's Royal Hussars Salamanders left the BLUFOR needing a good deal of 'regeneration' and an extra day to complete their task against a depleted OPFOR. Due to the upcoming deployment of the 1 Staffords Battle Group to Iraq, Exercise Medicine Man 3 then made a rare diversion from the traditional Batus conventional clashes and the OPFOR turned their hand to insurgent activities.

The highlights of these activities were the insurgents' defence of Horden village and their guarding of a chemical weapons laboratory buried in the new tunnel complex, where 10 men from A Company held off and

decimated a company of BLUFOR before being killed off by the observer/controllers. For Exercise Medicine Man 4, against the 2 Royal Welsh Battle Group, B Company took over the role of OPFOR dismounts and had a similarly successful time.

Throughout the deployment to Canada there was an impressive amount of adventure training available with a host of activities ranging from sky diving and ice climbing to the slightly more benign, though uncomfortable, pony trekking. Bear sightings were rare and generally a case of mistaken identity by Sgt Head. Thankfully, all had received the mandatory 'Training in Bear Country' brief, where the recommended action in the event of a bear charging you was to lay down and play dead! - With the caveat that should the bear start to eat you, you should then do your best to fight back!

In summary, acting as the Batus OPFOR combined many memorable experiences with the opportunity for professional development working with an armoured battlegroup. Spending so much time on exercise with the vehicles was no doubt useful for the Recce Platoon and certainly

gave the newer members of the platoon the chance to cut their teeth on CVR(T). The combined work of A, B and D Companies over the Exercise Medicine Man season was a credit to the Battalion and, on this rare occasion, the poor East Albertans held their own!

A Year in Between Operational Tours: A Company Commander's Perspective

Maj Mick Aston writes:

The last period of activity has seen some peaks and troughs in terms of the company's tempo. A good runout on Tesex in May was our main effort for the first half of the year and we have since had some downtime with everyone in the Company getting in adventure training, leave, courses and for many a great trip out to Canada.

Tesex was the culminating point for the company's training up until June. The format was very similar to previous Exercise Druids' Dance, with a couple of weeks' build-up training on Salisbury Plain at platoon and company level before the Battlegroup fought together on Exercise Wessex Warrior. For many in the company this was their first Tesex and first exposure to the simulation kit, which for all its faults still proved to be an excellent tool for training.

The initial missions saw the Company conduct some force on force with an attack on A Company and then a defence against C Company. It proved a testing experience for the companies with no quarter given and none expected. It was good, hard training for the Company and everyone performed to the highest standard. Of particular note were Sgt Keith Nieves and the boys in 5 Platoon who 'went to town' on the wiring of their section of the defensive position.



Lightning on the Prairie silhouettes an enemy vehicle.

The Vikings



6 Platoon on the Prairie.

The innovation and deviousness shown in the defence of their area was well rewarded with a number of unsuccessful attacks on their position.

The Company had three very good missions on Exercise Wessex Warrior itself. Working hard to prepare a company Main

Defensive Area and dummy position for Mission 1 the boys were disappointed that the enemy did not come our way. I gather this can only be put down to the CO 1 DWR not wishing to attack the strongest part of the Battalion position, thinking he might gain success elsewhere! Mission 2 involved

a fight through Copehill Down Village and after a shaky start courtesy of being dropped in the wrong place by the RAF CH47 crew, the company did well to clear our sector in good time. Mission 3 started with a complex Battalion move into the area of Sidbury Hill and saw B and C Companies working



B Company adventure training.

The Vikings

well together to destroy the remnants of the defending force. Again, another good mission for the Battalion that capped off some excellent training. This marked the start of the Commanding Officer's planned 'rest' period for the Battalion prior to Afghanistan (Op Herrick 6) training which would start in earnest in October.

We were fortunate to get in some adventure training at the end of June in the Lake District with Lt Dave Broomfield organising an excellent week away for the Company. A full programme saw the soldiers undertake mountain biking, climbing, hill walking and pot-holing/caving. The weather was mostly kind to us but still provided some challenges for those on the hill walking with a couple of routes having to be changed for safety concerns. All of the activities proved challenging and it was probably a more physically demanding week than we first thought. There was still the opportunity for the boys to get into Lancaster on the occasional evening where by all accounts they did their bit for Viking - Northerner relations and were well received by the locals (ladies).

During this period we were fortunate to be invited on the Suffolk Regiment Association's annual visit to Normandy. It was a tremendous four days for the six members of the Company, who, along with nine others from the Battalion visited the key locations where the Suffolks fought during the D-Day landings of 1944. There were numerous highlights of the tour but a couple will always be remembered. Firstly, the presence of the Suffolk Regiment veterans who had fought at many of the places we visited added an extra dimension to the tour that cannot be quantified. All the Vikings were hanging on their every word and we were privileged to hear first hand their accounts of battle over the very ground we were standing on.

Secondly, the friendliness and warm welcome that was extended to all serving members of the Battalion by the local French people was a very pleasant surprise. The members of *Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment* and local dignitaries did their utmost to ensure we were well looked after. Their hospitality was very well received and not lost on the Vikings who attended. Finally, what was most striking and memorable about the trip was the comradeship that quickly developed between the soldiers of the Battalion and the veterans. Whether sitting on the bus, sharing a meal or having a few drinks in the bar it was excellent to see the way soldiers from our forbear regiments and the soldiers of today had so much in common. I hope this is an activity that we can continue to support in the future.

Our next big activity was taking over from A Company as the Infantry company as part of the Opposing Force (OPFOR) Battlegroup in Batus. Being attached to the King's Royal Hussars was a great experience for the Company and it was an eye-opener for the commanders to see the way an armoured

regiment manoeuvres. Rapid movement and pure recon pull, combined with Soviet doctrine made things interesting for everyone. It proved hot and uncomfortable for the riflemen in the back of the Sturgeon APCs but the Company came into its element on the three defensive missions on Exercise Totalise, the culmination of our time on the Prairie. Aggressive defence by the Company saw us defeating elements of 2 Royal Welsh on each occasion and spirits remained high. We were fortunate to get everyone away on the excellent adventure training packages put on by Batus. Horseriding, skydiving, canoeing and glacier walking were but a few of the activities that the boys undertook. The spectacular scenery of the Rocky Mountains and relatively good weather made it a big success. In short, it was a good trip away for the 50 personnel we took out, the work was not too demanding, the R and R was entertaining and the adventure training was

excellent - all in all a lot better than sitting in Pirbright!

The immediate future for the Company sees us preparing for Afghanistan. The training will be extremely busy with a considerable amount of individual and collective training to be conducted before we are ready to go. Needless to say the entire Company is excited about the prospect of the tour and the challenges it will provide.

C(Essex) Company Freedom Parades

Capt Mark Taylor writes:

C(Essex) Company, the 1st Battalion Corps of Drums and elements of the Minden Band were given the honour of exercising the Freedom of Thurrock, Chelmsford and Colchester over the period 14-16 September 2006.



C Company on parade in Colchester.

The Vikings

The very simple parades consisted of the Company forming up at the designated start point and marching through the town with drums beating, bayonets fixed and Colours flying. The parades were extremely well received in all three locations with large crowds lining the routes and cheering. The parade then formed up and each was inspected by the respective town Mayor. After each parade the Company was generously hosted by the members of the town council and invited dignitaries. There were also numerous retired soldiers from the Essex Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment Associations. It is maintaining these links that is particularly important to the Battalion and it an excellent opportunity for young soldiers to learn about the realities of times gone by.

There was a very special moment at the Thurrock parade when Jimmy Riddell, the eldest Essex Regiment soldier, was introduced to Pte Gordon the youngest serving soldier from Essex in C (Essex) Company. Jimmy is now a Chelsea pensioner and was obviously delighted to see the young soldiers at the reception.

The parades were made particularly special for C (Essex) Company by the presence of the Salamanca Eagle at each inspection. The Eagle is very rarely allowed out of the Essex Regiment Museum and its presence added to the parades considerably. Our thanks go to the Essex Regiment Association for allowing the Eagle onto the parades.

This was a very successful three-day period for the Company and one we shall all remember for a long time. It is important to exercise our Freedom when possible and particularly fitting that C(Essex) Company paraded through three Essex towns.

Regimental Visit to Normandy

Lt Dave Broomfield writes:

From 12 to 15 June, 16 serving Vikings had the opportunity to travel to Normandy with the the Suffolk Regiment Association to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the D-Day landings. We joined up with veterans of the Suffolk Regiment and made our journey to Caen by coach. Arriving late we checked in at the hotel and got some sleep ready for the day ahead. First stop was at Pegasus Bridge where the first of the gliders of the allied invasion force landed when the reoccupation of Europe started. The original bridge had been replaced due to its age, but was still located a few hundred meters away at a nearby museum. We then proceeded to stop off at memorial sites where we performed small ceremonies in memory of those fallen men, and where the veterans could reminisce and talk to us about their experiences. One of the memorials was at the Chateau de la Londe; The Suffolk Regiment successfully assaulted and captured it after a fierce battle with enemy infantry and supporting armour. To be in the same place where the veterans were all those years ago certainly gave a bigger meaning to the memorials. It was also interesting to hear the first hand accounts from the veterans, who explained every detail of each of the attacks as if it had only happened last week! That evening we gathered in the hotel dining room with our now befriended veterans to have our evening meal. At the end of the meal the veterans all stood up in turn and each told a strong memory that they have of the Normandy landings. I think each story that was told made everyone of us who

was listening very proud to be British, and privileged to have met these brave men. For the rest of the evening the younger element sampled the delights of the town.

Next day, bright and early and with a few glazed eyes, we set off on the day's activities. We travelled to Arramonche where the floating mulberry harbour was erected for the massive logistical operation that was to keep the front line troops re-supplied with ammunition and water. We then moved to Gold Beach, where the Suffolks landed. We grabbed the opportunity to photograph the veterans on the same beach where they landed 62 years ago. Their descriptions brought the beach to life and it was a moving experience. The visits to some of the many cemeteries where British, American, and German troops were buried made a particular impression. While there we placed crosses on the graves of the fallen Suffolk and Royal Norfolk Regiment soldiers. Hearing the veterans talking about the men resting really brought home the sacrifice that was made.

The final visit of the day was to Hillman. This was where the Suffolk Regiment assaulted a position thought to be a defended battalion headquarters that turned out to be the HQ of the 736 Grenadier Regiment, some three battalions strong. The position consisted of 100 enemy infantry, five anti-tank guns and dozens of machine guns. The Suffolk Regiment successfully assaulted the position killing or capturing all the German personnel. A short memorial service followed with *Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment* The Friends have now turned the site of the Hillman battle into a museum and memorial and the bunkers are being restored to their wartime condition. The 1st Battalion the



The Vikings with the Suffolk veterans.

The Vikings

Brig Deller briefs the Vikings on Hillman.

Royal Anglian Regiment have now been made honorary members of *Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment* - an honour that Maj Mick Aston was proud to accept.

That evening we were treated to a lavish evening meal, which will certainly remain in the memory of the Vikings that attended. The morning saw us return to the UK following some fond goodbyes to the veterans who were now our friends. The members of B Company who attended had an excellent and rewarding time and would like to thank the organisers Col Kerry Woodrow and Brig Deller for the tour, and the veterans themselves for their friendship and dignity.

JNCOs' Cadre

Capt Luke Stamm writes:

Over the period 12 June to 21 July 2006, the Training Wing took on the responsibility of running the first JNCOs' Cadre for two years. The cadre was designed to train the commanders for our much anticipated tour to Helmand Province next year, and with that in mind, a selection week was implemented to ensure that we had the best raw material to work with. From the 76 students that arrived on day 1, we selected 48 for the main cadre.

The first week of the main cadre consisted of lecturettes and teaching practices, followed by coaching practices on the range. This was of course integrated with a certain amount of PT, just to keep the mindset right for the remaining four weeks. As part of the section competition, we instigated a stretcher race on the back area, including



Ambush sprung.

The Vikings



The JNCOs' Cadre 2006.

'Heartbreak Hill'. This was won by 2 Section under the instruction of Cpl Mat Waters, much to the annoyance of Cpl Brooks (1 Section). The second week consisted of map reading and orders. At the end of the week the cadre deployed to Sennybridge for the much anticipated fieldcraft phase.

The first day in Sennybridge consisted of an instructor-led navex over the Fan. This was fairly leisurely for the students and squad instructors, but not for the training officer and weapons training warrant officer. We moved to the pick-up point, where it was said that the route to the top was much easier than the way the students had gone. However, it soon became apparent that WO2 'Mountain Goat' Granfield had bluffed me, and that we were in fact walking a much harder route. Thanks! The following day was spent in Cellini Village conducting section-level training in the morning, followed by a platoon attack in the afternoon.

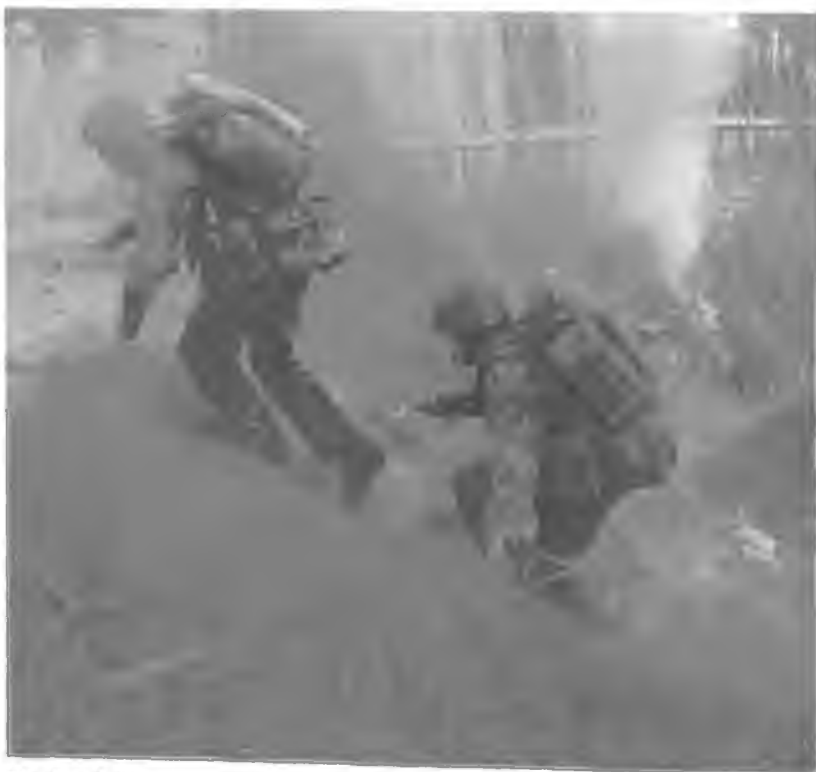
The next couple of days were spent conducting student Battle Lessons and improving personal 'skills and drills'. Sgt Richardson was also on hand to provide 'bangs' for the students, a task he seemed to relish. We also covered defence and patrol harbours ready for the final exercise. This was integrated with a few night navigation exercises, during which the weather closed in as only it can in Sennybridge. This was useful in terms of practising the students with minimal visibility, but meant that the instructors spent longer than anticipated searching for navigationally embarrassed soldiers. The last couple of days in week three consisted of a section attack circuit and platoon attack. It was unfortunate that at this point we had lost a number of students due to injury. Cpl Chris Mulley (1 Section) also ran some extra-curricular lessons during this period, most notably 'how to skin and gut a rabbit'. I think a few of the students thought he might actually eat it, but even he is not that brave!

The final exercise began in the early hours of Monday morning with a 10km insertion march to an assembly area at the top of the 'Travelator'. From the assembly area, the

platoon conducted two advance to contacts. It was during this advance that Pte Sayce broke his ankle, the last to fall during the final exercise. The following evening the platoon conducted a very good night attack on X Range, with plenty of 'bangs' and overhead fire. As our German guest commented, it was a 'good fireworks display'. Those in command appointments were truly tested, and began to show signs of developing into very good JNCOs. After various other operations, including a platoon ambush, the final attack took place in the early hours of Friday morning at Village 1. This was the instructors' opportunity to identify their top student, and was the culmination of a testing two weeks. Once the attack had finished, the students then moved to the Fan for the last big push - a section race. 4 Section, under

Cpl 'Pip' Sell were adamant that they would win, but unfortunately for him, the result was a resounding draw.

Once back in Pirbright, the final week was spent getting ready for the final parade. The parade itself was confidently led by (now) LCpl Murphy 53 with the appreciated assistance of the Corps of Drums. Although a particularly hot day, the cadre remained upright throughout, and conducted themselves impeccably. From the original 76 soldiers on the selection week, 28 passed what was a robust course. Eight were promoted on the day, with the top student being LCpl Green 81 from Recce Platoon. The others promoted were: LCpl Willan (Drums), LCpl Cadman (Recce), LCpl Murphy 53 and LCpl Blewitt (B Company), LCpl Lake (C Company), LCpl



The break in.

The Vikings



The Cadre on parade.

Van Der Mewre (A Company) and LCpl Hawkins (Snipers). I will not be with them on Operation Herrick, but wish them every success for the future.

Leadership Training for Lance Corporals

WO1 (RSM) Robinson writes:

For the last few years the Battalion has found it increasingly difficult to run the traditional full Corporals' Cadre or Tactics Cadre. This has led to concern that the lance corporals within the Battalion are missing out on an important part of their development. The areas of concern that were identified were confidence, fitness and professional competence. With the tour to Afghanistan fast approaching it was decided by the Commanding Officer that this gap needed filling. After searching an already full programme it was decided that rather than attempt to squeeze in a full cadre we would opt for a series of training periods ranging in duration from a few hours up to a week. These training periods would be run by the RSM with support from the Training Wing and the wider Sergeants' Mess. The first period of training was to be a week at Brecon.

The week's training began in camp on 13 October with 30 lance corporals, the RQMS (T) and three rifle platoon sergeants completing the BCFT. The results were mixed but it confirmed that the majority need to improve their fitness levels. The following week found the same group based out of Farm 6 on Sennybridge Training Area. The week's training was completely non-tactical which was designed to allow the Cadre to concentrate on the leadership skills being taught rather than trying to use them in a tactical environment which increases pressure. It was hoped that this would allow them to relax, enjoy the training and learn rather than being tested. The first event of the week was a day navigation exercise across the Black Mountains in section size groups, this was led by the platoon sergeant and was intended to remind and revise

navigation skills while introducing them to the unfamiliar and harsh terrain that Brecon offers. We spent the evening discussing the qualities of a leader and values and standards of the British Army.

The Cadre then progressed on to an orders day which consisted of orders for a deliberate attack at platoon level, this was carried out slow time with each student issuing several sections of the orders and all taking part in the fault finding process. The afternoon was spent discussing the estimate at section level and moving on to a Quick Battle Orders exercise using the same piece of ground. The day was rounded off with a two miler just to remind the students that Brecon can't always be fun. The evening was spent on a series of start standard tests from the Section Commanders' Battle Course that included general knowledge, map reading, first aid and NBC.

On day three we returned to navigation with a pairs navigation exercise across the training area with the aim being accuracy of navigation rather than speed across the ground. This finished at another farm complex, where the Cadre was then required to complete a patrol report focussing on the sketches, conclusions and recommendations and enemy sections of the report. The final morning was spent on a long period of PT and a feedback session. Many of the students admitted that they arrived on the training unenthusiastic and expecting a Brecon beating, they finished the week on a high having learnt a little but probably more importantly enjoyed a training period focussed solely on their needs. It was a week well spent.

The second period of lance corporals' training was a four-hour period, which was conducted at the beginning of the Battalion pre-deployment range package. This saw 65 lance corporals leave Pirbright earlier than the main body and attend three lessons given by the RSM and the two RQMSs. The subjects covered were pocket book lessons, the role of the 2IC in the field and delivery of Quick Battle Orders. Following the success

of the previous training period this training was also very well received.

It is now hoped that these training periods will become a regular part of the Battalion training programme. A relatively small amount of investment in terms of time and resources has already seen a noticeable improvement in the attitude and confidence of some of the lance corporals. It is up to us to ensure that we continue to move forward and invest in developing the leadership potential of our Junior NCOs.

Vikings' Cross Country Team

Capt Phil Blanchfield writes:

The resurrection of the Vikings' cross country team is well underway, coached and managed by the QM(T), Capt Phil Blanchfield. The team entered the 12 Brigade Competition and won it quite convincingly. The course was fast and flat and, although good for spectators, it was not a traditional cross country route.

The team was led home by Maj Dom Biddick closely followed by Capt Blanchfield and Maj Messenger. The team was clearly in a league of its own, the remaining teams in the Brigade were no match for a 'performing' Viking team. The team is also in the 4 Division League which is arguably the toughest league in the country with many top runners from all Corps being involved.

There are a number of up-and-coming runners within the team: Ptes Cowley, Rutherford and Silvey are all within the top 10 in the Battalion runs - this equating to a top 60 place in the 4 Division League. Pte Cumberbatch has recently joined the team and at the tender age of 17 is certainly one to watch out for in future. Still the old stalwarts of Maj Biddick and Maj Messenger along with Capt Blanchfield compete and push the boundaries with each race.

The aim for this season is to compete in as many league races as possible and then win the 4 Division Championships on 6 December.

2nd Battalion The Poachers

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

Between April and November 2006 the Battalion was deployed as part of 20 Armoured Brigade in Iraq on Operation Telic 8. The Battalion's sub-units were deployed in and around Basra City throughout the tour. The summer of 2006 proved to be a very turbulent time for Iraq; the security situation across the country deteriorated and Basra witnessed a resurgence of determined attacks against multinational forces, as well as serious ethnic and inter-factional fighting within Basra City.

The Battalion ended up playing a far more significant role in the Brigade's operations than we would have ever guessed before the tour. A serious deterioration in the security situation in Basra catalysed the establishment of an additional Basra City Battlegroup – we were delighted to be taken off our security sector reform duties and re-tasked to establish the new battlegroup and run security operations in the southern part of the city.

Our soldiers' determination, decency and sense of humour won over many of the local population, despite repeated enemy attacks and efforts to undermine our credibility, by those wishing to pursue their own anti-democratic agendas. This was a very significant operational tour for the Battalion; all sub-units were actively involved in offensive operations against the enemy, be it urban patrolling in Basra City, or conducting strike operations against specific targets.

Change was one of the few constants during the tour. The Battalion initially deployed in the security sector reform role with Battlegroup Headquarters based in Basra Air Station, and A and B Companies deployed forwards in the City at Basra Palace and the Shat-Al-Arab Hotel respectively. The deterioration of the security situation, early on in the tour, led to a rebalancing of the Brigade and the splitting of the Basra City area of operations into two parts, City North and City South. 2 Royal Anglian were tasked with establishing the new Basra City South Battlegroup, based in Basra Palace. We took on B Company 1 LI in the Old State Building and 17 Battery RA as part of the battlegroup, along with our own A Company. B Company remained in the Shat-Al-Arab Hotel and was retasked to Basra City North Battlegroup (1LI). A further rebalancing of forces at the four-month point saw us taking on C Company 1 PWRR; thus having deployed as a light role battlegroup we ended up commanding two light and two armoured infantry companies! It was wonderful to see that all sub-units, regardless of capbadge, integrated whole-heartedly – we are all the better for this experience.

C Company acted as the Brigade Reserve throughout the tour and was used extensively as the Brigade's first instrument of choice for

strike operations throughout the MND(SE) Area of Operations. C Company moved base location from Shaiba Logistics Base to Basra Air Station at approximately the halfway point in the tour, a popular and operationally expedient move. D (Sp) Company had a turbulent but successful tour, starting off as part of the Rear Operations Battlegroup, moving at the two-month point into Basra City to join the newly formed Basra City North Battlegroup and finally returning to Shaiba Logistics Base to rejoin the Rear Operations Battlegroup for the last two months of the tour.

Our G4 staff initially supported Poachers based in Shaiba Logistics Base and then at the two-month point moved wholesale to Basra Palace to provide G4 support for the battlegroup's new role in Basra City. A small G4 team also remained in Shaiba Logistics Base, working for the Divisional Security Sector Reform Cell; they played the lead role in the receipt and issue of essential operational equipment and weapons to the Iraqi Security Forces.

As a battalion we worked in close harmony with many other units and thoroughly enjoyed the company of C Company 1 PWRR and 17 Battery RA within our own battlegroup. Our thanks goes out to the other brigade units who looked after our companies so well. It was delightful to welcome elements of 2RRF to the City to take over responsibility for running the Provincial Joint Operations Centre from us in the last two months of the tour, this allowed us to focus our resources fully on supporting Operation Sinbad, the Divisional led push to improve security in Basra through security sector reform and infrastructural improvements. Our thanks goes out to all those TA and Regular augmentees as well as members of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment who volunteered to deploy to Iraq with the Poachers, they formed a vital part of our team and brought many valuable additional skills and perspectives with them.

Undoubtedly we have benefited from our time in Iraq, we have emerged a more experienced Battalion; far more of our soldiers were involved in contacts than we might have thought would be the case, prior to the tour, our mortar crews gained invaluable operational experience and we all have a healthy respect for incoming indirect fire! We will be all the better prepared for future operational tours in what seems to be an ever less stable world.

Sadly, the cost of trying to bring peace and stability to a troubled land can be high, our thoughts are with the families of Pte Adam Morris, Pte Joseva Lewaicei and Cpl Matthew Cornish (1 LI serving with Basra City South Battlegroup) who were killed in action. We look forward to the return of our injured; their courage in dealing with their injuries was humbling - we are determined that they should be fully reintegrated within

the Battalion. We also owe a huge debt of thanks to all those who supported us in the rear party, as well as all those wives, families and friends, whose unstinting support was key to the Battalion's success.

We now look forward now to a change in direction: we will complete the Bowman conversion package, enjoy some skiing and adventure training, exercise our Freedom in our Counties and then make a welcome return to Celle in Germany. A test exercise should round off the year in style, leaving us ready to enjoy Christmas in Germany once again.

A Company Commander's Perspective

Maj Stuart Nicholson writes:

It is difficult to summarise A (Lincolnshire) Company's experience of Operation Telic 8. To go into detail of each notable incident would take some time, involve a degree of repetition and may still not get across the actual experience of operations in Basra City. What I therefore intend to do is attempt to describe the defining elements of the tour. This is in an effort to give those who weren't with us some idea of what we experienced and to jolt memories in those who were.

Operation Telic 8 was a summer tour of Iraq. In the height of the summer daily temperatures were routinely over 50C. Even at night the temperature did not drop below the lower 40s. It is difficult to imagine such temperatures if you haven't experienced them. You sweat the moment you step from an air-conditioned room. After several hours on the ground not only are shirts soaked, but so are trousers, webbing and even boots. Temperatures in the back of a Snatch, or worse a Warrior, would be in the 60s. It can be frightening sitting in the back of a vehicle in such temperatures, wondering how long you can stand it and what will happen to you. Every time we went onto the ground we were wearing helmets and Osprey body armour. Osprey offered welcome protection, but was significantly heavier than previously used body armour. Soldiers carried full scales of ammunition and grenades. Moving in this equipment in any weather would be hard work; in the 50s it pushes the limits of endurance. Heat injury was an ever present threat. This does not just mean 'getting a bit hot and bothered', but rather permanent damage being done to organs. Heat exhaustion was almost routine. Following a patrol speech would be slurred, concentration lowered and co-ordination impaired.

This heat was inescapable. For much of the tour the majority of the company lived without air-conditioning. This meant returning from a patrol, showering, sweating on the walk back from the showers and

The Poachers



then lying on your bed sweating all night. Soldiers became dehydrated in their beds. Wind was not a respite since the wind itself was hot. Acting as top-cover sentry may look like a cooler option, but faces could burn, not just in the sun but in the oven hot air being blasted across the face. Uncovered hands would burn on rifles or vehicles. Water not in cool boxes became hot enough to shave with. Often in the back of a Warrior for several hours a soldier, teetering on the edge of heat injury, would have water poured over him, only to find that the water was actually uncomfortably hot. Heat limited operations, it prevented walking any distance in equipment, it made every movement a huge effort and it hospitalised many soldiers; thankfully none were in A Company.

Another characteristic of Telic 8 was the operational tempo. While for A Company it started at a fairly manageable pace it soon increased. A company of six multiples in reality worked at five. One of these was detached to support Special Forces operations. Another was in the PJOC, guarding the Iraqi emergency and security coordination centre. Another was on guard at Basra Palace. This left two multiples to conduct all patrol activity. Troops would routinely be deployed on the ground for 18 hours in a day. This must be considered against the temperatures that they worked in. As the threat in the City increased it was dictated that all moves must be led by Warrior and that all moves must be a minimum of two multiples. The upshot of this was that the two Warriors deployed on every patrol and operation the Company conducted. In one month-long period the Warrior commanders never had a longer stretch of uninterrupted sleep than five hours. Sleep was taken when it could be to fit around day and night activity. During periods of high activity patrols would not sleep in one stretch but rather in four or five-hour chunks between deployments. During



Capt Wolstenholme (left) hands over to Capt Turner.

The Poachers

incidents (such as the Lynx helicopter crash or the follow up to the Danish Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contact) multiples would be on the ground for up to 20 hours, grabbing sleep in the backs of vehicles when possible. Relatively little time was spent relaxing, watching films or playing sport. Troops either patrolled or slept.

Basra was a dangerous environment and Operation Telic 8 was a typically violent tour. The threat manifested itself in many different ways at different times during the tour, but was always present. The IED threat was of huge concern throughout. C Company's fatal IED contact early in the tour starkly highlighted the threat and these were by no means the only fatalities due to IEDs in the city. The enemy learned the procedures that we used to protect ourselves and changed his techniques to counter these. This meant that the IED threat was constantly evolving and there was no room at all for complacency or short cuts. Towards the end of the tour the threat became even greater, moving into the city centre with the enemy showing little regard for the safety of civilians. The incidence of IED attack or finds rose throughout the tour; there were more IEDs functioned or found in August than in the whole of the previous three months and this rise continued. Some of A Company witnessed at first hand the effect of IED attack as they assisted a Danish patrol hit by an IED on the way to Shaiba Base. Several possible finds were also made by A Company troops.

The threat of direct fire attack (people shooting at you) also grew throughout the tour. Early on the chance of being shot at or hit by a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) was remote; by the end of the tour few in the Company had not been contacted in such a way. Direct fire attack could range from a single opportunistic shot or RPG, which would be over before the reality of what had happened had sunk in, to protracted and coordinated attack. The Company was

involved in several fire fights of varying intensity, up to an hour in length. Everyone's experience of such contacts is different, but it is a fairly shocking and unforgettable event.

Indirect fire (mortars and rockets) was perhaps the threat that most affected our lives. We were routinely attacked in the Palace throughout the tour. At times it was only once or twice a week in the late evening. At other times it was two or three times a day both in daylight and darkness. Some attacks were one or two rounds only; one consisted of 15 rockets. Such attacks became almost the norm for us and caused little excitement. However, once or twice indirect fire attacks in the City did claim lives and focused our minds to the realities of what this threat meant. These attacks were a barometer of the feeling of the enemy towards us and following successful operations the threat would increase. One major effect of indirect fire attack was to disrupt rest as head checks and clearances had to be completed. The fact that such attacks often followed a long night time operation would compound issues of fatigue.

What did the Company do? Almost everything. We took part in strike operations, we manned cordons, we assisted the Iraqi Security Forces, we surged to dominate areas, we escorted convoys, we cleared and picketed routes, we transported VIPs, we gathered intelligence and a multitude of other tasks. Perhaps the most unnerving tasks were the less glamorous ones. Administrative runs back and forth from Shaiba and the Air Station were not glamorous, but were frequent and saw us using limited routes along heavily observed roads in some of the most dangerous areas of Basra province. Convoy escort was similarly dangerous. Night time surge operations saw us moving along deserted streets in the worst parts of the City, having no doubt been watched leaving our camp. No task was ever safe, no matter how mundane or routine.

Despite, or perhaps because of all the above A Company did enjoy their tour. We had several noticeable successes; we made the largest ever weapons seizure of any Operation Telic and we intercepted a 'death squad' who actually had their yet to be killed victim with them. We took part in many events that made national and international news and we all became better soldiers. I look now at the Company as they approach the end of the tour and the difference in them from when they deployed is almost unbelievable. Almost every man has raised his game enormously. The soldiers are more professional, more competent and more confident than ever before. They have endured all the above with little or, more often, no complaint. I am hugely proud of them and they can be rightly proud of themselves and what they have done.

The Operation Damask multiple

Sgt NS Reeder writes:

The Operation Damask multiple arrived in Iraq in the middle of April after undergoing the normal OPTAG package at Lydd and Hythe with its wind and rain (good acclimatisation) and the village that was supposed to look like the suburbs of downtown Basra, but looked more like the pads' estate at Tern Hill. The package the Company went through put us in good stead, especially the live firing ranges.

As soon as we arrived in theatre we were given the normal briefs and orientation around Basra by our counterparts; the handover was very good and detailed.

My multiple worked with the Company for about two weeks when I was called into the OC's office. The OC then explained to me that I would no longer be working with the Company and I immediately thought that I was being shipped off to go and sit on the border and do some sort of task of



The multiple going through some drills on the range, involving static turns and firing round cover left and right. (Hope the SASC don't read this article).

The Poachers



My multiple moving into cover after the first mortar attack, you can see the fire started on purpose to stop us seeing them throwing blast bombs and taking shots at us with small arms.

looking after the border guard for the next seven months. (How wrong I was). The OC then went on to give me a brief that I would be working with Special Forces for the rest of the tour which would be a great experience not just for myself but for the men in the multiple as it would give them a good insight into how the Special Forces work, and maybe recruit a few Poachers for their selection.

A couple of hours later I met my new boss for the next six months who then introduced me to the rest of the team and gave me a detailed brief on what exactly we would be doing and how we would be going about our business. My multiple started with a very good training package to teach us the drills that were required to work with and assist the Special Forces. These drills ranged from our own vehicle contact drills, whether it be small arms fire up to and including Improvised Explosive Devices, to break down drills. We were also taught vehicle extraction involving cutting up cars and removing serious casualties from road traffic accidents. We were then taught first aid by their patrol medics. This involved teaching us about the main threats in theatre with regards to the type of injuries that are sustained such as mass haemorrhaging to difficulties with breathing and using the correct kit for the type of injury.

The multiple had a test week when all drills that had been taught were put in to practice. The multiple training package was some of the best training my soldiers have ever done, especially the first aid and the vehicle extraction kit.

We were close to finishing the training on our last week when one of the Special Forces guys said I need you ready to move in 15 minutes as a helicopter has been shot down. With a very quick brief the multiple

was ready to go this was because we had all our own equipment that the company had provided us so we was pretty much self sufficient. The multiple moved to the crash site which had already been secured by other troops who were based closer to the scene. This did not mean our task was over; we went to reinforce the outer cordon outside the Old State Building, the home of B Company 1LI. The multiple was to take over from another Call Sign on a bridge known as Red12, and to push a hostile crowd back away from the crash site. The crowd was about three hundred strong and increasing in size. We knew that the integrity of the cordon was our main effort due to the fact that we did not know the situation at the crash site, and other agencies had to get in and take evidence away.

With very little public order kit to go round we were located 400m to the west of Red12. We could all see the crowd on the southern side of the bridge and we knew that we had to get them on the other side of the bridge to protect the crash site. We carried out what's known as a rapid advance with vehicles leading.

The vehicles we had at our disposal were two Warriors and a number of Snatch Land Rovers; these would drive at the crowd with the troops to the rear of the Warriors ready to pounce. On the order we rushed the crowd; they did not want to fight toe to toe. They were on the back foot and we got them on the other side of the bridge where we then blocked it with Warriors.

When the crowd dispersed our next task was to wait for the other agencies to do their job; this took some time. We had been on the ground and in position for not much more than 45 minutes when we took a barrage of mortars which landed about a hundred metres to the west of my men.



The author.

The Poachers



Armour moving west to the area of the crash site where later there was to be a barrage of mortar fire.

With the threat in mind we tried to find as much cover as we could and we parked the Snatches in side streets as these are only armoured Land Rovers and would not be able to take a direct hit from a mortar. While the vehicles were in the side streets we still had to keep an eye on the crowd who at this stage had started to throw blast bombs and petrol bombs. At this stage a number of baton rounds were used to control the crowd. It was starting to get late and the soldiers were getting tired but we knew we had an important job to do. We got prepared for a late night; we changed to our night sights and took on board as much water as we could. With the threat of mortars and small arms fire it would be difficult to identify firing points as we were in static positions and the enemy could move from street to street undetected. That night the enemy took their

chances with small arms shoots onto the cordon and blast bomb attacks. However, there was a plan in place for a relief in place; this would be done by armoured call signs from the north of the City.

Overall we were on the ground as a multiple for more than eight hours when we were relieved by a Warrior callsign. The men had been involved in something that they will never forget, especially the younger members of the multiple who have never been shot at or mortared. I would never wish it on anyone but we did our job and I was proud of my men and how professional they were throughout the cordon.

This has just been one of the tasks we have been involved in and really the only one I can talk about. Since we have been working with Special Forces we have done some good jobs and it has been very interesting.



The Warriors and the first aid vehicle on the bridge; mortar rounds were fired at us and some casualties were taken.

The Largest Weapons Find Since Telic Began

Lt Johnny Lanham writes:

While it would be futile to attempt to summarise the Battalion's, or even A (Lincolnshire) Company's time in Iraq into a few lines, it is possible to look at certain highlights from a multiple's perspective during Operation Telic 8.

Perhaps 2 Platoon's most significant incident to date has been the finding, seizing and extraction under fire of over two tonnes of munitions from the heart of Basra during Operation Harlequin. While a Battle Group Operation in scope and complexity, the immediate responsibility for the inner cordon and strike itself were carried out by multiples from A Company.

Events had a decidedly interesting flavour from the beginning, with Pte Hughes having to engage a lone gunman on the route out from the palace at the very beginning. Although the gunman escaped, it certainly set the tempo of what was to come. Things took a turn for the worse once inside the Old State Building while making final preparations. With four rocket propelled grenade contacts and over 13 mortar rounds landing inside the compound it was a little disconcerting to find four of the Company's six Snatch Land Rovers unusable after almost direct mortar hits.

Once CSgt Donovan had managed to beg, borrow and steal some more vehicles, the Company was finally able to make its way to the target building. With 2 Platoon's Sgt Greenhill and his multiple forming the inner cordon, the other half of the Platoon with myself was able to batter its way through

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Pte Goodman next to the entry hole on Operation Harlequin - only his second patrol since arriving in theatre.

the external wall to gain access. Clearing through the house it quickly became apparent that whoever lived there had fled. However, unlike the familiar fairy tale of the three bears, it was not bowls of porridge that had been left behind but rather two tons of mortars, bombs, rockets, shells and further devices in the Aladdin's cave of weaponry.

While the excitement of the find had fallen to A Company, so too did the donkey work of extracting the material from the house, with soldiers heaving heavy weapons around in over 40C; and it was still dark! In fact there was so much that a few rockets had to be lashed to the top of vehicles to enable it all to be taken away. The drivers of the weapon-carrying vehicles seemed remarkably calm considering the large mobile bombs they were now driving.

As dawn approached it was time to return to the palace but unfortunately Mr JAM and his posse had decided that we were not going to get away with our loot so easily. As the Battlegroup tried to get away it came under heavy fire from multiple firing positions. It was surprising to say the least when heavy machine gun tracer started flashing past the end of the alley. Heavy covering fire from B Company Light Infantry and 2Lt Lambert's multiple clearing an occupied house meant the way was clear for the Battlegroup to make its escape. My own pulse certainly quickened when the Land Rover I was commanding kept trying to hurl us into the canal after losing a tyre to shrapnel.

Fortunately A Company emerged



Pte Burkett monitors the radio while on patrol.

The Poachers



Sgt Greenhill adopts a fire position while out on patrol.

unscathed to secure the final bridge before the safety of the palace, as the rest of the Battle Group withdrew among a hail of small arms fire and rocket trails. While the Company attempted to secure the far bank of the bridge an attempt was made to ambush the Company by a number of gunmen. These were soon dissuaded by LCpl Davidson's call of 'watch my tracer' guiding a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle's chain gun onto target to stress the point that the gunmen really should go home, in the process demolishing the house they were hiding behind. Troops were amazed, while all this was happening, to witness one local wandering across the bridge without a care in the world to take breakfast to his relative in the hospital. It apparently is the most important meal of the day.

With the bridge secure and the Battlegroup safely back inside the palace it was time for A Company to literally pop smoke and leave, with two phosphorous grenades providing the necessary screen to allow the Company to extract without casualties back to the palace; which was nice. Most soldiers forfeited the traditional tea and medals and quickly went to bed after a tiring but successful night's work in carrying off what has been officially described as 'the largest weapons find since Telic began'.

The Experiences of OC 1 Platoon

Lt Ben Hawes writes:

Sitting in Basra Palace in early September it is a barely possibly to recognise it as the same place we arrived at some four months ago. The settings around us, the role we carry out, the threat we face have all changed; and most noticeably the mind set and way in which the members of the Company carry themselves.

There is little doubt that the role which A (Lincolnshire) Company inherited from our predecessors could be seen as anything but comfortable soldiering, particularly in comparison to our current role. Based around a fairly 9-5 day the patrols although long in duration and distance covered, were predictable. The main problem initially was the heat and learning to cope with it.

Lt Johnny Lanham and I managed to 'upset' the Company Commander, Maj Stuart Nicholson intensely after managing to bog in a couple of Snatches each. The 20-minute rant that followed in an O Group was punctuated with phrases such as; 'I do not want to see this 'it will go' attitude any more', and...'it is a bloody Snatch, not a Land Rover!' This small episode was brought to a climax when a picture of Lt

Lanham's submerged Snatch appeared on the internet and front page of the Daily Telegraph. Despite these minor mishaps the Company was soon well accustomed to the geography and culture of the local area. Things were however, soon to change, and soon we took on a ground holding task. With this came unsociable hours, new tasks and more localised patrolling. Some of the operations were, however, a lot more demanding and interesting and developed and tested our soldiering skills.

The Palace is definitely the place to be in Basra. A pool, shops, hard cover and nice views of the Shat al Arab River; it is practically luxury compared to other locations in the City. The Palace has however changed before our eyes. There are now several hundred more people based here and a great deal more kit and equipment, but no more toilets and showers! Some things are however assured; CSgt Donovan has painted everything he can yellow and black, topped off by Imps that have a habit of appearing everywhere. The CSM continues to stalk around observing everyone and everything. He has shown a clear fetish for sandbags during to tour, and he and CQMS could be seen making walls and showing soldiers how the build 'a proper wall'. Any slight misdemeanor is punishable with sandbag



Pte Staines providing top cover.

The Poachers

filling (to ensure there is plenty of fetish material).

The threat is ever changing, and we have been blessed to have a good G2 Cell headed up by 2Lt Dave Stabler and Pte Ogden. The Snatch only patrols that were carried out when we arrived have ceased to exist, and Warrior now accompanies us everywhere. We have seen contacts go from the odd shoot and Improvised Explosive Device to platoon minus size ambushes and attacks on bases. The Company has evolved with the threat and is now unrecognisable when compared to the men they were on deployment.

The Platoon I brought to Iraq has some very young looking people in it, and some that were not so young, (but sometimes act like it). They have now become mature (in some cases), more reliable, but in call cases better soldiers. Young faces like Pte Mander, Wall, and Lt Lanham are now lined and they have bags under their eyes, but are still not looking as grotesque as mine. Concerns in relation to soldiers being afraid to fire proved to be unfounded. In my multiple the soldiers always have encouragement and back up from Cpl Hartshorne who always appears when there is a contact, normally wrestling his way onto the GPMG. Losses and woundings that have befallen the Battalion have had a profound effect on us all.

We are now in the home straight, with weeks rather than months to push. There is little doubt that A Company has, and will continue to rise to the challenges it is set, mainly due to fear of filling sandbags!

A Tour in the Life of Scott Leonard Hugh Cameron 'Jack of all Trades - Master of None' Ogden

Pte Ogden writes:

For the unfortunate few who have not had the pleasure of my acquaintance my name is Pte Ogden. During my service with 2 Royal Anglian, since June 2003, I have been to a few rather interesting places, most recently to Iraq on Operation Telic 8.

Leaving England's green, wet and terribly cold lands on 13 April, my fellow colleagues and I boarded the fantastic and well known 767 for a new and more sun-drenched (to say the least) location. Arriving in Qatar a good seven hours later I proceeded straight to the nearest smoking area, and quite literally burst into flames, as both my blood pressure and the air temperature seemed to rise dramatically. It was as if I had been placed in a blast furnace, but worryingly I was soon to find this would not be the end of the rising temperatures. To cut a long story short, (and trust me the other 24 hours of transportation would have broken the patience of a saint), we arrived at Basra Palace a timely 36 hours later.

Settling in is always troublesome, and accommodation issues and lack of bed spaces meant any spare bed was mine.



The author.

Eventually I got a lovely air-conditioned room but, with the steady increase in troops, came demotion to a tent. It was well air conditioned and extremely habitable, the probability of indirect fire attacks didn't bother me in the least, I mean if the two inches of fabric didn't stop a mortar, my duvet would.

Now to the tour. My main job was G2 and I worked in the Intelligence Cell. My day would consist of briefings, de-briefings, and a cup of tea, possibly another briefing and somewhere in between a bout of War Blade, the computer game. There were many other tasks at my disposal, but I can't say much - they are classified!

Enjoying the Intelligence Cell was easy and a valuable experience, I found new bounds in confidence, which has greatly helped with my public relations, or possibly helped the public relate to me. 'The easy life' may be crossing your minds right now, but I can assure you this is not the case at all. I did other things in my time such as rifleman in the CO's Rover Group and driver for the OC and 2IC of A Company, indeed it was in this role that I have one of the most interesting memories I will have from Iraq: the trip to Camp Smitty.

For those unfamiliar with this place, it was situated about 300km west of Basra near the town of As Samawah in the province

of Al Muthanna. The eight-hour drive through the night really separated the men from the boys and I must admit that en route there I remember seeing Gollum in a hallucination attacking one of the vehicles. Luckily the Company 2IC at the time, Capt Wolstenholme, tried to keep me awake with his intellectual and insightful conversation, that's if he himself was not in one of his moments of unconsciousness. Luckily we all arrived there safely, and everyone seemed surprised that they were not the only ones to have been seeing bizarre images on the journey. Facing the journey back that night would mean I would require some special quick fix (not drugs) so as not to sleep at the wheel. In the end the idea came to me in the form of caffeine. I obtained an empty 750ml water bottle filling it with a mixture consisting of eight packs of coffee granules and six packs of sugar. It did the trick.

The tour continued on leaving me with some sense of achievement. Considering everything that has happened over the six and a half months, I'm sure there will be much to fill conversations, in camp, at home or even down the local for many months to come. Any way that's my story really, rather strange. I hope you enjoy the read as much as I enjoyed the write. Until back in UK I continue nights dreaming of clouds rain and hopefully snow.

The Poachers

Iraq Insight: A View From the Ground Troops

LCpl Haynes and Pte Finnerty write:
We are coming up to the last two months of the tour now (morale is high) and I think it's fair to say its been busy. We had many tasks ranging from patrolling the streets of Basra to escorting VIPs to various locations so they can carry out their duties, not exciting stuff, but just as important like guard duties, the Provincial Joint Operations Centre (PJOC) and many other wild and wonderful jobs.

We arrived in theatre on 15 April where we carried out our Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) which is the in-theatre training package to ensure we were fully ready for the tasks we had ahead of us. After three days training had finished everyone was eager to get stuck in to the challenges they would face through out the tour; ammunition was issued and we was eventually put into groups for our flights.

We arrived into our location (Basra Palace), the first impressions were good; the camp seemed very well laid out and organised, and we all got shown our en suite rooms which ranged from eight-man broom cupboards to 30-man conference rooms, all with their own balcony of course at no extra cost. The next couple of days were slow with even more kit getting issued and even more in-theatre lessons which everyone loved. After two days of pre-patrol administration we eventually started to filter ourselves into patrols with the Artillery Regiment who were handing over to us.

Commanders were joining in on patrols, doing top cover in Snatch vehicles, and commanding the vehicles; getting to grips with navigating around the City. Private soldiers learned to work essential pieces of kit from the vehicles and carrying out dismount drills. All went well and everyone had now had the best possible training and guidance to carry out the jobs we came to do. So we had now taken over and quickly got into the swing of things.

Patrols started off quite slowly at first but soon changed as did our role; our tasks now included guards, arrest operations, Operation Howsons (escorting vehicle convoys with supplies) to and from different locations; this could be a nightmare as we could have as many as 72 vehicles in the convoy. We never seemed to have time to ourselves, so any time that we did have was spent sleeping (Cpl Fawcett's favourite hobby), ringing loved ones back home and doing any administration we had. Some people concentrated on Operation Massive; this involved going to the gym and overdosing on protein shakes, LCpl Freeman was totally dedicated to this, and it's paid off! He is massive!

In between all of this we had lots of indirect fire threat, which meant our camp coming under attack from mortars to rockets, (which I had the pleasure of experiencing while sat on a porta-loo when one landed

50m behind me - I was probably in the right place). Attacks found us putting on our helmet and body armour and finding any hard cover to hide!

So it brings me to the end of this short article on our life in Iraq, away from our loved ones. It has been a difficult tour for everyone. Not only for us but also for wives, families and friends who have missed us all so much and gave us all the support and love while we have been away - I think they all deserve a well earned night off from doing the dishes when we get home. This tour has seen many talented young soldiers come out of their shells and shine and develop maturity and it has been a great experience for every single one of them.

Basra - A Journey not an Ending

Maj Paul Leslie writes:

It is impossible to summarise the range of experiences, incidents, stories and emotions that defined B Company's or any other Company's tour. Our soldiers shared the same incidents, lived together for seven months in the Shaat-Al-Arab Hotel with the Light Infantry Battle Group and ultimately, on many occasions, fought together rather than with each other! Every soldier within the Company, however, will have had a very different tour. My overview of the tour is no more valid than those which follow from B Company's platoon commanders, the new recruits, the augmentees and others. All of the articles show that Operation Telic 8 was an experience during which we learned a great deal.

As individuals we learned about ourselves;

how we performed as professional soldiers, our reactions to indirect and direct fire, how we felt in moving to an incident in which casualties had been taken; what mattered to us. We also learned a great deal about others; friends became comrades. We learned much about human nature, the Arab culture, the Iraqi people, other armies. We saw the very best and worst of people; individuals working as locally employed civilians striving to earn an income for their family, militias and criminals targeting and exploiting the vulnerable. We saw the best of our soldiers as they demonstrated real physical and moral courage to do the right thing and put themselves in harms way despite the risks to themselves. Sgt Pepper's multiple (R10B), moving immediately to the site of the downed Lynx aircraft wreckage despite murderous crowds, Cpl McTavish's multiple on 13 May speeding to assist C Company on Qarmat Ali bridge when Ptes Lewaicei and Morris were killed. CSgt Robert's multiple (R30A) moving directly to assist the Queen's Dragoon Guards who had fatalities and serious casualties as a result of an Improvised Explosive Device on 28 May at Green 18. The battle with insurgents on Qarmat Ali Bridge on 6 September following the fatal attack against the Danish Battalion when fast air, tank fire and 3,000 rounds from two multiples of B Company assisted the extraction of personnel and the ammunition technical officer. All are examples of how B Company private soldiers and their immediate commanders showed raw courage to do the right thing; totally ignoring the possibility of personal risk. All of us within the company are immensely proud of what the Poachers did; we earned a reputation that we could be counted upon. We moved to the fight; ready



B Company provides cover.

The Poachers

to support other soldiers; irrespective of their capbadge. For me, as OC B Company, the tour was defined not by what we achieved; but by what we did and what we did for each other. Ultimately; we learned some hard lessons about soldiering and what it means to be part of a team; every man in the Company can be justifiably proud of his part.

I have no doubt that all of the Companies within the Battalion were a similar mixture. The original Company personnel; veterans of nights out in Portrush and Portstewart, our thick-waisted tour of Ballykelly and later Jordan's Jebel el Batra were joined by 3 Royal Anglian, TA personnel, augmentees, the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and a host of others. This mixture was constantly 'topped up' by young soldiers just turned 18 or direct from the Infantry Training Centre. It is without exaggeration to say that B Company's Poacher identity soon took over; never forced, it happened. Shared incidents, danger, contacts, the humour of vehicles breaking down and bogging in (Lt Griffiths and Cpl Mills) or entangled in barbed wire on a night patrol (Cpl Steel). Individuals falling into roadside rubbish, slipping into the canal sewerage on a boat patrol (Cpl Miller), the abuse received following a stoning from children, being tasked to run the Company Laundry (Cpl Pett's Pants shop). All contributed to a real sense of identity not seen in the Company for a long time. Frequent Small Arms and Rocket Propelled Grenade attacks onto patrols and the routine, almost nightly, Indirect Fire Attacks against the Shaat-Al-Arab Hotel which would eventually claim the life of LCpl Brady of the Light Infantry all reinforced this sense of identity.

As a Company our role evolved constantly. Initially we were focused upon Security Sector Reform. Our multiple Commanders and Sgt Ghio from the Gibraltar Regiment acted as liaison officers to the various Iraqi Police Service Departments that made up 'Sector 6'. Departments such as Scientific Support, Auxiliary Police Force, Prison Escorts Department, the Serious Crimes Unit, the Checkpoint Police, the Provincial Quartermasters, Training and others. Progress was defined by visiting and continuing 'engagement' and not being contacted by Rocket Propelled Grenade or Small Arms Fire on the way. We shook hands with criminals, militia members, murderers, the lazy, the tribal, the former Army Colonels still sporting Saddam-style moustaches, the good and the honest. Most of all; on the many patrols, cordons, incidents and liaison visits we would chat to the children. As they asked in sequence for dollars, pens and finally to look through your SUSAT sight and 'what's your name mister?' Our soldiers learned how to conduct close protection for the company liaison officers and how to observe when we were being 'dicked' and targeted by those we sought to train. We attempted to train, mentor and monitor, we visited, waited, all sides made promises 'Inshallah' mostly not realised and left for another week. Progress



CSM B Company.

was slow and you can't fight culture!

In June as the security situation deteriorated we formally became part of the Light Infantry Battle Group. Our role changed and we became the Battle Group Reserve. The range of tasks became more varied. We left behind the Permanent Joint Operations Centre (PJOC) in the 'Warren' at Red 17; most had enjoyed being left alone as a multiple in the City, others preferred showers and escaping 'pan bashing' and the field kitchen! The range of tasks became increasingly varied. As a company we took part in several Strike operations where we provided cordon troops; inevitably the insurgents would attack these outer cordon positions. We provided Warrior Escorts to assist in the closure of Camp Abu Naji in Maysan; an epic tale for future Mess functions; 20-hour patrols in 47C with Improvised Explosive Device contacts en route. The first leg of Operation Oyster became legend on how not to conduct a convoy; the only thing that had been booked by the Brigade was the enemy! B Company conducted several searches and rummages. We escorted Brigade Commanders, journalists, the Danish Battalion, Operation Howsen logistic convoys and many others.

Then Operation Sinbad finally arrived; the Divisional plan sought to overcome the insurgents by stealth. Paint fumes to be precise; mass frenzied painting and pot hole filling; we would DIY them to death through re-generating local infrastructure and repairing schools. B Company's role was to clear and secure the insertion and extraction route into the target area; a hazardous task. An initial requirement

was to test the 'atmospherics' at Green 18, Al Jezaizah. Advised by Capt Ding, CSgt Roberts and Sgts Kirk and Groom that there was no need and that 'it was hostile and dangerous', the Divisional Staff insisted. The sound of small arms fire and rocket propelled grenade attack was drowned only by the sound of the Divisional clipboard being dropped! 'Atmospherics' had been successfully tested.

Throughout B Company's 'stay' in the Shaat-Al Arab Hotel the indirect fire threat from mortar and 107mm Katyusha Rockets was constant. Counter-indirect fire patrols of three multiples between 8pm and 2am became a nightly occurrence. Academia, Hay Tariq, Sekek, Al Maqil, Al Kindi all became our back yard as we conducted nightly foot and vehicle patrols in the area. Kestrel body armour, Electronic counter measures, the Bowman radios, all were cursed equally on a nightly basis. These are some fragments of B Company's Tour. Much detail has been omitted such as CSM Waghorn ensuring that almost the entire Company enjoyed 'Operational Stand Down' at the US Rest and Recreational (R and R) facilities in Kuwait; another tale! Several soldiers returned for career courses; others such as CSgt David, Cpl Tremain and Pte Metcalfe returned briefly following the birth of children. Others gained pen friends as a result of the support shown by the *Leicester Mercury* newspaper and Cpl Dolby's inspired decision to write to *New Woman* magazine! Tales from rest and recuperation are as rich as those from Iraq!

In conclusion, I can say that every soldier

The Poachers

within the Company is glad to have served in Iraq. As professional infantrymen we leave having been tested and proven. Experience is gained quickly on operations and lost rapidly in barracks. The importance of always carrying everything you need to fight, at all times: ammunition, water, night vision equipment and medical kit; the importance of depth and mutual support when patrolling and the reality that irrespective of armoured vehicles there is no substitute for 'boots on the ground'.

These are all 'old' lessons that all of us 're-learned' and recovered. B Company's experience in Iraq leaves us with the strongest foundations for the future. We return to Tern Hill secure in the knowledge that within the Company our soldiers have been tested harder than any since the very early days of Northern Ireland; our soldiers are determined, capable and quite rightly, proud of themselves and their friends. It has been an honour and a genuine privilege to command the soldiers of B Company on operations in Iraq.

Operation Telic 8 - A Platoon Commander's Perspective

CSgt Andy Roberts writes:

Well, as tasked by my OC, Maj Leslie this is a platoon commander's perspective of Operation Telic 8. I was posted back to the Poachers on 12 December 2005 as the new platoon commander of 6 Platoon, B Company. I soon discovered that 6 Platoon was known as 'Sexy 6' after their Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Paul Groom, also known as

'Hoff', owing to his hero, 90s Baywatch star, David Hasselhoff.

After a fantastic handover from the previous platoon commander (not) I got down to the business of interviewing the Platoon members and finding out all that I could about them and in particular who were the characters within the Platoon. I already knew Sgt Groom well, both from working together previously and also socially from the Mess. I also knew the majority of my JNCOs and this would prove to be key over the months ahead. Straight away we were rushed into a busy training cycle to prepare for our forthcoming tour of Iraq. I soon found, however, that my previous posting as a colour sergeant instructor at the Northern Ireland Reinforcement Training Team, as well as attachments to the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) would help me a great deal.

The training was fast and furious with only a limited amount of time available to get all of our skills and drills honed for deployment. The main skills that we worked upon were our dismounted foot and vehicle contact drills, IED drills, casualty/man down drills, rules of engagement, public order training and importantly our shooting. All of this came together during our OPTAG training at Lydd and later during our final exercise at the Stanford Training Area - Thetford. After two weeks' leave we deployed to Iraq on 15 April on our mammoth journey starting at Brize Norton. After what seemed like a million miles; we changed from charter flight to Hercules in Qatar, we finally landed at the APOD just outside Basra City. On landing, the airport was under indirect fire attack. With hazy eyes we donned our combat body

armour and helmets and awaited the Merlin Helicopter lift down to Shaiba Logistics Base to start four days of reception, staging and onwards integration (RSOI). This was designed as 'top-up' in-theatre training with Bowman Communications equipment and Electronic Counter Measures; equipment which we had not trained with in the UK.

Following the RSOI, the OC and the multiple commanders flew by Merlin helicopter to what was to be our base location for the next seven months, the 'Shaah-Al-Arab Hotel', better known as the Shaah. It was not five star as it said in the brochure! We then started our handover with the outgoing unit, C Battery RHA, which, considering the time available, was OK. A few days later the remainder of the Company moved up by helicopter to join us. There were a few apprehensive faces concerning the path that lay ahead of them; it wasn't going to be a yellow brick road! The patrol programme initially started with a six-day rotation which was achievable as rest and recuperation had yet to begin. Shortly after changeover at the 'Shaah' the Indirect Fire Attacks started; as the attacks became an almost daily occurrence so did the counter-indirect fire patrols over the next seven months. Our first full month, May, saw a spate of attacks on the Brigade, sadly lives were lost and units suffered casualties.

B Company reacted well and was involved in most of the major incidents within Basra. The first incident involved R10B who at the time were based at the PJOC under Sgt Pepper. They were the first multiple on the scene when the Lynx aircraft was shot down with the loss of seven personnel. A few weeks later a multiple led by Cpl McTavish



CSgt Roberts and his platoon.

The Poachers

deployed immediately to C Company's incident on Qarmat Ali Bridge on the night of 16 May when tragically Ptes Lewaicei and Morris lost their lives to an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

A few days later my own Callsign R30A deployed to the aid of a Queen's Royal Hussar patrol at Green 18 near Qarmat Ali. My multiple was first on the scene and I can recall the shock on their Team Commander's face as he briefed me on what had happened and then seeing the Snatch Land Rover peeled open like a tin can as a result of an IED. The team commander told me that he had one dead and one dying and that there were also a number of injured soldiers in the remaining two vehicles.

The vehicle which had been hit by the IED had to be destroyed in place by a red phosphorous grenade. I told the team commander that we were moving to the medical facilities at the 'Shat' by the shortest route back which was through the crowds which were surrounding the Callsign and that he was to position his vehicles in the centre of mine; moving immediately would give the casualties the best chance of surviving their injuries.

There was no way that the medical crash out teams would arrive in time. We moved at best speed through 'Five-Mile Market' which was blocked with traffic. God knows how, but Pte Briggs, my driver, got us through, his driving skills were fantastic. Once we were moving communications were poor; the only way to pass on what was happening was via the HF radio to the Operations Room and then by phone to Battlegroup Headquarters. We got to base, which seemed to take forever, but in fact only took ten minutes; the Quick Reaction Force were just leaving.

We moved complete as a multiple to the medical centre to get the injured to aid as quickly as possible, carrying the injured past the medical staff and the padre. The thing that sticks in my mind is seeing the dead on the stretchers and the faces of the people helping. Also, the unknown privates and NCOs shaking my hand and saying 'Cheers mate, for getting us here'; we lost two men that night...Lt Mildinhal and LCpl Farrelly who died in the incident. We were then debriefed by the CO and OC, Maj Leslie in the welfare tent. I looked at my multiple and some of them had a look of despair on their faces; I think some grew up that night and realised that it was no video game and that they had seen it for real.

Some of our tour has flown by, some of it has passed slowly with the normal rigmarole of the day-to-day running and administration of the multiples; training, weapon handling tests, patrols, guard, revising our drills. Not to forget, the usual platoon commander's paperwork, interviews, shooting record cards, nominal rolls, confidential reports; these all continue wherever you are in the world. Welfare issues don't stop in Iraq either! As a colour sergeant platoon commander and as a former platoon

sergeant, I've tried not to step on my platoon sergeant's toes.

As our tour comes to an end the daily small arms and indirect fire attacks are increasing. The platoon has done well; I am immensely proud of them and what they have achieved. This is due not to me but Sgt Groom, LCpls Coulbeck, Hassal, Burdass and Cox. Also from A Company LCpl Randall and Briggs who joined us as a sniper pair. Most importantly the 'men' of 6 Platoon. Looking back, the colour sergeant platoon commander works well with all of the experience that you have gathered over the years as long as you remember that you are no longer the platoon sergeant or section commander and let them get on with their jobs and pass on experience when it's needed. In fact every company should have one!

Security Sector Reform

Lt Adam Griffiths writes:

It is difficult to encapsulate any tour in a single article, let alone this tour; which has been turbulent even by the standards of previous Operation Telic tours. In many ways, B (Leicestershire) Company has been fortunate. Although, like other companies, we have been forced to navigate the dark and murky waters of Security Sector Reform (SSR) on a permanent basis we have not experienced the unsettling moves

forced upon our counterparts in C and FSP Companies. This alone has been a blessing, even if a trip to the QM's required a Geordie interpreter to help with the Light Infantry storeman! Being based in the Shaat Al Arab Hotel for the duration of the tour has allowed B Company to focus upon one area of operations. As a result B Company has acquired an excellent knowledge of the area local to Basra City North as well as a good working knowledge of Basra City in general.

It was emphasised frequently, prior to and during the early stages of the deployment, that the Main Effort during the tour would be achieving SSR. Only through SSR could the Iraqi people reach a state where self-government would be possible. It was noticeable on arrival; however, that achieving SSR was going to be even more difficult than anticipated. Faced with a deliberate policy of 'Non-Cooperation' issued by the Basra Security Council liaison with the Iraqi Police Service Departments became an uphill battle during the first few months of the tour. The poor security situation was undermined further by Sunni-Shia tensions and exemplified in early May by the loss of a Lynx helicopter, crashing down in one of the most volatile areas of the City. The widespread public disorder, small arms fire, RPG and indirect fire attacks which followed were to remain a constant



B Company on patrol.

The Poachers



B Company boat patrol.

theme for the remainder of the tour. Within 5 Platoon it soon became evident that this would change the way we operated and that achieving security would become of more importance. Even the newest of private soldiers was left in no doubt of the dangerous environment in which we operated. This in many ways made the lot of the platoon commander a lot easier; no motivational chats on the threat were necessary! This also helped the platoon sergeants; Sgt Deakin and later Sgt Kirk ensure that standards and battlefield discipline were met.

The desire to achieve security became the main objective at all levels with the repositioning of units conducted at a sharp pace during June. B Company formally became part of Basra City North Battle Group and acted as the Battle Group Reserve. The prospect of a far wider range of tasks faced the platoons with all becoming involved in everything from convoys to searches and cordons. Despite operations continuing apace, the mood remained light. This was aided with caption competitions and Cpl Lang's 'battle book', a comic with a rather twisted sense of humour. Some characters appeared only once but others such as Sgt 'Hasselhoff' Groom, the man with the impeccable tan and 'Von Haupt the Sneaky Kraut' remained 5 Platoon favourites.

WO2 (CSM) Waghorn also spearheaded another morale booting activity. Watching episodes of the US drama *The Shield* around the clock he reminded all that fatigue is just weakness leaving the body. The morale of the B Company officers was, however, lifted by the arrival of Capt Dave Hicks from the Vikings. A man, it is rumoured driven solely by the insecurity of lacking an Operation Telic medal, that he arranges his own tour immediately before training for Afghanistan...surely a man to be watched.

Few in 5 Platoon will ever forget the 'joy' of providing Force Protection for the logistic convoys closing Camp Abu Naji. The five plus hours each way along Route Six - in Warrior - was a real experience in 47C outside temperatures! This was subsequently described as 'feeling like

'death on tracks' by Cpl Dolby. As ever the OC's insistence on 'fighting for comms' doesn't do the action justice. Crawling over broken glass for comms would be more appropriate. The Light Infantry Battle Group Signals Platoon (Warminster-trained, no less) recommending the use of the Ather mobile phone network near Al Qurnah was a memorable highlight. There is, however, nothing like watching an all-arms operation to make the Infantry feel better. Watching the RLC Convoy Commander explain, after halting his 150 vehicle convoy, to have water delivered, that he had not had space to carry spare water reaffirmed my belief in the natural order.

Most notable throughout the tour has been the attitude of the younger soldiers in 5 Platoon. They have increasingly taken responsibility in their stride. Most had little or no operational experience prior to the tour and have faced a steep learning curve. Furthermore, 5 Platoon is proof that the integration of individual reinforcements from the TA can work, even if they are used in senior positions. Cpl Dolby, a member of the Royal Green Jackets when I was a year old and LCpl Mills, a lance corporal when the CSM joined 3 Royal Anglian have been the spine of R20A...although they would argue that they have been holding up the boss throughout! After all, somebody had to.

Operational Stand Down

LCpl Dale Birkin writes:

I was given the good news over scoff by my platoon sergeant, Sgt Kirk; there was good news and very good news. The good news was that I had a place on Operational Stand Down (OSD); the very good news was that I would leave tonight for eight days, not four. The RAF had mucked the flights up so I had to spend an extra few days in Kuwait City. For once in my life I was happy to be delayed and thought that the RAF were amazing.

That night as I was packing my bags the camp came under indirect fire attack. My heart sunk as I thought that was it for me;

however, my luck was in and after 45 minutes on the helicopter landing site at the Shaat Al Arab Hotel I boarded a Merlin Helicopter for the airport. We spent a sleepless night at the airport before checking in to board our flight up to Baghdad where we would pick up some 'Yanks' before a turn around back down to Kuwait. The flight to Baghdad only took an hour; however, when we landed the pilot noticed that the aircraft had been shot at by small arms fire, so we then had to wait until it was repaired. The American ground crew didn't muck around - patching us up in two hours flat! During that time I managed to stuff a 'subway' (US sandwich) down my neck and pay the PX a visit. After two hours in Baghdad we flew to Kuwait in C-130. On arrival in Kuwait we were met by a 'blonde bombshell' in shorts called Steph who drove us to the US camp.

On arrival I was amazed at the sheer size of the camp. The camp is where US troops do their first and last two weeks in theatre. As luck would have it we arrived on a Friday which was line-dancing night! After dropping our bags in our air conditioned portacabins, changing into shorts and T Shirts we went to the main complex an area of seven one-mile squared zones served by a bus route 24 hours a day. The main compound was amazing: Pizza Hut, Subway, Starbucks, KFC, Wendy's burger bar, a massive PX, a TV room bigger than the gym at Tern Hill, games rooms, recording studios, libraries full of books, CDs, DVDs and a cinema. Best of all; however, was the 40 Yanks line dancing which we thought was hilarious!

Next stop, as a Battalion PTI was the gym, they had equipment there I had never seen before. I was trying to pick my jaw up before going down to the stage to look at all of the 'fit chicks' jumping up and down. You have to bear in mind that in Basra it is not every day that you see a good looking woman jumping up and down in tight civvies! After three hours there we returned to our rooms to rest following our two-day trip from Basra to Kuwait!

The next day I woke early and after a Starbucks coffee and a BLT paid a visit to

The Poachers



Members of B Company on operational stand down.

the PX and spent a fortune on the rubbish that soldiers buy when they have a bank full of money; watches, rucksacks, pouches, T-Shirts. Then it was onto the local jewelers, barbers and tailors on camp. The remainder of Day 2 was spent at the pool!

Day 3 we had hoped to sign vehicles out and go to Kuwait City; however, we had been beaten to it. The previous day some US Rangers advised us that all the good looking women go for a swim before work, guess where we were? What a morale booster, even if they did think that we were Australian we got some addresses in Miami! Day 4 we got up even earlier and obtained a 4x4 to go into Kuwait City. My first impressions were East meets West. All of the shops looked as if they had been taken from London and dropped in Kuwait. They were all smart and new but sold traditional Arabic items. I had last been in Kuwait previously as a 17-year-old on Operation Granby with the Poachers. The three towers next to the sea were a real sight as the last time I had seen them they had been left smouldering by the Iraqis. Next to them was the water theme park which cost us three Kuwait dollars to enter and was amazing...not just water slides but quad bikes, go-karts and paintball all included. It's a great day out and you forget that you have just come down from Kuwait.

To summarise, the whole OSD package is amazing. It gives troops time to recharge their batteries and is just long enough to forget about what they have been through up north. The facilities are top notch and everyone that you speak to holds the British forces in high regard; my own personal opinion is that if we had only half these facilities more troops would stay in.

B Company Pre-Potential NCO Cadre Training

Sgt Al Kirk writes:

Most days in Basra are pretty hectic and full of shocks and surprises. I was therefore a little surprised at being temporarily removed from B Company's Orbat ('again', cries Sgt Groom) to run a selection cadre for B Company's Potential NCO candidates.

The pre-selection was to last approximately one week and be run entirely from the Shaat-Al-Arab Hotel. The aim of the cadre was to allow the OC and CSM to select suitable candidates to attend the company pre-training and then the Battalion PNCOs' cadre in January 2007.

In total, there were 12 private soldiers on the pre-selection assisted by a range of instructors for various lessons. Instructors



A command task.

The Poachers

included the Company 2IC, Capt Ding, Cpl Potter, LCpl Birkin and others. The candidates were formed into a non-deployable multiple in order that the rest of the company grafters could continue to patrol the streets of Basra! The cadre consisted of a range of traditional training activities such as the basic personal fitness assessment and a 'Grand National' in the gym as well as Weapon Handling Tests. Other activities included Command Tasks run by the OC consisting of Piranha Pools and the Electric Fence (the mine taped, dirt, sandbagged volleyball court) as well as Operations Room based exercises designed to put pressure on the students involving the sending of a variety of reports. A range of individual presentations on subjects as diverse as 'the Content of the Team Medics Pack' through to 'Coca Cola versus Irn Bru' brought interest and humour to the training. The three 25-minute syndicate presentations focused on the local threat: the Draganov Sniper Rifle, the Katyusha Rocket and the Explosively Formed Projectile Improvised Explosive Device; all of which were of a very high standard. A current affairs discussion threw students out of their comfort zones with discussions on 'National ID Cards' and 'Europe'.

The training day consisted of two parts 0600-1000hrs and 1800-2200hrs; this allowed students administration periods during the hottest part of the day as well as time for preparation for later serials. This also gave the flexibility needed for the constant flow of indirect fire attacks onto the Shaat Al Arab Hotel which continued during the week. The greatest challenge

to the staff and students alike was finding within the confines of the Shaat Al Arab Hotel kit suitable enough for the OC to use on the Command Tasks that he had planned; however, many thanks to 1LI BG for unwittingly loaning B Company their Battalion Colours boxes which were put to great use as improvised step ladders!

In conclusion, all of the students enjoyed the cadre and everyone, staff and students alike, learned a great deal from running it in an operational base location; it brought home exactly what is required of a Section 2IC. Hopefully, the training will give B Company candidates a head start when it comes to the Battalion Cadre in January.

From Suit to Snatch

Cpl Martin Dolby writes:

'Would I like to go to Iraq?' asked WO2 John Limb, the SPSI of my TA Company one October evening as we were having a beer in the drill hall bar. 'Would I?' I thought to myself, 'who with?' I asked warily not wanting to commit myself without knowing the full facts. He then went on to explain that the Poachers were deploying to Iraq and in need of a few good men and as he couldn't find any would I be interested! Foolishly, I said 'yes'. That's how I found myself swapping my suit for Osprey body armour and my daily commute by train to work for a Snatch Land Rover.

So the fateful day arrived when I had to report to the 'sausage factory' that is Chilwell along with a couple of hundred other victims to spend two weeks learning all the things that we had forgotten when we were all in the 'real Army'; for some of

us that was a long time ago.

After successfully passing all of the required tests other than the sanity test I found myself on a coach heading for Stanford Training Area (STANTA) to join B Company, the Poachers. On arrival I was posted to B Company along with seven other TA/Reservists. Now STANTA in March is a far cry from the heat and dust that is Iraq but, after a warm welcome from the Company, we were integrated into our platoons. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I wasn't given a team of TA guys and told that our sole job would be 'staggering on' which has happened to TA soldiers before. The training was almost identical to the Northern Ireland training that I had done previously; the only difference being that this time the civilian population were wearing dish-dash and shemaghs. With training completed we found ourselves enjoying the endurance challenge that is flying to Basra with the RAF; a six-hour flight that takes the RAF 48 hours to complete; bless their blue cotton socks.

I have been very fortunate during this tour; not only have I joined a very professional rifle company and been made to feel very welcome from day one. I have had the pleasure of serving with fellow reservist LCpl Paddy Mills. Between us we have a combined age of 82 and are somewhat of a novelty to the 18 and 19-year-olds that make up our teams. They are amazed to discover that there was a time when the internet and mobile phones didn't exist and that all the songs that they listen to are remixes from the 80s!

At the time of writing we have been out here in sunny Basra, our home being the



The Poachers

less than five star hotel known as the Shaat Al Arab. Having completed six months we now have another five weeks to push. What an eventful six months it has been. We have gone from providing a less than armoured taxi service for meetings between ourselves and the Iraqi Police Service to a far more robust role where we are conducting strike operations and taking the fight to the enemy.

Hopefully, myself and all the guys from B Company will soon be boarding that big 747 for home. Next February when I am back in my suit and sitting on the train and one of my fellow commuters asks me where I went to get such a great tan, I shall smile wisely and think to myself somewhere where you could never go you civvie!

Iraq - First Impressions

Pte Markanycz writes:

I arrived in Tern Hill in December 2005 after a busy period working at both Bassingbourn and Catterick while the Battalion was still in Northern Ireland. It was good to be with the Battalion after a long time in training and also being able to live with the people I was going to be in Iraq with. It was not until August that I joined B Company at the Shaat Al Arab Hotel (SAAH) following a long time on Rear Party. It was frustrating being stuck at Tern Hill while everyone was out in Iraq and hearing the news and the stories didn't help. I didn't join the Army to

be stuck in England and was really pleased when I found out that I would finally be able to experience operations.

On arriving in Iraq, I spent a week at Basra Air Station waiting to travel to Shaiba Logistics Base to complete reception, staging, onward integration (RSOI) and then a few more days before finally making it to the SAAH. Bearing in mind that I turned 18 in mid-June arriving at B Company two months later on the sunny banks of the Shaat was a long trip!

When I arrived 4 Platoon were on guard so I spent the first day or so getting myself sorted out ready to go on patrol. My first patrol was at night and spent on counter-indirect fire; a pattern which was to continue! Despite the training that I had done at Catterick and Tern Hill, I still didn't really know what to expect and so until I had done a few patrols I was a little nervous.

I was looking forward to patrolling in Basra and it wasn't long before I had the chance. The company's role involved a lot of Security Sector Reform and my first patrol was to Camp Apache where I helped to provide security by being part of the close protection team inside the building. Since then I have found my feet and am now part of the regular patrolling cycle, often on Top Cover and enjoying the sights and sounds of Basra!

There is nothing in training that can really prepare you for the mortar attacks. You never

know when they are going to happen and when they do, there is little that you can do about them. When I've been on guard on my own and an attack has happened there is quite a lot of responsibility observing for mortar teams and impacts; something that Catterick can never really prepare you for! There aren't many similarities between Basra and Grimsby. When on patrol sometimes people are quite friendly and want to talk and then other times won't talk at all.

I've enjoyed the time that I have spent here, contacts, mortars and all and it's been a good experience. Grimsby isn't quite as warm as Basra and you don't get stoned as much...

Life on Operation Vigilant

Pte Jordan writes:

The Operation Vigilant Platoon was an airborne reaction force for 20 Armoured Brigade. For the duration of Operation Vigilant we would find ourselves detached from the rest of the Company. On Operation Vigilant you are on 30 minutes notice to move to anywhere in the Brigade Area of Responsibility, via helicopter.

Operation Vigilant's main tasking was to conduct anti-indirect fire (IDF) patrols over likely and known insurgent firing points. Usually we would put in observation posts in these areas and fire 51mm mortar illumination bombs to deter the insurgents from firing at bases. While on Operation Vigilant our sleep pattern was very different from the rest of the Company, as anti-IDF patrols were carried out after dark and before first light to remain undetected by the civilian population. This would also give the patrol the greatest chance of catching insurgents as most IDF attacks are carried out during the night time.

Our main way of transport was using helicopters as they are a lot quicker to get around the City of Basra and surrounding ground. The Merlin helicopter was our usual mode of transport but sometimes we would have to use the Sea King which is a lot older and does not carry as many people. Quite often during the day, while we were on rest, the multiple would get tasked to do other things. This could include providing top cover from the air for convoys so they could move from location to location without being bothered by insurgent attacks.

Other tasks involved conducting vehicle checkpoints on the Iraq-Iran border to prevent insurgents from smuggling weapons or other illegal goods. Lastly, from time to time we would still play a vital role in the Company's strike operations. Life on Operation Vigilant was never boring as you were always doing a variety of tasks and you got to see parts of Iraq that most soldiers would never get to see. When not on operations, Operation Vigilant did have many benefits. While we were away from the Company we would have some time to ourselves during the evening. This would



This is what it is all about.

The Poachers



Members of the Operation Vigilant Platoon deploying.

let us do our own thing like going to the gym or having time to use the internet and phones. Probably the biggest benefit was just relaxing away from the fast pace of life in C Company.

Using helicopters a lot would throw up some problems outside our control. Because helicopters are an important mode of transport, we could find that our flying hours had been cancelled as there was a more important task elsewhere in the Brigade.

We could literally be at the helicopter pad ready to go, and find out that the task had been cancelled. In contrast though we would also have very busy periods where we would bounce from one task to the next without any sleep.

All in all it was an interesting job deploying from helicopters as it allowed us to see a lot of Iraq and do a variety of tasks that we may never have had the opportunity to do.

All-Arms Search Team

LCpl Ward writes:

In order to be part of the search team you need to attend the All-Arms Search Course at the National Search Centre in Chatham, Kent. This is a two-week course covering person, vehicle, house, and route and area searches. During the course you all use the specialist equipment to aid you with the above searches. Also included in the course



Searching for equipment and weapons.

The Poachers

is the legal paperwork to make sure your team remains within the law at all times. I am glad to say the team had a strong pass, also gaining a civilian qualification at the same time. Before any deployment to such theatres most units send away teams to gain the above qualification however the reality is most are never used. Was this to be the case for my search team?

On our return to Tern Hill we learned that C Company's job in Iraq would be that of Brigade Reserve. At first sight it seemed to be a bit drab. However, once the OC returned from his recce we realised we had landed the Brigade's plumb job: search and arrest operations.

When the company conducts a search and arrest operation the chosen building is given the prefix 'alpha'. After some careful planning the building is entered by force or by simply knocking on the door. The chosen method of entry - hard or soft knock - depends on the level of threat posed by the suspect ('bravo') inside. When the building is secured and all occupants are accounted for the search team will enter.

The search team commander selects a room to operate from and team members drop off any kit that will hinder them during the search. Concurrently the search commander will number and take photographs of the rooms. Once the rooms are prioritised the rest of the team is split down into three pairs and sent off to search different rooms. If a room is clear the pair will move onto

another. If, however, they find something non-life-threatening, the pair involved will bag the item to preserve it forensically and put a tag where it was found. This process continues until the building and outside areas are completely searched. For a life-threatening find the house will be evacuated until an ammunition technical officer comes to clear or remove it.

The search team is not looking for weapons of mass destruction. Instead we look for a variety of weapons systems such as pistols, rifles, sniper rifles and machine guns. We also search for mortar tubes and rounds, rocket propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices which can take many different forms.

The team and I have had many searches and are widely recognised as the best (and most modest) search team in theatre. So, with two months to go, I'm still hoping to find that briefcase full of American dollars.

Driving in Iraq

Ptes Moffatt and Thompson write:

A significant amount of the patrols carried out in Iraq are mobile patrols in Armoured Land Rover vehicles called "Snatch". These are a lightly armoured vehicle with a V8 Petrol engine and protective grills over the armoured glass.

Most people would speculate that being a driver was a fairly 'cushy' job but that is not the case; driving in Iraq can be difficult. The

roads in Iraq are potholed and not in good condition at all. The native drivers range from OK to suicidal and some of the things they drive are museum pieces.

The state of many of the Snatches is such that they require considerable time being fixed by the REME. That is mainly due to the fact that they are old, having come into service from Northern Ireland, and the heavy workload that they have to endure. Most drivers are very familiar with the break down and towing procedure as often the Company will suffer a vehicle breakdown on a move or a patrol. Drivers have also become quite apt at minor repairs such as fuse changes, lights changes and reattaching things that have fallen off. The REME are all now on first name terms with the drivers and the MT representative.

Drivers can become quite involved in helping the REME with bonnet changes or door locks or other jobs in order to free the Vehicle Mechanics up for more skilled jobs. On the plus side, with the introduction of the Mark II Snatches (a modernised diesel version) the question of reliability all but disappears. The prospect of working with air conditioning and engines which sound healthy is one which we are most happy about. Hopefully, within a fairly short time all the vehicles in Theatre will be upgraded to the Mark IIs.

Other challenges facing the drivers are night time and cross country driving. The cross country driving is minimal, being



Snatch driving in Iraq.

The Poachers

crossing gaps between roads and the occasional track, but for those on top cover these small "expeditions" can be hair-raising, as the Snatch vehicle is not really a cross country wagon. It is a poor cross country vehicle due to being armoured and also top heavy in comparison to a normal Land Rover. Night time driving is the biggest challenge for the drivers though. This is due to us not employing lights in the dark hours in order to try and counter the threat from roadside bombs. Most of the drivers had never driven using Night Vision Goggles (NGVs) and there was no training given, so the drivers had to pick this up on the job. The problems with this kind of driving are that, because the NVGs only fit over one eye drivers have a two-dimensional perspective so judging distance is hard, also the NVGs "white out" when other road users use their headlights. Dust is also a problem as it reduces visibility especially the dust clouds created by tracked vehicles.

In summary, driving in Iraq is difficult due to limited vision and blind spots in the Snatch, dust, road conditions, unreliable vehicles, Iraqi road users (including horse and carts), cross-country driving in non-cross country vehicles, and the difficulties using NVGs. Despite all the challenges driving in Iraq is anything other than dull.

The Poachers Prevail, Whatever the Task

Lt Charlie Standley writes:

Versatility, it is said, is the key characteristic of an Infantry soldier. C Company's experience of Operation Telic 8 is conclusive proof of that axiom. As Brigade Reserve operating from bases as incongruous as the rear echelon corral of Shaibah and the tri-service luxury of Basra Air Station to the grime of the Shatt Al Arab Hotel, the fug of Basra Palace and the insurgent field firing range that is the Old State Building, C Company has been a flexible friend to all of 20 Brigade's battle groups.

Our commanders have included the COs of 1LI, 1PWRR, the Danes, IDDLI, 2 Royal Anglian (of course), and the QRH. The Brigadier and his Chief of Staff have included us in their personal train sets, too.

Our missions have been as varied as our masters, the preferred being strike operations, of which we have conducted nearly 40 which allows us to claim the status of theatre experts. More begrudgingly, but always with trademark Poacher professionalism, we have surged on orders, conducted route pickets, dominated ground and conducted framework patrolling, not to mention providing the Brigade's air reaction force.

Dependent on variables including our command status, the quality of food and accommodation and tempo of operations, the company has enjoyed numerous self-given nicknames. The inside of one Shatt al Arab Hotel Portaloo describes us as: "Basra

bitch company"; according to another: "The company that likes to say 'yes'"; and ubiquitously, the self-styled "Gypsies of Basra", due to our trawl from one location to another.

C Company cannot claim to have been busy all the time: much of August was relatively relaxing and an opportunity to catch up on overdue GI issues. However, the preceding months saw us lucky to have 24 hours between moves from one location to another. Based initially at Shaiba Logistic Base the Company was blooded on strike operations with 1 KORBR, its predecessor, and days after fully assuming the Brigade Reserve role itself, conducted strikes of its own.

Only a week into Telic 8 the Company was crashed out for 12 hours to cordon the wreck of a helicopter downed by insurgents, with the loss of all five crew. Tragedy was brought into closer focus one week later when, assisting routine patrols with Basra City North battlegroup, 8 Platoon suffered its Improvised Explosive Device contact on the Qarmat Ali Bridge resulting in the deaths of Ptes Morris and Lewacei, and Pte O'Connor losing his leg. Grieving, but determined to continue, May and June saw us surge into the south of the City, under the Poacher battlegroup's command, as well as conduct further strikes across the Area of Operations.

July saw our most publicised operation, Operation Test, when the Company, assisted by Special Forces and the Brigade Surveillance Company, captured the JAM CO, Basra's most wanted insurgent. Following-up, Operation Harlequin brought a vital find of bomb-making equipment and witnessed a sustained contact.

With the insurgents reeling, the operational tempo relaxed as the Company moved to Basra Air Station in August, providing the best welfare and living conditions yet experienced, and some welcome permanence after a nomadic first half of tour.

In September, with the end in sight, the Company has been fully committed to Operation Salamanca, the Brigadier's Main Effort with which he intends to make a lasting mark on security in Basra before handing over the reins to 19 Brigade.

By coping with such upheavals on top of endless moving, constant readiness at a minimum of at one hour's notice to move, as well as the tribulations of daily violence and fear, once again the Poacher soldier has proved himself as great as his reputation. My enduring memory of Operation Telic 8 will be the privilege of commanding a platoon of them.

Operation Test

Pte McRae writes:

C Company was at Shaiba Logistics Base as usual when we got stood-to for an operation going in that night within Basra City. I and

the rest off the troops were expecting it to be a routine search and arrest operation but didn't know what we were letting ourselves in for.

We moved down to the vehicles and did the normal kit checks, making sure we were fully prepared for any eventualities. The Company then forward-mounted to the airport where we were to be briefed up by the Brigade Surveillance Company. When we got there we had orders and were told we were working alongside the Method of Entry Team. They told us how we were going to enter the compound and the equipment they were going to use, and with that I knew that it was going to be a major operation.

We waited at the airport for about six hours until we got the go ahead at about 2359hrs when we set off into Basra City. As we left camp we made weapons ready. We were all highly motivated and the adrenalin was pumping through our veins. When we arrived at the stop short we got out of the vehicles, grabbed all the kit and ran 200 metres to the Alpha.

CB20A was the leading multiple. They stopped short of the blast area and CB20B were following behind. CB20A moved in straight away after the blast while CB20B were inner cordon making sure the area was secure. CB20A moved hard, fast and aggressive into the house clearing and detaining any Bravo they came across, including Bravo 308, the insurgent we were looking for. After CB20A cleared the house we were told to move into another alpha on the other side of the city because there was another member there who was associated with the Bravo.

We mounted up into the vehicles and moved off to the next Alpha. As we approached it was starting to get lighter. We got to the Alpha that was a few kilometres north of the Qarmat Ali Bridge. We pulled up and stopped short of the location about 150 metres away. The method of entry team led us to the alpha then made the entry into the building and Lt Osborne started to feed troops into the Alpha in pairs.

By this stage most of the platoon was in the building with the rest of the company providing protection with attachments from DDLI with the inner cordon. As we were filling out search documentation we heard a loud bang which was the sound of a grenade going off and shots being fired at the inner cordon. Unfortunately two of the attached soldiers were wounded in the contact. A few C Company soldiers opened fire on to the gunman.

We rapidly moved out of the area as a hostile crowd developed. The two casualties were casevaced by helicopter immediately after receiving first aid from the team medics, although Cpl Cosby of the DDLI sadly died of his wounds. We returned to the airport for a debrief and were told how well we reacted to the situation and how well we all coped. We then returned to base.

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D(FSP) Company on Operation Telic 8

Capt Simon Poulter writes:

Like the rest of the Battalion, D(Fire Support) Company has had a challenging and very varied tour. This article will detail how the Company prepared for the tour and what it actually encountered, and did the expectations actually live up to the reality?

The training for deployment started with a myriad of courses involving everything from Public Order drills through to introductions to the new Bowman radio system. These low level courses led into the Company level training that took place in the local training areas - trying to replicate and teach for operations in a Middle Eastern country proved to be interesting to say the least! However, the drills were developed despite the cold temperatures! This was followed by Battalion training that culminated in a major exercise. However, for the soldiers of D(FSp) Company the path to Iraq was to be slightly different to the rest of the Battalion.

Up until this point the Company had been training to act in a Security Sector Reform (SSR) role - the training, monitoring and mentoring (TM2) of the Iraqi security Forces in order to get them back on their feet and stabilise the country. However, during the later stages of the Battalion final exercise, we were informed that the Company was to be attached to the Rear Operations Battle Group (ROBG) based at Shaibah Logistics

Base (SLB) approximately 10km outside Basra. The Company was to take up the Escort Company role - this would involve escorting convoys of fuel, water, rations, etc. to key points within the UK Brigade area. At this point the Company moved to conduct its own training for escorts using an airfield near to the Thetford Training Area. Finally, with the training completed the Company headed off for some well-earned pre-deployment leave.

Before moving onto write on the tour itself a brief mention must be given to the order of battle (ORBAT), which has been fluid throughout! Having been initially briefed that we would primarily be involved with SSR the Company was organised to meet this role. Due to the slightly different nature of the Company's composition (being very rank heavy compared to the rifle companies), all of the officer platoon commanders were moved into liaison jobs elsewhere in the Battlegroup. Some may say that D Company faced a sad day when this happened but in reality the CSgts and Sgts were more than capable of acting as platoon commanders in their own right! Cpts Connolly and Poulter were given acting Major rank and moved to become Liaison Officers to the Directorate of Border Enforcement (DBE - the Iraqi Border Police and Customs) and the Iraqi Police Service (IPS) respectively, while Capt Faruque became the Tactical Support Unit (TSU) LO. Indeed the officer platoon commanders were completely removed from the Company - A/Maj Connolly went

to A Company and A/Maj Poulter and Capt Faruque went to B Company.

Therefore, the fully trained and 're-ORBATed' D(FSp) Company arrived at SLB to carry out its mandatory Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) training along with the rest of the Battalion. The RSOI package was conveniently held at SLB. When it had completed its training the Company moved to the ROBG to take on the role of guarding the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility (DTDF) at SLB. This was the location that persons arrested by the Multi-National Forces (MNF) were held. Therefore the Company was trained effectively to be prison guards, although not necessarily a role that many relished it did provide an interesting variation to the tour. Subsequently the Company moved onto the role that they had originally been warned off for, as Escort Company. As mentioned this task involved providing force protection to logistic convoys that moved throughout the UK Brigade Area of Operations, as far as Kuwait. This role allowed Company members to see the majority of locations that were occupied by MNF, without having spent too much time in each one! The ROBG was at the time the 1st Battalion the Royal Scots but during the Company's attachment they handed over to 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards.

At the end of May 2006 the Company was suddenly moved into Basra City to become a ground holding sub-unit, as part of the 1st Battalion the Light Infantry Battlegroup



The Mortar Platoon.

The Poachers



Cpl Handforth gives a ground briefing.

based in at the former Shatt Al' Arab Hotel (SAAH). For the period spent in the City the Company was known simply as Fire Support Company to prevent confusion with D Company of 1LI which was also based in SAAH. This started what was to be a very busy period with a high operational tempo sustained for the next three months. The Company was effectively responsible for the northern half of Basra City, which included some notoriously dangerous areas, some very urbanised and others more rural in nature. Indeed the Shatt Al' Arab Waterway (SAAW) also ran through our area giving the opportunity for boats to be used as a way of deploying patrols. As well as a general security and stabilisation role the Company had SSR duties for the IPS stations in the Company's area. The four police stations were of a different type which was reflected in the abilities of those IPS officers that worked from them, some were reasonably professional whereas others were simply more interested in sleeping! Then there were those who were completely anti-MNF and wanted nothing to do with the Coalition effort - indeed some were probably responsible for the perpetration of anti-MNF crimes. We also had liaison responsibilities with an Iraqi Army (IA) Explosive Ordnance Disposal company and an IA Brigade Headquarters that were based in our patch. The IA did prove themselves to be reasonably effective, with the EOD company deploying a number of times in our support.

The urban areas of the Company's patch were composed of mostly tightly packed



OC FSp and Cpl Roe.

housing that proved to be often only accessible using the Company's 'Snatch' armoured Land Rovers. At times though the tracks were not suited to the weight of even this vehicle, which was dramatically shown when Sgt Whiteley's Snatch became bogged-in when a sewerage pipe burst under

the vehicle. The proverbial quite literally hit the fan when the vehicle could not be moved or even reached by other vehicles due to the narrow street! The vehicle was eventually extracted after several hours, resulting in eight tow ropes being stolen by locals and several rather pungent soldiers!

The Poachers

While in Basra City the Company had two multiples of Warrior armoured fighting vehicles attached from D Company 1LI to help with movement around Basra due to the high threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). This meant detaching two multiples of 12 men, commanded by CSgt Vazquez and Sgt McColm, to D Company 1LI in return. Of note these multiples were involved in several operations in the notorious Shia Flats area and came into contact with insurgents on several occasions whilst deployed on anti-ambush operations. Our attached Light Infantry multiples worked side by side with us on all our patrols and Company operations and if they do ever happen to read this publication, then FSp Company would like to thank them for the excellent and very welcome armoured support they gave us.

Due to the nature of operations undertaken by the Company during its time in the City all the multiples were involved in shooting contacts at some stage. Unfortunately, in one of these Cpl Sutcliffe was injured during an incident that ensued from an IPS station visit. He is now recovering and we wish him well.

The period spent working in the City was the busiest part of the tour, with multiples being deployed many times a day on a variety of tasks ranging from liaison visits to the IPS, to patrols intended to counter the indirect fire threat against SAAH. The working environment was intense with patrols working long hours in difficult working conditions in the Iraqi summer. To take the example of one operation in which the Company was providing route protection for a logistic convoy passing through our area, the Company was involved in three simultaneous firefights along the route. Although sounding clichéd the professionalism shown by all members manifested itself during this period showing just how versatile, flexible and robust the Company actually is. During this time there were some changes in Company Headquarters personalities with Capt Poulter (now back down to Capt!) taking over from Capt Lewis as Company Second-in-Command and Major Birch taking over as Officer Commanding from Major Johnson; the Company wishes both out-going officers well in their new jobs.

In late August the Company found itself preparing to move once again. The hand over of the Maysaan Province back to Iraqi Provincial Control meant that A Company 1LI was freed to re-join their battle group in the city. Although this was obviously disheartening for the soldiers of D(FSp) Company, the replacement of our Snatch-equipped Company in the City with the Warriors of an Armoured Infantry company was understandable. As part of this restructuring D(FSp) Company was redeployed to SLB and back to the ROBG. This was the Company's fifth change of command since starting training. On arrival the Company took over the guard of SLB for a week but then moved onto the SLB

Patrols Company.

The area surrounding SLB that was now patrolled was different to that in Basra City in that it is dramatically smaller and predominantly rural. However, it was transited by logistic convoys daily and therefore required frequent patrolling in order to prevent the laying of IEDs, in addition to counter-indirect fire patrols. Although perhaps not as busy as they were in the City the Company was once again responsible for protecting an MNF location. This therefore, obviously provided its own unique pressures which were dealt with admirably by all members of the Company. Indeed we were able to use some of our specialities in the firing of 81mm mortar illuminating rounds in conjunction with mobile patrols, in order to deter rocket attacks on SLB. At the time of writing the Company is also preparing to return to Basra to take part in deliberate operations, this time reinforcing the Poachers' Battle group in Basra City South.

In summary, the tour has proved to be a busy and fulfilling experience that has shown that the soldiers of D(FSp) Company are fully adaptable to operate either as riflemen or in their specialist role. There have inevitably been low points on the tour when morale has suffered. But the nature of the Company has meant that all tasks set were completed to the best of peoples' ability. So, the final question must be asked did the expectations live up to the reality? It was a tough, often intense experience that required the soldiers to remain flexible and adaptable to all that was asked of them. We expected a tough tour and to be frank it was. However, it did highlight that no matter what a soldier's specialization, they were riflemen first and foremost.

Danny Grice Fantastic Fun Raising

In February 2006 CSgt Grice's ten year old son Danny was diagnosed with ALL which

is a form of leukaemia. When Danny was first diagnosed he was admitted to Sheffield Childrens' Hospital where he became very ill and was eventually transferred to a specialist hospital in Nottingham and was placed on kidney dialysis and a life support machine. This was the most frightening time for his parents Dave and Claire, as Danny was fighting for his life and they were not sure if he would pull through. Thankfully, the intense treatment worked and Danny awoke some days later pulling the pipes away from his arms to the relief of his parents and the amazement of the doctors.

Since then Danny has continued his treatment at Sheffield Childrens' Hospital. He has returned to school, playing football and some taken part in some serious fundraising for Theo Club which is the Sheffield Childrens' Hospital Charity. His first venture was when he entered the Theo Club 2Km family fun run only 8 weeks after being diagnosed.

Sponsorship money was raised by the all ranks of the Poachers and being supported by his dad and cheered on by his mum and two sisters Lauren and Keighley he completed the event raising £1,050. Since the fun run Danny has raised a total of £2,500 for the hospital and is already looking forward to the next Theo Club 2Km fun run next year!

Security Sector Reform and the Department of Border Enforcement

Capt Pete Connolly writes:

'We could spend one hundred years attempting to understand the Arabs but if we do so by applying the clear logic of western values and concepts then we will always be clutching at shadows. Even peering through the brilliant kaleidoscopic mix of Arabic religious and cultural influences it is still near-impossible for the western eye to glimpse at what it truly means to be an Arab.'



The Poachers

By tyrannically draining many of Iraq's Southern Marshes to crush his rebellious enemies, Saddam Hussein forced thousands of displaced Marsh Arabs into Basra. This was one of many oppressive acts against his own people that reinforced, particularly to Baswaris, the idea that prosperity is inextricably linked with freedom and security. The Iraqi people have suffered for many years under the reign of an evil dictator and are about to embark on a critical journey that will either increase Iraq's and Middle Eastern stability or force Iraqis to suffer a corrupt and lawless future.

Security Sector Reform

Delivering Security Sector Reform (SSR) is one method of ensuring the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are both capable and willing to take the lead in enforcing law and order in Iraq. The endstate is to develop Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) and the eventual extraction of Multi-National Forces (MNF). It is with this concept in mind that The Poachers found themselves deploying on Operation Telic 8 as the 20 (Armoured) Brigade SSR Battle Group. On the surface the outline task seemed fraught with difficulty. The Battle Group was to develop the legitimacy and operational effectiveness of the Iraqi Army (IA), Iraqi Police Service (IPS), Department of Border Enforcement (DBE) and the Facilities Protection Service (FPS).

While normal military liaison is not

uncommon to most Commanders, switching MNF focus and the plethora of available resources away from the very real insurgency and towards the seemingly impossible task of 'fixing' the ISF is to most a paradox. This is where many, including me, make our first and fundamental mistake.

In The British Army we pride ourselves on the hard-fought experience of our forefathers and the determined manner in which we strive to achieve professionalism at all levels. This unrelenting perfection unfortunately knocks us off balance when training a security force populated with a very different breed of soldier. Whilst we subconsciously identify the weaknesses of those organisations and people we work with, it is infinitely more important when training the Iraqis to appreciate what strengths drive them to achieve their relative successes.

The Department of Border Enforcement

The DBE is a 6000-man complex organisation consisting of Coast Guards, Border Policemen, Customs Police, two Commando battalions and The Port of Entry Police. With these 'outfits' still looking for a logical resting place in my head I ventured South to Kuwait on my first of many Border Operations to quickly discover that the reality was even more confusing. To the untrained eye, the border forts whose job it was to 'lock down' the border to smugglers

appear to be deserted - in actual fact they are normally manned by a 22-28 man shift for a week. Unfortunately, by the time I had eventually woken up the Fort's occupants to find out where the Commander slept I had already answered my own question! It was only by my third patrol that I actually discovered that most Forts run out of their inadequate monthly fuel budget to power the vehicles (for mobile patrols), lighting and air con units by the second or third week. The troops would inevitably need to buy their own fuel in order to survive the desperate heat of the desert. In Northern Iraq many of these soldiers also go without pay for up to four months. Would we expect our soldiers to operate effectively in these circumstances?

Granted, anyone who has worked with Iraqis will note that they are normally unwilling to work to the level of a British soldier but nevertheless they occasionally demonstrate unexpected and sparks of enthusiasm. My tour has been marked by these extraordinary moments. One of these moments occurred at the Iraqi Border Police HQ near Shaiba Logistics Base where I planned to conduct a 24hr Command Post Exercise (CPX). I initially briefed the Commander on the scenario I had developed and began to offer him advice on how the exercise should be conducted. To my surprise he decided that he would change the scenario to coincide with a newly developing threat on one part of the border. Still reeling



Capt Connolly tucks in.

The Poachers

from the shock of his interest we moved to the Operations Room where he had a number of rooms allocated to individuals playing LOWCON for the exercise. I had made the mistake of assuming this was his first time - he smiled jovially and explained that he was very familiar with running these 'telephone wars' from his 12 years in the Iraqi Army. The exercise was so well subscribed to and keenly participated in that the Commander decided to finish the exercise 12 hours early! Clearly, allowing the Iraqi some ownership has its drawbacks.

The Solution

In the past four months as the Basra Province DBE Liaison Officer and 3 months as the Border Transition Team Commander I have conducted numerous study days and exercises. I have learnt that to achieve any level of success, particularly with the ISF leadership, one must get the local commander to 'buy into' the plan, be seen to take the lead during the exercise/operation and finally debrief his fellow Iraqis during the after action review. Ownership is key to solving the problem. Putting an Iraqi face on the solution also avoids the obvious question, 'What can this westerner possibly know about Iraqi security operations?'

Although this 'silver bullet' solution works in theory, how can we possibly motivate Iraqis who have little or no interest in what they are doing? The bottom line is that delivering SSR is frustrating. One's expectations must remain low until the Iraqis prove they are capable of achieving higher

standards. Whilst we must do everything we can to show the Iraqi people that they can craft their own, brighter future, we cannot do it for them. Finding something that motivates them is essential. If this something is money or promotion then their good work should be recognised and rewarded.

Unfortunately, during this tour I have suffered from our predecessors' shallow and frivolous policy of gifting equipment that Iraqis are untrained on and unable to maintain. It is no wonder that we have encouraged a handout culture and we are continuously asked for more. Although the increasingly common phrase of 'weaning the crack baby off the crack' is a little exaggerated, I believe that we must empower the Iraqis with the respect that their history and culture demands whilst eventually removing the bicycle's stabilizers - it is after all, the pain of falling over that encourages us to pedal harder!

2 Royal Anglian AGC(SPS) Field Detachment

Sgt AT Tracey AGC (SPS) writes:

Like many other units across the Army today, life has been very busy for 'The Poachers' and 2 Royal Anglian AGC(SPS) Detachment. It was after a welcome spot of pre-operational tour leave that we deployed into the warm Iraqi spring and began the four-day introductory package at Bedouin Camp in Shaibah Logistics Base. An

overseas exercise in Jordan the previous year had prepared us well in accustoming itself to life in the Middle East.

Initially the Detachment was spread far and wide with the sub-unit clerks in many locations such as Shaibah, the Shat Al Arab Hotel and Basra Palace. Battle Group Headquarters was maintained in the relative air-conditioned comfort of Basra Air Station.

Mid June saw a major restructuring of the Brigade. The Battalion split and reformed into the Basra City South Battle Group, forward based in the majestic surroundings of Basra Palace. The Battalion's B and D Companies with their respective clerks were absorbed into the North Battle Group located at the Shat Al Arab Hotel. This process had us adopting three outside sub-units, 17 Battery, B Company III and C Company I/PWRR bringing with them their soldiers and administration and I am glad to say their clerks. The Detachment approached this heightened tempo of activity with the usual professional 'lets get on with it' attitude, or is it borrowing a line from the ethos of The Royal Anglian Regiment of 'Make it happen'.

Most operational tours facilitate a sound environment for improving physical fitness and the RAO, Capt Martin Ryan wasted no time in implementing the detachment fitness regime. The programme consists of a run at sunrise and Operation Massive on an evening, an hour pushing weights under the watchful eye of the SSA, Sgt Andy Tracey. Saturday mornings fitness consists of an event called 'B*****d Saturday' which is a best effort hare and hounds run around the Air Station and presently Basra Palace. The bet throughout the tour being that if Sgt Tracey can catch the RAO then he has to give up smoking - at the time of writing the RAO has not been caught...yet!

It Tom Tilbury managed to create a slight identity crisis with how he is actually employed in Theatre. Instead of being the Detachment Commander some people were forgiven for thinking that he was the SO3 Media Ops with the amount of newspapers and magazines that he reads during the working day. Despite his interest in the 'glossy' magazines he has managed to ensure that the R&R plot has passed without too many hitches during the deployment. 'Driver of the tour award' goes to Cpl Kristy MacMahon who managed to reverse the Detachment minibus into a parked vehicle at the Air Station - 'Honestly! I looked in my mirrors and it wasn't there!'

On our move to Basra Palace LCpl John Quinn maintained a rearguard at the Air Station with the important job of acting as the Liaison Officer. He has overseen the many Battle Group personnel entering and departing Theatre and the numerous pick ups and drop offs from the airhead.

The tour has certainly developed everybody as a whole, but in particular the junior members of the Detachment. LCpl Marina McQueer and Pte Nicola Hamlet have had to balance their time between carrying out



The AGC Detachment.

The Poachers

their Company administration and deploying onto the streets in their additional role of female searchers. When possible, LCpl Natalie McPherson has also reinforced as a searcher a number of times. Since his move to D(FSp) Company, LCpl Orette Dinnal has found himself employed on a number of occasions as Number 3 of a mortar team, lighting up the night sky over Shaibah with illuminating rounds. Cpl 'Will' Williamson, LCpl 'V' Serevi and Pte Luke Chretien have maintained the administration in Basra Palace at sub-unit level as well as providing additional support to the guarding of the facility. Additional tasks such as these have gone a long way to reinforcing that although we are administrators we are all soldiers first and foremost.

As with any operational tour there will always be memories to take away, both good and bad. Lasting impressions will be of the oppressive heat during the summer months, R&R, the constant donning of helmet and Combat Body Armour in order to dodge the indirect fire, the swimming pool providing respite in the Palace, but above all the can do attitude demonstrated by every individual that has helped the months to fly by. All of the Detachment have certainly learned a lot about teamwork and being adaptable to change at short notice, whilst maintaining a sense of humour (most of the time!)

Last, but by certainly least, a special mention must be dedicated to the members of the Detachment who have remained on Rear Party. Guided by both WO2 Paul Tittley, and SSgt Tony Peters, they have gelled into a close knit team, providing a first class level of administrative support to the families and soldiers who were left behind. A thankless task, they have completed their duties with the utmost levels of professionalism.

Signals Platoon in Iraq

Capt Martyn Cook writes:

I deployed as the Regimental Signals Officer (RSO) two weeks later than the rest of the Battalion, having just finished my fifteen week course at Bovington, Blanford and Warrminster. When I arrived it looked as if I would spend my tour at Basra Air Station as a Security Sector Reform Liaison Officer. This



Capt Cook and Cpl Latter.

was hugely frustrating, having just finished the RSO course I was keen to 'cut my teeth' in the new communication challenges that Iraq would provide.

The first weeks of the tour were slow; the Signals Platoon had been spread around the Battalion locations, focussing on the Provisional Joint Operations Centre in Basra City. During the month of May the security situation in Basra began to worsen, most notably after the helicopter incident. It soon became apparent that the City would require an additional Battle Group to stabilise the situation. Despite this it still came as somewhat of a shock when the CO announced that we would be forming the Basra City South Battle Group operating from Basra Palace.

Professionally this was excellent news; I would be an RSO on operations responsible for communication in our own area of responsibility. Additionally to this the Signals Platoon would have the challenge and opportunity to establish a HQ from scratch, rather than inheriting from another unit, this being rare in modern day operations.

The move to Basra Palace and the establishment of Battle Group HQ was difficult, moving from the Air Station required the use of a support helicopter

to lift almost a tonnes of IT and signals equipment. We were also limited to where we could set up due to the fixed infrastructure within the Palace. The result was a number of upset people; as we moved them out of their established offices.

The first few days were dedicated to achieving the various communications links that were required and with only a short technical delay, the Battle Group was ready to assume control of its new footprint. The subsequent days saw Cpl Latter and the Royal Signals Rear Link Detachment spend much of their time on the HQ's roof adapting antennas to improve communications.

A well done must also be extended to CSgt Singleton and his G4 team. The establishment of a new Battle Group in such a short period of time was a significant achievement. A great deal of time has been spent on nightly workshop runs to exchange and repair broken kit, an often unseen and unrecognised effort by the Platoon.

It soon became clear that communications in the city was extremely difficult. The Platoon had not only to cope with a new combat net radio, Bowman, but also a number of other commercial systems. Added to this was a new and complex ECM suite, much of which the Platoon had not used before. Unfortunately communications has always remained difficult in the city and it has remained a Permanent struggle.

Operation Telic 8 has been the most complex and difficult tour for the Signals Platoon for a decade. Receiving a new piece of equipment, such as a new radio system is always difficult. The Bowman 'lite' package was supposed to prepare the Battalion for operations but in retrospect failed to do so. On deployment to Iraq the Signals Platoon, soldiers and commanders have had to develop their knowledge and understanding of the new equipment on the job. This has proven to be hard, amplified by the problems encountered using the radios with the ECM equipment. However, overall we have just about managed to make things work. We now look forward to the Bowman conversion early next year.....



Basra Palace from the roof.

1st Battalion



The Colonel-in-Chief tries out the under-slung grenade launcher during his visit to the 1st Battalion.



CSgt Snow enjoys Armoured Infantry life.



Lightning on the Prairie silhouettes OPFOR.



Ptes 'Smeagal' Smith and 'Jiz' Thompson fire fighting.



NCOs' Cadre - 'ambush sprung'.



Above: Pte Whatley, potholing in the Lake District.



Right: Pte Smith underground in the Lake District.

Below: The Old Boys Rugby match at Bury - this year won by the veterans.



2nd Battalion



A Company, Operation Telic 8.



C Company prepare to strike.



C Company with an arrested Iraqi.



CO is towed out.



Operation Harlequin weapons find.



Joint patrols with the Armoured Infantry.



WO2 King and RSM with the Colonel-in-Chief.



Operation Telic 8.

3rd Battalion



Mortars at annual camp.



Annual camp.



Javelin cadre.



Minden Day.



RSM and reporter.



WO1 Hudson receives his Volunteer Reserve Service Medal from the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Poachers

Visit of the Colonel-in-Chief

12 September 2006



The Colonel-in-Chief lunches with members of D Company.



OC C Company briefs the Colonel-in-Chief.



Are you sure?



CO with the Colonel-in-Chief.

The Poachers



The CO discusses the art of sniping with the Colonel-in-Chief.



Colonel-in-Chief with CSgt Vazquez and members of Machine Gun Platoon.

3rd Battalion

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

The 3rd Battalion has been bursting with activity reorganising onto the new Establishment Table as well as rediscovering the joys of being a full member of the Royal Anglian family. Although the intended shape of the new Battalion was clear from the outset there was no ruling on time and the Battalion elected to go early and to go fast.

The opportunity created was the principal annual exercise booked for July at Otterburn because of the first class facilities for all the Support Platoons. In the new Orbat, each of the companies has a Support Platoon which on large scale deliberate intervention would reinforce the Regular battalions. The aim at Otterburn was to create a competent core for the new Javelin Platoon as well as to build up the much enlarged Mortar, Machine Gun and Assault Pioneer Platoons. It was immediately clear that we simply did not have the resources to achieve our aims. For Support Platoons as large as 46 to bloom and flourish, there has to be demanding and exciting training and we are grateful to the Vikings and Poachers for detaching to us the qualified instructors and support weapons equipment needed for a successful launch. Having set the pace, the challenge is to continue to deliver really good Support Weapon training so we hope to further develop paired training with the Regular battalions.

One of the important threads running through the Battalion's collective training has been the training of Company and Battalion Headquarters' staff, which over the years has suffered slightly because of the emphasis placed on the deployment of junior rank Individual Reservists for operations. With this in mind the Headquarters staff and the Support Platoon Commanders under the wise guidance of the Training Major, Maj Dennis Vincent have been learning and revising the Battle Group Planning process. The recent culmination was a planning weekend which produced a full set of operational papers. Even if there



Lt Col Goodin handing over command to Lt Col Googe.

was some last minute high speed flicking through Battalion SOPs and some tired brains, at the end of the planning exercise the officers admired what were for the majority their first home grown Operation Order, Synchronisation Matrix and Overlays with some pride. With a fortnight's pause to polish the product the full Battle Group Main and all the Company CPs with HICONS and LOCONs deployed to Watton Airfield to CPX their masterpiece. The HQs' staffs managed to keep up with the steep learning curve because they were conducting a battle they really understood using Plans and Conplans they had designed. The Battalion would like to think that as Maj Vincent left us on richly deserved promotion for HQ Infantry, he took some satisfaction in the increasing understanding and slickness of planning, orders, back-briefs and war gaming. We are grateful to him.

With a Royal Anglian flag flying above us the Battalion has been able to play an increasing role in representation for

the Regiment. Among the many worthy but smaller events hosted by the county companies, the newly appointed RRRWO, Capt Sam Devitt, has been the project officer for a Regimental Beating of Retreat and Reception at Northampton in May and a Regimental Reception and Band Concert at the Athenaeum in Bury St Edmunds in October. The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment, ably led by WO1 Peter Hudson, is at full strength, all in scarlets (thank you RHQ) and has a repertoire which deservedly draws wide praise. One of the joys of being back in the regimental family is that with RHQ and the Regimental County Committees as a team, the workload and the funding is shared so these events are able to be developed to reach more of our target audience to support the Regiment in its recruiting areas.

Maj Ian Couch, a former Adjutant of the Battalion was welcomed back as the Training Major just in time to complete the planning and run the largest and most complex Civil Contingencies Reaction Force (CCRF) exercise yet attempted. The Battalion provides the CCRF for the eastern region and this Silver/Battalion level multi-agency exercise was the culmination of 18 months' planning. With 560 responders from police, fire and rescue, ambulance trust, police helicopters, coroners office, Environment Agency, County and District Councils to mention a few, it was a not a small undertaking. The results of a mid air collision were so realistically simulated on the ground that more distant observers took the exercise as reality. It was a major step in developing resilience capability with the civil responders, particularly for the emergency planners at Silver HQ.

The Battalion would like to think it has led



Band Concert at the Athenaeum in Bury St Edmunds.

3rd Battalion

the way in adopting One Army Recruiting practices. Recruiting is focussed on windows in the programme between major training events timed to fill our recruit cadres and all direction is channelled through the Battalion Recruiting Officer. Increasingly, the Companies use a single senior SNCO as their Recruiting Warrant Officer who acts as an expert enabler and plan the events but uses sparky young soldiers as recruiters. The more events are planned in advance with the Army Careers and Information Offices the more resources we can draw on and the better the results. With companies building up the bow wave of soldiers in Phase 1 and Phase 2 training, the Battalion's overall figure of 98 per cent manning looks

deceptively good. The trick for Battalion and Company training teams to perform is the nurturing of their hard won recruits from ten counties through the Battalion Phase 1 and the Catterick Phase 2 courses. The possibility of filling every post with a trained and qualified soldier is tantalisingly close. The Battalion also studies retention and the reasons soldiers have left the Battalion in recent years where it is interesting to note that over 50 have been discharged to the Regular Army.

At the time of writing the Battalion has 30 soldiers with the Regular Army, 15 of which are with the Poachers in Iraq. The 3rd Battalion soldiers report that have enjoyed

the challenges of their tour and were most warmly welcomed by the Poachers. One 3rd Battalion JNCO is a multiple 2IC and another is a team commander, which must be as close as Regular-Reserve integration can get. A further composite platoon of 30 volunteers, 10 Platoon has just been mobilised and has started training to deploy to HQ ISAF in Afghanistan. As there were too many volunteers to deploy with 10 Platoon, some will also join the Vikings for their Afghanistan tour.

We are looking forward to the first visit by our Colonel-in-Chief at the end of the year and next year our main Battalion FTX will be to Kazakhstan.

A Company Get Adventurous in the Wilds of Thetford

Capt Andrew Baker writes:

A Company deployed on their annual adventure training package to the wilds of Norfolk. Traditionally the Company has gone further afield but following feedback from some of the older members of the Company the decision was made to stay local and utilise some of the excellent training facilities that could be used in the Thetford Forest and surrounding areas. Many members of the Company know Thetford well for its training area but many neglect the excellent facilities that the area has. The weekend consisted of kayaking, mountain biking and paintballing.

Kayaking is excellent fun and the Company had not done any for many a year. Once some of the larger members of the Company had managed to squeeze themselves into the kayak and get over their fear of water a 4km expedition ensued. Many realised the importance of a splash deck too late with many joining the submariners' brigade early on. Sgt DeKretzer showed the lads



Nearly.

how to 'fall out' of the Canadians with style and panache if only slightly assisted by Cpl Hall.



Some obviously paying more attention than others.

The mountain biking was undertaken with similar gusto once the hurdle of learning how to ride a bike had been overcome by a few members of the Company! Virtually all of the members of the Company attempted the Thetford forest ominous 'Black Route'. Not many survived 'The Beast' with Pte Fielding understanding that tree plus bike do not always add up to no pain. Everyone challenged themselves on the course but there were definitely a few John Wayne walks after 3-4 hours of mountain biking.

Paintballing was well received by the Company although I was dubious that my team had been given the day-glo orange head scarves while the other team had been given black, not very in keeping with the Five S's. The suicide charge led by Cpl Jones in the 'Tank Fastic' game was something to behold with the flag being captured and plenty of medals and citations being handed out, although almost all posthumously!

After an active weekend virtually everyone was bruised and battered but had wide grins on their faces. How often does a soldier get to shoot the Company 2IC!

3rd Battalion



Members of the Javelin Platoon deploy.



The Javelin in action.



The GPMG SF Platoon

Exercise Steelback Forger - Annual Camp 2006

Maj Simon Watson writes:

The new 3rd Battalion started its training with a cadre camp at Otterburn in June. The camp focused on the training of the new large Support Weapon Platoons by running cadres during the first week before progressing onto tactical deployment. The second half of camp was an exercise which turned out to be more testing than originally planned due to the amount of key personnel deployed on operations or away on courses. As a result there were a few holes in the Battle Group, particularly Main HQ. The Bn 2IC/COS Maj Simon Watson found himself very busy in an undermanned Main HQ as the deadlines for Operation Orders and Orders Groups approached. However, the aim was achieved and all the Support Weapons Platoons deployed for a brief defence exercise. We had a lot to learn about the complexities and hard work of defence especially after the digger (heroically driven by Cpl Horn of the Vikings) could not get onto the position.

The Vikings and Poachers kindly attached sections to act as enemy, which made the exercise, particularly for the newly formed Javelin Platoon, which was able to use the JAVWES (also kindly loaned from the Vikings) as the enemy probed the position. From defence the Main HQ and support staff planned the Battalion advance via a preliminary blank firing dawn attack through the Assault Pioneer's minifield breach onto a live firing attack. This attack included live firing 5.56, live grenades and was supported by the Mortar and Machine Gun Platoons also firing live. It proved to be a good start for the Battalion and provided an excellent base to build on in the future.

In addition to the demanding training the Battalion was joined by personnel from the US National Guard, the Bermuda Regiment and Lithuanian Army. All of our guests were fully engaged in the training participating in the cadres, the Battalion Sports Day and respective mess functions.

The camp was a success in achieving the training aims but also setting high standards and re-affirming a Royal Anglian identity.

3rd Battalion**Mortar Platoon.****Battalion Sports Day.****Exercise Javelin Gunner***Maj Ian Sackree writes:*

The big idea is to generate a new Anti-Tank Platoon with Initial Operating Capability of 75 per cent manning by 31 March 2007! That is the mission and it is easier said than done, but certainly achievable - but first things first - how does a Lincolnshire soldier spell Javiolin?

Of course, we in the great county of Lincolnshire are brighter than that and are very confident of mastering the black art of Javelin: the Army's chosen Anti-Tank weapon of now and the future! To get things going eight of our finest, including the newly appointed Platoon 2IC CSgt Thompson (highly qualified in most things - except Anti-Tank!) assembled on Day 1 of the Javelin Gunner/Operator Cadre at Otterburn on 24 June. Filled with anticipation, and knowing very little about the weapon system and significantly less about Armoured Vehicle Recognition (AFV) each student embarked on the steepest of learning curves with vim and vigour.

The first days were spent in the classroom under the careful eye of two experienced operators loaned by the 1st Battalion, Cpl Toynton and LCpl McGee. These cheerful chaps had opted out of a 'shiny' to Canada with their Regular platoon in order to knock our Reserve component into shape and tackled our basic lack of knowledge with such humour and enthusiasm that it was not long before the students started to roll off the widest range of skills tests in order to qualify as gunner/operators with no little skill and plenty of style!

Theoretical and practical weapon periods were broken up by early morning and late evening AFV periods under the Cadre OC, Maj Sackree and by the end of Week One not only could students distinguish the



Commanding Officer's Ford Mondeo from the Training Major's LR Discovery - but they could also tell an AH-64D Apache Longbow from an MI-28 Havoc! No mean feat indeed, considering where we started. A new family of spotters!

Week two was all about confirming the newly acquired skills in a tactical environment and the Battalion FTX gave all soldiers the opportunity to walk the walk, carrying the substantial battle load that comes with Javelin. The soldiers enjoyed their new found ISTAR elevated status; aware to a man of the options afforded the Battle Group Commander by the most

powerful optical and thermal imagery on the battlefield. (Author stops there so as to avoid having to kill the readership by divulging secret information!) This was typified when Pte Robinson found himself confidently briefing and then advising the Commanding Officer of the Javelin-related implications of the Battalion plan, and how this plan could be improved by Javelin!

The Cadre was considered a huge success at every level and produced eight qualified Javelin Gunner/Operators who now form the bedrock of this brand new and extremely exciting Support Weapons Platoon. The future is bright - the future is Javelin.

3rd Battalion

Exercise Steelback Response

Maj Ian Couch writes:

The main training event in September was the Civil Contingency Reaction Force exercise, the most ambitious exercise yet run by the Battalion and the largest of its kind conducted by the Norfolk Emergency Services. The scenario was a mid air collision between an airliner and a light aircraft. The nose cone of an airliner, a plume of aircraft debris, and a Civpop of 150 with mass smoke generation on one side and more aircraft debris and some grisly bits in the second site several kilometres away was an impressive challenge for the services that respond to civil contingencies. Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance Trust, Air Ambulance, Police helicopters, Coroner's Office, Environment Agency, County and District Councils with voluntary organisations including Lowland search teams attended the Exercise, which was essentially a mission rehearsal to make sure we got all we could out of the Exercise itself. Not surprisingly, apart from simulated press, there was real media interest and the Exercise received good coverage from the BBC and from the regional media.

The exercise opened with three unexpected bumps. First the nose cone and the exercise casualties seen by passers by from some distance were taken to be real, which caused some interesting reporting. Second the wonderful smoke generation which had it been from a real aircraft crash could have been toxic, raised such health and safety issues that there was a pause to the rapid response. Thirdly, there was a real minor casualty among the simulated casualties. Some 560 civil responders were put through their paces. For the Battalion the challenge was two-fold; firstly organising and running the Exercise to meet the training needs of the emergency responders and secondly to ensure that the Battalion's own systems and procedures were in place and exercised.

The Exercise was very well received by the emergency services and for those of the Battalion involved in the planning process it was a very worthwhile training package which led onto to the 49(E) Brigade Civil Contingency Reaction Force exercise in October.

Band Concert and Medal Presentation

Capt S Devitt writes:

On Saturday 7th October the Regimental Band performed a Band Concert at the Athenaeum Bury St Edmunds, coupled with the presentation of medals to members of HQ Company for service in Iraq and members of the Band receiving the VRSM. This was the second of the Battalion's two annual representational events and invitations had been extended to key individuals in the community, influencers



The RSM briefing the press.

and gatekeepers, heads of business, civil dignitaries, employers of members of the Battalion, Commanding Officers and those from the region that play a part in Regimental life. Following a short reception those in attendance were treated to an array of music from military marches to hits from some of Broadway's and the West End's

best loved shows.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant Maj Gen JCB Sutherell used the event to present Operational Medals (Iraq) to WO2s M Starie and E Stoker, Cpl A Rogers, LCpls C Catchpole and D Clarke and Pte P Doolan all members of HQ (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Company.

3rd Battalion

Members of HQ Company after receiving their Iraq medals.

More Than a Medal Presentation

On a warm sunny day on 25 June 12 members of C Company, 3rd Battalion were presented their Iraq Medals by the Lord

Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Lt Gen JC McColl. But it was much more than that. This was the Royal Tigers' Weekend and the President of the Royal Tigers' Association Maj Gen AJG Pollard conceived a brilliant idea early in January that C Company ought

to take part in the weekend. Soldiers of the Company were able to rub shoulders and march proudly with their forbears, through Leicester City Centre before joining members of the Royal Tigers' Association for a luncheon with their families.



3rd Battalion

After an early start and last minute rehearsals at the TA Centre the soldiers made their way to Leicester Cathedral for the Service. With their families and many others looking on the proud recipients then formed up and awaited their name to be called out before going forward to receive their medal. After receiving their medals they formed up behind the Band and Drums for the march past, which included two members of the Bermuda Regiment. Reunited with their families they all made their way to Devonshire Place for a splendid luncheon.

As the CO remarked before his long drive to Otterburn 'It is fitting that we are able to participate in the Royal Tigers' Weekend.' We are grateful to the Royal Tigers' Association, the Regimental Secretary, Maj John Turquand and especially Gen Pollard for the idea in the first place.

Exercise Steelback Cadet

WO1 D Caesar writes:

Exercise Steelback Cadet was a Royal Anglian Regiment sponsored exercise for cadets which took place over the weekend 21-23 July at the Beckingham and Fulbeck Training Area. The Exercise attracted a total of 61 cadets from the counties of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire,

Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

The exercise was run by the 3rd Battalion and, with the help of the Vikings Javelin equipment, it turned out to be a challenging and enjoyable weekend. The Exercise was split into three phases: Phase One was a round robin of Infantry weapons stands, Phase Two was an attack and patrol package and Phase Three was an introductory range

package run by Lt Garner of B Company. For the first time the exercise also incorporated a paintball shoot which was run by Capt Tony Scales from Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force.

All the cadets attending seemed to enjoy the weekend and the 3rd Battalion look forward to running the Exercise again next year.



3rd Battalion

Exercise Steelback Enforcer

Maj Ian Couch writes:

Exercise Steelback Enforcer was a Battalion level range package run at the CPTA facility on the South coast over the weekend 29 September - 1 October with the aim ensuring that all personnel successfully completed the Annual Personal Weapon Test and conducted the conversion to field firing prior to using the advanced Counter Insurgency ranges. This weekend also served as the forming up of 10 Platoon, a composite Platoon from across the Battalion which will be deploying to Kabul in support of HQ Interim Security Assistance Force.

With a long journey for the Companies the Battalion was not complete until the early hours of Saturday morning but despite this late finish the Battalion paraded to be orbated into multiples in time for the first rounds down the range at 0830. Those qualified to do so moved directly onto one of the three main ranges whilst the remainder of the Battalion completed the qualifying shoots.

The emphasis was on operational shooting and preparing the Battalion, in particular 10 Platoon, to deploy on operations in support of the Regular Army. Day and night shoots took place from a Platoon defended location, Sangar shoots and the demanding 'tin-city' range which saw teams put through a number of serials of increasing intensity to reinforce core skills.

Col NH Kelsey, our Deputy Colonel, conducted his last official visit to the Battalion and saw that the training was going well producing highly motivated, professional TA soldiers with considerable operational experience and a great deal of commitment. The Battalion will progress from this to Exercise Steelback Enforcer 2 and continue to prepare to support operations and engage in training that is not only right for our role but also fun.



10 Platoon.

Visit to Indiana National Guard

WO2 Nagra writes:

The following personnel from the Battalion deployed with 1-293rd 76th INF DIV Indiana National Guard at Camp Atterbury, Indianapolis on 22 July: WO2 Nagra (C Company), CSgt Hunter (C Company) and Sgt Day (B Company). Camp Atterbury is located 38 miles south of Indianapolis and is the mobilization centre for the US National Guard. The facilities at Camp Atterbury are enormous and varied providing support to a Divisional Headquarters with four brigades, a total of 10,000 troops in camp. This is the first Army camp I have seen with a prison in the middle of camp. The range complex catered for everything from small arms and artillery to A10s and F16s.

Training consisted of an urban clearance patrol/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) lane on foot and vehicle followed by a round robin with the Engineers with stands on entering a locked door by blowing a hole in the door for entry moving on to picket charges and making 20lb IED charges out of bean tins and a 20lb claymore mine.

We managed to complete the entire range package from small arms firing the M16 up to the .50 calibre sniper rifle which has a range of 2000 metres and one hell of a bang when you fire. We then moved on to firing the 81mm mortar and observing fall of shot onto impact area with Mortar Fire Controllers. The next day we went with the artillery 105 guns, hands on loading and firing, all day which was and heavy work as the shell weights 35lb. We managed to fire and load six rounds in 22secs, not bad for infantrymen! The next two days were spent with the engineers making up 20lb charges and blowing things up. Eventually we moved on to blowing up an old 60ft abseil tower using 60lb of C5 explosive and laying just 50ft away, from there I called 'fire in the hole' and blew down the tower.

All week we had air cover as we watched A10s and F16s live firing (strafing and bombing runs) from the watch tower. The last range day was the TOW missile firing range.

A hit of rest and recuperation was taken at the end of the firing package at Foxfire, a lodge with a large lake for fishing. The last two days were spent in Indianapolis seeing all the sights and the war museum.



Sgt Day with the US sniper rifle.

3rd Battalion

Exercise Lincoln Wanderer - B and C Companies Adventure Training

Over the weekend 11-13 August B and C Companies combined to deploy on a joint adventure training exercise, Exercise Lincoln Wanderer. The exercise took place in the Peak District, South of Matlock in the White Peak Area. With all the activities being run by a civilian adventure training company it meant that all members of the Companies could participate fully and with a dedicated G4 crew it meant that all individuals had to worry about was what the next rope activity was.

There seemed to be a distinct theme running throughout the activities on Saturday, it was heights and involved numerous lengths of cordage and strapping ourselves into harnesses. For those that resented being trussed up like the Christmas turkey and dangled by a bit of bailer twine the thought of throwing ourselves off a 90ft drop filled some of us with unease and apprehension. But with a little encouragement from the staff and the usual squaddie humour by ridiculing those that are scared everyone was able to complete most of the activities. For many of the troops this was their first experience of adventure training and while at first they could not understand the need for a contribution, once they had got stuck in to all the activities they realised that they had got more than their monies worth. For some they got more value for money than they reckoned for when it was their turn to navigate to the next activity as they took their team on an extended guided tour of the White Peak Area. With a little guidance on to the correct route the geographically embarrassed realised the error of their ways. By Saturday evening everyone was back at Base Camp and after a long hot shower to wash away the dirt of caving, and the aches from rock climbing and hill walking a well deserved barbecue was cooked by the G4 crew led by CQMS Andy Craven.

Day 2 started wet but this didn't dampen spirits and after a hearty breakfast teams were divided into the activity that they had chosen to partake in after day 1. For those on the caving the instructors ensured the students got fully in to the whole Gollum/Smeagol experience by over running by two hours...although certain NCOs blamed the instructors many were quick to blame the NCOs who were not quite nimble enough to get through the small crevices, but instead they wedged themselves like a cork in a bottle. This resulted in those behind getting an unwelcoming view of LCpl Parker trashing round like a wounded seal in the mouth of a killer whale trying to get through a crevice. Members of B Company were introduced and led through the trials and tribulations of mud fighting in the Peak caves while those that canoed faced similar problems with many finding out that their



Members of B Company having completed the caving.

sea legs and sense of balance were not quite as they would have thought. Many under the leadership of CSM Phil Weatherhill had an earlier bath than they reckoned for.

For those that felt they had not been trussed up enough on the previous day and felt that they needed another dose of bondage rock climbing and abseiling was again on offer. With various grades of climb set up to suit all everyone was catered for at whatever level of climbing or punishment they wanted. Most started with the easier climbs and worked their way up to what they felt they would struggle with. With help and prompting most were able to complete two or more climbs if not with some wincing from the staff as to the unorthodox ugly ways we attempted each climb. Some were more natural than others as Pte Parkar demonstrated as he shot up each rock face like Spiderman. This resulted in him attempting to climb something that looked like from the ground a sheet of glass but somehow Pte Parkar managed to get hand and foot holes with some purchase and ascend the rock face.

Overall the weekend was a complete success and well run. All who participated got a lot from the whole experience as some conquered fears and others possibly had their fears magnified. Already there is talk of next year combining the companies again and participating in a similar weekend. Those who attended this year's will be hammering at the door to be let in for next year.

The Regimental Band

WO2 Ainley writes:

The Band and Drums set off on a mission for this year's camp. The aim for week one was to record the Band's first ever CD and for the second week to perform to some 2,000 people at the Bandstand in Pinewalk Gardens, Bournemouth.

This was the Band and Drums' fourth annual return to Bournemouth and again it was a huge success.

We played daily on the bandstand to audiences in excess of 200 and the Corps of Drums performed a mini beating retreat in the Lower Gardens in the middle of each concert. This is a favourite venue for the Band as concerts such as this are few and far between. It is also the one time in the yearly calendar that the Bandmaster has his now fully established Band to rehearse and perform on a daily basis, thus allowing all members to maintain the very high musical standards that our audiences have come to expect.

The first week of camp was a new venture with potential pitfalls in abundance. The aim was to record our first CD, which was a very daunting prospect for some of the members of the Band who had not made a recording of any kind in the past. Concert performances are what the Band relishes. There is a vast difference in atmosphere when the red recording light is on and the tape is running.

We had four days of solid rehearsals to get the 17 tracks planned for the CD up to scratch and then it was planned to record the CD on 3/4 August. We were lucky to have been granted permission to use the Minden Band's complex in Bassingbourn for this recording. With the rehearsals complete, the CD producer and engineer arrived, all the microphones were positioned, a sound check was carried out and then it was time. The red light went on and we started to record. By mid afternoon on Friday the recording was complete and the CD, entitled *Rock and Castle*, had been born.

Seventeen tracks were recorded and although there were some very weary and tired musicians the job was done and there was a great sense of achievement from all concerned.

The recording team made some very favourable comments about the Band and it was felt by all that the end result would be an excellent CD that would appeal to all musical tastes.

3rd Battalion**Exercise Somme Return**

Maj RP Grenfell writes:

Exercise Somme Return was a battlefield tour to France with an aim to enhance the group's knowledge of World War One trench warfare. A party of eight from HQ Company 3rd Battalion consisting of Regular, NRPS, TA and civilian staff armed with obligatory haverbags set off for the France via the Channel Tunnel. The subject matter expert and tour leader was Mr Charlie Shropshire. Charlie is HQ Company storeman, formerly a Viking and Suffolk Museum curator.

The first visit was to St Omer and La Coupola, although a World War Two site, too good an opportunity to be missed and well worth a visit by future tours. The site was built into a natural feature by the Germans with a view to launching V1 and V2 bombs and although never used it is

a feat of supreme engineering. It boasts excellent displays and film footage of the occupation of France. With our first cup of French coffee under our belts Albert and our accommodation beckoned. The hotel, which could be described as charming but rustic, was comfortable and well situated for the rest of the trip.

Fed and rested day two started with a visit to the Somme Museum situated in the crypts of the Church with Golden Madonna in central Albert. This set the scene and was extremely informative. The party then set off to visit several different sights and monuments. Some of the highlights included Ironcross Cemetery, South African Cemetery with its museum, and we were encouraged to view the Welsh memorial as Mr John King, the QM's Clerk, hails from the 'Valleys'. The monument at Thiepval

commemorates those lost to the Somme who where never given a formal burial. It brings the devastation of the battles into sharp focus, and is extremely moving. The visit to the Newfoundland Memorial was the highlight of the visit. The trenches are still visible and with a guide to talk the party through the sequence of the battle it sparked much discussion and debate.

On the final day the group made for Veronne to visit Museum L'Historal de la Grande Guerre. This exhibition is well presented and educational. We were fortunate that there was an additional limited display highlighting all the nations that fought in World War One and their roles. It brings into sharp focus that World War One was truly a World War.

With the party loaded back onto the wonderfully comfortable minibus the return trip to Bury St Edmunds was uneventful with the obligatory stop to collect a selection of red wines on route. The whole experience was extremely worthwhile, with Mr Shropshire's explanations of various battles, discussions and debates and the various visits the whole group returned with a much-enhanced understanding of the suffering and hardships of trench warfare in the Somme.

Minden Day 2006

CSgt Street writes:

On 1 August 1759 the Suffolk Regiment fought in the Battle of Minden and were victorious. This is the Regiment's main Battle Honour and HQ Company celebrate this event annually. This year festivities included a parade in the morning, participation in the Suffolk Old Comrades' Association parade, culminating in a Families' Day at the TA Centre.



Minden Day.

3rd Battalion

The day commenced with the presentation of Minden Roses by the CO and RSM. The families attended with wives and partners also receiving roses. For the Suffolk Regiment celebrations at the Keep the Company provided a Colour Party consisting of Capt Coulson and Lt Horner, WO2 (CSM) Staric, CSgt (CQMS) Street and SSgt Smith, who as RIME was particularly honoured to escort the Colours. A short rehearsal was conducted which went well considering that the evening before was the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball.

The parade was conducted on the square at the Keep and commanded by Maj 'Stan the Man' Bullock, late QM of this Battalion. With a marching contingent from the Company, many Old Comrades and Colour Parties from the 1st and 3rd Battalions and 3 Royal Anglian the parade was short but poignant. Many families attend and it was quite a spectacle. Many comments



Is it really for me?

were received on how nice it was to see the Battalion Colours and the Company's

marching contingent. After the parade many stayed a short while to catch up with old friends before making their way back to the TA Centre.

Back at the TA Centre, now out of uniform, fun was the order of the day. The Master Chef and his team produced an excellent barbecue. However, the highlight was the *dodgems* and a lot of people managed to complete the conversion on their FMT600 plus the MTWO got several new recruits for his depleted MT Platoon.

It was along and hot day. Tired families (especially Sergeants' Mess members) wound their way home happy and look forward to next year's celebrations.



The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

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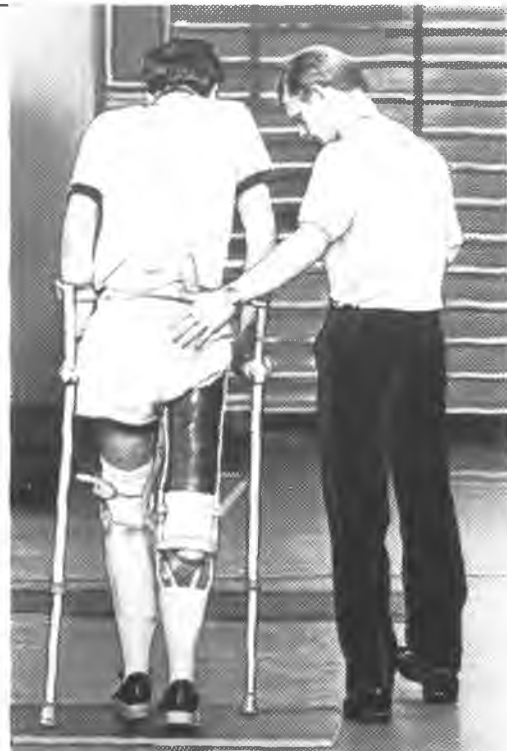
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THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

Special Features

The BBC gets it Wrong



Ajax Squadron, 3 R ANGLIAN, 1 SLI and 2 RGJ.

Maj Roy Jenks writes:

At the end of the Trooping of the Colour in June 2006 a Feu-de-Joie was fired in the presence of HM the Queen to celebrate her birthday. The commentator at the time stated that a Feu-de-Joie had never been fired before in the presence of the Queen during her reign.

The BBC was wrong! On 28 May 1965, in Berlin on the Miasfeld, the Berlin Brigade fired a Feu-de-Joie in the presence of HM the Queen. The Brigade was formed up in two ranks and the Feu-de-

Joie was first fired by the front rank followed by the second rank. The Brigade was in line and consisted of: Ajax Squadron RTR, 3 R ANGLIAN, 1 SLI and 2RGJ.

The RSM of the 3rd Battalion was nominated to co-ordinate the arms and foot drill which was not an easy task as 1SLI and 2RGJ were Light Infantry so marched at a faster pace than the remainder of the troops on parade and the arms drill of all the battalions was also different.

The UK's Deployment into Southern Afghanistan

Maj Dom Biddick writes:

The Royal Anglian Takeover Plan for HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade

When I first started working as the Intelligence Officer for the Brigade in 2004 I was the only Royal Anglian in the HQ. However, since then our numbers have swelled and a veritable 'Royal Anglian Mafia' is now embedded in the core of the Formation: Capt Alex Biggs is serving as SO3 J1; Capt Martin Melia is supporting me as SO3 J2; Capt Rupert Whitham slaves away as SO3 J3/5, and the old stalwart Capt Tim Beighton is serving as SO3 J4. These notes have been penned following 12 months of planning in preparation for Operation Herrick 4 with the Brigade and 5 months deployed within Coalition Task Force AEGIS in Kandahar (the Canadian-led MNB responsible for the south of Afghanistan), they are correct as at July 2006.

Deja vu

Afghanistan is a complex country, but it's not beyond our understanding. For over 2000 years this part of Central Asia has been fought over by numerous powers; most famously by Great Britain and Russia during the 'Great Game' period of the 19th and 20th centuries. Here's a sobering thought: the British Army has been comprehensively militarily defeated in Afghanistan 3 times;

finally admitting defeat and according Afghanistan independence in 1919. More recently, the USSR was beaten in the 1979-89 proxy war and the US and UK short-sightedly averted their attention away from this ravaged land until the wake-up call that was 9/11. So, it is with a certain sense of deja vu that we once again turn our attention to the 'land of the Pashtuns'. And it is precisely because of the previous failures and selfish political strategies that the international community cannot afford to fail in the current mission.

The Mission

The international community's efforts are endorsed by a UN mandate and have been most recently articulated in the 'Afghanistan Compact' which was launched in London in January 2006. This agreement commits Afghanistan and the international community to work to rebuild the country; focusing on security, governance, economic and social development (and making specific reference to the narcotics problem). The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is expanding its area of operation to include the south and east of the country - taking over from the US which has conducted counter-terrorist focused missions in these areas until now. NATO is providing the HQ that will oversee this transition (the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps HQ) and the bulk of the new combat power that



5 Platoon, 3 PARA firm behind a compound during contacts in Nawzad - May 2006

Special Features



Royal Anglians in Lashkar Gah: (left to right) Alex Biggs, Dom Biddick, Tim Beighton and Rupert Whitham



A UK CH-47 lands at Lashkar Gah at dusk

is deploying. The UK Government would like Operation Herrick to become an 'exemplar Comprehensive operation'; meaning one that demonstrates a more successful and joint approach between the military and Government departments such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Simply put, the role of the British Military force deploying to southern Afghanistan is to provide the security that will enable the Government of Afghanistan to function and development objectives to be met. What the US experience has shown is that, no matter how many insurgents you kill, kinetic action in isolation will not lead to a more peaceful future.

The Problem Set

The insurgents are just one part of the problem. Afghanistan is a desperately poor country with minimal infrastructure and government or security systems. The people have never been subjected to a functioning central government, and such subjugation does not sit easily with the Afghan culture. Corruption is rife through society and government; a porous border with Pakistan allows insurgents safe sanctuary and operating bases; and warlordism and tribalism continue to generate significant frictions. In a nation where the average wage is a \$2 a day, heroin and opium trafficking produced revenues last year estimated at \$2.3 billion - as much as 60 percent of Afghanistan's official annual GDP. Opium has become the perfect export from a land enveloped by chaos and war; production has spread to 28 out of the 32 provinces in the country.

The Taleban

There are a number of Islamic militant groups operating in Afghanistan, including Hisb-e Islami Gulbuddin and Al Qa'eda. In the provinces that the UK's forces will deploy into the Taleban will be the primary adversary. Their intent is to overthrow the Government of Afghanistan and re-establish control of vast sects of the Country. Estimates vary, but their total numbers are likely to be in the region of 2000-4000. It's often difficult to distinguish between 'genuine' fighters and co-opted locals. Actions such as the recent Poppy Eradication Campaign have angered locals and directly increased the number of men prepared to take up arms to defend their way of

Special Features



Ambush country: a US patrol negotiates the Dab Pass in Zabul Province

life against the Government and the 'infidels'. Taliban fighters are typically 18-35 year old males, of light build who carry minimal equipment - preferring to hide valuable weapons and ammunition in a network of caches. A typical fighting force will be composed of 4-6 groups of 3-5 men, although as many as 150 fighters will coordinate their actions on rare occasions. Although most fighters are poor tacticians and (fortunately) untrained marksmen, a number have evidently received some training and can present themselves as capable adversaries. The real strength of the insurgent lies in his level of psychological motivation. Many are poorly educated and mis-interpret the pillars of Islam; but they possess a resolute belief in their objectives and are far more prepared to martyr themselves in battle than most western soldiers. A particularly alarming trend, not dissimilar to that seen in Iraq, has been the exponential rise in suicide bombers over the past six months. In 2005 there were 18 suicide bombs throughout the whole of Afghanistan. Already in 2006 there have been over 26 SIEDs in southern Afghanistan alone.



The future of security: men of 3rd Brigade, 205 Corps of the Afghan National Army

The UK Force

16 Air Assault Brigade troops form the main component of the 'Helmand Task Force'. The main fighting elements of the force are the 3 PARA Battlegroup (augmented by D Sqn HCR and a Danish Recce Squadron) and a squadron of Apache Attack Helicopters from 9 Regt AAC. 7 PARA RHA have been employed as the Embedded Training Teams; working in unison with the Afghan National Army. Predictably, despite the numbers deployed there is a critical shortage of bayonets - once frameworks patrols, base protection and QRF tasks are taken into account little more than one ops company is routinely available for deliberate operations. 3 Commando Brigade will take over the mission in the autumn of 2006, before handing over to 12 Mechanised Brigade in spring 2007. HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade will also take responsibility for delivering command and control to the whole of southern Afghanistan: Nimruz, Kandahar, Zabul, Oruzgan and Day Kundi, as well as Helmand Province.

Prognosis for 2007

The security situation in southern Afghanistan (including Helmand) has deteriorated significantly since 2001, but an objective and balanced analysis would lead to the conclusion that all current activity is within the boundaries of the intelligence assessments made



One of the 8 AH-64Ds spins up at Camp Bastion before launching north

Special Features

prior to the deployment of the Helmand Task Force. The capability and resolve of the new NATO Force is being tested as the Taliban seek to exploit the replacement of robust US Operation Enduring Freedom forces with what they perceive to be 'softer targets'. This pattern will continue as the UK and Netherlands Task Forces deploy, and as the US Task Force in Zabul is replaced by a much weaker Romanian contingent.

There are relatively few parallels between the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres that are truly justified. In many ways southern Afghanistan remains an extremely intelligence-rich and operationally permissive environment. In order to fully exploit the situation a greater tolerance

for strategic and tactical risk may be necessary than has been previously demonstrated by the UK Military. NATO has embarked upon its toughest mission to date and its credibility is now on the line. It will be interesting to see whether the Troop Contributing Nation's politicians and voters have the stomach for a difficult, prolonged fight against competent adversaries with the resolve for an enduring campaign.

'It is better that they do it imperfectly than that you do it perfectly. For it is their war and their country and your time here is limited.'
TE Lawrence Seven Pillars of Wisdom

My First Six Weeks at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick

Pte Sam Kearney writes:

I've been in the Army now for 10 weeks, and will be joining the Second Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Poachers. I have enjoyed my time here so far and wish to tell you about my first 6 weeks, which have been the toughest weeks so far.

I was placed in a room with eleven other people and we are all getting on well, making up Two Section of Seven Platoon. Our first week started by having the confidence to leave home and get to the ITC. We were shown how to administrate ourselves, how to iron our kit, how to wear our combats and other issued clothing to the required standard. The first week was hard work and I really missed home and my girlfriend a lot. The food here is OK. However, it could be better but at first it is fuel, so you just eat it!

Week 2 consisted of lessons on courage, loyalty, self-commitment and much more. It also included lesson with the Padre, rifle handling and drill. This week the training really picked up and I missed home a lot less. I also started to make really good friends with my section team mates.

Week 3 was the most fun out of the first six as we went out on exercise. We learnt about field administration as well as stag positions, flares, smoke grenades and practice grenades - which was a great lesson to watch. Drill was hard in week 3, trying to keep all our movements in time with the rest of the platoon. PT lessons were also intense, with running, tabs and circuit sessions.

If week 3 was the best then week 4 was definitely the hardest! PT was harder still with long distance running, tabbing and still more circuit training. My section worked hard on their drill in preparation for Parents' Day. We were all nervous and didn't want to mess up in

front of our parents. In the end the hard work paid off. We also had our weapon handling test this week, to make sure we could progress on to the next stage of our weapon lessons. After Parents' Day we were allowed to go out with them for 24 hours. It felt good to see my family again after so much hard work. After time off with our parents we all found it hard to adjust back into Army life. PT has got harder again, and we also moved onto the assault course. The first time we went through it was really muddy and wet, but good fun. We also had lessons on health and safety at work and grenade throwing. Drill was still hard, getting ready to pass off the square at the end of week 6.

In week 5 we had two big room inspections, one by our Section Commander (Corporal Marsh) and another by our Platoon Sergeant in preparation for passing off the square in week 6. In fact we were even practising our drill in our spare time so that we were good enough to pass the drill test. When week 6 came around we passed our locker inspection by the Platoon Commander (Captain Meddings) and then the inspection by the OC (Major Nye) the next day. We did really well on the drill test and earned not only our berets and stable belts but also our long weekend.

I am so proud to have got this far but I know I still have a long way to go. I won't be quitting as I've worked so hard to get this far and don't want to waste the effort! Some people have already left but if there is anyone reading this who is thinking of joining the Army then you will be able to achieve everything I have done. The course is still hard but we all work together to get through it and we are all looking forward to joining our Battalions.

158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V) 10th Anniversary

Prior to 1 April 1996, 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V) had been the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. Under Army restructuring at the time this Battalion was given the option of re-roling to an RLC transport regiment or risk disbandment. It took the former and was officially rebadged as an RLC regiment on 1 April 1996.

As part of the re-roling process, the Regiment was allowed to continue to wear the Royal Anglian beret (a khaki beret with a black patch behind the capbadge) which it wears to this day. It was also allowed to wear the Royal Anglian 'Minden Flash' (which has now been replaced by the RLC Tactical Recognition Flash), the RQMS within the Regiment is still a member of the Royal Anglian Regiment and 'Royal Anglian' was retained within the Regimental title. The 5th Battalion nickname 'The Steelbacks' was also retained; this referred the Northamptonshire Regiment, 48th of Foot (a predecessor of the Royal Anglians) who, during the Napoleonic Wars era, were known for showing their contempt at being flogged, which was the routine way of administering discipline at the time, hence Steelbacks. The name has been passed down through the various guises of the Royal Anglians until today where it is used routinely by the Regiment.

The current Regimental emblem reflects the Regiment's history, the wagon wheel represents the traditional RLC transport role, with

the Regimental nickname 'Steelbacks' on it. The DROPS vehicle reflects the Regiment's current transport function and the crossed bayonets the Regiment's infantry past.

On Friday 12 May 2006 Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, as Colonel in Chief The Royal Logistic Corps, up to 200 members of 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V) and Regimental families (from all over the Regimental area, Peterborough, Bedford, Ipswich and Loughborough) and invited guests celebrated the Regiment's 10th Anniversary within the Royal Logistic Corps in the centre of Peterborough. Other guests included the Regiment's Honorary Colonel, Lt Gen Houghton CBE (currently Chief of Joint Operations), the Representative Colonel Commandant, Maj Gen Chambers CB MBE, Commander 49 (East) Brigade, Brig Crane OBE, Regimental Colonel, Col Baker, Colonel of Volunteers, Col Hambleton and Commander RLC TA, Col Hazlewood. Also invited were previous Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Regiment.

The day started with a Service of Thanksgiving in Peterborough Cathedral where the Regimental Padre, Maj Tony Douglas, gave an excellent address and Pte Thomas an outstanding reading in conjunction with the Cathedral clergy and staff. This was followed by Her Royal Highness meeting with some of the Regiment's

Special Features



The Regiment with The Princess Royal.

soldiers civilian employers. This was followed by a public medal presentation in the city centre, where 12 soldiers from the Regiment were presented the Iraq Medal for service on Operation Telic by Her Royal Highness.

With swords drawn and bayonets fixed and the REME Band playing, the Regiment then exercised its freedom of the City by marching through the centre and past Her Royal Highness who took the salute.

Her Royal Highness, the Regiment, families and guests then moved to the riverside embankment where a marquee had been erected. Here Her Royal Highness met with over 100 members of the Regiment and their families. Everyone also managed a drink and a buffet lunch. It was here we said goodbye to the Regiment's guests and Her Royal Highness and all serving soldiers and their families moved back to the Regimental Headquarters and home of 200 Headquarters Squadron in Peterborough.

A Regimental 'Smoker' was laid on including a barbecue, a children's entertainer and bouncy castles, arcade motor bikes and a bucking bronco, which the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Seal, appeared to excel at.

The Regiment was allowed to let its hair down after a job well done, with a beer and to swap 'war stories', which the soldiers excelled at! All those Regimental soldiers that took part in the event were also given a commemorative coin with the RLC badge in the middle and 'Royal Logistic Corps' around the badge and a plaque inside the box saying '158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V), 10th Anniversary, 12th May 2006'.

The day had been an outstanding success, due largely to the soldiers



The march past.

who took the time off from their civilian work, their families who came, the planning and admin staff behind the scenes and all the external help the Regiment had, from RHQ The RLC, Peterborough City Council, Peterborough Cathedral, Cambridgeshire Police and many more organisations.

The weather had been hot and sunny and all elements of the day had gone smoothly and to plan. It proved to be a very fitting celebration for the Regiment's 10th anniversary and will long be remembered by all those who participated and their families as well as the City of Peterborough, as the day Her Royal Highness came to visit 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers).

Special Features

From a Queen's Division Perspective

Lt Col Mike Beard, Div Lt Col Queen's Division (February 2004-December 2006) writes:

Since the demise of Depot the Queen's Division at Bassingbourn, many members of the Regiment barely registered any impact on their lives as a result of being part of The Queen's Division. That is changing, and I predict that in future the Division, whether we like it or not, will loom larger for the Regiment and in the lives of those serving. Let me attempt to briefly explain why.

A few weeks in to my tenure, Future Infantry Structures (FIS) hit the desk. I breathed a sigh of relief to see that the regiments in the Division (the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment) were not in the sights of those welding the knife for a cut of four battalions.

Six months later that all changed; the criteria for decision making had primarily been 'sustainable manning' but became compromised by politicians and generals fighting their corners, and the Queen's Division had just a few days to justify its existence in its present form. Maj Gen John Sutherell, who as well as being Colonel of the Regiment was Acting Divisional Colonel Commandant while John McColl was in Iraq, did an outstanding job of representing our interests.

Lt Gen John McColl arrived back from Iraq just in time to attend ECAB and explain why the six battalions of the Division should not be forced to become a new five-battalion regiment. We won that fight, but need to learn the lesson - if all the regiments of the Division fail to maintain operational capability through strong manning we will all flounder. R Anglian manning and recruiting is currently strong, but we also have to help PWRR and RRF to sustain if the Royal Anglian name is to survive the next round of cuts.

So the FIS process made it clear that our future destiny is tied to the Queen's Division. Since FIS, there is a developing expectation of large regiments delivering added capability through greater

flexibility - flexing manning and skills towards the operational priority. This is more of a challenge for the 'Small Large' such as we are now labelled, as opposed to the 'Large Large' such as the new five-battalion Rifles or Scots. So we have to be prepared, if necessary, to act as a six-battalion organisation to deliver the goods, and hence the evolution of the Division Individual Posting Policy which is already seeing more movement of individuals, both officers and NCOs, between Regiments.

The Queen's Division Company at ITC Catterick plays a key role in sustaining the manning of the Division, and the number of Royal Anglian recruits entering training is a testament to the efforts of the Regiment's recruiting personnel, many of whom go the extra mile and display great initiative and energy. It is then the job of the staff in Queen's Division Company to get as many recruits as possible up to the standard required in order to pass their training and join their battalions - no mean feat, and once again, it is often down to individual NCOs who make that extra effort to drive down losses in training. It is not always easy to quantify, but I am in no doubt that the ethos of the Division Company and the incentive of the officers and NCOs to support the manning of their own battalions is a real positive.

As I reach the end of my tour I look back with much fondness on my relationships with the Division desk officers at APC Glasgow, the Division teams at Queen's Division Company, RMA Sandhurst, AFC Harrogate, ATR Bassingbourn, ATR Winchester, the outstanding Minden Band, and of course all the recruiters, RHQs and battalions, both Regular and TA. I have also had the privilege to be invited to inspect my old school CCF at Brentwood as well as three pass out parades at Catterick. All in all it has been a fascinating and rewarding time - and if we see another FIS looming, be sure to get a Royal Anglian in the job!

The Michelob Ultra London Triathlon 2006

Capt Matt Woodeson writes:



Maj Brown is in here somewhere...the floating mass start.

The Bangkok Lady Boys ride, run and swim again. Majs Dom Biddick and Olly Brown were accompanied by team captain Capt Matt Woodeson on another jaunt into Lycra clad oblivion.

Avid readers of *Castle* may remember three years ago an article on the same race. This is exactly the same team only three years older and definitely not wiser.

The team were competing in the Olympic Distance relay. This

comprises a 1.5km open water swim, a 40km bike and a 10km run. On the last outing the team managed to come 16th out of a field of 280 international teams. This year the Lady Boys managed to come 5th and were three seconds off of 4th place. The team managed to achieve this placing out of a total of 315 international teams.

Throughout the race each member of the team had to pit his wits and skill against other likeminded racers. Most teams who enter the

Special Features

Olympic relay have specialists in each discipline. Maj Brown was swimming against Adrian Moorehouse and there were a number of Elite level athletes in the majority of the other teams.

It was a hard race for all of the Lady Boys. Maj Brown put in a personal best in the swim, Capt Woodeson knocked 2.5 minutes off his last time on the bike and Maj Biddick proved that high altitude training in Afghanistan is the key to running a quick 10km, producing the fastest 10km of the race.

The Bangkok Lady Boys were left to wonder what could have been. All three members were not on great form. Capt Woodeson's grandmother not really understanding the concept of 'carbo loading' had tried to poison him at supper the night before; Maj Biddick was still suffering from Afghan blues. Maj Brown was really the only one who was really all right, despite the best efforts of a white van driver to run him over the week before.

It would seem that in the true spirit of the Vikings, the Bangkok Lady Boys have decided to race this race until they are unable to race any more. This has been impressed upon us by the irrefutable enthusiasm of the now OC A Company - Maj Biddick. Watch this space.



The Bangkok Lady Boys - Maj Biddick, Capt Woodeson, Maj Brown.

The Alpine Tigers

Cadet Staff Sergeant Erica Teubes writes:

In July, I was one of 13 cadets selected to join a party going to the French Alps, to walk the a recognised European mountain trekking route known as the Tour of Mont Blanc.

The expedition leader, Maj Roger Wells, told us that the basis of this expedition would be that individual team members would be given the maximum opportunity to develop maturity, self-reliance and leadership skills through participation at all levels of activities. This development would be enhanced by the mental and physical challenges confronting each individual, in an expedition environment, over an eight-day period, walking about 110km within the French Alps, climbing to approximately 2,500m (approx 8,000ft) in the mountains for a sustained high level mountain walk.

On the evening of Saturday 15 July we all met at the County Headquarters in Lincoln. Exercise Alpine Tiger Venturer 2 had begun. The 13 cadets (two had dropped out) and seven adults settled down to sleep. The following morning we were up early for the drive down to Dover then onto the car ferry and over the English Channel to Calais for the long drive down to the French Alps.

We arrived at the Argentiere valley campsite, later than planned. The campsite was surrounded by mountains, which looked very

impressive, high and steep. We pitched our tents and were just about to chill out when we were 'invited' for a short walk, 'to stretch our legs', - lovely. To be fair, the short walk was easy. This walking in the Alps probably won't be so bad after all.

We had been told that the walking phases would be,

- A 1-day acclimatisation walk.
- A 4-day expedition.
- A recovery day followed.
- A 2-day expedition.
- The final day was a Rest and Recuperation day, when to continue the mountain experience, the whole group rose early to travel by cable car up the Aiguille du Midi, to watch the sunrise on Mont Blanc.

The adults, Capts Kate Hooker and Frances Thompson told us that we could buy our own food, which sounded really great. Then we realised that 'Pot Noodles' did not constitute food, and what they really meant to say was 'Go away and buy your own pasta or rice.' As I am half French I am able to speak the language but the instructor



Capt Frances Thompson's group crossing The Bionnassay Glacier, using the Himalayan style bridge.

Special Features

insisted that I shouldn't act as an interpreter and the others had to buy the food themselves.

Having purchased rations for the walk, the vehicles drove us from Argentiere campsite to Les Houches (1,007m). A 10 Euro ticket got the group up to the Bellevue top station (1,600m), which saved 600 metres of ascent and ready to start walking at 10.30am. Then off went in small groups of four or five, taking the more exciting and adventurous high-level variant route, which involved crossing the Bionnassay Glacier and the use of a Himalayan style bridge on route to the Col de Tricot (2,120m). Each group was able to see the ice and rocks involved in the glacier and were impressed with the thickness of an ice cave.

Tuesday 18 July 2006

We then had a steady climb up to the Col de Tricot (2,120m), where the three groups all met up for lunch. From the Col de Tricot, there was a long zig-zagging decent to the Refuge de Miage. The Refuge is set in alpine meadows, complete with alpine cattle with neck bells. It was just like *The Sound of Music*, without Julie Andrews.

We then had another steep climb before we made our final decent during the late afternoon to Les Contamines-Montjoie (1,167m) where we finished at 6pm for the drive back to Argentiere valley campsite. The walk was completed in hot weather with all the walkers carrying day sacks.

The next day, Wednesday 19 July, we had a five-hour drive around the Mont Blanc Massif, through a series of valleys. Unfortunately, there were numerous diversions that slowed our progress.

By the time the party set off from the Refuge Du Plan De La Laie it was 6pm. What was anticipated to be a four and a half hour walk with full expedition packs, in the blazing sun, turned out to be a three-hour walk on a very pleasant evening. Two hours took the groups to the Col de la Sauce (2,306m), where a large cairn makes a good landmark. The final hour was spent walking up the Crete Des Gittes, on a path excavated by French mountain troops in 1911. All of the cadets were 'moved' when they passed the graves of two soldiers who died making the path.

Wednesday 19 July 2006

When we saw the final decent to the wild campsite just below the Refuge De La Croix Du Bonhomme (2,443m), we all felt relieved. We quickly erected the Saunders one-person mountain tents,



9pm - Capt Frances Thompson's group, with Sgt Erica Teubes leading along the Crete des Gittes ridge.

prepared an evening meal and got into bed with the sun setting below the campsite.

The following day, with reveille at 6.30am, we were all on our way by 8.15am.

Again we took the higher, more exciting alternative route. A short walk up to the Col de la Croix du Bonhomme (2,483m), then up onto the Col Des Fours (2,665m) where the group dropped our exped packs and sped up to the summit of the Tete Nord des Fours (2,756m), the highest point of the whole expedition. The 360 degree views from here were breathtaking and at this time of day, the summit of Mont Blanc was extremely clear and appeared very close.



All of the trekking groups at the summit of Tete Nord des Fours (2,756m)

Special Features



Capt Frances Thompson's and SI John Bowles's Groups at the summit of the Col de la Seine (2,516m) on the French/Italian border.

Having regained our packs, there was a three-hour decent to Les Ville Des Glaciers (1,789m), where the vehicles were waiting with a water resupply. After a short lunch, it was back uphill again to the Col de la Seigne (2,516m) on the Franco/Italian border.

SMI Eric Jorgenson then reverted to the role of admin officer. Capt Kate Hooker took over the group leadership and 2Lt Hayley Jesson, joined the group to gain her mountain experience. From this point, the reverse slopes of Mont Blanc were quite amazing, very rocky and intimidating. It was during this ascent that the cadets saw a large colony of furry animals called marmots playing in the sun and were able to capture them on their video camera

Thursday 20 July 2006

A descent back to Les Ville Des Glaciers and then on to the campsite at Les Chapieux (1,554m), completed the longest day so far, 10 and a half hours walking.

The municipal campsite at Les Chapieux had basic facilities, was flat and not crowded, not that anyone was too concerned due to their tiredness

With reveille at 6am the plan was to be away by 7.30am. As it happened the groups were walking by 7.45am on a straight forward route, immediately north, up the mountainside. We were told that we were to return to the Refuge De La Croix Du Bonhomme (2,443m), this time however, we would be staying inside.

This would give us an opportunity to experience a Refuge facility.

A three-hour walk saw the cadets ascend 900 metres with full packs. Naismith would have been impressed, that the group were acclimatised and progressing in accordance with his rule of mountain walking. The accommodation was allocated and the cadets took the opportunity to rest for the remainder of the day. The meals were provided by the Refuge guardian and were of a traditional French cuisine, including as one cadet so eloquently stated, 'that smelly cheese'. A good night's sleep in a bunk bed was the planned ideal. Sgt Bowles (ex 3 R Anglian), had other ideas, his snoring for Britain kept some awake until 4am!

After a typical French breakfast, we had an initial walk up to Col De La Croix-Du-Bonhomme (2,443m), it was then all downhill for 5 1/2 hours. The route led down past the Col de Bonhomme (2,329m) then down to the religious chapels and icons at Notre-Dame-De-

La-Gorge (1,210m) and finally Les Contamines-Monjoie campsite (1,164m). The vehicles were waiting at the campsite to pick us up and whisk us back to the campsite at Argentiere.

On the way back, being Saturday afternoon, we stopped off to purchase rations for the weekend and for the next expedition. By now, the cadets were practised at purchasing their own food, selecting the right type of meals to have a sufficiently high calorific value and pay, with the adults only supplying the money. As this evening would be an opportunity to have a barbecue, sausages, burgers and salad produce was also purchased. By the time we arrived at the campsite, right on cue, the heaviest rain of the trip started and continued into the night.

The next day, Sunday, we had a late breakfast, then the final rotation of the walking group members was organised, ready for the final two-day expedition. Personal clothing was washed and equipment packed ready for the next day. After a leisurely lunch, the cadets were taken into Argentiere to visit the shops. Maj Wells and Capts Thompson and Hooker, spent the afternoon, carrying out a recce to find easiest away up onto the Tete Aux Vents, which was directly above the campsite.

The third expedition was certainly the most testing phase. We started from the Col Des Monnets (1,430m) car park, which is above Tre-Le-Champs. 5.30am saw the first of the groups begin the long steep climb up to the Tete Aux Vents cairn (2,132m). The early start ensured that as the groups gained height, they were approaching the highest ground when the sun started to bare down on them.

Monday 24 July 2006

Capt Kate Hooker's and SMI Eric Jorgenson's Groups, at the Tete Aux Vents (2,132m) on the Grand Balcon Nord walk, with Mont Blanc in the background.

A delightful trek along the 'Grand Balcon Nord' with the Mont Blanc Massif to the south, took us first to Refuge Le Flegere (1,875m) and the cable car station. 2Lt Jesson had positioned her vehicle for the final pick-up and came up on the cable car to complete the final trek with the cadets, leaving Lt Carroll, the main admin officer, down in the valley with the safety vehicle.

After a break, the groups pushed on to the cable-car station at Plan Praz (2,000m). By 3pm, with the prospect of a further climb to Le Brevent (2,536m) in 33-34 degrees. A decision was made that the

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Cpl Ed Bailey and 2Lt Hayley Jesson negotiating the steep ground around the Vouillards Ravine.

cable car would be an ideal morale booster and this was used to gain 500m. From Le Brevent, a fairly gentle walk, took the groups down to a grassy saddle slightly west of the Refuge Bel Achat (2,152m).

The cadets were impressed by both the view, particularly across the valley to Mont Blanc and also the quiet peacefulness of the campsite. Directly below them was the town of Chamonix and we were able to identify the entrance to the Mont Blanc tunnel, with vehicles travelling to Italy. This had been a very long but very enjoyable day.

Tuesday 25 July 2006

Waking up, looking out of your tent at the sun on the snow of Mont



6am view from inside Capt Frances Thompson's sleeping bag, at the wild campsite near Refuge Bel Achat (2,152m). It gets no better than this.

Blanc was one of the highlights of the expedition.

The descent from Refuge Bel Achat (2,151m) to Merlet (1,562m) then to Les Houches (1,008m) took four hours, a short walking day. During this walk, the groups walked around the side of the Vouillards Ravine, which although steep in places, was protected by iron handrails.

Tuesday 25 July 2006

The walking groups were then driven back to the Argentiere commercial campsite.

The final day in the Chamonix valley was a rest and relaxation day. The plan was to continue the overall 'Mountain experience' of the expedition, by taking the group by cable car up the Aiguille du Midi. Having seen Mont Blanc from various locations during the walk, it was decided that an early morning ascent by cable car would allow the party to see the sun breaking on the summit of Mont Blanc. A 05.15am reveille, followed by a short drive, made sure the party were on one of the first cable cars of the day. To reduce the cost, the party were broken down into 'Families', each family



The whole party at 7.20am on the summit of the Aiguille du Midi, with the sunrise illuminating Mont Blanc in the background.

Special Features

consisting of two parents with two children. All of the females were nominated as the 'Mothers'

Wednesday 26 July 2006

This early morning spectacle was both awesome and breathtaking. The cable car ascended at a speed of 10 metres a second, leaving Chamonix looking like a model village below. The sky was a beautiful deep shade of blue, totally cloudless, with visibility in excess of 20 miles in every direction. Most of the route that we had walked from the north was visible, with campsites and refuges being easily identifiable. The party were able to see mountaineers kitting up and preparing to leave the Aiguille du Midi top station to walk out over a narrow ice ridge prior to beginning their ascent of Mont Blanc. A temporary 'Wild Camp' below the summit housed 30-40 tents

plus four snow holes, where some of the more 'Wild' had obviously spent the night. We were particularly lucky visiting the Aiguille on this day, the circumstances were perfect.

On completion of the visit, time was allowed for a leisurely half day in Chamonix, where the cadets visited either the swimming pool or ice skating rink, before returning to the campsite at Argentiere, before the whole group returned to Chamonix for a final meal together.

The next morning we began the long drive home, ready to go off to Annual Camp a week later.

This is a trekking route that is well within the capability of properly trained and motivated members of the Cadet Forces.

I would like to thank the Royal Anglian Regiment for their financial support for me on this exercise.

Would I go again? - You bet.

Posting to Army Training Regiment(ATR) Bassingbourn

Capt Ollie Ormiston writes:

There are some misnomers about ATR Bassingbourn, the main one being that it is dedicated to training non-Infantry. Anyone who is classed as 'Junior' (essentially 16 and 17-year-olds) will either go to AFC Harrogate or Bassingbourn. My first platoon had a handful, and the current intake is entirely Infanteers. Following completion of the 20-week course they will go to ITC Catterick to complete their training before moving onto their battalions. The majority of staff here are Infanteers - all of my section commanders were - and the standards of basic fieldcraft that are expected are the same as anywhere else.

I was initially unsure about how I would suit teaching Juniors, and as I believed the misinformation that I've now hopefully corrected, I was not looking forward to it. However, since arriving towards the end of January 2006 I have had a very enjoyable time. The challenges of training recruits that have not fully developed mentally or physically are well-documented; homesickness is all too common, many have difficulty with arduous physical tasks (especially weight-bearing), and many are unaware of how to administrate themselves. Their immaturity can mean that they flick between loving and hating the Army day to day. Tears are common.

Mobile phones mean that contact with their worrying parents and girlfriends is almost continuous, and because of this it can take longer to build a team; the parents often have no qualms about calling platoon staff to complain that their son is not happy. It is little wonder that the recruits struggle; I often have to ask myself what their parents and then expect the Army to be like. The likes of *Ultimate Force* and *Bravo Two Zero* must no doubt share some of the blame.

But these challenges, while frustrating at the time, often provide a source of amusement later, among the staff and the recruits, who by the time they leave, have learnt to appreciate the robust nature of

Army humour. There is a famous story here at Bassingbourn about some worried parents that called the Welfare Officer at 0300hrs having received a text from their son saying that he was 'going psycho'. The recruit - who was on stag at the time, and was roundly disciplined for sneaking his mobile out on exercise - had meant to text that he was going to the 'physio' the next day.

The course has just been extended to 20 weeks, and this involves just three weeks of exercise, two weeks of adventure training, a week of ranges, a week of leave, and a few days on a battlefield tour. Although the first seven weeks are spent in barracks, after the recruits pass off the square the weeks almost alternate being in and out of barracks.

It is a cliché to say that there is an immense sense of satisfaction at seeing your platoon pass out at the end of it, but it is true, and the letters that I receive from the parents thanking me for turning their boys around are always welcome.

Outside of work there is plenty of opportunity for sport and adventure training. As I write this in early August I have only recently returned after a summer away. Two weeks of playing rugby in Cyprus followed by a week of adventure training in Cornwall for the Company Permanent Staff, two weeks on a course in ATR (Lichfield), and a week of scuba diving in the Red Sea with the permanent staff all before starting my annual leave - have made a summer that I don't think that I will experience again.

Mess life is good, although due to the staggered nature of the courses, it is rare to have more than half of the officers in at one time. It has been a fantastic break from battalion life, and although I am looking forward to coming home to the battalion, I will miss it, and would certainly like other young officers to look on it as an opportunity to work at a slightly less hectic pace of life.

The Minden Band - It Ain't Arf Hot Mum

Cpl Adie Starbuck writes:

When a survey of music favoured by the average soldier was conducted, it came as no surprise that it was the likes of the Kaiser Chiefs and Robbie Williams that topped the list. So, like many of our bands, the Minden Band has been concentrating on adapting our output to deliver a musical package that caters for this predominantly young and demanding audience.

With a change of personnel at the beginning of May, work on the soul band had to begin in earnest. Only three of the nine original members remained after the re-organisation of Army bands and rehearsal time was limited. In addition to putting a show together, weapons tests, vaccinations, respirator checks and issue of desert kit had to be organised.

As would be expected, a trip into 'theatre' is anything but 'rock and roll'. After an eight-hour wait at Qatar we boarded a Hercules and were transferred to Basra under cover of darkness. On landing, fully kitted up, hot, bothered and tired, we were re-issued our weapons and whisked away for a series of briefings.

It soon became obvious that this was not the usual 'on the bus-off

the bus, gig-beer-home' affair we're all used to. It was made very clear to us that our movements between venues would be dangerous. The risk of suicide bombers, mortar attacks and kidnaps had increased considerably. Terrorist groups had been intensifying their training and equipment whilst improving tactics over the recent months.

During road moves we were to provide our own security and fire cover, as a dedicated protection was simply not an option due to availability. With this in mind we gratefully received our re-issue of improved body armour!

After a fitful night's sleep on the tarmac at a Basra heli-pad, we were flown by Merlin to Shaiba Logistics Base. Here we set up for the first job of the trip. 1 PWRR had decided to make our visit a Scale A parade. With long shift patterns and dangerous workload the mood was understandably far from party like. We were, it seemed, providing a little back-ground music to people that perhaps needed to use their 'down time' a little more efficiently. Recent times had been hard for this battalion and things didn't stop for a pop concert.

The following morning the Director had been informed that due

Special Features



The soul band.

to mortar attacks on the next of our venues we were unable to proceed as planned and had to stay at Shaiba. With this news the Director and Sergeant Major went in search of an alternative venue. Success. Within the centralised recreation area at Shaiba was a large English style pub (dry) run by NAAFI, the manager of which agreeing immediately to the offer of a band. Within an hour posters were up, an advertisement was being aired on BFBS and the kit was being set up.

The night was an overwhelming success. Before long the place was full and the atmosphere was buzzing. For a while it seemed everyone was transported out of the desert and away from the dangers of Iraq. And to confirm this, we had to stay at this venue for a further 'sell out' night with the same uplifting results.

Our final gig of the trip was back at Basra air base, but coincided with an important world cup game. Our audience that evening being made up of the handful or so people who didn't care about the game or just couldn't find a television. But the few people that did turn up were dancing from the first number!

Looking back at our experience, it is clear to see how music fits in to an operational environment, providing it is the right music in the right place at the right time. Overall, our presence had a positive effect on morale, but in the instance of the Scale A audience, lessons could be learnt. During our trip we met many people that were grateful for our efforts, and these people, a long way from home for many months, with no or little entertainment surely deserve the effort.



Party time.

The Special Relationship Between Corps and Regiments and The Army Benevolent Fund

It was after Veterans' Awareness Week in London in July last year that I became concerned, both as Controller of the Army's National Charity and as the Colonel of a Regiment myself, that although the special relationship between veterans and their Regimental and Corps Headquarters and Associations was as strong as ever, and communication was good, there were some aspects of welfare provision which were unknown to many. I think it is important that knowledge of the support available reaches out farther - hence this letter to you.

So I am writing to remind your readers of how a welfare problem is handled in case they or someone they know needs it and to explain the critically important relationship between your Regimental or Corps charitable funds and ours. Second, you may wish to know of ways you can all help and I shall outline those later on.

The ABF exists to help in those cases where official State assistance is either inapplicable or unwieldy. Where there is a need, it should be identified and resolved and every case is examined on its own merits. How does it work? A case emerges and, provided the outline

details reach RHQ in the first place, the Welfare Committee (or similar) will initiate the casework to be carried out. This is normally done by SSAFA Forces Help or the Royal British Legion or in more specialised cases by another organisation such as BLESMA or Combat Stress. The casework is sent back to RHQ where it is assessed and a solution proposed. If the cost of solving the problem is within the amount set by Regimental Trustees the money is found and all should be well; if it is more than the usual £350 or so per case, (it varies from regiment to regiment, of course,) the ABF and others are approached for the rest and a cheque from us to your RHQ is despatched normally the same day.

Where does the money come from? Regimental benevolent money benefits from donations made to the Day's Pay Scheme contributed by serving soldiers and other charitable donations whereas ABF money has to be raised in an increasingly crowded fundraising market place. The next question you may ask is how much is needed? Well, the ABF has to raise about £5.5 million a year to provide for that need which may be mobility aids such as wheelchairs (often for serving

soldiers with demanding recuperative needs and sometimes costing thousands of pounds), stair lifts, care home top-ups, holidays for soldiers' widows and children or bursaries. About half goes to help individuals and half to other charities that provide specialist help for our people.

The money is raised in a number of ways. The serving Army, both regular and TA (and we help all parts of the military family, and increasingly the TA) as well as our wonderful cadet forces do a great deal; our fundraising events, helped enormously by bands, drums and pipes, are popular but need sponsorship and organisation; reunion lunches and dinners with speakers such as Professor Richard Holmes and Kate Adie are well attended. Finally, we receive generous legacies from our supporters - but this, of course, is not something we rely on.

What can you all do to help? Well, a lot actually but most of all in the area of awareness. Perhaps most people in your Association know how all this works but some will not and I hope you will spread the word that the partnership of the Regiments and Corps with the Army Benevolent Fund is working together to relieve need and has been doing so for over 60 years. Next, your members might want to be put on our mailing list as they might particularly want to purchase one of our diaries (with its welfare aide memoire and which runs for 15 months rather than the normal 12) now that regiments tend not to produce their own any more. Finally, readers may be able to help with some fundraising in their local area.

I hope you found the above interesting and useful. Finally, I wish you all the best of good health and happiness to which I hope we are contributing as part of your Army's support system.

Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter
Controller, Army Benevolent Fund



Regimental Association

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

www.royalanglianassociation.co.uk
 (Webmaster: noel.muncey@ntworld.com)
 President: Brig R M 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 remains the centrepiece of the Association's events. This year, the fourth event at Duxford was held on 10 September and once again we were blessed with good weather. Maj Dick Gould with expert help from CSgt Keeble of the 3rd Battalion ably supported by members of the 1st Battalion had erected all the tentage which once again for many provided a welcome refuge from the sun.

Following the sad death of the Regimental Chaplain, Martin Franks, the Drumhead Service was taken by the Rev Tony Rose with the music being played by the Minden Band. Tony is no stranger to the Regiment having been in Belize in the early 1980s when the 1st and 3rd Battalions were based there and then later he served in Colchester Garrison. With over 3,000 the attendance was the largest yet. Once again it was most pleasing to see representation from our county Army Cadet Forces. In his speech the Colonel of the Regiment described the

activities of the three Battalions during the past year and concluded by presenting a certificate to Noel Muncey in appreciation of his work as the Webmaster of the Association Website.

The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment played during lunch and as usual, there were a number of activities to entertain the children. Many attending took the opportunity to visit the Regimental Museum and the rest of the Imperial War Museum.

Throughout the day tickets were sold in aid of the Museum Appeal Fund. The raffle raised over £1,800 and prizes were won by Capt M Patil RAMC (£500), LCpl K Moore (£200) and Mr Fenn (£100).

The day concluded with a musical display involving the Minden Band, the Royal Anglian Band, the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion and Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Army Cadet Forces.

The date for the 2007 event is 2 September.





Regimental Association

5th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club

A get-together of the 5th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club is planned for the weekend 3-4 February 2007. The weekend will include a dinner (black tie) at the famous Cloth Hall in Ypres, a battlefield tour to look at the exploits of some of the Former Regiments during World War 1, wreath laying at Thiépval Memorial to the Missing and the Last Post Ceremony in Ypres. The cost will be £125 per head, which will include the dinner. Coach pickup will be Peterborough at 0600 hrs Saturday 3 February and the Maidstone Services on the M20 at 0830 hrs, returning to Peterborough by 2030 hrs on 4 February. Full details of the trip can be obtained by contacting either nick.kelsey@virgin.net or adchissel@aol.com.

Hertfordshire Branch

It is planned to launch a Branch of the Association for the Hertfordshire area. The inaugural function will be held on 10 February 2007 in the bar of the TA Centre, 28 St Andrew Street, Hertford at 7 pm. The bar will be open and some small eats will be provided. Go along and meet some old friends and perhaps make some new ones. All members of the Association are welcome so, if you served in the



Dhekelia Cemetery.

Regular, TA or Royal Anglian badged cadets do go along.

The 2nd Battalion was based in Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia from July 1964-July 1967. Sadly, during this tour, three soldiers were killed; Pte K Atkins, Cpl CH Jackson and LCpl NR Boothright, all three are buried in the British Military Cemetery Dhekelia.

Cyprus Revisited

In May 2006 a group of ex-members of the Poachers returned to Cyprus to visit old haunts and also to pay their respects to the soldiers who lost their lives. A short service was held at the gravesides and crosses placed at each grave.



Grave of Pte Atkin.



Graves of LCpl Boothright and Cpl Jackson.

Regimental Association

The Felixstowe Gathering (Poachers) - 2006



The General making his speech.



Ginger Rubbick and Larry Cross.



John Melligan, John Green and Steve McConville.



John Walters and Graham Wright.



Tony Wade, Joe Heffernan and Alec Drage.



Shack Shailes.

Regimental Association

The Royal Anglian Regiment Golfing Society

2006 was a good year for the Regimental Golf Society with a resurgence of interest coming from golfers in the younger age bracket ie below 40 years of age! Good support also came from both Regular battalions, which was quite an achievement considering their operational commitments. CJC Property Development Ltd kindly sponsored the prizes for 2 meetings and have pledged their patronage for the future. Our thanks go to ex-Capt Jonathon Chastney (Poacher) who is one of the directors. The meetings for the year were held at Watton, Ely and Bourn and we were favoured by good weather on all three occasions. Many thanks to the 40 golfers who turned out at different times of the year, your support for Regimental golf is much appreciated.

The Queen's Division Triangular Match held a Canterbury on the 19 May 2006 was an uphill struggle with the selected team starting 2 players short due to injury. Despite some very good individual performances we were unable to retain the trophy won the previous year. The Divisional Colonel, Lt Col M J Beard played in the autumn meeting at Bourn and very kindly presided over the prize giving. Results of winners for all meetings are listed as follows; special mentions however go to T Watt with a net 64 at Watton and M Abbs and B Welton with 47 points at Ely in the Better Ball Stableford.

Spring Meeting held at Watton 26 April 2006

1st Gross	P Woodcock (38)
1st Net	T Watt (64)
1st S/B	C Kett (39)
1st B/B	M Abbs and B Welton (47)

Summer Meeting held at Ely 7 July 2006

1st Gross	M Abbs (38)
1st Net	L Greenaway (72)
1st S/B	D Sly (33)
1st B/B	C Norman and L Greenaway (45) the George Boss Memorial Trophy.

Autumn Meeting held at Bourn 7 September 2006

1st S/B	C Tate, R Jones and M Abbs (39) best 2 scores combined.
1st B/B	K Brett & G Peck (44)



Golf Meeting Dates for 2007

Spring Meeting	26 April	Charwood Forest Leicester
Summer Meeting	22 June	Ely
Autumn Meeting	6 September	Burleigh Park

Regimental Rugby

In 2001 the Vikings' Rugby team held a reunion match for former soldiers and attached personnel. Thus began a series of matches between the 'Old Boys' and current members of the Battalion.

With the present tempo of operational tours the fixture looked in danger of being lost so it was decided to extend the fixture to include all Regimental members and to link it to the Regimental Day which is held annually at the beginning of September. It was also decided that the event should become a Memorial Match in honour of those members of the Regiment who have lost their lives on operations.

This year's fixture was held at Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club on 9 September with teams competing for the Memorial Cup. The players remembered in particular Privates Adam Morris and Jos Lewaicei who lost their lives in Basra with the Poachers. The match was a hard fought encounter with the Old Boys emerging as the eventual winners.



Regimental Association

Obituaries

Rev Maj MD Franks MBE



Rev Maj MD (Martin) Franks MBE died on 9 June 2006, aged 70. A Memorial Service was held in the Regimental Chapel at Warley on 3 October which was attended by many of his friends from both the Essex Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Martin Franks fulfilled his boyhood dream of joining the Army when he joined at Warley as a band boy in 1946 aged 16. One of his duties was to go to the Essex Regiment Chapel and turn a page of the Book of Remembrance.

It was not long before Martin went off to Kneller Hall to read the

theory of music and learn to play the clarinet and the tenor sax. He returned to Colchester where he joined the Band of the Essex Regiment. The Band left Colchester for Minden and it was there, during a parade for the Secretary of State for War that aged 20 he had to deputise for the Drum Major. After the parade he was summoned by the Commanding Officer to be told that he had been appointed Drum Major on a permanent basis, thus becoming the youngest Drum Major in the Army - Drummie Franks had arrived on the scene.

The Battalion moved to Lunenburg and whilst there the Band and Corps of Drums returned to the UK for a KAPE tour. Whilst at home the smooth new Drum Major attended the Aris Ball on 13 June 1952, met Tina and married her six months later, a marriage that was to last 53 years.

Drummie Franks became a legendary figure. He was tall, smart and unflappable. He saw his mace as an instrument of power and a source entertainment. He and a Drum Major Hicks were the only Drum Majors ever to throw the mace over the entrance gate to Warley Barracks and successfully catch it on the other side.

After 8 years as Drum Major Martin was promoted and became CSM HQ Company and then, on amalgamation of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment with the Essex Regiment he was posted to Epping as a Permanent Staff Instructor and then to the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion.

He joined 1/3 East Anglian Regiment in Ballykinler as CSM A Company. It was during this tour that he famously moved his Company across London by the Underground. On marching to the appropriate platform he ordered the Company to face their front and said the immortal words, "In a few moments a train of the London Underground will arrive at this station. I will order you to left or right close march for a given number of paces. You will be facing a door. The door will open. Civvies will try to get off. They won't make it. You will be getting on".

A posting to 2 East Anglian in Osnabrook as RQMS was followed by promotion to become RSM. He moved with the Battalion to Felixstowe and it was during this tour that he was appointed to be RSM for the Royal Tournament.

In 1967 he was commissioned and joined the 3rd Battalion; Franko had arrived on the scene. He served in Aden, Tidworth and Paderborn in a number of appointments before moving to Bassingbourn in 1975 when he became a Company Commander at the Queen's Division Depot. His enthusiasm, infectious sense of humour and vast experience made him an ideal choice and at the end of his tour his contribution was recognized by the award of the MBE. It was

at this stage that Martin and Tina decided that they needed to put down some permanent roots and after 31 years in the Army Martin called it a day.

However, after only 18 months as a civilian Martin came back to the military fold becoming Housing Commandant at Colchester where, at the time, two battalions from the Regiment were based. Sadly, it was while he was at Colchester that he was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis. He became extremely ill and spent 7 months in the Royal Free Hospital. He was never to fully recover and had to retire in 1986.

Martin's faith played a major part during the whole of his life and in 1988 he started training to become a Deacon in the Catholic Church, which culminated in him being ordained in Norwich Cathedral in 1991.

However, his connection with the Regiment was not yet over. In 1998 he succeeded Tom Hiney as the Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment. As such he conducted the Drumhead Service at the annual Regimental Day and he was always proud of the fact that his calls on his little white phone were always answered, thus guaranteeing good weather. He also, together with Rev Jim Symonds, conducted the moving Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in 2004 when the Regiment remembered those who lost their lives in Northern Ireland.

In addition to his duties as Chaplain to the Regiment he also attended the annual pilgrimage of the Essex Regiment to Bayeux. Despite ill health he was determined to make the trip this year and it was on the way back that he died.

Martin's loves in life were his family, the Army, his faith and his beloved Arsenal. He was a friend who one could always go to for help or advice, a man who had a most wonderful sense of humour and someone who always believed in putting others before himself.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Tina and daughters Antoinette, Bernadette and Helen.

Col JP Macdonald

James Patrick Macdonald died on 22 October 2006. He grew up and went to school in Bury St Edmunds where, perhaps more importantly, he met Sue.



He enlisted into the Suffolk Regiment in 1949 and was commissioned from RMA Sandhurst in 1951. He joined 1 SUFFOLKS in Malaya in early 1952 where he served as a platoon commander in anti-terrorist operations. He accompanied the Battalion to Trieste and BAOR where he was the last officer to carry the old six-foot Queen's Colour when those 108 years old Colours were retired in May 1955.

In 1958 he was appointed Adjutant of 1 CAMBS. From 1958 to 1962 he served with the Intelligence Staff with the RWAFF in Nigeria and with HQ 3 Division at Bulford. On return to regimental duty he went to British Guyana with 1 E ANGLIAN and after a break with intelligence staff in Brunei, he was OC HQ Company until going to the Staff College in 1964. In 1967, after a staff tour with HQ Eastern District, he joined 1 R ANGLIAN in Celle where he commanded A Company. In 1969 he was appointed the Infantry Representative at RSA Larkhill until joining 2 R ANGLIAN in 1971 as Second-in-Command in Munster and Ireland.

His career so far had been unexceptional but on promotion to

Regimental Association

Lieutenant Colonel he began a nine-year association with the diplomatic/intelligence world as Naval and Military Attaché in Warsaw. A tour with the DIS followed and then he went as Defence Attache to Bucharest. There was a final intelligence job in MOD before he retired in 1983. His time behind the Iron Curtain at a pretty cold time of the Cold War was perhaps the most fulfilling time of his career when his keen and questioning intelligence, uncompromising attitude to what he saw as his duty and determination to fight his corner for his point of view were at their most valuable.

After leaving the army he worked for the British Red Cross and for the East Anglian TAVRA. He was Deputy Honorary Colonel(TA) for Cambridgeshire from 1988 to 1995. However, he had many other interests which eventually took over his time. He wrote a book 'Darkness into Light' about the RAF Balkan Airforce which was very well received by the surviving veterans and the families of those lost in the operations. He was a church warden, an active member of the Cambridgeshire ABF Committee and a member of several historical groups. Above all he was a great servant of the Suffolk Regiment Association. He was Chairman of the OCA 1985-2001, a trustee of both the Museum and the Regiment United Charity and a very active member of the Hillman Committee. As the latter he organised, with Frank Matthews, the annual pilgrimages to Normandy and Holland for some ten years. His efforts were greatly appreciated by the surviving veterans, their families and the families of some who did not return as well as Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment in Normandy.

He is survived by Sue, his wife of 51 years, his daughter Sarah and sons Charles and Fraser.

WCD

Col TCB Swayne TD DL



Col Tim Swayne died suddenly at home in Wiltshire on 21 November 2005. He was 75.

Although far from his greatest distinction, Major Tim Swayne was uniquely the OC of the last Essex Regiment formation badged as such. Together with other tiny county formations, the Essex Regiment Cadre, consisting of three officers, a WO2 and a corporal, was a short-term means of keeping the TA flame burning when the Harold Wilson government determined

on its almost total destruction. It lasted some two years before the Heath government encouraged expansion and the 6th and 7th TA Battalions the Royal Anglian Regiment were formed in April 1971.

On joining 6th Battalion Tim commanded C(Essex) Company before becoming Second-in-Command and then succeeded Colonel Paul Raywood as CO in 1973. Following his tour as CO he became Brigade TA Colonel and was appointed ADC and a Deputy Lieutenant in Essex. In the mid-nineties he and his wife Jean moved to a village near Salisbury where they could be near their daughter and grandchildren. This sadly made it difficult to keep up with regimental activities but did enable him to enjoy his keen interests in country life and family, both of which, along with soldiering, were always very dear to his heart. Along with training dogs, shooting, picking up and walking he developed a new skill of

making splendid walking sticks.

Tim inclined slightly to asceticism and paid great attention to physical fitness. He was always first up a hill, barely puffing, in spite of his, then common, enjoyment of pipe and cigarettes. Even that was controlled and an officer remembers being barked at with "put that cigarette out - this is not a John Wayne film". He could not stand pomposity and another officer recalls his first evening in Tim's mess when a youthful, polo-necked waiter dutifully distributed his drinks order. The next morning the young officer found himself at breakfast sitting with the same mess waiter - Lt Col Tim Swayne his new CO! The same officer, like most of his contemporaries was inspired by one of Tim's convictions - "never bugger the men about".

Many attest to his excellent influence on, particularly, young officers and generally that he was an outstanding CO. He always led from the front and one year took a section of his company's Gaza Cup tough training team to victory by a good margin. Unfortunately his second team was not quite so sharp and another company (the writer's) with more evenly distributed ability won the overall event!

Educated at King's School Canterbury Tim particularly enjoyed the school's evacuation to Cornwall which helped to consolidate his love of country life and animals. The latter led him to becoming a veterinary student but he hated inflicting even necessary pain on animals and gave it up for a commercial career, in marketing and administration.

He had a deep love of language, was well read and could quote poetry, especially Kipling, at the drop of a hat. He was a keen sportsman, played hockey to a high standard well into middle life and rejoiced in the international and county honours achieved by his daughter Phillipa and sons Matthew and Guy. Family life was always the most important part of Tim's life and in 2004 it was a great joy to all the family and many friends to celebrate the Golden anniversary of his marriage to Jean and the wonderfully happy life they shared.

Tim was strongly patriotic, a good soldier, a loving husband, father and grandfather, a good influence and a good friend. He is greatly missed.

RAS

WO2 PF Russell

'Knobby' Russell who died on 26 October 2006 joined 1st Battalion, the Essex Regiment in 1946 when the Battalion was in India. As a sergeant he served in Poona, Bangalore, Deslali and Bombay. He was posted to 1st Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry before joining 1st Battalion the Suffolk Regiment in Palestine and then Greece.

He re-joined 1st Battalion the Essex Regiment who were based in Meeanee Barracks, Colchester and took over the duties of Provost Sergeant. He then once again joined 1 SUFFOLKS in Malaya at the height of the insurgency before returning to 1 ESSEX serving in Korea, Hong Kong, Dortmund, Warley and Malaya. A posting to 4/5 ESSEX TA followed and then he moved to Ballykinler to join 3rd East Anglian Regiment. He ended his Army service with 2nd East Anglian Regiment in Cyprus at Felixstowe.

A strict disciplinarian with a good sense of humour Knobby Russell was a popular member of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. He often livened up social events by playing his mandolin.

Our sympathy is extended to his loyal wife of many years and his family.

RJ

Regimental Association



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

Cyprus

Many of the Association's events this summer have been tinged with sadness at the losses suffered in the Eoka campaign 50 years ago. The memories are still vivid and on a recent visit to Waynes Keep Cemetery in the UN Buffer Zone near Nicosia it was good to see that most of the graves of the Royal Norfolk soldiers had wreaths and crosses of Remembrance indicating that they had been visited recently.



Tanis, Sandra, Margaret, Gillian and Jacqueline, the five sisters of Cpl Keith Haylock at his grave in Waynes Keep Cemetery, Nicosia on the 50th Anniversary of his death.

Area Headquarters Norwich is often asked about access to Waynes Keep. The UN at Ledra Palace checkpoint should be able to help, but if you are holidaying in Cyprus and wish to visit it is recommended that you write in advance to the Defence Advisor in the British High Commission at BFPO 567. He will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

Association Weekend

Sadly each year our database shrinks a bit but each year the numbers attending the dinner are very encouraging. This year just under one hundred and fifty attended, of whom seventeen were World War Two Veterans (including In Pensioner Bob Moy), Major Dominic Biddick

from A(Norfolk) Company of the 1st Battalion and a fair number of recent Royal Anglian vintage. Buglers from the 3rd Battalion Corps of Drums played the usual calls, Colonel Paul Garman's band of helpers worked wonders in the drill hall and Mr Ray Segon sold lots of raffles tickets.

This year the Association service took place at the TA Centre, not in the Cathedral. The Rev Ken Reeve, a former member of the 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment and 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, gave the address and he and the Rev Canon William Sayer, also a former Royal Norfolk, led the singing. Next year we will be back in the Cathedral but not sadly in our regimental chapel which is being used as the choir school until the next phase of the building programme is completed.

Closure of Britannia House, the Area Office

The announcement that the Area Office will close by March 2009 has caused considerable anxiety amongst Association members in the area who are accustomed to support for the various events and a focal point for advice and information. However, the Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment, Major General Sutherell has given an assurance that this Headquarters will continue to provide support to the County Associations, but from Bury St Edmunds rather than Norwich.

Mr Simon Hatch has already been made redundant, and the remaining staff will follow over the next two years. Thereafter the Area Secretary will visit weekly.



The Regimental tent at the Royal Norfolk Show.

Normandy

This summer a very successful trip took place to Normandy, organised by Mr Bill Holden. Next year the group will not visit in June to coincide with the anniversary of D Day but will instead be going to Holland in May to attend the rededication of the Molem Beek memorial which has been refurbished. The group will then visit Normandy 2-7 August to coincide with 1 Royal Norfolk's battle around Pavee-Sourdevalle and the 7th Battalion's at the crossing of the River Orme where Capt David Jamieson won the VC.

Regimental Association



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

Lincoln Branch

The Branch continues to enjoy good membership and financial stability. There has been a steady increase in new members. Once again the Branch organised the Annual Reunion over the weekend of 15-16 July 2006. The reunion started with the Annual General Meeting on the Saturday afternoon at Sobraon Barracks which was followed by the Annual Dinner in the evening. Guests included our President, Lt Col Simon Bacon, Col Geoff Newmarch and the new Area Secretary Maj John Turquand. On the Sunday we all gathered at the Church of St Nicholas for the Annual Service which was conducted by the Rev David Yabbacombe. A buffet lunch was held at Sobraon Barracks with a display by the local Sea Cadet Corps. As a finale a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Flight swooped low overhead to bring the weekend to a close.

Over forty members attended the Royal Anglian Regiment Association Day at Duxford and we had a good turnout for the trip to Eden Camp for the Palestine Veterans Association Service of Remembrance. It was good to see so many members of the Association at the Dedication of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Plaque in the Soldiers' Chapel at Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 8 October. Amongst those attending were Maj Gen and Mrs Dick Gerrard-Wright, Col and Mrs Geoff Newmarch, Col and Mrs Robin Drummond and Capt John Lee.

At the October Branch meeting, members were given details of the website being set up for the Branch. This was followed by a Bangers and Mash supper.

The Lincoln Branch was well presented at the 2nd Battalion's Medals Parade on 17 November, it was good to see the return of the Poachers and we look forward to the Freedom Parade in Lincoln on 22 March 2007.

Stamford Branch

On 25 June following an invitation from the Stamford Royal British Legion, our Standard bearer together with a number of members attended a parade and service to dedicate a new Stamford RBL Standard. Three days later on 28 June a very enjoyable coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas was undertaken by members and friends. Together with the Stamford RBL wreaths were laid at the Malaya and Borneo memorial. A highlight of the day was the arrival of S Masters and his wife from Middlesex. He is a Royal Lincoln Second War World veteran who was driven to Alrewas by his daughter. Our thanks are extended to Colin Francis and Roy Prentice who organised the outing.

Our monthly meetings have continued at the Stamford Hospital Social Club but unfortunately it has now been confirmed the Club is to close on 31 December this year. We have already been offered an alternative venue but at present other alternatives are being investigated.

The Branch was well represented at the Royal Anglian's Regimental Day at Duxford with Michael Griffiths carrying our Standard. On Sunday 8 October a party including our Standard Bearer, Chairman and three members were present at the dedication of a memorial tablet in Lincoln Cathedral. The memorial commemorates members of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment who lost their lives in Egypt, Jordan and Malaya between 1948-58.

Col R P Baily OBE

Colonel Peter Baily died at home in Dacre on 27 October 2006.

He was born near Frome in 1913 and was educated at St Christopher's, Bath, and Cheltenham College. He went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in February 1933. Before the war he served in Malta and Palestine. At the outbreak of the war he was with the Malay Regiment, stationed at Port Dixon. Ordered to retreat in the face of the Japanese invasion, he was taken prisoner on 15 February 1942, the day Singapore fell, and for three and a half years was a Japanese prisoner of War, at Changi Gaol. During this time of hardship, which he never mentioned after the war, he had to help build what is now Singapore Airport.

After a period of recuperation, he served in Egypt and Jordan, before going to the Army Staff College at Camberley. He then commanded the Regiment at Lincoln before serving overseas in Nigeria, Germany and then Australia where he was military attaché. He was awarded the OBE in 1959 for military services in planning the handover of British Army interests to Nigeria on independence. His last posting as a Regular officer brought him to Cumbria where he was the Commandant of what was then the Army Apprentices College at Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle.

He retired in October 1964 to become Territorial Army Secretary for Cumberland and Westmorland, based at Cockell House in Penrith, which he did for three years. That same month there was a change of government and it soon became government policy to diminish the role of the TA and he found his role changed from the positive one he had expected, to winding down the TA in Cumbria.

From 1967 to 1980, he was Diocesan Secretary to Carlisle Diocese.

He was very keen on hunting and racing, and rode until he retired from the Army.

He was the Starter at Lowther Driving Trials for twenty years, Timekeeper at Brougham Horse Trials and county secretary of the British Horse Society.

He was chairman of the British Legion Committee which built Lonsdale Court in Penrith, flats for ex-servicemen and women, Patron of St Andrew's Church, Dacre, and treasurer of the PCC.

A good all-round games player, he played squash and tennis in his youth and was a member of Eden Lawn Tennis Club in Carlisle for many years. He was a keen member of Carlisle Racecourse.



Alrewas, 28th June. From left: Tony Marriatt, Michael Griffiths and John Elms.

Regimental Association



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

Normandy

Seven Normandy veterans plus another ten who had previously attended as part of the Hillman Group joined the trip to France organised by RHQ. They reported that the visit had been excellent and that the French hosts had again excelled with their hospitality. Those who are able will certainly wish to take part in the 2007 trip which is planned for 5-8 June and which we understand will also include the Essex Regiment group and serving soldiers from the 2nd Battalion.



14 June 2006, Sword Beach. From left: Bill Rogers, Taff Lewis, Doug Edis, Doug Russell, John Fenn, Frank Matthews, Ron Rogers.

Minden Reunion

There were fears that the 2006 event would be badly disrupted by the major rebuilding project now under way at the West Suffolk College but the College and contractors were extremely helpful and in the event the impact was minimal.

We were fortunate to have the services of the Minden Band under their Director of Music Capt Haw and this year for the first time the City of Ely Military Band provided background music through the lunchtime period. This seemed to work well and the organising committee intend to repeat this. It has become increasingly difficult to attract marching bands for performances on the square but fortunately there are now a number of non-marching bands who play the sort of music which appeals to Association members. The Flying Fortress pub again provided the bar which proved popular, particularly it seemed with the ex-Royal Anglians.

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Councillor Pat Warby and his wife and also a group of fifteen from les Amis du Suffolk Regiment led by Georges Dudignac.

St Mary's Chapel

We reported on the roof appeal for St Mary's in the last issue, and by the end of September members of the Association had donated £4,457 towards the appeal. This was magnificent, and showed the important place the chapel has in the affections of Association members. We have just heard that a single benefactor has now come up with the balance of money required so the appeal has been closed and the work can start as soon as a suitable contractor has been identified. We understand that the area over the regimental chapel will be the first to be redone so the chapel should be watertight without further maintenance for many years to come.

In June a plaque was completed in memory of Major Peter Forrest who won two military crosses in Burma with the 2nd Battalion in 1944.

Normandy

This year members of the Suffolk Regiment Association were joined by members of the 1st Battalion on the Annual trip to Normandy. The following is the address given by George Dudignac representing les Amis du Suffolk Regiment:

Dear Old Comrades of The Suffolk Regiment, soldiers of the Royal Anglians and dear friends welcome to you welcome to Colleville.

Young soldiers of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment we are very pleased to receive you in Colleville in front of the memorial of the Suffolk Regiment and we give you a warm welcome. Several times before in the past your visit was envisaged but this plan did not materialise. Today at last you are here in Normandy accompanied by the veterans of the Suffolk Regiment and with them you have begun your visit to Normandy. You wished to make this journey to our country, those places of memories which bear witness to the battles in which they took part in Normandy, first the battle for the liberation of France and then for the rest of Europe. You will understand what happened here what your illustrious forebears have done the sacrifices they made for us and we appreciate your visit for our common past. I would like you to discover something else which is neither in the museums nor in our memories. From the cities to the smaller villages the people of Normandy know what the British soldiers have done for them and are deeply grateful. It is why we like them so much and I hope that your visit is rewarding and with the veterans as your mentors your time here is a success.

We are very pleased to meet you and greatly appreciate your coming and trust you will do so again in the future because you young soldiers in the Royal Anglian are those who will support and preserve the memory of the veterans in this period of history. For that you will be the successors of our Old Comrades. Our thanks go to those who worked to make the pilgrimage happen. General Sutherell the originator of this event, Brigadier Deller, Colonel Dixon, Kerry Woodrow and of course as ever Frank Mathews and Pat Macdonald for their advice and experience.

At last I speak to you dear friends, dear Old Comrades, dear veterans to tell you how we all enjoy meeting you again here in front of your memorial. Despite your age despite the tiredness of the journey you wanted once again to make your way to Normandy, to Colleville, to Hillman, the route you followed 62 years ago for the first time on 6 June 1944.

For you, this place is full of memories.

The memory of that afternoon of D Day the first day of the campaign when you came up against a large enemy force well entrenched who resisted fiercely. Speaking of Hillman the American Colonel Carlos d'Este in his book 'Decision in Normandy' rates it as - "the most formidable obstacle in the third division area and I suspect in the whole Second Army area".

The memory many years later on 6 June 1989 when you gathered in front of the bunker which had become, thanks to the generosity of Suzanne Lenaud, the memorial to the Suffolk Regiment - your memorial. Our association 'Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment' was

Regimental Association

formed on that occasion to foster and reinforce the bonds between us that were forged that day. I can tell you that it has been a success and the following years have given us much happiness and satisfaction.

For you my friends it is with much emotion you return to Normandy each year to this place which is forever in your memory, proud to have such a remarkable memorial but also happiness to feel the

gratitude and affection we have for you.

You said sometimes "I was only doing my duty, I was only doing my job" I can tell you my friends; you did much more. For us the people of Normandy, you are the men who fought on our ground for our liberation. You gave us back our freedom, our dignity and for this reason you will remain as ever in our hearts.

Thank you dear Old Comrades.



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

In May our four-day battlefield tour to France and Belgium proved a great success. Eighty members and friends of the Association visited many of the locations where our 2nd Battalion fought in 1940 during its withdrawal to Dunkirk. Major Robin Medley who was with the 2nd Battalion in those days proved an excellent guide with a very good memory.

We also joined the Risquons-Tout Memorial Association for a Church Service and Memorial Parade followed by a Reception, and we took part in the moving Last Post Ceremony at The Menin Gate. We visited Tyne Cot Cemetery the largest British Cemetery of World War 1, and the barn at Wormhout where English soldiers were massacred by the SS in World War 2. We plan a tour to Cassino next year.



Church service at Risquons-tout Church.



Last post ceremony at Menin Gate.



Back at Wormhout.



Singalong

Regimental Association

In June several of our Branches took part in the Unveiling Ceremony of a plaque in Caddington in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Collings-Wells VC, DSO, who died in 1918 leading our 4th Battalion in a rearguard action to halt an enemy offensive. His mother was presented with his VC by King George V at Buckingham Palace.

The Association has held its usual number of interesting and enjoyable gatherings over the year, all very well attended as usual. Perhaps the most markedly successful was the Singalong in Hertford in July to celebrate Veterans' Day, which proved a memorable evening.

We note that the number of requests we receive for benevolence is falling steadily. Whereas in the past we used to receive 50 to 60 requests a year, we received only 14 in the last twelve months. We have disbursed £3,000 in grants since April.

In September, hopefully to encourage recruiting, we ran a morning briefing on the history of our old Regiment for the ACF and CCF at Wardown Park Museum in Luton. It was well attended and great interest was shown in our Regimental Display Gallery. In November we are to give our first school lecture on the same subject.

One of our World War 2 veterans, George Bayliss who was wounded in Italy in 1944, is now a Pensioner at Chelsea Hospital. "It is wonderful" he said recently, "there are 300 old soldiers there, you get a room of your own and the food is out of this world, all served by young girls" he added with a grin.



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

Officers' Dinner

The Officers' annual dinner was held on Saturday 13 May at the Cadet Centre Waterbeach. Apologies were received from several members who indicated that driving at night was now a problem but with the very good support from the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force the function was deemed to be a success.

Mr Freddie Grounds, the Association President, presided and after thanking Colonel Colin Elsdon for organising the event he went on to emphasise the importance of trying to get ex-Royal Anglian officers to participate in the Association. Lt Col Roger Herriot gave a report on the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force which goes from strength to strength.

Commemoration Service and Reunion

The Annual Commemoration Service and Reunion was held on 18 June 2006 at Ely. The weather was very good and the turnout was also very good considering that we are all getting that much older. The City of Ely Band played in the Cathedral and the Address was given by the Dean who emphasised the importance of the family making reference to both the Church family and the Regimental family.

The President, Mr F Grounds and Branch representatives laid a wreath in the Regimental Chapel and after the Service veterans, members of D(Cambridgeshire) Company 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and Cadets from the Army Cadet Force formed up



on the Green. The Corps of Drums 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment led the march past with the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

Cambridge Branch

The Branch held its AGM on 13 September at the Joint Services' Club, Barwell Road, Cambridge. Col Latchford informed the members that the Chairman CSgt H Taylor was very ill and did not wish to continue as Chairman. Maj Baldry was elected as Chairman and paid tribute to Herbie Taylor for his work over the years.

Regimental Association

It was decided to hold another Sunday lunch party on 21 January 2007 and all members are urged to attend. The date of the next AGM will be 12 September 2007.

March Branch

The Branch continues to be well supported and activities during the year include attendance at Remembrance Services in March and Chatteris. In March we held our annual Sausage and Mash Supper, which was an enjoyable evening and were pleased to welcome members from other Branches and County Officers.

In August we held our own annual Church Service. Three meetings were held during the summer months. Grateful thanks are recorded to the March Detachment Army Cadet Force. The Officers and Cadets are always very supportive, which is very much appreciated and go out of their way to assist, especially carrying our Standard. Thanks are also extended to our Padre, Rev Chandler and to all county officers for their support

Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch

We had our usual Christmas function at the Lion. The raffle made over £140 which will go towards the Branch Widows' Christmas gift when we give each widow £15. The Branch was well represented at the Ely Reunion in June where Jim Carter laid our wreath. A pig roast was held in August at Mr John Blench's farm which was very successful.

We now have 9 more members, 5 being ex-Suffolk soldiers and 4 from other Branches of the forces who were cadets from D Company 1st Isle of Ely Cadet Battalion, Cambridgeshires.

At the end of July the Branch attended the funeral of Tommy Barnett of the Middlesex Regiment, he was a very keen member of the Branch, some say he was more Cambridgeshire than Middlesex. The Branch looks forward to our Dinner and Church Service during October.

90th Anniversary of the Schwaben Redoubt

During one of the engagements that were part of the Somme offensive, The Cambridgeshires assaulted and successfully captured and held the formidable German stronghold, the Schwaben Redoubt. The Redoubt consisted of a series of trenches and dugouts sited on a high point overlooking the British lines and bristling with machine guns. It was of great strategic importance and had been fought



Capt Stephen Bownes describes the fighting.



Freddie Grounds greets the Colonel-in-Chief.



The Colonel-in-Chief with veterans.

Regimental Association

over many times with great loss of life. On 14 October 1916 the Territorial 'Fen Tigers' under the brilliant command of Lt Col Riddell advanced under a creeping barrage and were amongst the defenders without loss of life.

The fierce fighting that followed devolved into a hotly contested struggle. The bewildered German occupants were routed and the Regiment went on to successfully defend the Redoubt for 24 hours before being relieved. There were 218 men killed or wounded (small by first World War standards). The success was so phenomenal that General Haig recounted the attack as being 'one of the finest feats of arms in the history of the British Army'. 41 awards of gallantry were bestowed on the Regiment.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association marked this special event by visiting the battlefield and by holding a special Commemoration Day at Ely on 14 October.

The visit to the Schwaben Redoubt was held in early September. The party consisted of veterans, members of D(Cambridgeshire) Company and six members of the Army Cadet Force. A Service was held on the actual site of the Redoubt, which is now a stubble field. The Honorary Padre conducted the Service with great dignity and pride. Then, at the nearby Mill Road Cemetery, wreaths were laid and British Legion crosses were planted at the base of Cambridgeshire headstones, of which there are many.

The party attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. They were joined by members of the East Kent Regiment and their Padre together with our own shared the Service. It was later discovered that a Private who was with D Cambridgeshire Company realised that his great uncle's name was on the wall of the Menin Gate and that his great uncle had, by coincidence, served with the East Kent Regiment.

The Service to commemorate the storming of the Schwaben Redoubt was held in Ely Cathedral on 14 October 2006. The Regiment was honoured to have the presence of the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, and several mayors and local dignitaries. After the welcome to the Cathedral, the new Regimental Standard was blessed by the Regimental Chaplain. The address was given by the Rev Dr Anthony Russell, the Bishop of Ely who praised the courage and bravery of the Regiment on that day and regretted that war was the last resort in conflicts such as this and hoped that in future the terrible sacrifice and loss of life could be avoided by negotiation and reconciliation.

After the Service a comprehensive presentation of the battle was given by Captain Stephen Bownes who clearly demonstrated the terrible conditions and bravery of the Regiment on that day in the battle. Afterwards several military experts were on hand to explain the finer points of the battle together with samples of the equipment of the day. Many of the veterans present and relatives of those who had fought in the battle were introduced to the Colonel-in-Chief.

CSgt Herbert S Taylor 1921-2006

CSgt Taylor, or 'Herbie' as everyone knew him, joined the Cambridgeshires in 1938 and was posted to B Company in Ely with Maj Stevens as his Company Commander. He was later transferred to HQ Company where he served in the cookhouse. This is where he started in a trade that was to feature as an interest for the rest of his working life. At the outbreak of war he was posted to North Norfolk. Due to the formation of eye cataracts he was downgraded and posted to 6 Suffolks at Lords Bridge. The Bomb Depot supplied local RAF stations such as Oakington, Waterbeach and Bassingbourn. Later he joined the Home Guard for the remainder of the war and beyond.

He rejoined the Regiment when it was 629 LAA Regt RA and served in the Sergeants' Mess until the Regiment ceased in 1967. He then began a long association with the Cambridgeshire Army Cadets catering at numerous annual camps and other functions.

He was Vice-Chairman of the Old Comrades' Association, later the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, Chairman of the Cambridge Branch, Chairman of the Sergeants' Dinner Club and regimental representative on the Suffolk Regiment Association. He also assisted with the Officers' Dinner Club for over 30 years.

Herbie and his wife Rene had a great love of the Cambridgeshire Regiment's silver. They lovingly polished it, transported it to and guarded it at all regimental functions until it was transferred to Bury St Edmunds. Herbie was a loyal servant of the Regiment for nearly 71 years.

He was also very involved in Newmarket racing circles, running a stable lads hostel for several years and looking after the greens and wild life.

He died on 23 September in Addenbrookes after a long illness. The funeral service was held on Monday 2 October at St Mary's Church Newmarket and was well attended by representatives of the Regiment. Both the Standards from the Regiment and Suffolk Regiment were in attendance. He will be sadly missed.



The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association and

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)

Royal Tigers' Weekend

Royal Tigers' Weekend took place over the period 24-25 June 2006. The Annual Dinner was held at Devonshire Place and the reunion started as usual with the Annual General Meeting of the Association which attracted 75 members. The Dinner followed with attendance of some 150 members and guests which was most pleasing. Mr John Sheppard DCM was presented with a Regimental plaque marking



Col Richard Wilkes addressing members of the Royal Tigers' Association Annual Dinner.

his retirement as Vice Chairman of the General Committee. Once again it was good to see In-Pensioner Myles Foster from the Royal Hospital with us for the evening.

The Annual Service was held in Leicester Cathedral on a very warm Sunday. Our guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Lieutenant General and Mrs John McColl, the Lord Mayor of Leicester, the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and Chief Constable Michael Baggott. The service was taken by the Dean of Leicester, the Very Reverend Vivienne Faull assisted by Canon Stephen Foster. During the service a memorial plaque in the Regimental Chapel was dedicated to Colonel M St G Pallot.

After the service 12 members of 3 R ANGLIAN were presented with Iraq campaign medals by the Lord Lieutenant and Lieutenant General J C McColl. The presentation was witnessed by many friends and family and of course the Royal Tigers' Association. Then followed the March Past which was led by the Corps of Drums and Band of 3 R ANGLIAN, the salute was taken by Lady Jenny Gretton, HM Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. After the parade

Regimental Association



Royal Leicester Old Comrades on the march.



Lt Col Michael Kinsom enquires if there are any vacancies at the RH Chelsea. (He is eligible).



Royal Leicester Old Comrades on parade outside Leicester Town Hall.

everyone returned to Devonshire Place for drinks and lunch in as always very pleasant surroundings and atmosphere. Altogether it was a most memorable weekend. Once again many thanks to the staff of Devonshire Place who excelled themselves.

Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum

Good progress is being made at the Regimental Museum, which is due to open informally in March 2007. Currently, the rooms are ready, waiting the arrival of the display cabinets which should be installed by Christmas. The museum will be in six upstairs rooms of the Newark Houses and the major themes will be as follows:

- * Room 36 will describe the lives of the people who served the Regiment, including recruiting, uniforms, drill and weapon training, discipline, sport and education.

- * Room 35 will tell the story of the Regiment from 1668 to 1964 including campaigns throughout the world to expand and defend what became the largest empire in the world.

- * Room 32 and 33 cover the two World Wars

- * Room 34 will contain a reconstruction of a trench facing the Hohenzollern Redoubt in October 1915.



Col Anthony Swallow and Capt Richard Lane conducting an auction at the Royal Tigers Association Dinner to raise funds for the daughter of Pte Lewaicei.

Regimental Association

* Room 39 covers the Home Front and the huge impact that the wars had on those left at home.

The fundraising appeal has raised over £260,000 towards our revised target of £280,000 to cover the extra costs of a lift and an improved audio-visual display area. In addition we have received £100,000 from Leicestershire County Council which has been put into a separate Acquisitions and Development Fund. This will be used to purchase important artifacts that come up for auction and to provide funds to refresh and enhance the Museum's displays in the coming years.

Colonel Anthony Swallow writes: "It is wonderful that we are now in the final stages of achieving our new Museum. On present plans there will be "soft" informal opening, hopefully sometime in March 2007, to be followed by a formal opening in Summer 2007. This arrangement allows for minor errors to be corrected before the formal opening. Looking to the future, once the Museum is open, we shall need a team of Regimental volunteers to act as guides for visitors, answering their questions on the displays and the history of the Regiment. At the moment we are only collecting names so if you feel you might be interested please let the Area Office know (tel: 0116 2622749 during morning office hours only). The Trustees are extremely grateful to all the Association members, families and friends of the Regiment who have contributed and/or arranged fundraising events and persuaded others to donate to the appeal."

Rededication of School Memorial to Great War Dead

A small memorial to the teachers and scholars of Bridge Road Boys School Coalville, who fell in the Great War has been rededicated and relocated to New Bridge School, Coalville. Of the nine names on the memorial, five are from the Leicestershire Regiment. The rededication ceremony, which was held in July to coincide with the ninetieth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, was conducted by the Venerable Paul Hackwood, Archdeacon of Loughborough. The service also remembered Private Adam Morris, an ex-pupil of the School, who was killed in Iraq in May, whilst serving with 2 R ANGLIAN.

Hohenzollern Redoubt Memorial

13 October 1915 is a particularly poignant day in the history of the Regiment. It was the day the 4th and 5th Battalions were heavily involved in the attack by the 46th North Midland Division on the heavily fortified German position known as the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

The Redoubt had been established by the Germans early in 1915 and formed a network of trenches stretching well into no-mans land, with underground bunkers and tunnels linking back to their front

line trenches. It had been built to protect the coal mine, called Fosse 8 and the village of Auchy les Mines.

Two previous attempts had been made to capture the Redoubt, by the 9th and 47th Divisions, only to be repulsed by heavy German counter attacks. Now it was the 46th North Midland Division who were given the task to capture the Redoubt in the closing days of the Battle of Loos. The attack was to commence at 2 pm on the 13 October 1915, with the 4th Leicester and 5th Lincolns leading the attack, with the Staffordshire Brigade on their right flank. The German positions were 200 yards away and as the attacking battalions advanced they ran into a hail of machine gun fire from both flank and also heavy frontal fire. Within twenty minutes no mans land was covered with dead and wounded, an estimated 2,500 men had fallen within the first half hour of the assault.

Ninety-one years later it was decided that a permanent memorial should be erected close to the Redoubt to honour these fallen men from the Division which suffered 3,763 casualties in the attack, 93% of the dead have no known grave.

After a considerable amount of work by a very keen team of historians in Lincoln, headed by Michael Credland who enlisted the financial support of the Lincolnshire Cooperative Society, who undertook to manufacture, transport and erect the memorial on site as well as finance it the date was fixed for the unveiling ceremony, the 91st Anniversary of the Battle, 13 October 2006.

A party of eight members from the Royal Tiger's Association, comprising Colonel W G Dawson, Captain R Allen, Mr John Sheppard, Mr David Bell, Mr Denis Foran, Mr John Masters, Mr Alex Alexander and Mr Richard Lane travelled to Auchy Les Mines for the ceremony.

At precisely 2 pm on 13 October the memorial was unveiled by Her Majesty's Consul-General, Tim Jones followed by the laying of wreaths by the participating Regiments. John Sheppard laid the wreath on behalf of the Royal Tiger's Association.

Denis Foran carried the Regimental Standard alongside the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Standard. Members of the Royal Anglian Regiment had also travelled from Lincolnshire, as well as Sherwood Foresters, and Royal Artillery who were also represented at the ceremony.

For the Leicestershire Regiment 13 October 1915 was to be a memorable day for the two Territorial Battalions. By the end of that day they had incurred 660 casualties with nearly 300 being killed. Every officer in the 4th Battalion had either been killed or wounded in a few hours of fighting.

The 46th Division suffered 3763 casualties in some eighteen hours of fighting to capture the Hohenzollern Redoubt. The great majority of them were never recovered and are still lying in Flanders Fields.



Regimental Association



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

As predicted, the Association has been kept well occupied since the last Castle input. The annual visit to Bayeux, Normandy, took place from the 4-8 June and as usual this included a service at the 2nd Battalion Memorial in Bayeux and the Memorial at Essex Wood. The trip was marred, however, by the death of Major The Reverend Martin Franks soon after our return. Martin was taken ill on the boat, taken to hospital on landing at Dover, and died that night. This, naturally, put a cloud over the whole proceedings and our sympathy goes out to his wife, Tina, and the family.

Our new Standard was dedicated on 7 May at a service held in the Regimental Chapel, Warley. Made by Newton Newton of Skegness it is a Standard of which we shall all be proud and a real credit to the Association. The service was conducted by the Reverend Mann and the Standard Bearer was Mr Sid Roser. Altogether seven Standards were on parade; those of The Essex Regiment Association, the Thurrock Branch, the 4th Battalion Comrades Association, the Colchester Branch of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association, the Barking and Dagenham Colour, the Royal British Legion and the Royal Naval Association.

The reunion was on 25 June at Warley and once again we were blessed with fine weather. This year a new innovation was a visit from the Harlow Concert Band, at the instigation of Mr Les Pearce, who



The Mayor of Thurrock accompanied by Lt Col Goodin begins the inspection.



The march past at Thurrock.



The Eagle on parade at Thurrock.

played in the Mess garden after tea. Their music was enjoyed by all and the visit judged a success. The salute was taken by the Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment Major General J C B Sutherland and we were pleased to see General Sir Michael Walker and Lady Victoria and members of their family present including Mrs Sally Holme. A Pew End was dedicated to Major General Michael Holme by the Venerable Stephen Roberts.

On 19 August 2006 our President, Col Geoffrey Morgan, together with Lieutenant James Kelly attended the dedication of a new Memorial at Dieppe to The Essex and Kent Scottish, previously affiliated to The Essex Regiment and now affiliated to The Royal Anglian Regiment. On 19 August 1942 32 officers and 521 men of the then Essex Scottish took part in the raid on Dieppe suffering heavy casualties. Only 49 soldiers and two officers returned. The raid, code named Operation Jubilee, was considered an indispensable preliminary action for the planning of a full-scale Allied invasion of France at some time in the future.

Three Freedom parades took place in September; Grays Thurrock on 14 September, Chelmsford on 15 September and Colchester on 16 September. 150 soldiers of C(Essex) Company took part, commanded by their Company Commander Major Phil Messenger. Music was provided by the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion augmented by musicians from the Minden Band. The Salamanka Eagle was on parade at the inspection stage of each march.

18 September saw a party of no less than 96, including Veterans,

Regimental Association



The party with veterans on the front row.

musicians from the Minden Band and soldiers from the 1st and 3rd Battalions The Royal Anglian Regiment leave for Italy. The purpose was to dedicate a Memorial at Monte Cassino to the 1/4th Battalion The Essex Regiment who fought and suffered heavily in the battle for the Castle in February and March 1944.

We are sad to report the death of Ted Hazle DCM and Bar. Further details are included in the report of the 4th Battalion Comrades Association.

Thurrock Branch

Our AGM was in March and there was one change in office due to our Treasurer Mr Albert Turburville passing away in January. Our new treasurer is Mrs JM Godlonton, wife of an ex-Essex Regiment comrade and a Branch member. There were no other changes.

To comrades of the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment June can only mean one event; return to Normandy. This year age was respected with a more leisurely trip, but attending services held at our two memorials, Bayeux and Verriers (Essex) Wood, also a short service at Tilly sur Seuelles where a road is named after the Regiment. Our respect was also shown at a few cemeteries, Essex Regiment wreaths being laid on the Cross of Sacrifice. Sadly on our return journey Major The Reverend Franks MBE was taken very ill on the ferry. On reaching Dover he was taken to a hospital in Kent where he passed away. He was a real 'soldiers vicar'. We Will Remember.

The Regimental Reunion, as usual was well attended. The difference this year was that Mayors from the Freedom Towns and Boroughs were not invited. This was explained and accepted, the reason being that during the service a Pew End memorial was dedicated to Maj Gen Michael Holme, the General having served with the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment during the war, and several family friends and army personnel were expected to attend. Other items during the reunion, thanks to our staff at Warley, went very well, refreshments at Keys Hall most refreshing on such a hot day the KEGS Corps of



The Memorial at Cassino with veterans.

Drums that led the parade, and a new item that was well accepted, the Harlow Concert Band, very enjoyable.

On 19 August the Burma Star (Thurrock Branch) memorial service was held in Thurrock at Orsett War Memorial, several branch members attended. Seventeen Standards from different parts of the Borough were paraded. The Essex Regiment Poppy Wreath was placed on the memorial.

17 September was Battle of Britain Day and members of the branch attended the service at Grays War Memorial. The Essex Wreath was placed on the memorial. Branch members were invited to attend a buffet lunch at the RAFA Club after the service.

Regimental Day at Duxford is always a good event for meeting old friends and comrades. During the Drumhead Service, I am sure that Thurrock Branch members' memories returned to our ferry crossing from France in June, for a certain Reverend was missing.

Regimental Association

14 September was a day to remember. 'C' Essex Company of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment together with the Corps of Drums and a reduced Minden Band, exercised their right to the Freedom of the Borough of Thurrock and marched through the centre of Grays. Several of the older comrades who served with The Essex Regiment were standing proudly at the saluting dais. Three Standards paid their respects to the Colours, The Essex Regiment Association, the Thurrock Branch and the Colchester Branch of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association. After the parade we were invited by the Mayor to attend the reception at Orsett Hall. A great day for all and well organised.

4th Battalion Comrades' Association

The 4th Battalion Standard was paraded on 7 May at the Regimental Chapel on the occasion of the dedication of the new Regimental Association Standard. 4th Battalion members attended in support of this important event.

June was an extremely busy month with members attending the Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guards. Several members went out to Normandy on our annual trip to Bayeux to commemorate the liberation of that town on 7 June 1944. The weekend of 24-25 June was extremely hectic. 124 (Petroleum) Squadron held an Open Day at Warley and this was followed by Beating Retreat in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. The Royal British Legion Youth Band and the Pipes and Drums of Epping Forest and Sutherland Pipe Bands produced an immaculate performance. Our Chairman represented both The Essex Regiment Association and The 4th Battalion Comrades.

On the following day John Youles, his wife Maureen, Mick Chapman, Lesly Handscombe and Lilian Wynn manned the bar at the Annual Reunion. The 4th Battalion Standard was paraded by Pat Mulhall. It was good to see the newly commissioned Lieutenant Mark Brazier (ex-CSM of 3 Royal Anglian). Mark produces the "Staggering Eagle" which ensures the Association is kept up to date with news of the 3rd Battalion.

On 1 July a party visited A Company Essex ACF at their annual camp and were able to watch qualification firing on the falling plate range at Fingringhoe. We were all impressed with the professionalism of the adult staff.

Sadly we have to report the passing of one of the Association's great characters and heroes. Edmund Bryant Hazle DCM and Bar, Ted, or Nutty, as he was better known to his comrades, died peacefully in his sleep at home on 22 June after a long illness. Ted was a stalwart of the 4th Battalion Association; he had served as its Secretary for an extended period, and latterly as Vice-Chairman until failing health led him to stand down from the Comrades Council. To quote Colonel Morgan, "Ted became a hero in a Battalion of heroes where bravery

was commonplace, he was one of a mere handful of servicemen to have been awarded two Distinguished Conduct Medals. He earned his first at the Battle of Alamein in 1942 where he made a unique contribution in rescuing wounded British and Indian soldiers under fire despite being seriously wounded himself. Ted then spent five months in hospital before rejoining the Battalion.

"Ted's second DCM was earned at the Battle for Monte Cassino in March 1944. Here he was in a party of troops from the 1/4th Essex and the 1/9th Gurkhas who had managed to reach

a feature known as "Hangman's Hill" (one of the furthest forward points of the advance). They were cut off for several days by the bitter fighting and having no medical officer with them Ted took on the responsibility for six days, treating over 70 wounded, both British and Gurkha, under the most dire of conditions. The recommendation for the award of Ted's second DCM came from the Commanding Officer of the 1/9th Gurkhas and it is impossible to estimate the debt owed to Ted by those casualties he treated".

Ted's funeral, with full military honours, took place on 5 July at the Church of St Mary The Virgin, Shenfield, Essex, and was well attended by his friends and former comrades.

Our Association Standard was paraded at the Regimental Gathering at Duxford on 10 September and the Chelmsford Freedom March on 15 September.



Members Sid Roser and Dave Bonnicks relax with Regimental Secretary Maj David Gilchrist at the Royal Anglian Regiment Reunion at Duxford.



Monte Cassino veterans of the 1/4th Battalion talk of their experiences 62 years ago (from left) Lt Ken Canler, Sgt Bill Hawkins, Pte Tom Stringer, Sgt Len Stephenson, Frank Gardiner and Maj R 'Doc' Pellow MC (RAMC).

Between 18 and 21 September eight members of our Association, all veterans of the Third Battle for Monte Cassino, joined the Essex Regiment Association for their return to that battlefield to dedicate a memorial to men of all ranks of The Essex Regiment who sacrificed their lives in Italy in World War 2. Amongst those returning were, Major R (Doc) Pellow MC, RAMC, Captain N Reeves TD, Lieutenant K Canler, Mr F Gardiner, Mr FC (Bill) Hawkins, Mr T Stringer and Mr R Webster. Major General D A Beckett CB DSO OBE wished to attend but was prevented through ill health. Many family members of those who fought at Cassino also joined the party.

Colchester Branch

Our 'summer season' started with Dickie Dorritt, our Standard Bearer, featuring at the popular Colchester Military Festival on 15 July followed by a barbeque at the TA Centre on 6 August. Several members of the Branch attended the Regimental Day at Duxford and then, on 16 September, members of the Branch were



Edmund Bryant Hazle, DCM & Bar.

Regimental Association



Members of the Colchester Branch at the Freedom Parade.

privileged to be part of the ceremonies when C Company of the Vikings, accompanied by the Minden Band exercised the Regiment's Freedom of Colchester.

Branch membership has stayed steady and it is encouraging to note that there have been a significant number of enquiries about joining; we hope to now translate them into active members. Anyone who would like to join should contact the Secretary, Brian Davenport at 36 Catherine Hunt Way, Colchester CO2 9HS (tel 01206 564919) davenport@colchester1737.freemove.co.uk.



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

Annual Reunion 2006

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held in the Guildhall, Northampton on Saturday 22 July. The Management Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting were held, as usual, prior to the Dinner and were chaired by the Chairman, Major Tom Dorner. 149 members and guests attended the dinner in the magnificent Great Hall of the Guildhall. After dinner the President, General Sir John Akehurst read the loyal message from Her Majesty The Queen and our Colonel-in-Chief, proposed the Toast and then addressed the comrades.

On Sunday 23 July the parade of comrades was inspected by Major Terence Molloy MC outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre followed by a service conducted by Rev Simon Tebbutt and Rev John Hopkins (48th). Rev Hopkins rededicated the 48th Colours which had been recased and new lighting installed. This was as a result of the late Major Keith Malby (48th) offering to pay for improved lighting for the Colours some time ago. The process for this has been very lengthy and has involved various agencies and people working very hard on behalf of the Regiment to achieve this. Sadly Major Malby passed away before the project was complete but his daughter decided to honour her father's wishes with a bequest from his estate. The Regiment is very grateful to her and to everyone involved in this project. After the service a buffet lunch was enjoyed by guests and comrades in Northampton Working Men's Club.



Maj Molloy with Gen Akehurst.



Recased Regimental Colour of the 48th foot.

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of Rev John Hopkins on 21 September 2006. John Hopkins served in Burma with the 48th as a Platoon Commander at Kyaukchaw and on the Silchar Track and commanded No 4 Company on Hill 5846. Full obituary in the November edition of the Northamptonshire Regiment Newsletter.

Regimental Association

Peterborough Branch

Branch members attended the parade in Peterborough to mark the 10th Anniversary of the formation of 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC. August 13 saw one of the busiest days of the year for the Branch with two venues for members to attend and most managed it, with a visit to the Pig Roast which was hosted by the Cambridgeshire Old Comrades and a Service in the Central Park in Peterborough, then return to the Pig Roast.

The Service in the Central Park was attended well with Standards from many branches of Veteran organisations in the Peterborough area, Major Hill our Branch President stood in as Deputy Lord Lieutenant

Members also attended the Royal Anglian Open Day at Duxford, once again meeting up with old friends and comrades and enjoying a day out with access to Duxford looking around the museums and hangers.



Alec Francis Peterborough Standard Bearers and Mrs Sheila Francis.



Finedon Branch

Since the last report the Branch has once again had a very busy period despite members being away during the holiday season. In June the Secretary and two branch members went to Founders' Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This year Her Majesty The Queen was the reviewing Officer. It was a gloriously hot sunny day, there was a very large attendance and it was a great day for everyone.

In July the Branch attended the Regimental Reunion weekend in Northampton. For the Church Parade on the Sunday the regular Standard Bearer, Dave Thomley, could not attend due to holidays and his place was taken by Cadet Potential Officer Charlotte Hawkes who is the deputy Standard Bearer. This was the first time Charlotte had undertaken this duty and she did an excellent job.

September saw the Branch gather in force for the Royal Anglian Regimental Day at Duxford. This year was the best attendance to date. The ladies as usual put on an excellent buffet lunch, the weather was wonderful and all had a good time. It was especially nice to see Major Tim Warr, the previous Chairman, who had come over from Spain especially for the event.

As two of the most stalwart members have found it very difficult due to work commitments to attend the regular monthly meeting it was decided to change the meeting night and venue. From 13 October the Branch will meet in the Committee Room of the Finedon Conservative Club on the second Friday of every month.

Northampton Branch

The inaugural meeting took place in May at Area Headquarters and the Branch now meet on the last Friday of the month at the Royal Navy and Marines Club in Northampton at 1930 hours. All ex-members of the Royal Anglian Regiment, The Northamptonshire Regiment, The Army Cadet Force and the TA who were in either regiment are welcome to join. The Branch Chairman, Colin Burrige laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Northampton on 1 July to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Members attended the Royal Anglian Regimental Day at Duxford and some will be going to the Poacher's Reunion at Felixstowe. Also they will be visiting the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment in Tern Hill to attend the presentation of Iraq Medals on 17 November.



Regimental Association

70th Battalion Northamptons (Young Soldiers) Reunion.

It was decided by the Committee that, due to declining numbers, this would be the last Reunion for the 70th Battalion and that it would take the form of a luncheon. It took place on Saturday 7 October 2006 at the Conservative Club, Kettering. Mr Jeffrey Brown chaired the proceedings. The Battalion was pleased and honoured to entertain as its principal guests the Mayor of Kettering, Councillor Maurice Bayes and the Mayoress, Mrs Patricia Bayes; Conservative MP for Kettering, Mr Philip Hollobone; Colonel Peter Worthy and Mrs Worthy and Colonel Anthony Swallow and Mrs Swallow.

Apologies were received from several members unable to attend for various reasons, but members of other battalions and other comrades and friends helped to swell the numbers to make it a memorable occasion. It was particularly pleasing to see Denis Walden who had been brought from Leicester by a friend. Mr Jeffery Brown proposed the toast to Her Majesty The Queen and Colonel Peter Worthy proposed the toast to The Regiment and thanked the Committee for organising this final reunion.

Royal Anglian Gathering

Even more members of the former regiments and The Royal Anglian Regiment attended this event at Duxford, many of whom do not attend other Regimental Reunions. It was rewarding to see so many old friends meeting up again. The day started with the AGM followed by the Drumhead Service led by Padre Tony Rose, after which the Regimental Secretary presented a certificate to Mr Noel Muncey, Secretary of the Peterborough Branch, in recognition of his work in setting up and maintaining the Royal Anglian website.

The March Past of the four detachments of Comrades of the former regiments was a wonderful sight with music provided by the Minden Band of the Queens Division. Also playing this year were 3 R ANGLIAN Band and the Corps of Drums from 1 R ANGLIAN and the Army Cadet Forces of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. The combined massed bands performed a Beating Retreat in the afternoon to complete the programme for the day.

The Regimental Museum

Maj Tom Dorner, Chairman of the Association, has taken over Chairmanship of the Regimental Museum Committee from Captain Bill Bellamy MC of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry at a time when exciting new developments are on the horizon. The Committee meets with the officials from Northampton Borough Council on a regular

basis and the Chairman can report a very successful year.

One important initiative has been the formation of the aural history project. The reminiscences, anecdotes, stories and experiences of former soldiers are to be recorded onto tape. The recordings will then be kept in the Regimental archive for future research and interest. There have been some technical difficulties with regard to the right equipment, but it is hoped that in 2007 Bob Pochin, the Museum Attendant, will be available to visit any old soldiers with stories to tell. Comrades should contact the Area Office if they would like to book recording sessions with Bob so that their fascinating stories are not lost to posterity.

Of equal importance has been the application by the Museum for significant lottery funding in order to enhance both the building and displays in Abington Park. Should the funding application be successful then significant changes regarding the displays and the museum will be forthcoming. It is hoped that a replica 1st World War trench will be built, together with other hands-on exhibits. Such exciting new displays should enhance the public's experience of the Museum and pass on the history of the Northamptonshire Regiment and of the British soldier in war and in peace to a new generation.

To help further this end, the Museum held a gathering of representatives of all the schools in Northamptonshire in November. We were delighted to see our President, Gen Sir John Akehurst, along with the Deputy Colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment, Lt Gen John McColl and Col Peter Worthy. We are grateful for members of 3 R ANGLIAN Drums Platoon and the Poachers' Mobile Recruiting Team for assisting with the hosting. The idea of the event was to raise the profile of the Museum and to show the educational value to pupils of a study of the roles of both the Northamptonshire Regiment and the Northamptonshire Yeomanry.

We would recommend that whenever possible comrades make a journey to the Museum, as the displays are constantly being upgraded and would be of immense interest to former soldiers, their friends and their families.

Diary Dates

- 14 March 2007 2 R ANGLIAN Freedom Parade, Northampton.
- 6 May 2007 5th Battalion (Battleaxe Division) Lunch, Barnsdale Lodge Hotel.
- 9 May 2007 Officers' Luncheon, Army & Navy Club, London.
- 28/29 July 2007 Annual Reunion, Northampton.

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

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President: Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB CBE DL

Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Branch:

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Norwich Branch:

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Suffolk

HQ The Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Branch)

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Mr AJ Watson,
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Close Encounters of the Royal Anglian Kind

Capt Andy Wolstenholme writes:

For those in the Battalions the process is simple, a recruit arrives, gets crowned at for a bit, sent to the NAAFI, and then settles into the routine. For those on the other side of the glass the story is somewhat different. To many an individual, a posting to one of the two Regimental Recruiting Teams (RRTs) is an opportunity for some down time, or to sort out some problems, but actually the importance of the RRTs cannot be underplayed and must be credited for keeping the Royal Anglian Regiment the best recruited Infantry regiment in the Army. Both the Vikings' and Poachers' RRTs have been very active in the field of outreach, travelling to as many schools, towns, careers fayres and events as their limited time allows. This said, both RRTs have found themselves working a good number of weekends to allow the maximum number of potential recruits to see what the Royal Anglian Regiment has to offer. Most notable of late are the very successful 'Encounters' that have taken place at Colchester and Bassingbourn in the last few months. These weekends are offered to schools that have Combined Cadet Forces that are affiliated to the Regiment, wearing our cap badge and offer cadets a taster of life in the Army.

The Viking Encounter was organised by Corporal Blackley under WO2 Goodman's watchful eye and took place on a wet and windy weekend at the end of September. The team had put together a challenging programme together for the cadets which included field skills, an overnight exercise and an assault course first thing on the second morning, all at Goojerat Barracks, Colchester. Cadets from Woodbridge and Langley Schools took advantage of all the offered activities and cadets from both schools were indefatigable for the duration of the exercise, despite the best efforts of the staff to tire them out with repeated attacks through the night. On returning to barracks on the Sunday morning to prepare for the assault course, it did appear that the cadets had been involved in a major river crossing, but following enquires, I was reassured 'no Sir, we have just been beasted through a bit of mud!' It was excellent to see all the cadets attacking the assault course with as much vigour as a Regular soldier, and very encouraging that stronger individuals automatically went back and assisted those who were struggling to cross an obstacle. The day ended on as high with the production of an Army packed lunch (or horror bag), the novelty will certainly wear off! The weekend generated some interest in the Regiment and will have certainly been the talk of the CCF on return to school the next day.

Exercise Poachers' Encounter took place at Bassingbourn Barracks and the backdoor training area. It was arranged and administrated by Sergeant Kirk and his team and was attended by Oundle School, Oakham School, Ratcliffe College and St Edmund's College. A good number of staff attended and were equally as enthusiastic as the cadets. The weekend started with some good old fashioned command tasks that were very quickly solved by their participants, it was good to see some natural leadership ability coming to the fore during this phase, a good omen for the future. The afternoon saw some impressive Platoon Commander's orders prior to deployment onto the harbour phase where the cadets placed out their ponchos before settling down to a ration pack supper. The evening was spent conducting a 'recco' of an enemy position, and then defending the harbour area from some less than convincing Arabic sounding attackers. The highlight was the section attack onto the enemy position that had been scouted out before and led nicely into the closing race where an excellent effort was given by all, with everyone completing the course. Prizes were given to the best section and best cadet, the latter being won by Barney Purbrook, of Oundle School. Some of the participants were off on another exercise directly after the 'encounter' while others were looking forward to a relaxing half term.

On both 'encounters' it was very reassuring to see the cadets full of enthusiasm and drive, and were extremely efficient at all the military tasks put to them. It was also excellent to meet with the cadet instructors who were all very professional and dedicated throughout, completely unafraid to get involved with whatever the cadets were doing and most importantly were very pleasant company



An 'old' ally on Exercise Viking Encounter.



Exercise Viking Encounter.



Everyone giving 100% on Poachers Encounter.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

for the RRTs and myself.

It is clear that ventures such as this have a positive impact on the recruitment and manning of the Regiment, and the importance of the RRTs in this role is undisputed. A change in Army structure will mean that from early next year, the RRTs will start to change to Army Recruiting Teams. While they will be manned with individuals from the Regiment, they will not be teams for our dedicated use and will attempt to recruit across the whole spectrum of the Combat Arms. It is hoped that the Regiment will be able to prepare a response that will allow a dedicated Royal Anglian recruiting team to continue the excellent work that is currently undertaken by the Vikings' and Poachers' RRTs.

Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force

Bravery Never Forgotten

HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel in Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment, attended a commemoration service at Ely Cathedral on Saturday 14 October, to honour the sacrifices of the 1st Battalion, The Cambridgeshire Regiment, during an historic battle during World War 1. Ninety years ago 32 Cambridgeshire men gave their lives and 218 were wounded on the desolate battlefields of the Somme during ferocious hand-to-hand fighting taking the German stronghold known as Schwaben Redoubt. The Battalion won a record 42 gallantry awards in just one day.

The service, led by the Rt Reverend Dr Anthony Russell, Bishop of Ely, was arranged by members and friends of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association. Following the thanksgiving the many distinguished guests and dignitaries attended the Hayward Theatre for a presentation on the events of that fateful day given by retired Captain and military historian Steve Bowns.



The Colonel-in-Chief meets cadets at Ely.

Several direct descendants of those who served in the conflict were present, such as Steven Teverson of Downham Market. His grandfather, Lieutenant Harry Teverson was awarded the Military Medal for his actions, and later received a Military Cross with two bars for further service - a unique set of awards in the history of the British Army.



From the left: Anne Fox, Jodi Page, Abbi Bowen, Amy Neale.

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Exercise Steel Rack Cadet.



Maj Knight.

Before leaving, the Duke took time to speak with relatives of the original participants; veterans of the Regiment; pupils from King's School, Ely, and a contingent of 23 Cambridgeshire Army Cadets led by Lt Col R G Herriot, Deputy Commandant of Cambridgeshire ACF. Following the event, Lt Col Wally Badcock MBE, a Cambridgeshire Regiment veteran of the Far East campaign during World War Two, presented the Statue of a World War I soldier to Brigadier Peter Williams DL, Honorary Colonel of Cambridgeshire Army Cadet

Force to recognise the support that local army cadets have consistently given the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association.

Winning Cadets

An all female Army Cadet team of four scooped a top national first aid title during competitions held at Sandhurst in October.

Jodi Paget (16) and Abbi Bowen (14) from Ely and Amy Neale (16) from Chatteris, together with Anne Fox (16) from Huntingdon, took on 13 other teams from around the UK in a series of tough tests of first aid knowledge and practice.

In a series of scenarios involving injured people the girls consistently proved their smiles to secure victory as the top national army cadet first aid team and will now go on to take part in the St John's Ambulance National First Aid Competition Finals to be held at Scarborough.

Well Deserved Award

Thirty-one years of devoted service to Cambridgeshire youth have been recognised with the award of the MBE to Maj Mark Knight.

Mark from Wisbech St Mary was awarded the MBE in recognition of his work with the Cambridgeshire ACF which he joined when he was aged just 14. Since that time he was commissioned and held key posts such as County Signals Officer, Peterborough Area Commander, County Public Relations Officer and most recently, County Training Officer.

Exercise Steelback Cadet

Twenty senior cadets and four adult instructors took part in Exercise Steelback Cadet, a training weekend hosted by 3rd Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment at Beckingham. The cadets had the opportunity to see how Regular and TA units operate and practised their own military skills under expert guidance. The cadets saw demonstrations of equipment and were able to ask questions about life in the Army. Talking about the weekend Lt Matt Murfitt said, "This has been a brilliant opportunity for cadets to find out more about what life is like for a Regular soldier. It has been a great learning experience for both the cadets and the adult instructors, helping senior cadets to develop important life skills such as team work and problem solving."

Suffolk Army Cadet Force

Maj John L Raybould TD writes:

A new initiative for 2006 was the hosting of a June evening Reception at County HQ, Ipswich TA Centre. Notable Suffolk Civic and Military personalities were invited to attend and learn what we are about. Demonstrations and Exhibitions of our activities included first aid, .22 Shooting, archery, adventurous training, Cadet Star training, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, overseas visits/exchanges and sport.

Cadets Jamie Dines, Tahnee Hearn and David Mills of Ipswich represented Eastern Region at the ACF National Athletics Competition. A silver medal and 2 bronze placings were their reward.

Suffolk ACF recorded the success of our first two awards of the BTEC First Diploma in Public Services - equivalent to 4 GCSEs at A* to C Level - to Sgts Alex Marks of Hadleigh and Mitch Lambert of Stowmarket. Brig Simon Crane, Commander 49 (E) Brigade presented the certificates at our 2006 two week Annual Camp at Sennelager, Germany. He took the time to pose with Emily Simpkin of Wattisham on her 13th birthday.

The vast range of activities at Camp, masterminded by our Deputy Commandant Lt Col Kelvin Ives, included: adventurous training, assault course, canoeing and sailing at The Mohne See Lake Centre, fieldcraft, first aid, initiative tests, mountain biking, parachuting, soccer, survival techniques, target rifle shooting and several 'cultural visits' to Regular Army units and the Mohne Dam (of 'Dambusters'



1 Suffolks at Minden Memorial 1945.



Col Paul Denny at Minden Memorial 2006.

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Fame). Our Commandant Col Paul Denny was again observed jumping from the proverbial 'safe aeroplane'. Impressed UK visitors included Secretary EA Reserve Forces Lt Col Jackie Allen; our Honorary Colonel, Col Paul Long and Mr James Servaes.

Minden Day was celebrated with the presentation of roses to cadets, adults and officers badged 'Royal Anglian'. A long drive to the Minden Memorial re-created the 1945 photograph, featured in the 'Old Dozen' publication, of Col Milne with 1 SUFFOLK, including a dog!

In recent months we said 'farewell' to 4 stalwarts: Sgt Instructors Clare Callow of Sudbury, Ashley Sergeant of Ipswich, Will Rattle of Mildenhall (on transfer to Cambridgeshire ACF) and Maj Bill Pratt, after 41 years of cadet service. Joining as a Cadet in 1965 he retired as OC C Company in Ipswich. We welcome Lt Simon Dowling, formerly Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Intelligence Corps and Staff Sgt Instructor H Watkinson from the Black Watch.

Our County Executive Officer, Maj Bob Potter (former Viking, Tiger and Pompadour) undertook a sponsored London to Paris cycle ride in Sep 06 in aid of the Royal British Legion, raising £1550. The 200 cyclists covered 280 miles in 3 legs: the 1st to Dover then 2 in France. At the conclusion they were escorted up the Champs Elysees.

Recent appointments have been Capt Peter Malone as OC C Company and Cadet CSM David Mills was promoted on appointment to be the new County Cadet RSM. Sgt Ben Veasey-Lark of Beccles Detachment was the 2006 winner of the 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 ACF and was Commandant 1935-1947.

Cpl Ross Offord of Ixworth Detachment has gained a place at the prestigious Defence Sixth Form College at Welbeck, joining 4 former SACF Cadets who went there in 2005. The College, at Woodhouse near Loughborough in Leicestershire, has become one of the UK's top 6th form colleges and has an outstanding academic reputation.

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force

Annual Camp

Annual Camp 2006 was held at Deverell Barracks, Ripon from 4-16 August. The location was familiar as the Camp was used 4 years ago.

All cadres took part in the Commandant's Exercise on Ripon Parks Training Area; this involved establishing an overnight harbour area, fieldcraft, patrolling and an advance to contact. The 3 Star cadres went out onto the Yorkshire Moors where they practised map reading and camp craft.

Adventure training played a prominent part with opportunities for



rock climbing, cycling and canoeing. For 2 days the Royal Engineers RRT based at Ripon ran a series of command tasks and personnel from RAF Wittering demonstrated survival techniques including a simulated waterborne rescue and evacuation of a casualty.

The final days of Camp were taken up by sports events and drills leading up to the Commandant's final parade. At the parade a number of awards were announced. Tmia O'Melia of the City of Lincoln Community College Detachment won the best female cadet at Camp award whilst Marcus Box of the Washingborough Detachment won

the best male cadet award. Marcus is also a stalwart of the county shooting team and won the award for the Most Improved Shot.

Cpl Brett Cartwright of the Horncastle Detachment for the second year running won the trophy for the best shot in the county. Brett is a stalwart of the County Shooting Team and has been a leading member in both brigade and national events.

SSgt Erica Teubes of the Spalding Detachment was selected to be the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, she took up her duties at the beginning of October.

Shooting Team

The shooting team had a most successful shoot at the 49(East) Midland Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting at Beckingham 23-24 September.

In the Earl Roberts Rifle Team Competition they were second with a team of Brett Cartwright (Horncastle Detachment), Jason Greatorex and Nicholas Sibbons (Newport Detachment) and Marcus Box (Washingborough Detachment). These four also won the Falling Plate Competition.

In other competitions the county were placed 3rd in the Snap Shoot, 4th in the Section Match and 2nd overall in the championships. The excellent results were the result of much practice on both indoor and outdoor ranges and excellent coaching from Capt Norman Vardy and other adult instructors.



Tmia O'Melia and Marcus Box.



Camdt & Cpl Cartwright.



NO 3 Group City of London and N.E. Sector ACF (London Boroughs of Redbridge & Waltham Forest).

Pictured are Officers, Adults and cadets of NO 3 Group City of London and N.E. Sector ACF, at their recent Annual Camp in Crowborough, West Sussex. The Group has its HQ at Gordon Fields, Ilford, Essex and is commanded by Maj Nick Williams. 3 Group also has Royal Fusiliers and Royal Signals badged cadets, but all of its HQ staff and two detachments (at Newbury Park and Woodford) are



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badged Royal Anglian. Unfortunately, there is no longer any Royal Anglian TA in London, however, the units in 3 Group continue to wear their Royal Anglian cap badges with pride and to show their connection with their Essex Regiment forebears.

The Group has long supported the 4th Battalion Comrades Association of the Royal Anglian and Essex Regiment in its Annual Remembrance parade which is based at Gordon Fields.

Kids Hideaway with Royal Anglian Cadets

Army cadets from 47 Royal Anglian Company No 4 Group City of London and NE Sector ACF put children through their paces and a local school's summer fete on 8 July. Activities included an obstacle course, camouflage face-painting and building a basher.



Bancroft's School CCF - Army Camp

Cpl Francesca Longworth writes:

This year's camp took place at the familiar St Martin's Plain Camp in Kent, a camp familiar to all - old and young alike. After being assigned our well-worn billets it was off to lunch, our first meal of many on camp. After this we were soon thrown into our usual army pursuits, checking out weapons and making ourselves familiar once again with our weapons and drills. That evening the contingent were split into sections each completing a different activity. My group were able to experience the DCCT range - an electronic range using specially adapted cadet rifles to shoot at a computerised scenario on a large cinema-style screen. The only downside to this was that it was plain to see for all those watching, and later ridiculing, how many of the shots you had fired you had missed, which overall seemed to be quite a few.

The next day was our first full one of the week and was as enjoyable as the rest, including a CQB (close quarter battle) range, in which an individual and their fire partner would patrol through a section of forest and be confronted by enemy targets on both sides. The aim was to reach the other side of the forest safely and having defeated the lively enemy boards that appeared as you patrolled. The remainder of the day was filled with mini-exercises allowing us to brush up

on our fire manoeuvre and battle drills, whilst preparing us for our night-exercise later in the week.

The following day was Saturday, but there was no lie in for us, it was off to a new training ground and at least one new activity for some of us, the laser gun shoot. It was in essence quasar outside, but to keen CCF cadets it was in fact a new and exciting way to practise tactics talked about in the classroom. So amongst the groans the rifles gave out when shot, we set into the woods in our separate teams for the grudge match of the century, reds vs blues. It was here that all friendships between teams were broken off as people were fighting for their team and being as sneaky as possible all in the name of victory. After an eventful morning, which many thought could not be topped, we were treated to an extremely realistic first aid stand, with a few particularly infuriating casualties that no matter how hard you tried would not sit still! That afternoon we performed a section attack. This was particularly enjoyable for me as I was allowed to lead a fire-team, much to their concern, however everything seemed to fall into place and we successfully completed our objective.

The next day, after the recruits had been sent off on their Duke of Edinburgh award expedition, it was ready for our main test, the much anticipated night-ex! After being issued all kit and ammunition it was ready for the off. After a long patrol, during which the tension gradually built, we were fired upon and commenced our first attack, which was, in the least to say eventful. Later we moved into our patrol harbour that we were to stay in for the night. Later on I was lucky enough to go out on a reconnaissance mission in the pitch black. It was, to say the least, unnerving, especially when we were attacked on our way back to the patrol harbour. We were eventually allowed to go to sleep and awoke the next morning ready for the final assault which was carried out with impeccable efficiency. After cleaning the weapons we were soon on our way back to camp exchanging stories with others and were allowed some free time before preparing for our half night exercise in which the youngest members of the section also participated. Both night exercises were a fantastic experience for all, young and old, and a great opportunity to fine-tune all the skills we had been practising throughout the week.

Unfortunately, army camp seemed over before it had even begun, and after a week of exercise, learning and a bit of celebrity spotting it was time to pack our bags and prepare to leave. As usual, this year's camp topped any previous ones, but it would not have been as successful as it was without all the hard work put in by all the staff and those who helped out, but special thanks must be extended to WO2 Pascal, Colonel Bromfield and Captain Watkins.

Kimbolton School CCF

Maj Sue Camp writes:

It has been, once again, an extremely busy year for the cadets and officers of Kimbolton School CCF. Our Annual Inspection in May was undertaken, I am delighted to say, by Lt Col S J R Browne MBE who is an old boy of the School. The format of the day was a traditional one, starting with a formal parade and inspection and continuing with a military skills competition involving cadets of all three sections. The final parade and prize giving was completed



Bancroft's School CCF - Army Camp.

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by a flypast in honour of our outgoing Head of RAF section. The only complaint from the Common Room was that it was over too quickly!

Our cadets have taken up many places on Camps and Courses with some notable highlights. WO2 Elisabeth Ferland, this year's Head of Army Section, was judged best cadet on the Nesscliffe Leadership course with CSgt Lucy Brown, this year's Head of D Company snapping at her heels. Elisabeth's account of her course is below.

We took part in CUOTC's Cadet Stretch competition with CWO Patrick Forbes being named as best cadet and our CADSAAM team performed very well. Sgt Charles Alexander came 5th out of 120 cadets and CWO Josh Spink 13th.



Lt Col SJR Browne with Maj S Camp.

Thirty-five Army section cadets attended Summer Camp at Wathgill in July, one of the highlights being a very determined and athletic cadet managing the 12 foot wall on the obstacle course unaided!

We have just returned from our October Field Training Weekend at Crowborough. The weather was horrendous with driving rain however all D Company completed their TESEX and the Viking Platoon enjoyed being the enemy force. All the Recruit Cadre completed a programme of drill, 22 shooting, command tasks, map and compass and basic fieldcraft.

Nesscliffe Cadet Leadership Course 2006

WO2 Elisabeth Ferland writes:

Last Easter, 4 Kimbolton School cadets, along with 150 other cadets from all over the UK, were transported to the Mastovic Plains, to act as a peace keeping force in a war between Kosnia and Bosnivo. No, we weren't going crazy, we were attending the Cadet Leadership Course at Nesscliffe Army Training Camp. It was the most physically, mentally and emotionally challenging week I've ever endured, but also one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable.

They started us with a two-mile log run and didn't stop throwing real and diverse challenges at us for six days. We can now say that we have; organised a rescue mission in Zanzibar, cleared a minefield, attempted to control a riot and have been taken prisoner of war. All of this was incorporated into a 72-hour exercise, with minimal

amounts of sleep and maximum amounts of activity.

Being a leadership course, everything was geared towards making us more efficient leaders in all sorts of situations. We have served as Platoon Sergeant on duty at 0200 hours, led a casualty evacuation from within enemy territory and found people to smuggle us across a border. All in all, not your average Easter break and an experience that we will never forget, teaching us skills that we will always be able to use.

Brentwood School CCF

This year the Inspection took place on 5 May with the Inspecting Officer being Lt Col Mike Beard (who is an old boy of the School).



Brentwood School CCF.



The Annual Inspection.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Oundle School CCF

Maj C W Symes (SSLC 2 R ANGLIAN 1990) writes:

Oundle School CCF was formally reviewed by Air Commodore Julian Young in May 2006. In order to raise the profile of the Corps and develop NCO training, particularly ceremonial, we moved to an inspection pattern of three formal parades last year. Late November is the Passing Out Parade for the Army JNCO Cadre. Brigadier Simon Allen (then President of the RCB) inspected in 2004 and Brigadier Sean Crane (Comd 49(E) Brigade) inspected in 2005. Maj Gen Sutherland (Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment) will inspect in November 2006. March 2006 was the Joint Passing Out Parade for the JNCO Cadres of both the RN and RAF Sections. This was reviewed by Air Commodore David Harrison (Commandant Air Cadets).

Within the last year, we are very pleased to have reformed the CCF Band (over 40 cadets). This has been a tremendous achievement involving many staff and involving much appreciated help from both our affiliated Regiment as well as the HAC (supplying No 1 dress uniforms). For the first time in 35 years, the Band marched through Oundle Town on Remembrance Sunday 2005, much to the delight of onlookers. It has also played in the last four inspection parades (May and November 2005, March and May 2006). The Pageantmaster, Mr Dominic Reid, reviewed the Band in the March parade and as a result gave the green light for the Band to march at the Lord Mayor's Show in November 2006, as part of the School's 450th Centenary celebrations.

The CCF has started its own uniformed Ski School which conducts alpine ski training for almost 50 cadets each February half term in the Swiss Alps. Instructors (paid on a fixed term contract) all have connections with the Corps here - most being ex-cadets, with one ex-officer. This is proving to be an inspiration to cadets on the annual Alpine Skiing Development Camp who aspire to gaining the necessary qualifications, in order that they too can return and instruct.

This has certainly been a welcome addition to our adventure training delivery within the Corps as a whole (in addition to our annual Sub Aqua Camp and annual adventure training Camp in Snowdonia or Scotland). Several cadets have also gained RYA Dinghy Sailing Instructor qualifications and these cadets are used regularly for RN sail training. Every effort is made to keep in touch with cadets who leave the School with adventure training qualifications, in order that they can be called back to instruct.

Last year saw Oundle CCF running the BTEC First Diploma in Public Services for the first time. Building on this success, 25 are due to qualify this year, including a planned 18 Distinctions.

We continue to work hard to maintain links with our affiliated units from all three Services. The Royal Anglian Regiment as well as assisting the Band has provided, on long loan, some lovely items of regimental silver which we proudly display for our Service guests to see at our three annual dinner nights. The Regiment's Band will play on the School's 450th Anniversary Festival Day this year. We have also been grateful for the ongoing support of RAF Manston (MOD Fire School) to our Fire Section and to this end, hosted the visit of Wing Commander David Lainchbury (Commandant RAF Manston) in March 2005. This approach is paying dividends both for us (raising the profile of this unit within the School) but also for the Services (for example, several OO's currently serve in the Royal Anglian Regiment).

Last year alone, we sent almost 200 cadets away on a variety of camps and courses, either self run or run by MOD. Adventurous Training took place in the Scottish Highlands, Picos de Europa, the Red Sea (diving) and Switzerland (alpine skiing). Army camp took place in Penhale and Bodmin Moor this summer, and Salisbury Plain in summer 2005. The whole Corps deploys on 2 field weekends annually, with sections training in locations from Dorset to Kent and from Norfolk (STANTA) to Snowdonia.

Investment in facilities continues apace with substantial upgrades



Oundle School Band in front of the Corps of Drums 2nd Battalion during the Lord Mayor's Show.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

to the School's own 500-yard gallery range and the Parade Square, having taken place over the past 12 months. It is planned, within the next 18 months, to build a new Armoury Training Wing close to the Armoury, to satisfy the demand for more training space and storage.

For the first time in many years we have saturated our maximum established number of officers. We are also fortunate to have additional members of the teaching staff who contribute their services regularly to the adventure training section. Oundle School CCF is in good heart.

Woodbridge School CCF

His Grace Major General the Duke of Gloucester conducted the Woodbridge School CCF Biennial Inspection in May, the week that the Contingent became the East of England cadet rifle champions. On a hot afternoon there were displays from the drum band, the RAF marching team and initiative exercises.



Woodbridge School CCF.

Orbat for the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2006

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col SW Carver
Major HR Bell PWRR
Maj SJ Franklin RACHD
Capt MA Nicholas
Capt PC Moxey
Capt RA Smit
Capt AJ Lawman AGC
2Lt G Leek AGC
WO1 Robinson I
WO2 Gibbons M AGC
SSgt Foster S AGC
Sgt Portlock J AGC
Sgt MacFadyen E AGC
LCpl Roberts F AGC
Pte McRoberts M AGC

Echelon Company

Major DJ Stefanetti
CSgt Collins IL
Cpl Jackson S
LCpl Bale O
LCpl Chance KK
Pte Hodge KLVD

QM Department

Capt PN Blanchfield
WO2 Jay L
WO2 Granfield D
Sgt Hardy A
Sgt Magee K
Sgt Richardson I
Cpl Brown N
Cpl Borgenvik J
Cpl Bygraves M
Cpl Codling P
Cpl Phair R
LCpl Baxter NS
Pte Tuttle C

Rover Group

Cpl Buff DL
Cpl Heal MJ
Cpl Rayfield I
LCpl Mayer B
LCpl Murton T
LCpl Warner GJ
Pte Clements WD

RAP

Maj Tredget RAMC
Cpl Peyton I
Cpl McLaughlin RB
LCpl Boyle M
LCpl Pheonix RAMC S
Pte Evans M

INT CELL

Capt TGBP Colman
CSgt Neal S
Sgt Wallis C
Cpl Wood RL
Pte Long T
Pte Himfen J
Pte Chapman A
Pte Stephens S

CIS Platoon

Capt AL Maclay
WO2 Rackham MR
CSgt Stringer G
Sgt Mitchell DJ
Sgt Rumsey SJ
Cpl Bell D
Cpl Cartwright G
Cpl Cole W
LCpl Duckett J
LCpl Ellis L
LCpl Reilly G
Pte Bowyer MA
Pte Freebairn C
Pte Hughes M
Pte Kerner S
Pte Mavin CR
Pte Turner DB

MT Department

Capt T Jones
CSgt Wright K
Sgt Penny C
Cpl Chandler DW
Cpl Goodchild S
Cpl Griffiths J
Cpl Lomas
LCpl Jones TW
LCpl Stevens SD
Pte Cartwright G
Pte Donner TID
Pte Howard S
Pte Hubbard B
Pte Kenny E
Pte Lawrence
Pte Pearson M
Pte Sayce NA
Pte Wymark TCG

LAD (REME)

Capt D Fallowfield
WO2 (AQMS) Taylor M
Sgt Horrocks A
Cpl Camp SE
Cpl Durdle S
Cpl Poxon MPI
Cpl Southard CS
LCpl Armstrong MW
LCpl Brown AD
LCpl Reed D
Cfn Bird S
Cfn Cadd BM
Cfn Madams AJD
Cfn Tate G
Cfn Watso MDN
Cfn Wilkes B

Catering Platoon (RLC)

WO2 (RCWO) Beal DP
SSgt Oldfield RM
Sgt Swinney TT
Cpl Freeman MJ
Cpl Jordan S
Cpl Langdon MR
Cpl Pettit M
LCpl Powell SA
LCpl Sawyer C

LCpl Watkinson D
Pte Boila L
Pte Daniels AGI
Pte Gurung I
Pte Gurung D
Pte Mall J
Pte Mensa F
Pte Qiutakira SN

A (Norfolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj DJS Biddick MBE
Capt PR Steel
WO2 Main K
CSgt Smith S
Cpl Taylor AO
Cpl Walker M
LCpl Morfitt DJ
Pte Leonardi MP
Pte Ranns RS
Pte O'Reilly L
Pte Sievwright C
Pte Sullivan DJ

1 Platoon

Lt GJR Hudson
Sgt Holmes C
Cpl Brooks CA
Cpl Johnson 59 MP
LCpl Johnson T
Pte Chapman TJ
Pte Cooper DR
Pte Cowley TR
Pte Dodds O
Pte Fish TA
Pte Gent DT
Pte Hicks SD
Pte Mathieson S
Pte Meighan KJ
Pte Pryke AA
Pte Redford SA
Pte Slater M
Pte Tailor AR
Pte Theobald GP
Pte Willis SJ

2 Platoon

Lt GJ Goodey
Cpl Alexander RC
Cpl Hazel AD
Cpl Moore RW
LCpl Findley T
LCpl Rudkin MP
LCpl Van Der Mere WJ
Pte Appleton MM
Pte Bergman JWG
Pte Berry BJ
Pte Chumbley LA
Pte Fish T
Pte Glover AR
Pte Gray C
Pte Holt TJ
Pte Hood JK
Pte Illsley S
Pte Johnson AJ

Orbats

Pte Nicholls SM
 Pte Njie ML
 Pte Richardson S
 Pte Tilbury NR

3 Platoon

2Lt NGV Denning Sgt Panter S
 Cpl Brown A
 Cpl Field SR
 LCpl Coleby P
 LCpl Green PJ
 LCpl Murray DP
 Pte Bridges MJ
 Pte Casey PJ
 Pte Chatfield SPM
 Pte Clark AS
 Pte Duffy NJT
 Pte Feltham B
 Pte Gilchrist TW
 Pte Giles CS
 Pte Goodwin C
 Pte Jarrad DK
 Pte Scrivener BD
 Pte Stringer M
 Pte Symonds LA
 Pte Turner BN
 Pte Turva JT

B (Suffolk) Company**Company Headquarters**

Major MP Aston
 Capt DJ Glover
 WO2 Newton TR
 CSgt Shand CS
 Cpl Mataceva A
 Cpl Naylor JMH
 Cpl Pratt JI
 LCpl Oakes D AGC
 Pte Coram CEG
 Pte Haldenby J
 Pte McIlroy IS
 Pte McKluskey PJ
 Pte Whatley TS
 Pte Watkinson FM AGC
 Pte White B

5 Platoon

2Lt BJ Howes
 Sgt Neves Y Gordo K
 Cpl Mason TB
 Cpl Miller AJ
 LCpl Davey GR
 LCpl Dennis
 LCpl Rolph IJ
 Pte Anderson MD
 Pte Carrathers SD
 Pte Collins MM
 Pte Corless SA
 Pte Cox TA
 Pte Dormer RR
 Pte George CJ
 Pte Heischer J
 Pte Hunt KJ
 Pte McKendrick C
 Pte Monks C
 Pte Nadriva LC
 Pte Rix J
 Pte Scott JS

Pte Sheppard AJ
 Pte Smith 70 D

6 Platoon

Lt DN Broomfield
 Sgt Browning BB
 Cpl Owen JE
 LCpl Blewitt BW
 LCpl Dunsmere CJ
 LCpl Knowles DAH
 LCpl Murphy J
 Pte Archer AF
 Pte Bradbury M
 Pte Day MS
 Pte Geater LJ
 Pte Gilmore PM
 Pte Green RC
 Pte Hare OH
 Pte Harrison RF
 Pte Jones DA
 Pte Kerner K
 Pte Kushinga S
 Pte McCall R
 Pte Perry JM
 Pte Purcell T
 Pte Rogers AJ
 Pte Thompson JH
 Pte Wanjau E
 Pte Watson L
 Pte Williamson A

7 Platoon

Lt GEB Seal Coon
 Sgt Woodrow ML
 Cpl Martin SP
 Cpl Murphy WJ
 LCpl Ashby LD
 LCpl Cooledge AD
 LCpl Veal SP
 Pte Barke RW
 Pte Barker AJ
 Pte Brown GH
 Pte Crouchen MAG
 Pte Dowd SL
 Pte Godmon AM
 Pte Hancock D
 Pte Handley R
 Pte Lee JO
 Pte Lewis JK
 Pte Medlock JC
 Pte Pearson MA
 Pte Perkins KD
 Pte Sloan ARR
 Pte Smith 14 MJ
 Pte Thrumble JST

C (Essex) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj PJ Messenger
 Capt DJ Hicks
 WO2 Ramm PA
 CSgt Culshaw P
 Cpl Bonner D
 Cpl Williams AR AGC
 LCpl Skyers N
 Pte Athorn LD
 Pte Emmett BJ
 Pte Ford TM
 Pte Patmore JR

9 Platoon

Lt TA Clark
 Sgt Hassan JR
 Cpl Everitt MP
 LCpl Aldridge RV
 LCpl Cooper LB
 Pte Beccala MS
 Pte Dexter MS
 Pte Dunster JJ
 Pte Faulkner S
 Pte Gamadze AS
 Pte Ghazalli SJ
 Pte Hardy BM
 Pte Harman A
 Pte Hill JF
 Pte Hines DG
 Pte Hyett ML
 Pte Khan MTS
 Pte Kirby AK
 Pte Langridge GJR
 Pte Tomlin S
 Pte Trussler SJL

10 Platoon

Lt SEDPerrin
 Sgt Duggan BJ
 Cpl Butcher MJ
 Cpl Johnson TD
 Cpl Ferrand TL
 LCpl James BL
 LCpl Howe AJ
 Pte Alden WD
 Pte Brace NB
 Pte Cooper LB
 Pte Dean BC
 Pte Drinkwater WG
 Pte Facal KJF
 Pte Garner EW
 Pte Gibbs JN
 Pte Gordon CR
 Pte Harris SL
 Pte Kent PM
 Pte Slade DS
 Pte Smith KS
 Pte Spanton BR

11 Platoon

Lt MJJ Oliverio R SIGS
 Sgt Waters M
 Cpl Armon S
 Cpl Farrugia DJ
 LCpl Davitt CA
 LCpl Lake B
 LCpl Watson DW
 Pte Blowes DDJ
 Pte Bonnel JJ
 Pte Budd JD
 Pte Jones RA
 Pte Juby SP
 Pte O'Connor LK
 Pte Olen LM
 Pte Palmer AP
 Pte Peacock SM
 Pte Rawson TA
 Pte Thorpe CS
 Pte Todd RM
 Pte Vaughan TDC
 Pte Walker SD
 Pte Webb CS
 Pte Woollard MD

Orbats

WO2 Taylor T
 CSgt Hopkin C
 Cpl Durdle BA AGC
 Cpl Fosker S
 Cpl Groves LL
 Cpl MacDonald RGJ
 Cpl Moore RW MJ
 Pte Keeble SJ
 Pte Fairclough LM

Recce Platoon

Capt A Wild
 Sgt Thurston AL A
 Sgt Hill B JJ
 Cpl Hill AR
 Cpl Kearney PM
 Cpl Ling DW
 Cpl Pindar AN
 Cpl Roberts WJ
 LCpl Cadman DP
 LCpl Eggleton PMG
 LCpl Green JM
 LCpl Ryan J
 Pte Boyle CG
 Pte Cook N
 Pte Freeman ADA
 Pte Greenfield WJ
 Pte Hautfleisch GUR
 Pte Mazarel SC
 Pte Prior WM
 Pte Webster PA
 Pte Worsley CD

Javelin (ATk) Platoon

Capt OB Ormiston
 CSgt Snow I
 Cpl Guy AW
 Cpl Metcalf SH
 Cpl Nicholls MB
 Cpl Toynton PM
 LCpl Auckland MP
 LCpl Chadwick DW
 LCpl Henty SR
 LCpl Magee B
 LCpl Mercer S
 LCpl Owusu GO
 LCpl Proctor AM
 LCpl Terry AJ
 LCpl Watts G
 Pte Barrit DMT
 Pte Burnell CM
 Pte Davis JP
 Pte Evans AM
 Pte Henning PL
 Pte Highton KJ
 Pte Howell PJ
 Pte Jones DR
 Pte Mason DAK
 Pte McCabe HR
 Pte Moore SP
 Pte Prinns RL
 Pte Smith AL MJ
 Pte Strike IK
 Pte Turner BK
 Pte Wallace DW
 Pte Ward DF
 Pte Wright RJ

Mortar Platoon

Capt PMJ Kelly

CSgt Grice J
 Sgt Evans AM
 Sgt Tinkler AP
 Cpl Duncan AN
 Cpl Fay DJ
 Cpl Johnson D
 Cpl Smith BI
 Cpl Wilsher MI
 LCpl Havis H
 LCpl Jackson NJ
 LCpl Kingsey MJ
 LCpl Warwick T
 Pte Alford D
 Pte Andrews CB
 Pte Brooks JC
 Pte Brown SR
 Pte Chow JD
 Pte Dowsett DJ
 Pte Edwards DL
 Pte Fox TC
 Pte Frampton T
 Pte Grange Cook D
 Pte Griffiths MS
 Pte Harris SN
 Pte Jakes M
 Pte Kneller C
 Pte Lowe GS
 Pte Malembe KV
 Pte Penny S
 Pte Reynolds KL
 Pte Rogers WV
 Pte Saumi S
 Pte Sessions N
 Pte Sianakevi R
 Pte Smith ATH
 Pte Wade B
 Pte Webster WJ
 Pte White FW

Sniper Platoon

CSgt Faupel A
 Cpl Byrne Evans D
 Cpl Morris MJ
 Cpl Parker SW
 LCpl Flight MC
 LCpl Hawkins A
 LCpl Robinson ML
 LCpl Owen JE
 Pte Bailey DJ
 Pte Carter JC
 Pte Casburn A
 Pte Donnachie CJ
 Pte King JR
 Pte Mann TM
 Pte Ruecker OS

Drums Platoon

Capt MOG Taylor
 Sgt Love NJ
 Cpl Meadows LG
 LCpl Eastwood M
 LCpl Farrar A
 LCpl Goodship IW
 LCpl Jarvis NC
 LCpl Kennedy PMG
 LCpl Meadows LG
 LCpl Soar D
 LCpl Willan M
 Dmr Armstrong FS
 Dmr Cucciniello MJ
 Dmr Curtis KP

Dmr Deighan RA
 Dmr Prior DA
 Dmr Raulton R
 Dmr Read G
 Dmr Rouse CMJ
 Dmr Rutherford AR
 Dmr Seymour D
 Dmr Silvey RW
 Dmr Shepard TS
 Dmr Stephens 47 WN
 Dmr Tanner-Tremaine JJ

Rear Party

Company Headquarters

Maj IL Hall PWRR
 WO2 Clark S
 WO2 (RQMS) Curtis DR
 WO2 Jewell C
 CSgt Wright K
 Sgt Blundell RK
 Sgt Johnson SM
 Sgt Day MR AGC
 Cpl Johnson 58 AE
 Cpl Pellowe AGC JT
 Pte Morrey AGC SD

Regimental Police

LCpl Browne G

Families' Office

CSgt Woods M
 Cpl Franklin A
 Pte Brown MA PWRR
 Pte Jones LC

RCMO's Office

CSgt Garvie AC
 Cpl Ward W
 LCpl Jones RB

Quarter Master's Dept

Sgt Lovett L
 Cpl Gomer WAJ
 Cpl Codling P

LAD (REME)

SSgt Granfield JP
 Sgt Dobinson S
 Cpl Sands DJ
 Cfn Thorely A
 Cfn Waller R

Catering Platoon (RLC)

Sgt Hav A
 Cpl Peckett SW

Guard Force

Cpl Eggleton 03 JS
 Cpl Hogston D
 Cpl Marshall LH
 Cpl McKenna JF
 Cpl Mulley C
 LCpl Cornish PMG
 LCpl Ehret F
 LCpl Owens DD
 LCpl Rose M
 LCpl Tilley RH
 Pte Adamson L
 Pte Bailey DJ
 Pte Benham AR

Pte Cross DM
 Pte Davies LW
 Pte Dindyal ASP
 Pte Emmett SP
 Pte Farnsworth S
 Pte Firmin R
 Pte Fletcher J
 Pte Flounders C
 Pte Garcia RL

Pte Griffiths MS
 Pte James SM
 Pte Kirby J
 Pte Kirkham B
 Pte Langton M
 Pte Neil AR
 Pte Pearce JL
 Pte Pickles R
 Pte Rensch DJ

Pte Small A
 Pte Stephens S
 Pte Stockwell LA
 Pte Sullivan D
 Pte Tollerson G
 Pte Toublic GK
 Pte Tyrrell ML
 Pte Ware AJ
 Pte Whaites NL

Orbat for the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2006

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col SJR Browne MBE
 Maj JCJ Wright
 Capt JD Inch
 WO1(RSM) Rainey AJ MC

Operations Staff

Capt CW Swallow MBE
 WO2 Townsend C

QM's Department

Maj FA Ralph MBE
 Capt PG Martin
 WO2 Bartlett AJ
 WO2 Cutts S
 Sgt Herron C
 Sgt Rickman DJ
 Cpl Blanchard DC
 Cpl Elliot KA
 Cpl Franklin SB
 Cpl Green RJ
 Cpl Selby RJ
 Cpl Siney DP
 LCpl Parsons A
 Pte Crozier DF
 Pte Connolly SJ

RAP

Maj M Patil
 Sgt Pulfrey SR
 Cpl Brown A
 Cpl Clark DA
 Cpl Murdoch A
 Cpl Zyias KL
 LCpl Woodward CR
 Pte MacKenzie PA
 Pte Shand TJ
 Pte Stainton GA

IAD

Sgt Chamberlain JP
 Cfn Desmond MJ
 Cfn Jones LM

Admin Office

Capt MJ Ryan
 Lt TAG Tilbury
 SSgt Burras APB
 Sgt Tracey AT
 Sgt Southern J
 LCpl Dinnal OO
 LCpl McPherson N
 Pte Cretian L

Company Headquarters

A/Maj LM Ives
 WO2 (CSM) Coupe D
 Sgt Headland CD
 Pte Jennings L

PJOC

Capt TJ Powell

MT Platoon

Capt MJ Abbs
 Cpl Bryl ST
 Cpl Walton MR
 Cpl Robinson LP
 Pte Clarke R
 Pte Mitchell PA

J7 SSR

Capt RJ Bredin
 SSgt Eddy AC
 Cpl Inglis MJ
 LCpl Peart SJ
 Pte Bradley AJ
 Pte Hughes GO
 Pte Palmer LW
 Pte Patel RS

Catering Dept

WO2 Hatton GA
 Sgt Barnshaw NM
 Sgt Seed DS
 Cpl Lockett SK
 Cpl Haywood AJ
 LCpl Douglas JL
 LCpl Easson EL
 LCpl Fitzmaurice T
 LCpl Larson M
 LCpl Parkinson DD
 Pte Hemmings SL
 Pte Liptrot DA
 Pte Wainwright ST

CO's Rover Group

Sgt Mahoney IM
 Sgt Nelson LT
 Cpl Piesse RF
 Cpl Saunders S
 Cpl Tambling MA
 LCpl Almond PK
 LCpl Caines BS
 LCpl Gorski M
 LCpl Lawson SP
 LCpl Stow LA
 LCpl Styles D

Signals Platoon

Capt M R Cook
 WO2 Lamb AB
 CSgt Singleton SL
 Sgt Delooze MP
 Sgt Lyles GS
 Cpl Gale JS
 Cpl Latter AA
 LCpl Mackness HP
 Pte Bowen RH
 Pte Cooper AL
 Pte Hewitt DM
 Pte Morgan SL
 Pte Robinson MC
 Pte Vout RJ
 Pte Wara SV

Int

Capt SF Roberts
 CSgt Percival DC

Padre

Maj J Aithcinson

APOD LO

Cpl Thomas GM
 I.Cpl Quinn JT

A (Lincolnshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj SF Nicholson RRF
 Capt DW Turner
 WO2 (CSM) Phillips JE
 CSgt Donovan K

1 Platoon/Drums

2Lt BES Rose
 D/Maj Towe S
 Cpl Crafer RD
 Cpl Hartshome O
 Cpl Thurman MO
 LCpl Cousins-Garlick J
 LCpl Cox MF
 LCpl Langston K
 LCpl Wareham D
 LCpl Wilkinson M
 Pte Adamson SM
 Pte Bagwell S
 Pte Byron PL
 Pte Camilleri M
 Pte Dawe JE
 Pte Docherty RJ

Orbats

Pte Fields KA
 Pte Graham L
 Pte Macintosh LP
 Pte Oakes S
 Pte Park R
 Pte Quick TR
 Pte Uzelac M
 Pte Ridgewell MP
 Pte Rodgers M
 Pte Smith L
 Pte Townsend BL
 Pte Wallis KD

Operation Damask

Sgt Reeder NS
 Cpl Flitton AG
 Cpl Seymour MJ
 LCpl Bates MJ
 LCpl Burgess TP
 LCpl Kean JG
 LCpl Vincent SJ
 Pte Illife DT
 Pte King T
 Pte Knight KJ
 Pte Mander MS
 Pte Manning R
 Pte Sharman SJ
 Pte Wall C

2 Platoon

Lt J M Lanham
 Sgt Greenhill J
 Cpl Hume SA
 Cpl Williams GD
 LCpl Asbridge AL
 LCpl Catchpole D
 LCpl Davidson LA
 LCpl Jackson CT
 LCpl Randall M
 Pte Baker JE
 Pte Briggs GC
 Pte Burchett WD
 Pte Carey CD
 Pte Denison CR
 Pte Frodsham AR
 Pte Gillet A
 Pte Goodman B
 Pte Hevdon CP
 Pte Hughes P
 Pte King D
 Pte Ladds LR
 Pte Martin JJ
 Pte Stanes LP
 Pte White J
 Pte Williams DP
 Pte Wilson R

3 Platoon/Mortars

2Lt MJ Lambert
 Sgt Mahoney IM
 Sgt Batty S
 Cpl Cripps CJ
 Cpl Fawcett TR
 Cpl Jones AL
 Cpl Palmas MT
 LCpl Abbott ST
 LCpl Gorski M
 LCpl Haynes CL
 Pte Alder RI
 Pte Aldridge J
 Pte Baulbuena H
 Pte Burgess GA

Pte Cakau JM
 Pte Carter SFC
 Pte Finnerty SJ
 Pte Gilbert R
 Pte Henderson SRJ
 Pte Johnson R
 Pte Longden CH
 Pte Mayes ML
 Pte Ocquaye TA
 Pte Oram PA
 Pte Powell RB
 Pte Routledge AL
 Pte Takala AB
 Pte Woad D
 Pte Young SA
 Pte Wilson JF

HQ Platoon

Cpl Williamson JJ
 LCpl Freeman GC
 LCpl Rodgers AR
 LCpl Serevi VK
 Pte Jackson IC
 Pte Johnson LD
 Pte Parker M

Warrior Platoon

Cpl Taylor AA
 Cpl Young DJ
 LCpl Brownsword JR
 Pte Davey JJ
 Pte Garrett RJ
 Pte Joy GC
 Pte Seaton-Norton D
 Pte Tanner DB
 Pte Williams PJ

B (Leicestershire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj PS Leslie MBE
 Capt JM Ding
 WO2 (CSM) Waghorn LA
 CSgt David MJ

4 Platoon

2Lt JW Bennet-Madge
 Sgt Pepper APJ
 Cpl Budworth AC
 Cpl Mactavish SJ
 Cpl Potter ND
 Cpl Tremain MJ
 LCpl Moore K
 LCpl Presley JR
 LCpl Thompson DJ
 Pte Abbs SP
 Pte Batchelor WL
 Pte Bedwell JM
 Pte Bellamy JH
 Pte Blowers PJ
 Pte Brown JD
 Pte Butcher JE
 Pte Celecia CA
 Pte Chambers KR
 Pte Crookes AJ
 Pte Deane JD
 Pte Dunstan DJ
 Pte Ellis TW
 Pte Ferguson AD
 Pte Govier LC
 Pte Hatch TP
 Pte Jones RS

Pte Markanycz
 Pte Marshelleck AG
 Pte McIntyre JR
 Pte Metcalf RM
 Pte Parsons AM
 Pte Price IR
 Pte Watson I

5 Platoon

Lt AJ Griffiths
 Sgt Kirk AJ
 Cpl Lang CL
 Cpl Dolby MR
 LCpl Birkin DE
 LCpl Harness JA
 LCpl Mills PW
 LCpl Thomas SP
 LCpl Thompson MJ
 Pte Brightmore DJ
 Pte Carey DC
 Pte Chapman JA
 Pte Cunningham JC
 Pte Davies TE
 Pte Denison CR
 Pte Harlow JB
 Pte Hitchin SA
 Pte Inkson CJ
 Pte Jacques ST
 Pte Kahenya MK
 Pte Koryczan MJ
 Pte Johnson GW
 Pte Morawski AM
 Pte Morawski SD
 Pte Parody E
 Pte Poultney EG
 Pte Price KJ
 Pte Roffe CM
 Pte Sears I T
 Pte Smith MA
 Pte Smith DM
 Pte Woods DR

6 Platoon

CSgt Roberts A
 Sgt Groom PA
 Cpl Steel TJ
 LCpl Burdass JC
 LCpl Coulbeck I
 LCpl Cox MI
 LCpl Hassall RM
 LCpl Randall M
 Pte Barton JW
 Pte Birkin CM
 Pte Brackpool JA
 Pte Briggs GC
 Pte Brown CI
 Pte Brown MN
 Pte Chapman ME
 Pte Cusick RJ
 Pte Grantham S
 Pte Hutchinson DS
 Pte Inchley KT
 Pte Jakeman B
 Pte Lewis TR
 Pte Mcgroary KD
 Pte Mugridge SJ
 Pte Munden JJ
 Pte Parker AC
 Pte Pratt NK
 Pte Presland SA
 Pte Salter R
 Pte Tokai RP

Orbats

Pte Walton DJ
 Pte Walton I
 Pte Warmsley MG
HQ Platoon
 Capt DC Hicks
 Sgt Ghio JL
 Cpl Dodds MAV
 Cpl McMahon K
 Cpl Mitchell S
 Cpl Pett LM
 Cpl Rudderham
 LCpl Green AR
 LCpl Hack KL
 LCpl Haupt GW
 LCpl Larsen JJ
 LCpl Longhurst S
 LCpl Miller AR
 LCpl Morgan JM
 Pte Lucas SM
 Cfn Mutanga
 Pte Pattinson S
 LCpl Somuah A

C (Northamptonshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj SC Worthy
 Capt BT Hawes
 WO2 (CSM) Lewis BP
 CSgt Oldenburg F

7 Platoon

2Lt NJP McGinley
 Sgt Waters TW
 Cpl Law LG
 Cpl James KB
 Cpl Vendyback LD
 LCpl Breese RF
 LCpl Djemal OA
 LCpl Rawdon EE
 LCpl Stocks PE
 Pte Bukavesi PT
 Pte Cousin SA
 Pte Denton TM
 Pte Hackett CS
 Pte Harding AE
 Pte Hogg PD
 Pte Horricks JD
 Pte Jordan JA
 Pte Lee DJ
 Pte Moffatt SE
 Pte Moore F
 Pte Murphy GJ
 Pte Parker EG
 Pte Peacher NJ
 Pte Rowe CG
 Pte Sawbridge PM
 Pte Taylor AD
 Pte Thompson D
 Pte Weston DK
 Pte Williams CL

8 Platoon

Lt GE Osbourne
 Sgt Morgan D
 Sgt Penrose T
 Cpl Cousin R
 Cpl Frisby S
 Cpl Newark DA
 LCpl Baron J

LCpl Hicks A
 LCpl Keightley DJ
 LCpl Lavagna J
 LCpl Woolley
 Pte Baldry SO
 Pte Briggs GC
 Pte Fairbrother J
 Pte Ferguson SP
 Pte Griffin BJ
 Pte Hancox LR
 Pte Harrison JC
 Pte Irvine WJ
 Pte Johnstone M
 Pte Jones ML
 Gnr Lane LJ
 Pte Martin CJ
 Pte Mcrae WP
 Pte O'Connor L
 Pte Ordish AE
 Pte Porter ST
 Pte Reeve DS
 Pte Walton JK
 Pte Walters LJ
 Pte Worster PA

9 Platoon

Lt CT Standley
 Sgt Crabbe TA
 Cpl Conroy JD
 Cpl Knight D
 Cpl Thorne PD
 Cpl Wakefield B
 LCpl Alderman RN
 LCpl Parker SA
 LCpl Ward AE
 Pte Adams MD
 Pte Alinejad Y
 Pte Bobsin LF
 Pte Cowling GB
 Pte Dawson NL
 Pte Donnelly DJ
 Pte Doolan L
 Pte Evans-Jones LM
 Pte Fox M
 Pte Frazer RM
 Pte Gautrey JL
 Pte Green JF
 Pte Halliday PT
 Pte Kenney M
 Gnr Moreland NB
 Pte Moreton D
 Pte Pett TM
 Pte Power TJ
 Pte Ralph SA
 Pte Slater SL
 Pte Vickers CR
 Pte Walker JP
 Pte Webster A
 Pte Wenham DT

HQ Platoon

Sgt Lewis RJ
 Cpl Baker NJ
 Cpl Hassal R
 Cpl Murdoch A
 Cpl Smedley IT
 LCpl Atkins R
 LCpl Hume JR
 LCpl McQueer M
 LCpl Walker S
 Pte Barrow S

Pte Desmond MJ
 Pte Emmerson JP
 Pte Jones WO
 Sig McGinney AT
 Pte Perkins M
 Pte Wharton NJ

D Fire Support (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj PM Birch
 Capt S Poulter
 WO2 (CSM) Marshallsay JR
 WO2 (CSM) King N
 CSgt Chillingsworth JB

Mortar Platoon

Capt PD Connolly
 Sgt Batty SK
 Sgt McColm PA
 Sgt Booth DS
 Sgt Waqairoba P
 Cpl Fawcett TR
 Cpl Isaacs DK
 Cpl Watret D
 LCpl Green LJ
 LCpl Haynes CL
 Pte Aldridge J
 Pte Bluer MS
 Pte Burgess GA
 Pte Byers AW
 Pte Carter SFC
 Pte Clarke DE
 Pte Conlon JP
 Pte Finnerty SJ
 Pte Handyside CJ
 Pte Hedger E
 Pte Henderson SRJ
 Pte Horncastle L
 Pte Huggins RR
 Pte Hyde R
 Pte Ireland WA
 Pte Ireland JA
 Pte Joy GC
 Pte Keable LD
 Pte Oram PA
 Pte Patel R
 Pte Powell RB
 Pte Sasar-De-Sain AJ
 Pte Saunders CJ
 Pte Sawbridge P
 Pte Shortte AS
 Pte Smit SR
 Pte Stevens MA
 Pte Walker AD
 Pte Walker MS
 Pte Woad DA

Recce Platoon

CSgt Perry RT
 Cpl Estwick L
 Cpl Martin DJ
 Cpl Sutcliffe MS
 LCpl Abbott ST
 LCpl Jackson CS
 LCpl O'Grady L
 LCpl Pegg ST
 LCpl Silva UM
 LCpl Straw RP
 LCpl Wilkinson M

Orbats

Pte Blanchard LA
Pte Blyth RT
Pte Couldstone SM
Pte Fields KA
Pte McDermot SJ
Pte Murphy ME
Pte Parker M
Pte Underwood P
Pte Whitwell J

Sniper Platoon

Sgt Palmas MT
Sgt Whiteley J
LCpl Asbridge AL
LCpl Broomfield LC
LCpl Brown K
LCpl Keightley DJ
LCpl Newitt CM
LCpl Randall M
Pte Austin JD
Pte Bates AJ
Pte Bonner WP
Pte Briggs GC
Pte Gutteridge S
Pte Johnson R
Pte Martin CJ
Pte Rowe MN

Anti Tank Platoon

Capt OI Faruque
CSgt Smith JR
Cpl Crafer RD

Cpl Handforth JC
Cpl Thurman MO
LCpl Holvey DL
LCpl McGrath RA
LCpl Norton N
Pte Adamson SM
Pte Bellamy AJ
Pte Camilleri M
Pte Cusick RJ
Pte Daly AJ
Pte Gilbert R
Pte Harrison J
Pte King AV
Pte Koroibulileka S
Pte Koryczan MJ
Pte Park R
Pte Rice GS
Pte Richardson MJ
Pte Ridgewell MP
Pte Smiter DAJ
Pte Summers AN
Pte Taylor AD
Pte Thompson SA
Pte Thomson R
Pte Uzelac M
Pte Walker LA
Pte Wallis KD
Pte Wandless PG

Company Headquarters

Cpl Rae SJ

Cpl Somerton CR
LCpl Dinnal OO
LCpl Eastwood G
LCpl Faversham JF
LCpl Knight PD
LCpl West OM
Pte Borrill MJ
Pte Hamlet N

MG Platoon

CSgt Vazquez N
D/Maj Towe SW
Cpl Swain D
LCpl Eglin DC
LCpl Presley JR
LCpl Stephens D
LCpl Whittle MA
Dmr Bellamy JH
Dmr Dunstan DJ
Dmr Jones RS
Dmr Leavesley C
Dmr Mason N
Dmr Neve CJ
Dmr Qalica SR
Dmr Read MP
Dmr Rosson P
Dmr Sims AJ
Dmr Swales CR
Dmr Watson I
Dmr Williams D

Orbat for the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2006

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col M Googe
Maj I Couch
Maj SR Watson
Maj PC Whitehead CF RACHD
Capt S Devitt
Capt MS Woodeson
WO1 Caesar DM
LCpl Strong GJ

Regimental Administrative Office

Capt DJ Pope
WO2 Coleman R MBE

HQ (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Company

Maj GW French
Maj CP Vince
WO2 Russell MJ
WO2 Starie MFG
Cpl Perkins KE
LCpl Crawford AP

RRTT

WO2 Rushmere G I MBE
Sgt Dunn M J
Cpl Seeley M F

Medical Section

Maj I K M Sommerville RAMC
Sgt Cooke M D

LCpl Clarke D J
Pte Hurrell C L
CIS Platoon
2Lt IG Greenwood
CSgt Beard DT
CSgt Welsford RD
Sgt Bygrave DP
Sgt Swann SJ
Cpl Lanaway GD
LCpl Catchpole CD
LCpl Heffer LA
Pte Baker RL
Pte Bray CJ
Pte Brookes MA
Pte Doolan PJ
Pte Drummond J
Pte Gillespie S
Pte Lees J A
Pte McLaren MB
Pte Ordish AE
Pte Scott RS

Quartermaster Department

Maj RP Grenfell
WO2 Stoker E
WO2 Woolcott ST
CSgt Street MA
Sgt Taylor GR
Cpl Fallon JV
Cpl Rogers AK
Pte Wainwright ST

Motor Transport Platoon

WO2 Cummings D
Sgt Hunt WJ
Pte Pusey A E
Pte Allsop A C
Pte Armstrong W
Pte Hyland B I T
Pte Scales S I.

LAD

SSgt Alexander S M W
SSgt Carter R W E BEM
SSgt Smith A G
LCpl Bunn S E
LCpl Power N A
Cfn Clark S L.

Intelligence Cell

Capt D Stanhope
Sgt Clark B J E
Sgt Nightingale P
LCpl Cheetham M S
LCpl Howe A J
Dmr Bottomley P D
Dmr Britchford D A J
Dmr Eames M H
Dmr Jones P R
Dmr O'Sullivan M L
Dmr Reed D J
Dmr Richardson A J
Dmr Wells J H

Orbats**Royal Anglian Band**

WO1 Hudson P C H
 WO2 Temple J D
 SSgt Ainley MJ
 SSgt Fraser JM
 SSgt Gardner M
 Sgt Fraser RM
 Sgt Hall PA
 Sgt Taylor P
 Sgt Thompson DG
 Cpl Auffrett MR
 Cpl Carey MJ
 Cpl Evans AM
 LCpl Ainley C
 LCpl Allen HS
 LCpl Andrews JL
 LCpl Auffrett EC
 LCpl Blackman JA
 LCpl Lock JR
 LCpl Sharp GC
 LCpl Thompson RG
 BdsM Barrett NJ
 BdsM Dimond AJ
 BdsM Elvin LBC
 BdsM Elvin MJ
 BdsM Fairhall PG
 BdsM Glover GD
 BdsM Hobson JC
 BdsM Hobson SF
 BdsM Hughes M
 BdsM Marsland L
 BdsM McKenzie A
 BdsM McKeown C
 BdsM Mills G A
 BdsM Proudfoot TD
 BdsM Radford C
 BdsM Whiting ER

A (Norfolk & Suffolk) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj RG Rogers
 Capt AM Baker
 Capt T Steele
 WO2 Self J E
 CSgt Fuller P J
 CSgt Keeble G J
 CSgt Stone RA
 LCpl Harnett C A

RRTT

WO2 Butler C
 Sgt Sherlock M
 LCpl Nash DM
 LCpl Sanders DH
 Cpl Rolph DG

Medical Detachment

Cpl Galea D P

MT Detachment

Cpl Feaks JE
 Cpl Stone MN

RLC Detachment

Cpl Baldwin CM
 Pte Sullivan AM

Mortar Platoon

Lt Summers M

Sgt De kretser MW
 Sgt Hatch S P
 Sgt Watson RJ
 Cpl Adams EA
 Cpl Chambers KJ
 Cpl Jones S
 Cpl Pollard KL
 Cpl Walter ND
 LCpl Beavis CW
 LCpl Camplin AD
 Pte Webb KE
 Pte Botwood JD
 Pte Byrne JA
 Pte Canning DA
 Pte Coman IM
 Pte Da Graca FJS
 Pte English V
 Pte Fielding LP
 Pte Gough PD
 Pte Harper PJ
 Pte Haworth PS
 Pte Hill CH
 Pte James DA
 Pte Knott SE
 Pte McMurtry JE
 Pte Rudrum SM
 Pte Sharpe MP

1 Platoon

Capt RWL Robinson
 Sgt Brown JL
 Cpl Casey VM
 Cpl Baker DS
 Cpl Hall MC
 LCpl Allen PD
 LCpl Crossman A
 LCpl Sutor T M
 Pte Harvey L B
 Pte Jenkins J P
 Pte Kearton J H
 Pte Lintern C J
 Pte Locke F N
 Pte Lumbard C C E
 Pte Meek D R
 Pte Morris P G
 Pte Pickess J K
 Pte Porter M D
 Pte Potts C T
 Pte Read D J
 Pte Reeve J R
 Pte Smith M J
 Pte Stokes L S C
 Pte Warburton S R

B (Lincolnshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj I M Sackree
 Capt B Saunderson
 Lt A Garner MBE
 WO2 Limb J
 CSgt Craven A
 CSgt Osman MW
 CSgt Weatherall P
 Cpl Cook MR
 LCpl Browning EJ

RRTT

WO2 Redhead S
 Sgt Day MT
 Sgt Finlay FA

Sgt McCurdy AJ
 Cpl Davidson KM

MT Detachment

LCpl Blakeman GP
 LCpl Henderson KP
 LCpl Long C PA
 Cfn Cranfield NA

RLC Detachment

Cpl Willey N
 Pte Hilton ADJ

Anti Tank Platoon

2Lt SJ White
 CSgt Keating GM
 CSgt Thompson B
 Cpl Dolby MR
 Cpl Shaw SA
 LCpl Prescott MT
 LCpl Sibbons WR
 L Cpl Wayne J
 Pte Bottomley AJ
 Pte Bramman SC
 Pte Coleman DJ
 Pte Coupland CP
 Pte Cowie AB
 Pte Ivens PS
 Pte Marley NA
 Pte Slater CL
 Pte Thorp JD
 Pte Tyler MD
 Pte Vamplew J A
 Pte Warren D
 Pte Woodthorpe R

2 Platoon

2Lt M C Holman
 Pte Carrington D A
 Pte Dean K G
 Pte Dennis L D
 Pte Devlin L A
 Pte Heeney A R
 Pte James J
 Pte Kane S
 Pte Lowe R E
 Pte Marshall LH
 Pte Odling SC
 Pte Pearce SM
 Pte Redhead NW
 Pte Robinson PG
 Pte Robinson JE
 Pte Schuldt JR
 Pte Shaw T A
 Pte Smith KJ

3 Platoon

Lt G Thompson
 Cpl Gardner M
 Cpl Hardy MG
 Cpl Sheils W
 LCpl Grant SP
 Pte Bycroft BW
 Pte Collins IG
 Pte Curry MA
 Pte Foley M
 Pte Fyfe SPR
 Pte Lee-Grant S A
 Pte Marks S M
 Pte Martin A H
 Pte Maynard B L
 Pte Ramsden M P

Orbats

Pte Spencer T
Pte Swanson K P
Pte Watts W P
Pte Wheatley M J
Pte Whiteman B J
Pte Williamson C M
Pte Wilson T N

C (Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj N J Sutherland
Capt M J Bevin
Capt T D Smith MBE
WO2 Kyffin D T
WO2 Nagra B S MBE
CSgt Nagra A S
CSgt Upsall J F
Sgt Pickles A J
Cpl Holmes M A
Pte Clay M T
Pte Parkar R S

RRTT

WO2 Kelly W G
Sgt Hague P
Sgt Marriott D

Medical Detachment

Cpl Neighbour D J
LCpl Matley H

RLC

Cpl Bailey J R

Assault Pioneers

Lt A G Swift
WO2 Webber I W
CSgt Hunter A J
Sgt Ball N T
Sgt Gadsden P N
LCpl Lucas D P
LCpl Roach S D
LCpl West E T
Pte Bates D
Pte Broad H J
Pte Coles K J
Pte Cragg T
Pte Greer R P B
Pte Haightcock R L
Pte Hayward W M
Pte Jacobson D J
Pte Jeary R P
Pte Joshi T
Pte Kimpton M P
Pte Lambell J S
Pte Marston A L
Pte Mathews R A
Pte McCorkindale M S
Pte McDonald M P

Pte McLeod P M
Pte Moore N M
Pte O'Dell C L
Pte O'Dell C M
Pte Poultney E G
Pte Ruddlesin W N
Pte Smith A K
Pte Spriggs M A
Pte West C W
Pte Wilson H P

4 Platoon

2Lt M Burrows
Sgt Hambridge B L
LCpl Gillan PA
LCpl Parker M D E
LCpl Payne G B
LCpl Tew M N
Pte Carter L T
Pte Clark S D
Pte Croft A J
Pte Cullinan S P
WPte Jolley S P
Pte Mason S M
Pte Moore C M
Pte Newitt L W
Pte Parker DA P
Pte Peters G D
Pte Whiting R M J
Pte Wise D

E (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj M A Scadden
Capt P D Thurston
Lt M D Brazier
WO2 Head C J
WO2 Riley D H
CSgt Anderson V A
CSgt Chapman P
LCpl Hatt J D

RRTT

CSgt Haward C G
Sgt Low B
Sgt Pugh I
LCpl Butler S

Medical Detachment

LCpl Ellerbeck M F
Pte Wynn T L

MT Detachment

Cpl Cain P F
Cpl Crawley P E
Pte Hacker S
Pte Turner P J

RLC Detachment

LCpl Bartlett V J
Pte Stevens W R

GPMG (SF) Platoon

Capt A J W Coulson
CSgt Cave G A
CSgt Cavedasca P J
Sgt Jeffree J P
Cpl Gayler L D
Cpl Marns J F
LCpl Breese R F
LCpl Cox C J
LCpl Davies J
LCpl Johnson D W R
LCpl Johnson R M G
LCpl Wheeler C L
Pte Barton J W
Pte Battle P I
Pte Bedwell J M
Pte Charge D N E
Pte Clark L G
Pte Dixon K R
Pte Field E P
Pte Frisbee M P
Pte Greenan A J
Pte Jones L N
Pte King J D
Pte Knight-Kirby P M
Pte Millar R
Pte Partridge P S
Pte Pickess J M
Pte Plair S R
Pte Proops C J
Pte Quirk A J
Pte Robins J B
Pte Robinson B D
Pte Westgarth S R
Pte Wilkinson O R

5 Platoon

Lt A J Horner
Sgt Duffy J G
LCpl Brown C
LCpl Cockerell M J
LCpl Kelson R W
LCpl Lawrence I
LCpl Templeton M B
Pte Chalk J W A
Pte Chambers J A
Pte Chapman M P
Pte Clarke L
Pte Clark-Tunnicliffe M G
Pte Evans G D
Pte Hatt C A
Pte Hutchings J F
Pte Kovacs J R
Pte Luckings R W
Pte Taylor A G
Pte Trew M P
Pte Vickers C J R
Pte Walker A R
Pte Weightman S B

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Clients who have used the company to meet their training needs have included NHS Glasgow, NHS Fife, NHS Tayside, NHS Lothian, Soexho Healthcare, North Cumbria Acute Hospitals, St. Helen's and Knowsley NHS Trust, Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council and Cambridge Universities Hospitals Trust. Testimonials from a selection of clients can be viewed on the website.

Delegates have included porters, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, estates personnel, community health care workers, dentists, GP practice managers, anaesthetists, hotel services managers.

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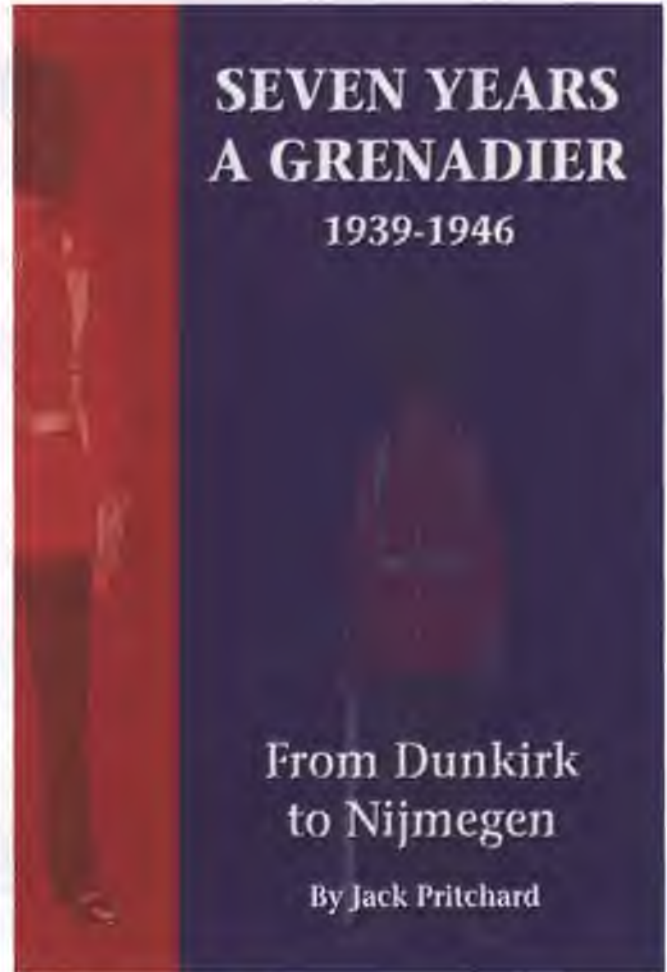
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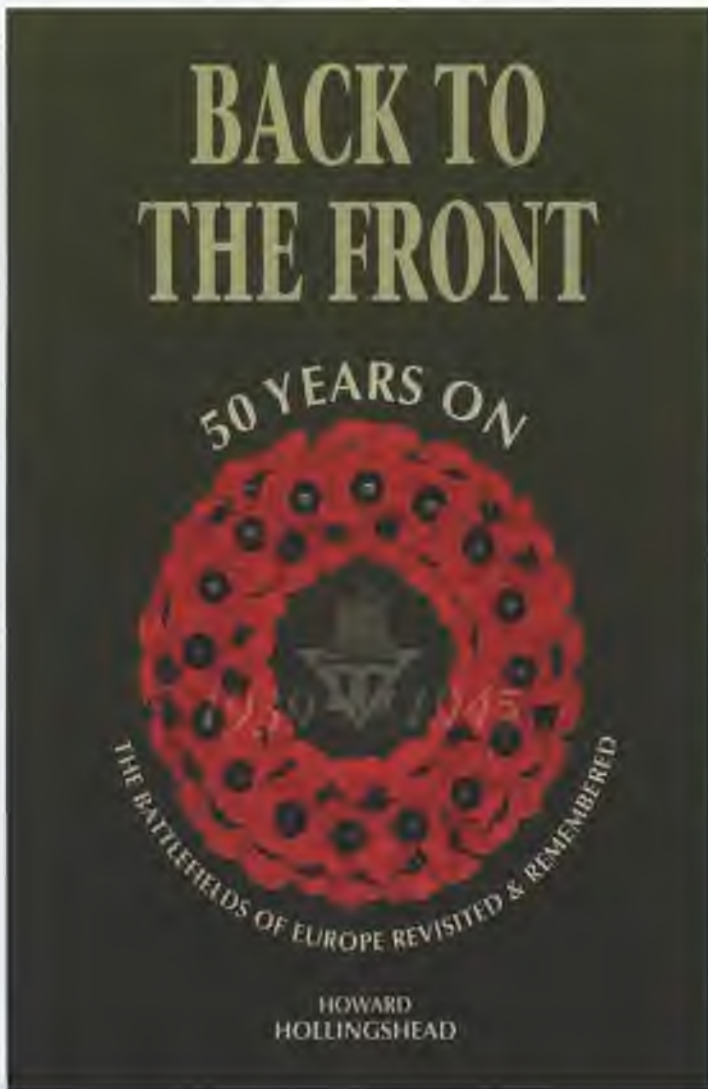
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