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A Portrait Commissioned For The Regiment

By

The Officers Club

Painted By Richard Stone

# FOREWORD

by

## THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

On 1st September, 1974, the Regiment had been in existence for ten years and its name had been to the fore in most Army activities and especially during the last five years in the Northern Ireland emergency.

It was most appropriate therefore that New Colours were presented by the Colonel-in-Chief to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Regular Battalions and the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion on 12th July at a memorable parade at Tidworth of outstanding excellence.

The formation of the Regiment in 1964, the first Large Regiment of Infantry to be formed, was a major step and has not been easy for some people to accept after the strong traditions and individual achievements of our previous Regiments. However, by now, the whole Regiment is well and truly welded together and our New Colours, which are identical for all Battalions as regards design and Battle Honours, should bring us all even closer.

I send to every member of the Regiment, past and present, my thanks for their splendid service in the past and best wishes for the future. The name of the Regiment stands high—let us keep it there.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Ireland', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lieutenant General,  
Colonel of the Regiment.



**Colonel-in-Chief:**

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**Deputy Colonels-in-Chief:**

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Her Royal Highness The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

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The Bermuda Regiment  
The Gibraltar Regiment

**Regimental Headquarters:** Blenheim Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Telephone: Bury St. Edmunds 2394.

**Regimental Secretary:** Lt.-Colonel C. R. Murray Brown, DSO.

**Assistant Regimental Secretary:** Major C. J. S. McMillen.

**Regimental Secretaries:**

Headquarters (Norfolk) - Lt.-Col. A. Joanny, MBE

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„ (Lincolnshire) - Major E. Jessup

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# Castle

The Journal of the Royal Anglian Regiment

JANUARY 1975

Vol. 6

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Editor:

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(retd.)

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## Our Cover

Reproduced from the original painting by Charles C. Stadden  
of a Regimental Drummer against a background of the Abbey  
Gate, Bury St. Edmunds.



# QUEEN'S COLOUR.



The Colours of the 2nd, 3rd and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions are identical to the above except for the numerals

# REGIMENTAL COLOUR.







Colour Ensigns (L. to R.): Capt. P. V. B. George, Lt. A. B. Carr, Lt. A. P. Deed, Lt. K. Hodgson,  
Lt. W. R. Mooring, Lt. C. G. Stallard, Lt. P. W. Field, Lt. G. D. Duthoit.

Seated (L. to R.): Maj. F. A. H. Swallow, Lt.-Col. P. D. L. Hopper, Lt.-Col. M. E. Thorne, OBE,  
The Colonel of the Regiment, The Colonel-in-Chief, Lt.-Col. D. C. Thorne, Lt.-Col. M. A. Aris,  
Lt.-Col. W. G. Wallace, OBE, TD.

\* \* \*

# THE PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

## TIDWORTH

### JULY 12th 1974



As long ago as 18th October, 1965, the Regimental Council, under the direction of Lt.-Gen. Sir Reginald Denning, set up a Colours Committee to advise on Battle Honours and other insignia which should be included on the facings of the Colours to be presented to the Regiment in due course.

There was much discussion between the Colonels of the former Regiments whose Battle Honours we had inherited and who very naturally wished to retain as many of their own honours on the New Colours as could be allowed. Sensible compromise enabled all main Battle Honours to be included in the total of forty-one honours allowed to be embroidered on the Queen's Colour and forty-five on the Regimental Colour. The Ministry of Defence was most helpful in matters of protocol and ensured absolute correctness in spelling and chronological order of battles. In addition, each former Regiment was to be represented on the Regimental Colour by 'Honorary Distinctions' disposed as follows:

- (i) Britannia (9th Foot) to be placed in the upper hoist, as being the Badge of the senior component of the new Regiment. This Badge is of considerable antiquity and was granted in 1799, though its true origin is unknown.
- (ii) The Castle and Key with 'Gibraltar 1779-83' and 'Montis Insignia Calpe' (12th, 56th and 58th Foot) is the oldest of the three Campaign Badges held by the three components of the new Regiment, and would be displayed in the upper fly.
- (iii) The Sphinx superscribed 'Egypt' with the Wreath (10th, 44th and 58th Foot) is the next oldest Campaign Badge, and is shown in the lower centre.
- (iv) The Royal Tiger superscribed 'Hindustan' (17th Foot) was granted in 1825 for service in India from 1804-23, and is placed in the lower hoist.
- (v) The Eagle (44th Foot) was captured from the French 62nd Regiment of the Line at Salamanca, 1812. The Badge was granted in 1902. The Garter (16th Foot) surrounding the Eagle is placed in the lower fly. Together they form the centre badge on the 3rd East Anglian Regimental Colour.

The Committee chaired by Brigadier C. M. Paton reported in November 1968, and on 10th April, 1969, the coloured paintings prepared by

the College of Arms were approved by our Colonel-in-Chief. The paintings received the approval of Her Majesty The Queen and on 10th June, 1969, the Ministry of Defence placed the contract for four sets of Colours, one each for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Battalions and 5th (Volunteer) Battalion. In December 1969 we were told all Colours would be completed by June 1974.

In November 1972 a case was submitted to the Ministry of Defence for the 1st Battalion tour in Cyprus to be reduced in order that they might return to a UK station, preferably Colchester, to undertake the sponsorship of the Colours Presentation Ceremony in the summer of 1974. In the event the Battalion returned to Tidworth in May that year.

The foregoing is by way of background and explanation of the general rules applicable to all Colours in the British Army. It is normal practice that the Colonel-in-Chief shall present the Colours, but only Her Majesty The Queen herself may give permission for this to be done on her behalf.

In July 1973 planning commenced. The first approach was of course to our Colonel-in-Chief to ascertain when Her Majesty would be able to make the presentation. There were two alternative dates then available, 5th or 12th July. The Regimental Council directed that the 1st Battalion would provide four guards and that the Battalions receiving Colours would provide Colour Parties only. Bands and Drums would be provided by all three Regular Battalions. The Tattoo Ground at Tidworth would be the venue. Bearing in mind the considerable additional time needed to present four sets of Colours, it was decided that the East Anglian Regiment's Colours currently in use would not be on parade. Battalions were told to take the appropriate action to troop the 'Old' Colours for the last time when operational commitments permitted. Arrangements for the eventual laying up of the East Anglian Regiment's Colours were vested in the Deputy Colonels directly concerned and details of these arrangements, where known, are given on page 13.

A planning cell was set up firstly at RHQ in September 1973 under Lt.-Col. T. D. Dean, who promptly filled two files with hundreds of letters to here, there and everywhere, and handed in March 1974 to the cell at Tidworth under Major J. P. Growse a clear 'Planning Paper' which included all administrative detail from guest lists to general form of parade and music. RHQ did all the invitations, issued directions for the hosting of each official guest by an officer of the Regiment, and arranged seating



**1st Battalion**



**2nd Battalion**

**Ensigns**

LIEUTENANT W. R. MOORING  
LIEUTENANT C. G. STALLARD

LIEUTENANT A. P. DLED  
LIEUTENANT K. HODGSON

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# THE PRESENTATION

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**Ensigns**

LIEUTENANT P. W. FIELD  
LIEUTENANT G. D. DUTHOIT

CAPTAIN P. V. B. GEORGE  
LIEUTENANT A. B. CARR

**3rd Battalion**

**5th (V) Battalion**



# The Colonel-in-Chief's Address to the Regiment

As Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment, it gives me great pleasure to present to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Volunteer Battalion new Colours on behalf of The Queen, and I would like to congratulate you all most warmly on your smartness and bearing on parade and the excellence of your footdrill. These Colours are the first to be presented to the Royal Anglian Regiment since it was formed some ten years ago from seven County Regiments, and all the Colours carry the same battle honours, thus testifying to a long record of distinguished service throughout the world. I am proud to know that these same high standards are being maintained today.

The Regiment is undertaking difficult and very demanding rôles, particularly in Northern Ireland, and you have been very much in my thoughts during your tours of duty in Ulster.

I am delighted to see here so many of the families, Old Comrades, and representatives from the Counties, some of whom have travelled long distances, for you all, in different ways, play a vital part in the life of the Regiment. Your loyalty and support which has been such a source of strength in past years has been confirmed yet again by your presence at this parade.

Although Colours are no longer carried in action they are still the rallying point which embodies the spirit of the Regiment and they are a symbol of chivalry and an emblem of loyalty to your Queen, your Country and your Regiment. I entrust these new Colours to your safe keeping, and I am certain you will carry them with honour and pride and guard them with courage and devotion.

And now I would like to offer to each member of my Regiment my warmest good wishes for the years ahead.

## The Colonel of The Regiments reply

Your Majesty, on behalf of the Regiment may I thank you, ma'am, for your gracious words and for coming down to Tidworth today to present our new Colours. We are greatly honoured by your Majesty's presence and hope that you will enjoy this family occasion.

Today is the first opportunity in four years that a regular battalion of the Regiment has been stationed at home and able to parade for their Colonel-in-Chief. The whole Regiment, both regular and TAVR, is represented either on parade or amongst the spectators. There are many Old Comrades from previous Regiments also present.

In your speech, ma'am, you emphasised that the new Colours are identical in design and lists of Battle Honours for each regular and volunteer battalion and therefore indicate the significance of our new Large Regiment in which all battalions are equal members of the family. We were the first Large Regiment to be formed ten years ago and since then we have tried to carry forward the best traditions of our former Regiments for the benefit of the whole. I believe your Majesty will agree that all battalions of the Regiment have given good service in many fields since we were formed.

Our new Colours will give an even greater incentive whatever the future may bring for us, and I can assure your Majesty that we shall guard our Colours as our forebears guarded theirs. Our new Colours will be a lasting inspiration to all ranks and a symbol of our service and loyalty to our Sovereign.

plans both at the Presentation and in the Luncheon Tents. Major Growse did everything connected with the parade and the 1st Battalion provided the extensive administrative backing.

On 14th January the final decision was taken to hold the parade on 12th July. The die was finally cast on the most memorable day in the short history of the Regiment. It climaxed the first ten years of our existence.

At precisely 11.40 a.m. on 12th July the Royal Helicopter touched down on the nearby polo ground, and at 11.45 a.m. Her Majesty, escorted by the Earl of Malmesbury, The Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire, stepped out of her car in front of the dais, was greeted by the Colonel of the Regiment, and the ceremony had begun before 3,000 spectators, including many Old Comrades. The accompanying pictures speak for themselves. Precision there was in every aspect of the parade and throughout the remainder of the day. The troops on parade, commanded by Lt.-Col. D. C. Thorne, could not be faulted—perhaps their rendering of the ‘Three Cheers’ after the ‘Advance in Review Order’ and ‘Royal Salute’ will be remembered above everything. The cheers echoed round the hills and so obviously showed the affection held by all of us for the Queen Mother and the pride of every man on parade in their New Colours, which were then marched past Her Majesty in slow and quick time.

The weather forecast was not encouraging, but it remained dry and warm and the elaborate and detailed arrangements (rehearsed as well) for a ‘wet weather’ programme in the gymnasium of Assaye Barracks were not needed. At the very moment that the Chaplain General, The Venerable Archdeacon P. Mallett, QHC, laid his hand on the 1st Battalion Colours at the Consecration Ceremony the sun shone and remained out (well, in and out) until late in the afternoon. It rained immediately after Her Majesty had left the Tattoo Ground.

After the Presentation Parade, Her Majesty was driven to the Officers’ Mess, where in the garden of the Commanding Officer’s house she met Lady Freeland and Mrs. Thorne, VIP guests and Senior Officers of the Regiment, serving and retired, before lunching in the Mess with the Commanding Officers and their wives. Our Deputy Colonels entertained senior official guests in a marquee in the Mess grounds, including six Lords Lieutenant and two Lord Mayors. We were particularly delighted to be able to entertain the Commanding Officers of

three of our eleven Allied Regiments: Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Darling from Bermuda, Lt.-Col. Botcher from the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment of Canada, and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Ferrary from Gibraltar.

The ‘Royal’ and ‘VIP’ luncheons were sit-down affairs, waiter served. Packed lunches were provided on the Tattoo Ground for everybody else, including the Mayors and Mayoresses of no less than sixteen Boroughs, the Chairmen of thirteen new District Councils, and over three hundred Old Comrades, because it was impossible for any agency to provide the necessary number of waiters. This caused some eyebrow-raising and just a few caustic comments from the ‘old and bold’! ‘Never did it like this in my day, old boy.’ But this proved to be a remarkably good experiment and the food was as good as the menu implied. Each individual pack, in plastic airline type containers, had been prepared in the Battalion cookhouses overnight and a word of thanks here must go to the army of Regimental and ACC cooks involved. Credit for this experiment belongs to Major N. S. Nash, ACC, who planned and executed the whole performance, including the Royal and VIP luncheons. The enormous saving in waiter service and cost needs no emphasis. The three vast marquees, Officers, WOs and Sergeants, and Junior Ranks, surrounded the Tattoo Ground.

After lunch, the Massed Bands of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions provided a well executed and musically high class display for forty minutes, under the direction of the senior Bandmaster, WO.I J. Cherry.

Prior to departing, Her Majesty spent over half an hour walking about amongst the regimental members and their guests, having first had the Parade Staff Officer, Major J. P. Growse, the four Quartermasters, Regimental Sergeant Majors, Bandmasters and twelve Chelsea Pensioners presented to her.

As precisely as everything else had gone throughout the day, the Royal Car drove away amidst the cheers and waves of the spectators, and the Royal Helicopter circled the Tattoo Ground before finally heading north for Windsor.

Her Majesty was accompanied throughout the day by Lady Elizabeth Bassett, Lady-in-Waiting, Captain Alastair Aird, Comptroller, and Captain J. Duncan-Millar, Black Watch, ADC to the Queen Mother. Captain T. B. Thomas acted as ADC to the Colonel of the Regiment.





# Pte. Angle

## On 1974

We have celebrated with success our tenth birthday. A report on the Presentation of Colours is included separately.

Mr. Richard Stone completed his portrait of The Queen Mother in November and it was exhibited at Spink and Sons, Medallists, London, in early December. Since then it has been exhibited in all our county towns and is now on loan to the Officers' Mess of The Queen's Division Depot. It will go to the 3rd Battalion in Catterick in the late summer 1975.

Major Michael Barthorp has completed the Regimental History in first draft and, believe me, it is well worth your orders in advance. It will be published towards the end of the year.

## On Special Relationships

Our Deputy Colonels-in-Chief have graciously consented to extend their special relationships with our regular battalions to our TAVR battalions. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, to the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, and The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, to the 5th and 7th (Volunteer) Battalions.

## STOP PRESS

## On Tiger Company

To disband with effect 1st July, 1975. This is very sad news and requires no comment here. The following message has been received by the Colonel of the Regiment from the Chief of the General Staff:

'It is with deep regret that the Army Board has decided that Tiger Company 4 Royal Anglian is to disband. The Army Board has taken this decision in view of the overall manning situation only after very careful consideration and with great reluctance. Although the Company carried the nickname of the former Royal Leicestershire Regiment, I know that the splendid traditions of that Regiment and of the County of Leicestershire will not cease on the disbanding of Tiger Company, because they are well established in the three battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment. It is for good reason that the Royal Leicestershire Tiger is emblazoned on the button of the Regimental uniform.

'Since Tiger Company came into being on the reduction of the 4th Battalion in 1970 it has given outstanding service in Gibraltar, in Canterbury as a wing of the Junior Infantryman's Battalions, in an operational role in Northern Ireland and as demonstration company at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. These varied and challenging tasks have all been carried out in the finest traditions of your Regiment. The Company has served the Army well and those who have served in it can be justly proud of having done so. The Army Board is very grateful for the excellent work and wishes all members of Tiger Company every good fortune in the future.'

## On 1975

### The Arms Plot

1st Battalion, Assaye Barracks, Tidworth.

2nd Battalion, Oxford Barracks, Munster, BFPO 17. Northern Ireland August to December 1975.

3rd Battalion, to Alma Barracks, Catterick, in August 1975.

## On Laying-up Old Colours

The 1st East Anglian Regiment's Colours are to be laid up as under:

12th May, 1975: The Regimental Colour will be laid up in St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds.

13th May, 1975: The Queen's Colour will be laid up in Norwich Cathedral.

The 2nd East Anglian Regiment's Colours will be handed over for safe keeping in the Museum of The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment on Sunday, 4th May, in Lincoln. For the time being they will not be laid up.

The 3rd East Anglian Regiment's Colours remain for the time being with the 3rd Battalion until such time as the Trustees decide their future.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment's Colours will be laid up in Leicester Cathedral during the Royal Tigers Regimental week-end, 20th-22nd June, 1975.

Details of these ceremonies will be sent out from the Regimental Headquarters concerned.

## On Regimental Functions

4th and 5th JULY

Friday, 4th July—Golf Annual Summer Meeting at Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club.

Saturday, 5th July—Cricket versus Gentlemen of Suffolk at Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn.

Golf Match versus Flempton GC at Flempton.

Officers' Cocktail Party and Buffet Supper, Officers' Mess, Depot The Queen's Division.

The usual notices will be despatched in due course.

### OLD COMRADES

Saturday, 12th July—The Depot, The Queen's Division Open Day. A Regimental Tent with drinks and refreshments available. All members of the Association and Branches welcome. Details from your nearest RHQ.

## On Imposed Cuts and Castle '76

Sub-editors and contributors to 'Castle' must please accept the apologies of the Editor for the considerable cutting of script in this edition, in particular to those contributors whose offerings have not been included at all. This has been essential due to scarcity of advertising revenue and continuing increases in printing costs.

The Regimental Council has decided that for 1976 'Castle' is to become largely a pictorial record of the year's activities with only the highlights recorded in print. A monthly Regimental Newsletter is now published for distribution to serving units and recruiting organisations and battalions are now producing very good 'newspapers' which we hope they will maintain.

# Pompadours

The days of a quiet life in Germany with the exercise season followed by a return to winter quarters are now firmly a thing of the past. A list of places visited by Pompadours this year only confirms this: Canada, Holland, Denmark, France, Salamanca in Spain and Blenheim in Southern Germany were unusual; Haltern, Soltau, Munsterlager, Putlos, Berlin, The Harz Mountains and the ski slopes of Southern Germany were not unusual but kept Pompadours away from Paderborn.

October 1973 was spent training in Germany for our primary role. On exercise 'Forefront' we practised combat team and battle group tactics with the Life Guards and the 9/12 Royal Lancers in particular and BAOR in general. The month closed with classification at Sennelager and a very successful Battalion Rifle meeting convincingly won by 'C' Company commanded by Major Peter Williamson.

In November Denmark had the honour of a visit from the Pompadours. Exercise 'Absolon Express' included the Battalion acting as enemy for NATO's ACE Mobile Force, which includes soldiers from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, USA, Holland, Denmark and UK. At the end of the exercise the whole Battalion moved into a Danish Camp just north of Copenhagen and spent two days enjoying the freedom and sights of that city. (In some cases too literally.)

December passed in the usual round of Company and Mess parties culminating in the Pompadour Review followed by an All Ranks Disco. This event was largely the work of Major Peter Alderton, whose antics in drag became a feature of Pompadour life at this time. Unfortunately all photographs have been censored as unsuitable for a family magazine.

In spite of what I said earlier, January and February were winter quarter months waiting for the snow that never came. For those who were unable to go skiing in Southern Germany there was never a shortage of things to do. Preparations for the Fitness for Roll inspection and the Periodic REME Examination kept everybody busy. Hard work and Pompadour enthusiasm were rewarded by excellent reports and ensured that the Battalion was handed

over from Lt. Col. Jonathan Hall-Tipping to Lt. Col. Michael Aris in good order.

March this year heralded an early spring, for us in any case. Early in the month all companies spent a week at Haltern shaking off the cobwebs with some strenuous section and platoon training. At the end of the month the Battalion went to Soltau to revise its mechanized minds, with assistance from the 9/12 Royal Lancers. The month ended at Soltau with a battle group exercise, the theme of which was 'Redland and Blueland are at it again'.

In April parties of Pompadours disappeared off on adventurous training and interest trips. Weekend trips to the beauty spots of Germany,



The Director of Infantry, Major General House (in fancy dress), accompanied by the Commanding Officer, speaking to L/Cpl. Carr (left) and Pte. Atkins of Command Company during his visit to Sennelager in May.

The Harz Mountains and the Mohne See were all much enjoyed by those who canoed, climbed, walked or simply sat in the sun. Visits were also made to Berlin, Hamburg and Amsterdam to give soldiers a chance to see the cities and of course sample the night life.

Back to training in May. The skill at arms camp had just started when the Pompadours were placed at notice to go to Northern Ireland. So back to Alanbrooke Barracks and two weeks hard IS training. Everybody worked hard and a high standard was reached in a surprisingly short time. Many Pompadours expressed disgust at being stood down. The fighting spirit is never dead in the 3rd Battalion.

After the stand down was announced June faded away in a haze of driving and signals cadres. 'A' Company preparing for Canada, the Anti-Tank Platoon preparing for Putlos and 'B' Company assisting anybody who wanted help. 'C' Company wisely left on block leave. Saturday, 15th June, was a busy day for the Battalion when we threw open the gates of Alanbrooke Barracks to over 2,000 Paderborners.

The occasion was a Battalion Open Day and Fete at which the chief guests were many of the local government officials led by Herr Henke, the Oberkreisdirektor of Paderborn. Brigadier M. R. Johnston, Commander 20 Armoured Brigade, and Mrs. Johnston, were also present.

The high part of June from the military point of view was the Partnership Parade held at Detmold on 22nd June. The partners were 20 Armoured Brigade of which we are part and Panzerbrigade 21 of the Bundeswehr. A full report of this parade is included elsewhere.

Salamanca Day on 22nd July was recognised in two ways this year. First the Officers' Mess scored a resounding 27 home runs to 16 victory over the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at softball. In addition to that momentous event a group of eight members of Support Company led (?) by Major Martin Franks visited the Salamanca battlefield in Spain. They had an eventful trip as their report shows.

Finally at the end of a very full month 'C' Company departed for France. Their interesting story is also included elsewhere in this issue.

August for the families started off with a bang, quite literally. Support Company ran a families Range Day at Sennelager. It was unfortunate that it rained, but the day was organized by Major Franks and Captain Colin Ladley and we all know who the sun shines on.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess also had something to shout about at the start of the month. The Edmonton Strutters Drum Corps, a group of 100 girls and boys aged between 12 and 19 were living on the top floor of the Mess. This group were on a European tour from Canada. Their rehearsals of baton twirling, flag waving and music on the square had the soldiers leaning out of their windows and the RSM twitching in his office. On the night the advance party was waiting to go to Canada ten of the girls presented a cabaret in the Officers' Mess. The attached officers who were staying the night were most impressed with our efforts to give them the feel of Canada before they had even got on a plane.

Lt. Ian Palmer took a party from 'B' Company to the scene of the Battle of Blenheim so that they were there on 13th August. Their trip was less eventful than the Salamanca party but was enjoyed nonetheless.

Just as 'C' Company returned from their adventures in La Courtine the main body was ready to move to Canada. Unfortunately the trouble in Cyprus meant that no planes were available to fly them out. Since even Pompadours can't swim that far, they had to wait. They eventually left about ten days late and caught up with the Advance Party who had been sunning themselves on the outskirts of Medicine Hat. The Suffield Story is included later.

'B' Company did some adventurous training in the Harz Mountains during September while 'A' Company were in Canada.

The majority of the Canada party had returned by the 16th, leaving a large Rear Party behind to do adventurous training under Lt. Jason Smith, and on the 16th The Management left to recce Londonderry. By the time they returned from Ulster the remainder of the Battalion had started their block leave.

Since we returned from block leave we have been training hard for both Northern Ireland and our own Colours Parade on 2nd November. It will be, we think, the first Mechanised Trooping in the history of the Infantry and is to show the new Regimental Colour to the Pompadours. Major General M. W. Holme, our Deputy Colonel, is to take the salute as part of a five day visit to the Battalion. The day after he leaves we are expecting the Lord Mayor of Leicester for a three-day visit. We then depart for the Emerald Isle. But more of that next year.

# 'GALLIC VENTURE'

From the 25th July to the 15th August 'C' Company forsook the remainder of the Battalion and carried out their own exercise in France—Exercise Gallic Venture V.

The majority of the Company flew down on 30th July in a rather ancient Britannia to Vichy in central France. There they were met by the road party who had preceded them by leaving Paderborn on 25th July.

The convoy reached La Courtine after a 700 kilometres drive at 1130 hrs. and were met by a most hospitable French reception committee. 'C' Company then had its first, but not last, taste of French Army 'issue wine' with its all-in stew.

The road party then enjoyed four days of blazing sunshine whilst it took over the accommodation and the Company and Platoon Commanders did their recces with temperatures in the 90s; the change from Paderborn was very apparent. The camp was a large one on the edge of a training area about the size of Senelager. The region was very hilly, mainly wooded and most pleasant. The whole area was ideal for the patrolling which we had come down to do. The French Camp Authorities were most helpful and even put a full time interpreter, clerk, Staff car and driver at the disposal of Major Julian Browne, the Company Commander. The Company had its own living accommodation and cook house and was administratively independent.

The Company consisted of 'C' Company complete, a section of the Mortar Platoon, a section of the Anti Tank Platoon and a section from 'B' Company plus the normal administrative element of cooks and drivers. It was split into three platoons with two patrolling and one adventure training at any one time.

At the same time Lieutenant Roland Thompson established a Platoon base camp at Le Mont Dore, some 45 miles south east of La Courtine, in a well known French holiday resort area. Each platoon stayed there for three days Adventure training. The instruction was provided by Lt. Thompson and two French Gendarmes from their mountain platoon with Corporal Bill Billimore lending a hand on the canoeing and abseiling. Each soldier did a day climbing and abseiling, a day canoeing and a day fell walking. Apart from one very stormy

day and night, the weather was perfect. The scenery was beautiful with jagged mountain peaks rising to 6,000 feet. The view from the top was superb as the great majority of the company will vouch, even if the blood was pounding in the temples a bit when you got up there. The canoeing took place at a holiday campsite on the Dordogne River and a 'death slide' was built, much to the amusement of all the French holidaymakers who spent all day watching the mad 'Anglais' fall off a rope into the water.

The fell walk took place over the mountains surrounding the holiday town of Mont Dore. It was over a distance of twenty kilometres with seven peaks to climb or traverse. The weather was not too good for 9 Platoon, who had two exposure cases. However, prompt action by the safety team and their safety equipment saw them down to the floor of the valley without incident and both were able to continue training the next day without any ill effects. The fastest time was recorded by Cpl. Ian McCrea and his team in 8½ hours, a very fast time. On the final day Lt. Thompson made all the holiday makers gasp with a Commando run down a 150 ft. sheer drop at Roc de Sanadoire where we said goodbye to the French Gendarmes of the Mountain Platoon who had done us so well over the previous nine days. The camp at the Ferme De L'Angle was struck by the CQMS and his crew and we all moved back to La Courtine for the final exercise. However, before this was done the Company Commander and Lt. Thompson were the subject of a strenuous course in French hospitality as they made their goodbyes to all the Frenchmen that had helped us during our stay at Le Mont Dore, including drinking a bottle of 'reserve du Patrau' at La Ferme de L'Angle with the farmer in ten minutes flat. It was only with difficulty that we persuaded him that we really did not have time for another bottle.

Whilst back at La Courtine the Company held an Orienteering Competition over the training area. It was a day with superb weather in the 90s again and all the teams got very thirsty. Cpl. Stark did a record trade in his canteen, set up in the middle of the area. The competition was won by Pte. Pat Hatchelt, Pte. Colin Langridge and Pte. Patrick Settersfield.

On the 1st August the Commanding Officer arrived by train from Germany and spent a day at the mountain camp and a day at La Courtine.

Whilst the rest of the Company did the final exercise Lt. Thompson, with the ten winners of the patrol competition, did a canoe trek down

the Dordogne River for two and a half days. On the first night they camped outside a village, and with two bottles of wine apiece they proceeded to celebrate Cpl. Alec Mitchell's 21st (?) birthday. Again the weather held good and great fun was had by everyone. (They enjoyed the canoeing too.)

The final exercise took the form of a two-day patrol exercise with 'C' Company in groups of 8-10 men patrolling to a distance of 16 kms. against the combined detachments from 'B', Sp and Admin Companies. The Company did its night attack with all patrols arriving at the RV at the right time and patrolled back out again to the start point—all of us except Lt. Mike Telfer and the CQMS, who were ambushed early on the second day and persuaded to stay on with the enemy.

### **SALAMANCA BATTLEFIELD VISIT**

In July eight men from the Battalion went on a trip to Spain, the purpose of which was to visit the battlefield of Salamanca. The 2nd/44th Foot, one of the Pompadours forebears, were among the Duke of Wellington's forces which defeated the French under Marshal Marmont on 22nd July, 1812. It was at this battle that Lt. Pearce of the 44th captured the Eagle of the French 62nd Regiment. Although the Eagle was presented to the Iron Duke, it now rests in the Regimental Chapel at Warley in Essex, still with Lt. Pearce's name scratched on the bottom.

The party left Paderborn on 17th July and after four days' journey through Belgium, France and Spain, arrived at Salamanca in time to walk around the battlefield on the 22nd. They were able to locate almost the exact spot of the Eagle's capture, using regimental history and maps.

The return journey was difficult due to trouble with the minibus, but the party arrived safely back in Paderborn having covered 2,486 miles and rediscovered an important part of our regimental history.

### **BLenheim BATTLEFIELD**

On 10th August a party from 'B' Company departed from Paderborn to celebrate the Battle of Blenheim in situ on the 13th August, two hundred and seventy years after the actual event. This expedition followed closely in the wake of Support Company's trek to Salamanca.

The 16th Foot (Bedfordshire Regiment) fought with Marlborough's army at Blenheim

in 1704 and distinguished themselves in the battle for which they were awarded the battle honour.

The route to Blenheim was largely that followed by Marlborough and it provided a good insight into the deception plans which he carried out, particularly whilst crossing the front of the French army near Heidelberg. The party stopped at Heidelberg for two nights and this provided ample opportunities for sight seeing around this beautiful old city.

On Blenheim Day the party visited the battlefield. This was most interesting. We found no plaque to commemorate one of the greatest European battles—perhaps because the 'home team' were defeated (Bavaria). Surprisingly, many of the tracks and streams were still in the same place, although the course of the Danube had been somewhat altered by canalisation. The few people of Blenheim (Blenheim) we actually saw were quite friendly and helpful. There was some amusement at the Post Office where the staff had to be 'encouraged' to open up at 1130 hrs. to enable us to send greetings telegrams to Gen. Sir Ian Freeland, Maj. Gen. Holme and Maj. Tewkesbury. Nevertheless, this difficulty was overcome and the remainder of the day went well. The villages of Oberglau and Unterglau were visited as well as many of the bridges and localities where Marlborough and Eugene's forces actually crossed the Nebel. There was a great deal of dead ground, which we could not appreciate from the map, that the allied army was able to use to its advantage, the French and Bavarians having largely failed to cover the obstacles and the dead ground.

Much more could be understood about the battle by actually looking at the ground in detail. It was an interesting experience to stand on a battlefield on a warm peaceful summer's day and compare the scene with that which had existed so long ago, when two armies were locked in combat. We realised the tremendous skill that must have been required to command battles in the 18th century as well as the arduous life one's predecessors lived whilst serving their country.

### **PLATOON CONCENTRATION**

The Mortar Platoon have had a very successful year. The climax took place in April when we, along with three Mortar Platoons of 2nd Division, attended a Mortar concentration in Munsterlager.

The platoon arrived at Trauen Camp on Saturday, 6th April, with seven 432s, one 434 from



LAD and three Landrovers provided by the Recce Platoon.

The first week of the concentration consisted of six separate Part II Shoots, two for each section. We started with an advance to contact which involved a quick neutralisation of an enemy position, and later, supporting a combat team in quick attack.

On the following Tuesday we continued dry training with all eyes on our ultimate test—'The Part III Shoot'. This was to take place on the Thursday and was to consist of an advance to contact, supporting a Battle Group in attack, mobile defence, and withdrawal. The exercise was broken into two main parts. The advance to contact and attack were to take place in the morning with mobile defence and withdrawal following a 'Non-Tactical' lunch.

Thursday morning arrived, men, weapons and vehicles were ready, or so we thought, but mechanical monsters being what they are, 52D refused to start. Not to be deterred, Sunray Captain Peter Dixon had the answer. 'Tow the bloody thing.' Lo and behold half way through the day 52D was going all by itself.

The concentration wasn't just hard work. There were a few nights when we lubricated the tubes and it gave us a chance to meet and exchange ideas with other Mortar platoons. All in all the concentration was the most enjoyable part of the year for the platoon.

Our thanks to the SASC for their guidance and expert help throughout and to the Poachers for the excellent administration during the whole period.

## Mechanised Parade

### Warning Order

A mechanised parade! 'What's that?' asked the Adjutant, idly thumbing through the Drill Manual. The RSM scratched his head. The Commanding Officer retired to his office; pleased that once again the Pompadours would be leading the way, pleased that the Adjutant and the RSM had a problem, and pleased most of all that Major General Michael Holme would see the 3rd Battalion in a modern exciting parade as a fitting climax to his visit to Paderborn during November 1974.

### Preparation and Planning

The preparations began. The RSM went into hibernation, he returned some weeks later with a satisfied look on his face, and a document entitled 'Forms of Parade' in his hand. APCs were groomed, soldiers were drilled, combat suits were changed, boots were polished, and Company Commanders went grey.

Then the rehearsals; hatches open, or hatches closed; dress by the left or dress by the right; advance in review order—800 rpm or 2000 rpm; khaki berets or blue berets; earphones on or earphones off. Officers will remove earphones—Remove! . . .

Rehearsals at 0745 hours in the morning,



**Maj. Gen. M. W. Holme  
inspects the Battalion.**

grey skies, rain and a biting wind. Will it ever be right?

The parade slowly took shape, the Colour Parties drill improved, the hatches were removed altogether, the radios worked and the APCs gleamed. Finally the dress rehearsal—all went well—success!

### The Parade

You are invited to attend a Ceremonial Parade to receive the new Regimental Colour into the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. In response to this invitation some 600 people arrived at Alanbrooke Barracks at 11 o'clock on Saturday, 2nd November.

The outlook was fair, umbrellas were carried, and floppy hats were the order of the day. As the clock on Paderborn Town Hall struck the quarter the first of the 36 APCs rolled slowly onto the square led by the Commanding Officer in his Ferret Scout Car. The vehicles halted, and soldiers, resplendent in combat kit, debussed from their vehicles against a backdrop of Stalwarts and 4-ton vehicles.

Major General Michael Holme inspected the parade appropriately from the back of a Land Rover. A moving moment as the old Colour was marched off and the new Colour marched on, the Colour Parties in No. 2 Dress contrasting well with the mechanised efficiency of the main body of the parade. A drive past in slow time, led by the Commanding Officer, with Major General Michael Holme taking the salute concluded the parade.

## MAYOR OF LEICESTER VISITS

It is always pleasant to be visited by friends, particularly so when such visits demonstrate the very close links that exist between the battalion and the counties in which many of us grew up and still live. It was fitting, therefore, that the visit to the battalion of the Lord Mayor of Leicester should re-emphasise these ties especially as we were soon to move once again to Northern Ireland, separated from our families both in Germany and England.

The Lord Mayor, Mrs. Irene Pollard, was accompanied during her four day visit to Paderborn by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Susan Cuffin, her daughter.

We had a great deal to show our visitors and the four day visit was necessarily very busy. It is difficult to simulate the environment and tension of Northern Ireland in the comparative quiet of Paderborn, nevertheless Mrs. Pollard was able to see companies firing on the very sophisticated and realistic Urban Close-Quarter Battle Range and using the Falls Road mock up of Tin City. Burning vehicles, simulated wounds and wives hurling abuse and stones at their husbands all helped the conditioning process for our four month tour.

The Lord Mayor also took the opportunity of firing the GPMG and driving our APCs and Ferret Scout Cars.



The Regimental Colour is trooped. For most Poms this is the first time they have seen the Colour.

**Sgt. Heath, 'C' Company, showing Mrs. Pollard the workings of the GPMG (SF).**



As Mrs. Pollard spends much of her civic life in the field of education, a visit was arranged to the brand new John Buchan Middle School at Sennelager. She also met some of the battalion playgroup helpers.

Having watched us at work we also entertained Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Cufflin in both the officers' and sergeants' messes and arranged visits to married quarters. Throughout the visit the Lord Mayor met many ex-Tigers and their families and took coffee with the wives' club. The four days went quickly and we hope that before long our Leicester friends will be visiting us again.

# CANADA

## **Training in Canada**

Suffield is a village on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) control 1,000 square miles of prairie given over to use as a training area for British Army Battle Groups (BGs) and, part of it, as an experimental area for the Canadian Armed Forces. HQ BATUS occupy a small camp at the south west corner of the area while the BGs are accommodated in Camp Crowfoot nearby.

BATUS began its first training season in 1972 and was set up to provide realistic training for BGs from UK and BAOR. Nowhere else in the world can the British Army train in the same way, with tanks, artillery and infantry all using live ammunition. Admittedly all the targets are stationary (volunteers were not forthcoming in spite of a publicity campaign in the Alberta press), but tank hulks and figure targets are used to represent enemy positions, as realistically as possible. On some exercises cans of oil and petrol are used in some tank targets in order to simulate a 'brew up' when hit.

The BG Advance Party left on 7th August, after a memorable send off by the Edmonton Strutters and the Main Body was expected between 17th and 19th August but the Cyprus troubles intervened. However, there was plenty for the advance party to do (that's our story) as the equipment and vehicles get much hard usage, non-stop through each training season, and much maintenance was needed. Nevertheless we did have a little time off for a trip to the 'bad lands' (not cowboys, etc., but an area of poor land eroded by melted ice at the end of the last Ice Age). This is now a park about two hours drive from Suffield known as the Dinosaur Park. Erosion over the centuries has revealed interesting skeletons, hence the name. Some of us were able to see a musical ride by



**Brigadier Johnston (in black beret) talks to members of 'A' Company during his short stay in Canada.**

the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the town of Medicine Hat as part of 'The Mounties' centenary celebrations.

The BG consisting of 'A' Company and Battalion Headquarters of the Pompadours, 'A' and 'B' Squadrons of the 9/12 Lancers, 'O' Battery 2 Field Regiment RA, and 'S' Troop from 2 Armoured Engineer Squadron arrived nearly a week late, which meant that there was very little time before we had to begin exercising on the training area.

The vehicle commanders realised how difficult map reading and navigation were going to be during the first four days which were spent on special to army training. This gave an opportunity for 'A' Company to get to know the safety staff with whom they were to work for the next few weeks. Amongst these was Captain Rob Jackson, who had been loaned by The Poachers. The special to arms training ended with a short combat team exercise.

After a maintenance day another exercise

**Sgt. Speakman of 'A' Company working hard in Canada.**



**Brigadier Johnston, the Commander of 20 Armoured Brigade, talks to Lt. Smith, while Lt. Col. Aris, Maj. Woodrow and Maj. Thoroughgood wonder where his shirt went.**



took place. This involved a withdrawal and a reserved demolition guard, an advance to contact and mobile defence. Everyone had an opportunity to fire their weapons in realistic conditions and many soldiers saw for the first time such weapons as the 81 mm mortar, the Wombat and the 105 mm Abbot firing, many at very close ranges indeed.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the exercise was the defence night firing phase in which the whole battle group fired from prepared positions at an enemy skilfully drawn into two killing zones! When the killing zones were lit up by illuminants from the 81 mm mortar and Abbot the tanks and infantry systematically took out large numbers of targets in an excellent display of night shooting which will be remembered for a long time by all who took part.

The last phase of the exercise involved an advance to contact over the most hilly part of the training area. It started with a night attack on Grizzly Hill by 'A' Company which was followed by a day of combat team and battle group attacks. The conditions were very testing as the temperature was high in the 80s and large parts of the training area were set on fire by the live rounds. The advance continued with a battle group attack on Watching Hill. The whole battle group crossed a minefield at dawn and then proceeded to attack the hill in three phases. 'A' Company soon had to dismount

from their vehicles and resort to their best infantry tactics in order to dislodge the enemy. After about an hour and a half the hill was captured and the advance continued.

This last phase of the exercise was concluded without the presence of either squadron commander or Major Kerry Woodrow of 'A' Company. All three leaders had to return to UK early and leave their respective 2ICs in command. Captain Peter Dixon took charge of 'Combat A' and pushed ahead with all the flair that had characterised 'A' Company's performance in Exercise 'Pacifist'.

Once the exercise had been completed everyone had the opportunity to visit parts of Canada and America. Trips were organised to Montana and the Rockies and a rugby match was played against a local club. Unfortunately this was lost—the high altitude being blamed for their defeat.

So, having handed over to the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, the battle group flew from Calgary back to BAOR. A party of about eighty soldiers, led by Lt. Jason Smith, was left behind for two very pleasant weeks spent adventurous training; mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing and trekking, in the Canadian Rockies.

The visit to BATUS was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part. Few had ever been on such a vast training area with few restrictions on movement and everyone had an opportunity to see a battle group firing all its weapons

# MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

## Honours and Awards

1974

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant A. J. Underwood on the award of the Military Medal for gallantry in Northern Ireland with the 2nd Battalion.

Congratulations to Lieut. Colonel Michael Thorne on the award of the OBE for service whilst commanding the 2nd Battalion in Londonderry.

Also to Lieut. Colonel W. G. Wallace, TD—the OBE announced in the Birthday Honours List June 1974.

Also to the following, awarded the MBE:

Lt. Col. P. J. Sincock  
Major W. T. Dodd  
Major R. J. M. Drummond  
Capt. M. J. Menage  
WO.I G. E. Veitch.

1975

In the New Years Honours List the British Empire Medal was awarded to:

WO.II R. Evans, MM  
Sgt. B. Butterfield (retired)  
Sgt. B. A. Graham.

Congratulations.

The following were Mentioned in Despatches from Northern Ireland:

Capt. A. E. Thompson, MBE, MC  
Lt. A. Behagg  
Sgt. G. W. Wright.

\* \* \*

Lieutenant General Sir Reginald Denning has been appointed a Knight Commander of The Royal Victorian Order. On 12th June, 1974, he retired from the chairmanship of SSAFA. A message of good luck and thanks was passed to him from all ranks and is recor-

ded in the annual report of The Regimental Association (page 69).

\* \* \*

HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and HRH The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, have honoured the Regiment by including in their special relationships with our Battalions the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion in the case of the former, and the 5th and 7th (Volunteer) Battalions in the case of the latter.

\* \* \*

### Commands 1975

Congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Dick Gerrard-Wright on being appointed to command 39 Infantry Brigade (the hot seat in Belfast) in July.

And to Major Charles Barnes to command the 2nd Battalion in September, and Lt. Col. John Tadman the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion in May.

Also to Lt. Col. Peter Gill to command 7 UDR in April and Major John Higgs the 2nd Battalion The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment in June.

\* \* \*

Lt. Col. W. G. Wallace has been appointed TAVR Colonel Eastern District (North) later this year.

\* \* \*

Captains Paul Garman and Mike Kinson have been granted regular QM Commissions from April 1st, 1975.

\* \* \*

The following have been selected to promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1975: Majors F. R. Fleming, A. J. B. Pollard, W. T. Dodd, J. C. D. Higgs.

\* \* \*

In addition to his many regimental visits General Freeland spoke to the VI Form at Haileybury in February last year, presented an inscribed Royal Anglian Drummer print to the Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds on 26th March to mark the occasion of the change in status of the borough in the regional reorganisations, and watched Leicester City play Derby County at Leicester on 16th March, a match sponsored by the Regiment to encourage recruiting.



**Junior Sergeant Brian Hillier receives the Queens Division prize on passing out from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe.**

Major General Jack Dye retired in June 1974. He has succeeded Major General Bob Turner-Cain as Deputy Colonel for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

\* \* \*

Colonel Dick Flower, formerly CO 4 R. Norfolk TA, has succeeded Brigadier Peter Barclay as Deputy Honorary Colonel TAVR for Norfolk.

Colonel Peter Franklin, formerly Essex Regiment, has succeeded Colonel Sir Arthur Noble as Deputy Honorary Colonel TAVR for Essex.

\* \* \*

Major General Tim Creasey has been appointed to be Director of Infantry in June 1975. We should now expect a good crack of the whip in more senses than one!

\* \* \*

Lieutenant General Sir James Wilson succeeded Maj. General Jack Dye as Colonel Commandant The Queen's Division in May 1974. Originally Rifle Brigade, he commanded the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers in 1962 and is now GOC South East District at Aldershot.

Lieutenant General Sir George Lea has succeeded Lt. General Sir Kenneth Darling as Colonel, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

\* \* \*

Colonel P. W. Raywood, TD, formerly CO of 6(V) Battalion, was appointed TAVR Colonel (South) Eastern District on 1st April, 1974.

Lt. Col. T. C. B. Swayne, TD, took over command of 6(V) Battalion on 6th October, 1973. Formerly OC 'C' (Essex) Company, Tim joined the 4th/5th Essex Battalion as a TA Officer in March 1960.

\* \* \*

Major Michael Barthorp has recently published a book 'Crimea Uniforms—British Infantry'. It is of particular interest to those military historians who served in the 9th, 17th and 44th Regiments of Foot.

Published by The Historical Research Unit with drawings by the author—cost £6.



**Pte. Tony Gough, who won both the Giant and Open Slalom Individual Novices event in the BAOR ski meeting. Another notable Pompadour achievement.**



## TWO STALWARTS OF ESSEX

Heartiest congratulations to two gentlemen of Essex, Colonel Ernest Loftus and Major Henry Young, both of whom reached the age of ninety during 1974.

Colonel E. A. Loftus, OBE, TD, DL, commenced his association with the Essex Regiment in 1908 when he joined the 6th Territorial Battalion which was the successor to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment.

Major H. J. Young, TD, began his association at an even earlier date, in 1902, when he joined the 1st Volunteer Battalion.

Both officers were present at the October service in the Regimental Chapel, Warley, each reading a lesson. Colonel Loftus also attended the Officers' Club Dinner in London.

As our pictures show, both are in excellent shape.



Colonel E. A. Loftus.

Captain Colin Groves succeeded Lt. Col. Michael Aris as our representative at RMA Sandhurst.

Lt. Col. Roy Jackson's late batman, Mr. Dunston now manages The Railway Inn, Wisbech. Ex-C/Sgt. J. Mixer welcomes all-comers to The Station Hotel, Woodbridge.



Major H. J. Young.

Lt. Tim Power and 2Lt. Peter Holme have transferred from Short Service to Regular Commissions.

\* \* \*

Sgt. J. Moger represented the Army in the gymnastics team and came third in the 1st grade competition.

\* \* \*

### Richard Stone

Born in Colchester, Essex, in June 1951, Richard Stone is the youngest Royal Portrait Painter since Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830), who painted Queen Charlotte in 1790.

Stone's education included only minimal art training. But an accidental meeting with Sir Gerald Kelly, KCVO, PPRA, brought considerable encouragement for his talents; this guidance continued until Sir Gerald's death in 1972.

Prior to the Royal Commission, Richard Stone's other sitters have included Sir Arthur Bliss (Master of the Queen's Musick), Sir Adrian Boult and Mr. Yehudi Menuhin.



Cpl. Micky Dowland has continued to make his mark in the amateur boxing world. Though he only entered the Army Championships once, in 1970, when he was Army bantam weight champion, he has continuously represented the Army since then originally at bantam weight and now at light welter. This year he has been boxing for Ibbenburen, a local German club, in order to be eligible for the West German championships. The best of luck to him in his European boxing debut.

\* \* \*

Pte. Taylor, the 2nd Battalion's most successful athlete and reigning BAOR 400 metre champion, has been awarded the Cotterell Challenge Cup as the Army's most outstanding athlete in track events for 1974.

\* \* \*

Sgt. J. A. McKenzie retired on August 12th, 1974, after 33 years' service. He signed on in 1941 with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and served in Ireland and Burma until transferring to the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in October 1948. A real character, well known and liked in the Battalion. He was given a fitting farewell by the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess in the form of 'This is your life', with WO.II Maher in the role of Eamon Andrews. We hear that he has settled down well in Brum and wish him all the best for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

The following have been commissioned since the last issue of CASTLE:

Regular: 2nd Lts. C. J. Pearce, M. P. Godkin, K. W. Gibson, F. R. Antolik, R. M. Smyth-Piggott, S. J. Bacon, M. A. Weller.

Short Service: 2nd Lt. T. R. Wilkes.

University Cadetship: 2nd Lts. C. T. Page, R. M. Brunt, D. J. Clements, G. R. Brown.

RSM J. J. Buffine (1st Battalion) has been appointed to a Short Service Commission and is now serving with the 2nd Battalion.

The following officers have retired in the past year:

Brigadier J. A. C. Cowan.

Lt. Cols. Robertson, A. J., and Garnett.

Major Salazar, Sibley, Bacon, Hutchings, Calder, W. J., Russell, Hancock, Seton-Browne, Wilson, R. G.

Captains Voy, Battye, Whitehead (SSC).

Captain I. L. Pearce has transferred to the ACC. 2nd Lt. M. D. Willdridge (SSC) has been granted a Regular Commission. He went out for a short spell but couldn't stand it in civilian life—sensible chap.



Lt. Tony Domeison. Winner of the ARA trophies, Roupell, Old Contemptibles, Queen Mary, Army VIII, SW District and Northern Ireland champion.



**Lt. Col. Billy Wallace bids farewell to Major Alistair Haywood, LDY Sqn., after 3½ years in command.**

Lt. Col. Bill Dawson has succeeded Lt. Col. Bill Wallace in command of the 7th (Volunteer) Battalion. Col. Wallace is appointed TAVR Colonel.

\* \* \*

Major John Tysack, now residing in Northern Ireland, welcomes Royal Anglians to his home at any time. He is Industrial Relations Officer with Gallachers Ltd. For further details apply to RHQ.

Old 10th Foot and 2nd East Anglian men will be sad to hear of the death of one of our old regimental characters, Cpl. 'Pop' Rowlands, who retired after thirty-three years' service in October 1973 and died peacefully in his sleep on April 9th, 1974. His widow lives at Bury St. Edmunds and in close touch with Regimental Headquarters.

**Pte. Kinloch shown with his parents and sister. He achieved fame in Minden Platoon by being the first Depot Recruit to achieve Marksman with the SLR on 'Shoot to kill'.**



C/Sgt. Taylor samples his own tea whilst L/Cpl. Bates and Sgt. Macdonald await the verdict.



# TIGER COMPANY

Tiger Company has now been reformed as an operational company for just over a year. It has been a fairly busy year during which we have been away from home for a lot of the time and three different Commanding Officers have passed through our ranks. At the time that the last **CASTLE** was published Major John Bacon was just handing over command to Major Anthony Swallow.

It is with great regret that we have now to report that the Company is to disband on 1st July this year. A **STOP PRESS NOTICE** appears on page 12 and is repeated on page 30. The story of Tiger Company over the past twelve months is recorded here written in the shadow of disbandment bravely disguised in the last paragraph 'after that who knows what the future holds'.

## Northern Ireland

We were busy training for Northern Ireland during the first two months of 1974. At the beginning of March we moved to Northern Ireland officially as part of 7 Para RHA Group

but in fact to go to Portadown under operational command of 3 RRF who were in Armagh. Life in Portadown was quiet but fairly full as we had quite a slice of countryside to look after. We knew that this would be a short lived stay in Portadown as the camp was being rapidly expanded around us to accommodate a Battalion headquarters and its associated elements as well as a rifle company. So it was at the beginning of May that the Green Howards arrived in Portadown and we moved to the Worcester Valve Factory just outside Armagh. We had had few significant incidents in Portadown: four small bombs, a few incendiary attacks and a couple of small finds.

On moving to Armagh we came under command of The Life Guards and were promptly given a large slice of border to look after for two weeks until a Life Guards Squadron arrived to take over from us. To help us look after the area we had four troops from Ajax Squadron 2 RTR under command and, from time to time, a platoon from 3 PARA. It was an interesting two weeks in an area which included the town of Keady where the police



**'They went thataway!' Major Swallow explains to some Life Guards.**

station had been badly damaged by a car bomb earlier in the year and had also been subjected to a well organised machine gun attack.

The only incident that happened in the area whilst we were there was a booby trap explosion which killed a bullock at the side of a border road. As a result of the incident we carried out an operation to clear the area. Nothing further was found, however, and we returned to camp empty handed.

Our next move was to Aughnacloy, another border area, on the tip of the Monaghan salient. We were scheduled to stay there for three weeks but were withdrawn to the Worcester Valve Factory after four days in order become Brigade Reserve in view of the worsening political situation caused by the Ulster Workers Council strike. This led to a few fairly hectic days operating in the Portadown area, but the trouble died down again fairly quickly. It was felt however that the situation remained volatile, so we remained in Brigade Reserve for the rest of our tour. This left a feeling of anticlimax at the end of the tour as no trouble had materialised for the company as a whole to deal with. However, the platoons were quite frequently lent to other companies to assist in specific operations. Throughout our Ulster tour we had had a platoon detached under command another company in Dungannon. Whilst they saw more action than the rest of us, it did mean that we never operated as a company with all our platoons under our own command,

except for one night when we were all in Lurgan for an operation. So at the beginning of July, thankfully having sustained no casualties as a result of hostile action we returned to England.

We took two weeks' leave, with the Colour Presentation in the middle of it, and then returned to Canterbury to prepare for a march through the City of Leicester. It had been arranged that we should exercise our right of Freedom of the City of Leicester on 25th July. Happily it was a fine day and the people of Leicester turned out in vast numbers to line our route and watch us march past. It was very heartening to see the genuine pleasure that the people of Leicester felt at seeing us marching through the streets. After the march the massed bands of the Regiment beat retreat in Victoria Park, and the City of Leicester provided an enormous meal for us. It was a most enjoyable and memorable day.

It was planned that next we would stand in for 10th Gurkha Rifles at Sandhurst for three weeks, so we took up this commitment at the end of July expecting it to be finished well before the end of August. However, the Cyprus situation flared up, 10th Gurkha Rifles were flown out there as reinforcements, and we were left at Sandhurst as Demonstration Company trying to muster enough men to fulfill Sandhurst's requirements. Major John Growse, having just taken over command of the company, found that he just had time to settle his family in Canterbury before we really started



Citizens of Leicester, as ever, turn out to support us.

in earnest. Since then he and the Company Sergeant Major have developed almost magical ways of conjuring up men out of nowhere to demonstrate the 'Platoon in Attack' (and other well-known scenarios!). It has proved to be an interesting three months, and but for the inconvenience of our families being at Canterbury, has been enjoyable. Happily 'A' Company, 1st Devon and Dorset took over from us at the end of October for a while, which at least meant that we could spend some time with our families. This will only be until the New Year when we are due to return to Sandhurst for another spell of duty, and our hopes of an exercise in Bermuda were cancelled. After that who knows what the future holds?

#### Postscript

It is fitting here that CASTLE should record the message sent by General Sir Peter Hunt, Chief of the General Staff, to the Colonel of the Regiment which so completely sums up the feelings of all Royal Anglian soldiers.

'It is with deep regret that the Army Board has decided that Tiger Company 4 Royal Anglian is to disband. The Army Board has taken this decision in view of the overall manning situation only after very careful consideration and with great reluctance. Although the Company carried the nickname of the former Royal Leicestershire Regiment, I know that the splendid traditions of that Regiment and of the County of Leicestershire will not cease on the disbanding of Tiger Company, because they are well established in the three battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment. It is for good reason that the Royal Leicestershire Tiger is emblazoned on the button of the Regimental uniform.



'Since Tiger Company came into being on the reduction of the 4th Battalion in 1970 it has given outstanding service in Gibraltar, in Canterbury as a wing of the Junior Infantryman's Battalions, in an operational role in Northern Ireland and as demonstration company at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. These varied and challenging tasks have all been carried out in the finest traditions of your Regiment. The Company has served the Army well and those who have served in it can be justly proud of having done so. The Army Board is very grateful for the excellent work and wishes all members of Tiger Company every good fortune in the future.'

The Colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalion of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment will be laid up in Leicester Cathedral during the Royal Tigers Reunion on 20th-22nd June, 1975. Details will be sent to all old Tigers through the RHQ office in Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

# 1st BATTALION

## CYPRUS — — TIDWORTH NORTHERN IRELAND —

The opening lines of our 1974 CASTLE notes have a pleasantly reminiscent note; in case the last edition is not to hand they were '... from Northern Ireland to Cyprus with the emphasis on ... Londonderry ... we are already looking forward to the next move'. We certainly made that "next move" as planned but we then had another; in January, February, March, April and May we heard repeatedly that the 1st Battalion would assuredly *not* be going to Ireland in 1974 at all—so here (in October 1974) we are! It was June that we heard the good news, and in August that we moved; a case of "Montis Insignia Calpe" with a vengeance, but most of the battalion (except perhaps the most recently married members) have been pleased to exchange simulated war among the nettles and mud of Stanford PTA for the real thing in Ulster.

The battalion has now operated in three different roles within six months of this year—semi air portable hot-climate IS in Cyprus, fully air portable for the flanks of NATO specialising in Arctic warfare based in Tidworth as British battalion in the ACE Mobile Force, and counter insurgency in Portadown, Lurgan, Armagh and Dungannon. It is fortunate that the four month emergency tour in Ireland has come when it did. We were bound to go sooner or later during our AMF(L) four year tour; on balance it is preferable to go early in our AMF role in late 1974 and get Ulster behind us, rather than have the commitment hovering over us into 1975 or 76 and probably disrupting our NATO exercises in Norway, Denmark, Greece and Turkey.

1974 started on a high note with the visit by our Deputy Colonel in Chief, HRH Princess

Margaret, on 24th January. On the previous day the Princess had caught a severe cold while visiting the then President Makarios in Nicosia, and was still indisposed half an hour before her visit was due to start. This caused a measure of suspense for the battalion hierarchy, but at the last moment all was well. Our Deputy Colonel in Chief arrived on the dot of eleven and carried through the complete day's programme despite cautionary forecasts that it might have to be cut short. The day was as cold as Cyprus can be in January (nearly freezing), but all the many activities and demonstrations went well, even the occasional unrehearsed items (known in N. Ireland Intelligence circles as "unscheduled incidents"). The Princess met all the officers and senior ranks and their wives at lunch time and a representative party of junior NCOs and soldiers and their wives at tea. The Princess was in excellent spirits and was delighted with the day with her Battalion.

In February, although we still had three months of our Cyprus tour to go, training started for our ACE Mobile Force Arctic role; an advance party of six officers and twenty NCOs joined the Royal Scots in Northern Norway for their first experience of Arctic Warfare, Exercise Hardfall. All apparently survived and are full of constructive ideas on how to do it better than the Jocks in '75. As well as sending the



Cpl. Michael Sedgwick shows off an Arctic-camouflaged GPMG at the Colour Presentation Parade AMF(L) Demonstration.



Hardfall party the main body of the battalion in Cyprus thinned out still more with the formation of the anti-tank guided weapons (Vigilant) Platoon; forty or so all ranks returned to England for aptitude selection and training on the missile. They were the second large pre-advance party, among a number of smaller preliminary ante pre advance parties which filtered away from the main body during March and April to prepare the ground in Tidworth.

The main events in March were our Skill at Arms meeting and the Troodos Walkabout. These were peaceful days in Cyprus, which must seem like a century ago to those still serving there! The skill at arms competition included a military skills competition and a 15 mile chain of command race. Both were won by Support Company, the skill at arms convincingly, and the chain of command race by a fairly narrow margin after OC 'B' Company had reduced OC Support Company's initial lead to almost a photo finish over the final mile.

The skill at arms meeting completed the series of inter-company competitions held over our two years in Cyprus, covering military skills, tactics, battle drills, administration and sports. 'B' Company were champion company overall, a good achievement after their first-equal place for 1973.

The Troodos Walkabout '74 provided our most valued sporting success of the year; the Battalion orienteering team captain has written the event up in a separate article and it is sufficient to say here that our teams came 1st,

2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th out of over 60 teams, a fine achievement by every single member and never equalled or even approached by any other major unit competing in the event.

April and May saw the advance party setting up Assaye Barracks in Tidworth, and the main body on disembarkation leave. When we re-assembled on 5th June there were five weeks to go before the Colour Presentation Parade, not a long time for parade preparation by any standards, although staff work by the parade planning cell had started in January. However, the short time available concentrated everyone's minds, and the rain on nearly every practice parade day ensured cool heads as well. All the drill and the enormous administrative work load carried out by the 1st Battalion on behalf of the rest of the Regiment came to fruition on 12th July with a most successful Royal and Regimental day.

After the parade we went straight into the training for Northern Ireland; the NITAT briefing week was rapidly followed by the two weeks concentrated battle shooting and tactical cycle at Hythe and Lydd in early August; three weeks after that we were deployed on operations.

On the personalities side, we say farewell to Colonel David and Anne, welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Bob Pike who assumed command shortly after the Battalion's return from Ireland (at the time of writing, we hope) on 18th December. Tony Swallow and Tony Pollard have also left us for Latimer; departure in Tony P's

**The Colonel of the Regiment having a drink with a few of the Corporals in their Club. Back row, l to r: Cpl. Pearce, PMC, L/Cpl. Thurlby, Cpl. Farmery, Cpl. Gruld. Front row: Cpl. Tubby and Cpl. Fowler.**



**The Colonel in Chief meets the 1st Battalion Quartermaster, Captain Roy Jenns and Mrs. Jenns.**



case has been a mortal blow for the battalion polo team which must now go into suspended animation. Tom Thomas is away to Camberley and his departure leaves the officers' courses book sadly blank. Tom must have done nearly every possible course going and it will take many months to fill in the gaps! Finally, Bertie Ambler, our Paymaster, has left us after nine years' devoted service with the Battalion in Aden, Celle, Catterick, Londonderry, Cyprus and lastly in Tidworth. While serving with us Bertie earned not only the MSM but also a bar to his LS and GC, a historic feat. 'Uncle Bertie' did us proud, and we wish him and Joyce the very best for the future.

#### **Shooting**

The Shooting Team has had another successful year, though as always, there is plenty

of room for improvement. Our position at Bisley climbed from 15th to 10th in a field that had increased from 60 to 69. Were it not for some positively appalling SMG shooting we would have been 7th. The problem in a small team, as it was this year, is to find sufficient shots capable of firing all three weapons to the required standard. It was interesting to note that in spite of a rigorous selection process the team once again consisted of the old faithfuls, except for Lance Corporal 'Sweeny' Todd, whom we warmly welcomed, Sergeant 'KC' Jones and Corporal (masquerading as L/Sgt.) Pete Denny finally made the SMG XXX, coming a good 9th. Corporal Denny also managed to scrape in to the Army Hundred at 100th to join Lieutenant Tony Domeisen and Lance Corporal Fred Sluggett. Along the way to Bisley we emerged the convincing winners of the

**The Colonel in Chief meets the RSM of the 1st Battalion, RSM J. J. Buffine. This was his last parade as RSM before leaving the 1st Battalion on Commissioning. Capt. (QM) Jenks is on his left.**



South Western United Services meeting. Special mention should be made of Lieutenant Tony Domeisen who had a truly magnificent year, winning The Roupell, The Old Contemptibles and the Queen Mary at Bisley and shooting for the Army VIII in rifle and SMG. He is also the South Western District and Northern Ireland champion. Now that we have mentioned it he won't need to tell us again!

## Cyprus Walkabout

The task set in January '74 was a simple one, 'Win the Cyprus Walkabout'.

WE BEGAN TO RUN. Starting from sea level at Episkopi we chewed off a bit at a time, each day reaching a little further towards that distant peak of Troodos with its white 'Golf-ball' radar domes perched on the summit at six thousand feet. The terrain is extremely rugged, rough, stony ground, with deep valleys and ravines formed by the winter rains, the sides of the hills a pattern of stone-walled terraces allowing precious space for the vineyards which cover the countryside. Sweet smelling orange groves nestle in the bottom of valleys, while all around are the heady scents of jasmine and cherry blossom; on the very rough ground pines scratch a living whilst on the high ground around Troodos they abound; dotted all about are the small farming villages, some perched on hills, others hidden in valley bottoms.

Through the sweat that ran into our eyes we were able to appreciate the beauty of all this—

sometimes. At first we ached all over, dreading each new day with the efforts to come, but gradually bodies toughened and became used to the gruelling pace. With this developed a nimbleness of foot more usually shown by the goats that leapt about the mountain, and fewer and fewer falls with twisted ankles were sustained on the rocky ground. Most important of all was the knowledge of the ground on which we pinned our hopes; in previous years teams had to know not only the main tracks, some marked and others that were not marked on the map; this year we determined to know every goat path, every stream bed, every rock. Only in this way could we be sure of overcoming the speed we knew our main rivals would possess.

Memories of this period were of twisting ankles, the amazing appetite of Mick Atkin, the dogged perseverance of 'the Speedy Snail' John Larter and Barry Lincoln (cap and all), the pain written on C/Sgt. John Ross' face (but what determination!), 'my river', 'your wadi', 'his ridge', Company secret routes to enable that particular team to get to the lunch point and extra food first!; 'the Moose' Des Foran's offset silva compass, 'Dobber' Dowd and his grub wagon! and the horror of finding your brand new pair of Puma running shoes being ripped to pieces on the scrub.

During the last fortnight we were doing the trip to Troodos and back twice a week, running all the way. We had reached the target set and were ready. Incredibly, we now thought little of the distance, sixty or seventy miles depend-



**Troodos Walkabout — the winning team, Lt. Bill Moor-ing, Sgt. John Ross and Cpl. Des Foran.**

ing on the route, with ten thousand feet to climb and four thousand feet to drop in just the ascent alone. Just before the day, Arthur Plumb, the veteran of the team and a great help to all, strained his ankle not one hundred metres from the camp at Troodos, and had to be dropped to everyone's disappointment.

The day came with the teams keyed up to go. Converted respirator cases carried on the back contained the multitude of compulsory items that had to be taken as well as chocolate, nuts, raisins and glucose for energy. With our knowledge of the ground the course proved only too easy; time spent navigating was kept to a minimum, and while others moved by circuitous marked routes or direct by compass over extremely rough terrain and rocky ground, we ran on goat paths and tracks, unmarked on the map but known to us, and usually only a little longer in distance than the straight line.

Our main rivals were from 103 Maintenance Unit, Akrotiri, an RAF team with three of the top island runners. Our answer to them was a combination of Mick Atkin, John Larter and Barry Lincoln. This team led the way with almost faultless navigation to the last checkpoint some five miles from the top of the mountain; the pace they set was extreme, and 103 were driven to their limits to keep up. A mile or so after the last checkpoint disaster struck; Mick Atkin, setting the pace all the way, keeled over unconscious in his stride; he had driven himself through a barrier few ever see. His team were forced to retire. At the end of the first day 103 MU lay first, but were closely pressed by Royal Anglian teams. This was something they could not figure out, since the team closest to them, by fourteen minutes, was made up of men they had never seen on the island running circuit. They couldn't understand it.

The route down the second day proved even more circuitous than on the first, and the knowledge of the ground began to pay real dividends, especially on the forested high ground. By the first check point John Ross, Des Foran and Bill Mooring had overtaken 103 physically and had cut their time lead drastically. The pace of the day before set by Mick Atkin also took its toll, and at the second check point the RAF team was forced to drop out with a strained knee in one of their team. That left the way clear for the Battalion teams and it simply became a tussle as to who would manage to maintain their pace and come in first. This

proved to be Ross/Foran/Mooring combination with a time of eleven hours twenty-two minutes, arriving some twenty minutes ahead of a gallant young team led by L/Cpl. 'Bon' Bonnet, with Ptes. 'Titch' Ridgewell and 'Mac' Mellow, all from 'A' Company and all under 20. Cpl. 'Ozzie' Austin (a good man on the flat, but oh! those hills!), Cpl. Bill Vessy (in an extremely firm condition, now no longer apparent) and L/Cpl. Vince Gamble came in third beating the Royal Hussars with whom they had tussled most of the way down. The other two remaining teams, Cpl. Shrubsall, L/Cpl. James, Pte. Morris and L/Cpl. Goodman, Pte. Drage and Pte. Desmond, came in 8th and 9th respectively. There were some sixty other teams.

A triumph. All the pain, sweat and effort had paid off handsomely with a result never before achieved by any one unit of a one/two/three/eight and nine. Asked how he felt by BFBS Cyprus, minutes after arriving at the finish, John Ross's answer was 'Gi' us a couple more Aztec bars and we'll do it again if you like!'



The lighter side of life in Ulster—1st Battalion Hockey v Portadown Ladies (a scratch side)—RSM John Perry and the opposing skipper.

**Vigilant (Anti Tank Guided Weapons) Platoon left their missiles behind to face a different kind of missile at the Maze — L/Cpl. Slater, L/Cpl. Steve Ward, Pte. Dinger Bell, Pte. Billy Colman and Pte. Martin 'Paki' Eke.**



The surprise of the majority of the Battalion at finding themselves booked after all for a Northern Ireland tour was only equalled by the scramble to fit in all the training required before the great day of departure dawned.

The Northern Ireland Training Advisory Team's week at Tidworth was certainly great value, giving the 'new boys' an insight into the operational set up in Ireland and the workings of the various enemy organisations, and also giving the Londonderry 'old sweats' a worthwhile update on their thinking. Many of us found that new tactics and equipment had been

introduced, of which we had little or no knowledge, and so we had to work hard to instil this knowledge both into ourselves and the others as rapidly as possible. NITAT was a great help towards this (and there weren't really all that many injuries in the staged riots at the end of the week).

The most useful training done, of course, was among the superb facilities at Lydd and Hythe, where the Battalion spent a hard-working fortnight. Once we had the hang of shooting one-handed with an SLR from the left shoulder, using only the right eye, while hanging upside



**Still smiling after a night at the Maze with 1 Platoon 'A' Company — Cpl. Herbie Styles and L/Cpl. Rick Radcliffe on the morning of the successful pacification operation.**



All that was left of the Maze after the October riots? CO and RSM 1st Battalion, Lt. Col. David Thorne and RSM John Perry on Pacification Day.

down out of a window, the rest was really quite easy. The gunman in the pub toilet was perhaps the most memorable feature of the Urban Close Quarter Battle Range; one never quite knew what weapon he would have in his hand as he turned around. The highly efficient management of the ranges by a combination of permanent range staff and Battalion officers and senior ranks contributed decisively to the large amount of training carried out. 'Never was so much learned by so many in such a short time . . .' to misquote someone or other.

We arrived in our Irish locations (scattered to the four winds—therefore continuing the multi-location tradition of Cyprus) to find very little of what we expected. Only in Dunganon ('A' Company) did the 'ould Ireland' which we knew so well from our Londonderry days, seem to be alive and well. It reminded us of its presence quite promptly by shooting a soldier through the legs in an ambush. Fortunately no serious damage was done and he is now well on the way to recovery. The other Companies (Support in Armagh, 'B' in Portadown and 'C' in Lurgan) had a much quieter time to begin with, while Big Red 'A' was dealing with culvert and car bombs and the old

crack and thump demonstration. However, in the aftermath of the Maze riots on 15th/16th of October, the tension has risen and there have been civil disturbances, some inaccurate shooting, and one command detonated ambush bomb (in Portadown) at the time of writing. The bomb narrowly missed a foot patrol but despite these incidents, 'A' Company still tops the violence league.

The call for reinforcement in the Maze Prison on the night 15th October brought Royal Anglian platoons pouring in, rather at the expense of our capacity to react in other areas. The platoons which were dispatched to the Maze in time to take part in the operation to restore order found themselves part of a huge DPM conglomeration of several regiments which gradually sorted itself out and advanced into the burnt-out prison. The devastation was impressive, as was the amount of gas the prisoners were able to absorb and still resist. Eventually order was restored after some brisk and forceful action and we could return to our normal duties. The reaction in the towns which we patrol was perhaps more muted than the IRA can have hoped, but the tension has risen noticeably at least in the short term. We await further developments.



The Drums of 'C' Company at Long Kesh—Cpl. 'Farmer' Cousins and L/Cpl. Kenny Stone.

# THE EPISTLE OF THE UNKNOWN VIKING

I, the unknown Viking, disciple of the great Shagrat, here take stylus to papyrus, to write to the great Prophet.

Yea, O Prophet, once again we find ourselves in the land of the Mickii, for the great white seer, Mervyn of the Reese, successor to Willie of the White Law, hath spoken, and he spake thus, saying, 'Take from the Isle of Grapes the Vikings, and send them to Tidworf, from whence they shall go to Lydd, and practice the arts of war as practiced by their brothers before them, even the Poachers and the Pompadours. And they shall then journey to the Land of the Padii, to spread the word among the heathen, even the Mick, and the Paddy, and the Cat and the Prot, yea even unto the Provii.

And it came to pass, that the Vikings set sail from Angle Land, and came to the town of Tel-el-Belfast. Then O Prophet, who knowest all and seest all, we girded our loins and boarded chariots, and a great caravan was formed in the oasis, the like of which had never before been seen in the land, and we journeyed into the heart of the land of the Padii.

We travelled past the scenes of great battles, where our brothers had smote the Provii hip and thigh, where armoured chariots had stricken fear into those who did not heed the word, along the Donegal Road, past Roden Street, and El Lowah Falz, within striking distance of the Arma-Light from the Ballymurf, even onto the vast camel trail known in these parts as the Em Wan. Then the Vikings split up into companies of archers, the first left the trail at Lurgan, and pitched their tents of war. The second left the trail, and took up their post at the Port of Down, where Gilbert of the Conner commands his host, the third journeyed on till Dun-gan-On, where they prepared their weapons, and Shagley's Shifters moved on to Armagh.

But we found that the dwellers of this land belong not to the same tribe as that fell folk

who inhabited the town of Lodun-Derry in times of old, when last the Vikings were here, nor to the same as the accursed dwellers of the Reservation, that thee and I know well.

When we arrived in the Port of Down, they greeted us not with stones nor bottles, yea, not even with bullets, and there was great wonder among us.

I write now of the village of Redmen, of the towns of Edgar and Brown, of Obins and Churchill, and many other camping sites and dwelling places of the Padii. I approached a local dweller, and spake unto him, saying, 'Behold, I am a stranger in a strange land, and I know not your people. Tell me of the enemies of the Word, and I shall smite them.' And he spake unto me in a low voice, saying, 'Master, the dreaded Provii operate on a low profile here, likening themselves unto the worm of the desert, who is never seen.' I spake again, 'Why, O my brother, do they conduct themselves in this manner?' And he answered with a great shout, 'Because they don't like it up 'em!'

So thou seest, O Prophet, there is a similarity, and even their forefathers were the same as the forefather of the Provii we have met before. No more do the mighty Vikings burst the doors of the tents asunder, and no more do they cause the Padii to lean upon the walls of their tents, and very few are lifted up unto Tac, to the High Priest Acorn, as before, but we wander the streets instead, eyes peeled for the non-believers, and sometimes we seek the 'T' stop. We have again brought peace unto the land of the Mickii, and there are but few of these brothers of the Phillistines, that call themselves Ayar-Ai to be seen.

But hear the word of our Chieftain, David of the House of Thorn, who sayeth that even though the Provii be fewer than the dentures of the chicken, we shall hunt down, and cast them into the fiery pit of dubious culinary arts that is called the Maze.

*Here endeth the Epistle.*



A healthy and rewarding sport as this group photograph shows. The writer is standing on the end of the picture.



# MONTE BIANCO 1974

By Colour Sergeant G. N. Taylor

Exercise Monte Bianco is an annual expedition organised by UKLF with the aim of climbing Mont Blanc. It is open to either individuals or small unit parties and is ideal for anyone who wishes to try his hand at the sport or for the experienced British rock climber who wants to get to the Alps.

For our stay in Italy we were to be guests of the Italian 'Alpini'—the crack mountain troops who provided extremely good instructors from their depot in Aosta. Three of the instructors were part of a five man group of Italian Army climbers who reached the summit of Everest in 1973—indication of their expertise.

The following morning, having settled into a small barrack-block just outside Cormayeur at Val Veny near the Mont Blanc Tunnel, we were introduced to our group instructors. My section was indeed fortunate to have probably the most experienced guide one could wish for, he having climbed Mont Blanc over fifty times, been one of the successful Everest men and had also skied for Italy for eleven years—quite a formidable character.

Although there was a complete Italian/English language barrier, Amanio, our instructor, spoke French as did a Canadian member of our group. With Pierre translating and Amanio demonstrating, we spent that morning rock climbing. This enabled Amanio to convert us

to his methods and also for him to assess our ability. We learned later that he thought we were typical Brit' soldiers: what we lacked in technique we made up for in enthusiasm.

Having made this assessment, the following two days were spent introducing us to snow and ice climbing—a completely new experience for almost everyone on the course. Starting off on nursery slopes, we found ourselves by the end of the second day confronted with a sheer ice wall, complicated by a small overhang at the top. Although only about 30 ft. high at this stage, I wished I had brown breeches instead of the issue grey pattern—most 'gripping'.

This brought us to the type of climbing we expected to encounter on Mont Blanc, so we paid great heed to the lessons being taught: the use of crampons, ice axes and especially techniques needed in emergency situations such as crevasse rescue.

Sunday the 21st was a day off but some of us, smitten by the bug to conquer something, decided the Dente du Geant was there for the taking. Standing at just over 13,000 ft., just like a Giant's tooth on the ridge overlooking the camp, it gave us something to cut our own teeth on. Unfortunately after taking the cable car from Cormayeur at 0700 hrs. up to the Torino Hut at 11,000 ft., we found the area completely covered in cloud and buffeted by

winds gusting up to 90 m.p.h. After spending the next two hours sheltering in the warmth of the hut and sampling the bar's brand of 'vino', we gave way to mother nature at 1000 hrs. and descended back to the valley, still 'virgin alpiners' but much warmer in the abdominal region.

Having been taught the basics of snow and ice climbing, we moved camp temporarily to the Gran Parridiso. This is a truly magnificent area made up of many snow covered peaks of which we were to climb three in much the same way as we scaled Snowdon, to gain altitude acclimatisation. These were the 'Gran Parridiso' — 13,200, 'Ciarforon' — 11,800 and 'Monciair'—10,500. The views gained from each one were marvellous. To me there is something special in looking down on clouds and in so doing being able to pick out high peaks such as Mont Blanc and even the Matterhorn in the distance. Whilst there we lodged in the Victor Emmanuel II Refuge—just under 10,000 ft. and 2,600 ft. above the nearest supply point. A comforting thought on many occasions for it is supplied by donkey twice daily, led up by an extremely fit handler. Rather him than me.

Body and soul rejuvenated after a rest day, the intrepid Alpiners set forth the next day to attempt the Dente again. Once more we fought the locals for places on the cable car and arrived at the Torino Hut at 0830 hrs. This time the weather was perfect, but because of this many others, including a group of twenty Frenchmen from Chamonix had the same idea of smiting Dente's pride.

By 1030 hrs. Captain Harley Nott, RE, and myself found ourselves in a queue of sixteen climbers making up eight climbing pairs, three of which were fellow Monte Biancans. The next three hours were spent waiting to get going. Finally at 1330 hrs. we left the 'gums' at a height of 12,500 ft. for a climb of 800 ft. which should have taken approximately four hrs. Having climbed the first 300 ft. and started to really strike out to the top, we found ourselves engulfed by French and Italian climbers who were on their way down. We sat belayed to a rock splinter with a yawning 2,000 ft. sheer drop below us whilst what seemed like the whole of the EEC descended past us. When we eventually made the summit, pleased but by now tinged with worries, we realised that the trek back across the snow to the Hut was not going to be easy.

With the valley below in darkness and the sun descending behind Mont Blanc and still the snow to negotiate, it was a very worried

party that moved off from the Dente at 2045 hrs. What had been good firm snow in the morning had now softened after the day's sun, making walking back quite an ordeal. Groveling thigh deep in snow every other step after a fourteen hour climbing day was not pleasant. Thankfully the remainder of the course had moved up to the Torino Hut for more altitude training and had become worried by our absence. It was a very welcome sight to see a flashing torch signalling the presence of a rescue party led by Sgt. Paddy Cummings, RCT, waiting for us with soup and coffee halfway back. These we gratefully devoured before carrying on to the hut.

What had started out according to the guide book as a seven hour round trip from the hut, took seventeen. Even now it seems unbelievable. We put it down to experience, vowed we'd never go without an Alpini again and climbed very thankfully into bed at 2330 hrs.

'Le Toire Rounde'—12,200 ft.. was the next peak to ascend, an hour's slog to the base and another spent climbing a 60 degree snow slope forming part of the foothills of the Mont Blanc massif. We really did feel we were getting closer to our goal. We were now quite fit, with the altitude not affecting us too much. This point the Alpini informed us that Mont Blanc with within us—at any rate that was the literal translation. One more day spent walking round the Col du Geant—the area we crossed on our way to the Dente—we completed our training and returned to Val Veny for a rest day before going for the 'Big one'.

The preparations went ahead smoothly with everyone getting a good night's sleep and devouring vast quantities of food. We intended to leave on 31st July at 1300 hrs. Unfortunately when we finally did get up for a leisurely breakfast at 0900 hrs. we were horrified to find the weather had completely changed and what had been clear blue skies was now full of cloud, completely hiding the peaks above. The ETD loomed closer and this now became the time that the Alpini would make the decision to 'go' or 'not go'. It came and went until we were informed we'd have to put off for twenty-four hours. It was a great blow to morale to have to walk back into the barrack block with laden rucksacks and hang around for another day, at that time cursing our luck that Mother Nature seemed to have stolen a march on us after the glorious weather we'd been enjoying.

All timings were to remain the same for the next attempt so that night more than one person

went to sleep with fingers and toes crossed. Horror could be seen on everyone's face when the following morning we found that instead of improving the weather seemed even worse. However, the Alpini in their wisdom decided we could leave and this we did at 1330 hrs. by 4-ton vehicle to the foot of the Miage Glacier.

Cpl. Mick Trueman, RCT, had been on Monte Bianco in 1972 when he had been avalanched off and then completely weathered out of the attempt. He described the climb to the Gonella Hut (our overnight stop) as a terrible slog which would take at least six hours. The first mile was just like a lunar landscape with rock and loose scree scattered everywhere, followed by another mile of almost continuous crevasses. Remembering the news of the previous week that a local student was believed to have fallen down a crevasse whilst attempting the same route, we paid great heed to the lessons taught about snow and ice and were really pleased when we finally moved off the ice and started off up the rock band on a small mountain trail. Mick was both cursed and blessed when we arrived at the Gonella Hut after two and three-quarter hours, instead of the six he had predicted. Arriving so much earlier was a great lift to morale, especially as the cloud had moved away and the elements seemed to be coming to our aid.

The Gonella Hut is approximately the size of a normal detached house with multi bunk bed-spaces for 50 climbers. Our party numbered fifty-four, which included twelve Alpini guides, so we settled in to enjoy a cramped but comfortable rest until midnight when we were to get up for breakfast prior to moving out at 0100 hrs.

Equipped with strap-on head torches, the party set out from the hut on time at 0100 hrs., moving up the Dome glacier like the seven dwarfs on their way to work. The moon was full which made the going a little easier although I confess I thought of anything but walking. Switched off, except when dragging myself out of yet another hole, I thank the man responsible for taking us up in the dark. All one has to compete with is the watch, whilst in daylight every step is judged against the hundred to follow in order to reach the next false ridge. Having taken two five-minute 'breathers' at 0300 and 0500 hrs., we arrived at the Vallot Hut just as dawn broke onto the mountain. To see the colours changing by the minute as more and more snow and cloud tons took up the light was a sight really worth seeing.

Even though we had been on the move continuously we moved, tired and very cold, into the hut to build up courage for the last 1,500 ft. Having been told there would be an hour's rest before the last effort, crampons and boots came off as people attempted to massage warmth back into their feet. Whether it was a translation problem or an Alpini change of heart I still do not know, but no sooner had all our feet been bared than we were told to be off.

With nerve shattering cries of 'Avanti' (quickly) the guides did their damndest to rush us out. Unfortunately, as well as most being bootless, thirty-nine climbers roped together in three had succeeded in getting into the most gruesome tangle! Half an hour later, having sorted out the mess in the dark, Captain Alan Homer, Int. Corps, and Sgt. Mick McGuire, RCT, my rope partners for the climb, were once more plodding on upwards, this time with the summit in sight which seemed to drag every last bit of energy from us.

During that last hour I passed through the gates of hell many times. When we did finally reach the top at 0730 hrs. it was with relief as much as elation that we pumped each other's hands before sinking on our backsides with exhaustion.

With cries of 'Avanti', Amanio once more got us moving so that we could get to the Gonella before the glaciers and crevasses we had to recross, softened. Stopping at the hut just long enough for a hurried compo main meal, we arrived back in Val Veny at 1600 hrs. Feeling absolutely shattered but determined to celebrate, we made a token effort, passing round the vino and cans of duty-free light ale before collapsing in bed happy in the knowledge that the Admin Party would continue the fatted calf treatment the next day.

Of the 45 members who left Capel Curig 37 actually reached the top—the highest number for the expedition so far. So four months of waiting had been worth it, although to be honest at times I did question my sanity.

In conclusion I would like to sell Monte Bianco 75. To anyone willing to assume a station in life suitable for his climbing ability, for military status counts for nothing when dangling crab-like on the end of a rope, the course is ideal. It is organised by the largest, and by far the most experienced travel agency in the UK, they even pay you to go along. So badger your OC, get the time off, and see if you can stand on the top of Europe in 1975—good luck.

# THE POACHERS

## Derry '73—the last month

Our last CASTLE Notes, signed off by Kestrel Major, were written with a month of our tour still to go. Clearly and quite rightly, not wishing to count our chickens . . . little was said about our work and its results. We were lucky to arrive just as Op 'Mangrove' started up. Amongst other things this concentrated one Battalion, ourselves, in the Creggan estate with only about half the length of border to watch that our predecessors, the Pompadours, had had. Also with Op 'Mangrove' there came another even more significant improvement in the battle against the Provos, permission for the IO to screen suspects in Creggan camp for up to four hours before either releasing them, charging them with an offence or handing them over to the RUC as wanted terrorists.

With these two great advantages we were able to set about the riotous people of the Creggan in a way to which they were not accustomed. Sharp and aggressive retaliation against rioting and stone throwing soon got results and by August/September patrols were able to move through the estate without incident, two days

out of three. Our photographers played a significant part in the anti-riot campaign, their photographic evidence being used for retrospective arrests and subsequent court action. Photographers accompanied all patrols at peak riot times, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and 'shot', with their cameras, the ring leaders. These films were quickly developed by the photographer on his return to base, and the ringleaders identified, often with the help of suspects lifted for screening by the Intelligence Officer. The subjects were then arrested in their homes early the next day, taken to the RUC stations and charged and appeared in court within twenty-four hours of the incident. The photographic evidence was unanswerable and many convictions were obtained this way. The message soon got across that throwing stones at soldiers was out of fashion and rioting incidents dropped off sharply.

Patrols not harrassed by rioters were able to concentrate more on the task of defeating the real enemy, the Provo bomber and gunman who we knew lived in the estate and made up their bombs there to be taken and planted on their targets, the shops in Strand Road and the

**Pte. Milsom amusing Lord Carrington and the CO before descending on the Creggan with Ptes. Ketteringham and Ward.**



CO Northern Ireland chatting to Pte. Owen, Pte. Charnley, L/Cpl. Watson and Cpl. Codling.



city centre. Pte. Reid, with his patrol, checking derelict cars in Rinmore Drive on 8th August, found a complete mortar in the boot of one. It had quite clearly been dumped there shortly before and was for use against Creggan Camp (just in range) that afternoon. Just two days later Pte. (now L/Cpl.) Barry Wilson sniffed the familiar scent of home made explosives in a drain in the grounds of St. Mary's School. It turned out to be a complete bomb makers kit with everything from ready-made blast bombs and an old Mills bomb to explosives, primers, detonators, timing devices, wire, clothes pegs, tape, gloves—the lot. ATO was delighted as this had put one bomb maker out of business for a considerable time, at least until he could amass all the tools of his horrid trade again.

Having cut the rioters down to size, the next task set the Companies was the gaining of the initiative over 'themselves'. The prime method was OPs. A ring of OPs around the outside of the estate reported incidents fairly effectively but being relatively far out, without enough detail. All Companies concentrated on establishing OPs in the very heart of the estate and did so with astonishing success. From September to November over nineteen different covert OPs were established in the heart of the estate. Many were used two, three or four times over. All were occupied for twenty-four hours at least, often for thirty-six or forty-eight. The prize went to Sergeants Montgomery and Halewood and their teams who relieved one another in a particular OP for a twenty-six day period.

Identification of terrorists was perhaps the highest priority we set ourselves during our pre-tour training. Each Company had its pack of slides and a 9 mm. slide projector and for weeks before and continually when off duty during the tour our soldiers studied the photographs of Martin McGuinness, 'Dutch' Doherty, Bobby Sheerin and the other notables on the wanted list. This too paid off. Within days of arriving Pte. Saunt of Sp Company recognised and arrested John Carey, who was charged as one of the murderers of Ranger Best. L/Cpl. Piatt of 'B' Company recognised and arrested Coleman Moore in Blighs Lane on 12th August, a known explosives expert and bomb maker. Hugh Duffy, wanted as a gunman, was recognised at a distance by a patrol as he entered his house one Sunday afternoon. A quick cordon and search resulted in his arrest and subsequent detention. Paul Carlin was seen and arrested by Private (now L/Cpl. Higgins of 'A' Company) on 24th October.

#### 1974—the Plan

Before departing on block leave on our return from Ulster the CO had issued his directive for training in the year to come. Initially cadres were the order of the day to regain the skilled specialists essential to a mechanised battalion. Thereafter we were going to go through the full training cycle, BAOR style, for believe it or not 1974 was the first, and probably the only full training year the Battalion will have had, uninterrupted by Northern Ireland, dur-

The CO presents the Individual Orienteering Trophy to Sgt. Whitehead, HQ Company.



ing our current tour in Germany. Individual and section level training locally, followed by personal weapon tests and battle shooting at Sennelager. Platoon and combat team training later at Soltau, working up to full combat team, battle group and finally brigade exercises in the autumn.

As well as all this, physical fitness and sport were to be given great emphasis for we were about to embark on a year when both the cricket and football seasons were going to be open to us and for the first time we would be able seriously to compete in Army sport.

Finally every opportunity was to be taken to see as much of Germany as possible and adventurous training schemes were to be planned by all the Companies to involve as many soldiers as possible.

### Champion Company competition

To add spice to the year an Inter Company competition has been run covering sporting

	Boxing (35)	Athletics (35)	Skill at Arms Comp (70)	Cricket (14)	Orienteering (70)	Football (42)	Total to date
'A' Company	35	25	10	2	50	12	134
'B' Company	10	5	50	6	10	15	96
'C' Company	25	30	70	10	60	21	216
Sp Company	25	20	40	4	20	9	118
LAD	0	10	60	8	40	3	121
HQ 1 (Comd)	30	35	30	12	70	6	183
HQ 2 (Admin)	15	15	20	14	30	18	112

activities, shooting and military skills. The scoreboard as at present is shown below, with small bore shooting, hockey, basket ball, the second half of the football and the patrolling competition still to be decided. The Commanding Officer will present the shield to the winning Company on 20th December. The shield is the old 58th Northamptonshire Regiment Inter Company Efficiency Shield presented in 1907 by Lt. Col. E. F. Brereton, DSO. It has been refurbished and brought up to date and makes a fine trophy.

### Visit of the Colonel of the Regiment 28th February to 2nd March

On 28th February the Battalion was very pleased to welcome to Oxford Barracks once again Lieutenant General Sir Ian Freeland. His previous visit had perforce been a fleeting one, but this time he was able to stay longer and see rather more of the Battalion. He was met on 28th February by a quarter guard furnished by Support Company and later that evening watched the inter-Company boxing finals and presented the prizes. The 1st of March was a very full day indeed with the Colonel of the Regiment seeing everything and everyone possible, starting with the Band who played the parade music for the Colours Presentation Parade for him for his approval. He visited the Wives' Club for morning coffee, the Sergeants' Mess and the Corporals' Mess for drinks before lunch and supper, and in between times saw the Section Commanders Cadre, the LAD, the Anti Tank and Assault Pioneer Platoon, 'B' Company on the Assault Course and an inter-Company football match—a hectic and from our point of view, a very enjoyable visit.

### **Fitness for Role Inspection**

In March Brigadier Hicks, Commander of 4 Guards Armoured Brigade, carried out the FFR Inspection of the Battalion. It was not made easy for him as the Battalion was spread over about 200 square miles of country between Munster and the Dutch border. It was unavoidable in fact since he wanted to see the Battalion in the field and carrying out its nuclear escort role.

After lunch the Brigadier went to Lavesum to see the remainder of HQ Company and the LAD shooting their small arms on the ranges there. He left by helicopter to seek out the Mechanised Companies practising their nuclear convoy escort duties with 8 Regiment RCT further to the north.

### **Mortar Concentration**

From 25th March to 19th April the Battalion played host to six Mortar Platoons of 1 (BR) Corps on Munsterlager Ranges. Major John Robinette, OC Support Company, assisted by Captain John de Bretton Gordon, then MTO, acted as Chief Instructor and Admin Officer respectively for the Concentration. The enormous amount of work that was put into this by all of Sp Company was blessed by a spell of almost perfect weather and the Concentration was a complete success. Among the Platoons were our old friends the Pompadours and many a yarn about Creggan exploits were improved in the telling.

### **Small Arms Camp—Sennelager**

Between 22nd April and 17th May, in the spirit of 'Shoot to kill', the Battalion undertook its annual small arms camp. The first two weeks

were spent on the Alma electric target ranges at Sennelager, each Company having two complete range days and working up to the Annual Personal Weapon Tests. Because of the severe ammunition shortage this had to be restricted to personal weapon tests only, there being insufficient to classify on the alternative weapons as well. Captain Rob Jackson, who was the Cadre Officer at that time, ran Alma D as a GPMG range and all gun crews fired there centrally.

On 15th and 16th May the Battalion played host to the National Defence College party visiting BAOR. After a buffet lunch 'al fresco' on 'B' range 'A' and Support Companies brought that high thinking staff down to earth with noisy and effective demonstrations of the tools of the fighting soldiers' trade.

### **Change of RSMs**

In May we bade farewell to RSM R. E. Sharpe when he returned to his parent battalion, the 1st, on commissioning. We wish him, his wife and family the very best for the future.

RSM Greenfield needed no introduction to the 2nd Battalion and certainly not to 'A' Company which he had left at the end of 1972 Belfast tour. He and Mrs. Greenfield are very welcome back again—suffice it to say that he has made his presence felt!

### **Skill at Arms Meeting—Haltern**

On 30th and 31st May the Companies and the LAD competed in the Battalion Skill at Arms meeting which was won by 'C' Company with the LAD as runners-up. The meeting was organised as far as was possible within German range rules on the basis of the Bisley Shoots

**'C' Company win the Skill at Arms meeting.**





Your guess is as good as mine.



and one of its aims was to select the Bisley squad. The meeting was a quite regimental occasion held in fine early summer weather with the side shows, skittles, bowling for a pig—everything. Battle Group HQ were away on 1 Division's CPX Ex 'Hurst Park' at the time, but the CO was 'killed off' on 30th May so that he could get away and attend the meeting.

#### **Flotation Training—Ohr Park, Hameln**

In the first week of June we sent a Headquarters and administrative party under Captain Simon Hopkins to establish a camp on the banks of the Weser at Ohr Park, just south of Hameln, to run the Battalion's flotation training. To save mileage we took only twelve APCs and three Stalwarts which travelled there and back on rail flats. All the Battalion's drivers and commanders were then passed through the mill doing crossings of varying difficulty by day and by night. Such concentrated driving could not be concluded without some mishaps and Sunray of 'Big Red A' (thought that was 1st Battalion jargon!—*Ed.*) Major Charles Lumby showed just how—while commanding his driver across the seething torrent he parted company with his right rear idler which went to the bottom, followed quickly by the complete right track! The APC waltzed gracefully downstream with the rescue boat in hot pursuit. The CO turned the RE bankmaster's hair grey with a faultless but almost vertical entry where anyone else would have sunk like a stone—but he'd been there before!

#### **2nd Battalion Bisley Team, 1974**

This was a significant year for the Battalion in that we formed our first ever Bisley Team

and entered the Major Unit Championships.

After a short period of practice on the Sennelager ranges we entered the 2 Division Championships and found ourselves pitted against one of the top Bisley teams, The Queens Own Highlanders. Cpl. Wright, 'B' Company, did extremely well to win the individual rifle prize;

The final selection for the team for Bisley was:

Rifle: Maj. Hastie, Sgt. Mazingham, Cpl. Wright, Cpl. Marrison, L/Cpl. Wilson, Cpl. Pratt, Pte. Anderson.

GPMG: Sgt. Mazingham, Cpl. Wright ('A' Class pair), Cpl. Pratt, Pte. Anderson ('B' Class pair).

SMG: Maj. Hastie, Cpl. Wright, Cpl. Marrison, Cpl. Pratt, Pte. Anderson.

The Major Unit Championship is made up of five separate matches, the Rifle and SMG matches themselves being decided by three and two different matches respectively. The five matches are Rifle, GPMG, SMG, Section, Snapshooting, all carrying different score values. In addition we entered two matches that did not count, namely the Falling Plate and Moving Target matches. L/Cpl. Wilson did extremely well in the latter match, coming 17th out of a total entry of about 700.

Our overall result, 40th out of a total entry of 70 major units, was not as good as we had hoped for. However, we finished on a high note when all went to plan in the Snapshooting match and we came 5th out of the 70 Major Units teams. In that match we hit our best 'form'; the art of doing well at Bisley is to consistently produce one's best form—this we found difficult to say the least!

Plans are in hand for next year when, all

being well, we will benefit from a much longer and uninterrupted build-up. All the 1974 team will be trying to get into the 1975 team. It looks almost certain that Major Unit teams in 1975 will consist of four class 'A' shots and four Class 'B', as opposed to five and two respectively this year, so there is plenty of opportunity for the young soldiers and additional competition for last year's gladiators.

#### July—Tactical Training

On 1st July the Anti-Tank Platoon under Lt. Peter Barnes and C/Sgt. Crane took off for Putlos on the Baltic coast of Germany to join the eight other Anti-Tank Platoons of 1 (BR) Corps for their annual concentration. Run by Major Mark Tower of the Queens Regiment, aided and abetted by our very own Captain Mike Chambers, representing the Support Weapons Wing at Netheravon, the concentration was a great success. It was in two parts, the first two weeks were at Putlos and concentrated on the technical side with a lot of live firing. The platoons then moved down to Soltau for the final fortnight of tactical exercises.

As the rest of the Battalion had concentrated in the all too familiar surroundings of Rheinsehlen Camp, Soltau, on 19th July, our Anti-Tank Platoon rejoined us there. We had brought with us the party of twenty-four Uppingham School cadets who were spending their summer camp with the Battalion. It was good that they had been able to extend their visit so as to accompany us to Soltau because there they were able to see the complete combat team at work and live and train with our soldiers. We enjoyed having them with us and think

that they enjoyed themselves too. They learned a lot.

The second weekend of Soltau coincided with Talavera Day—any excuse for a party, so the officers entertained the Warrant Officers and Sergeants to drinks and lunch. Again the Officers' Mess staff under C/Sgt. Vines, newly back from his course at Aldershot, put on a splendid show.

Monday, 29th July, was devoted to a Military Skills Competition counting towards Champion Company. Tests ranged from first aid to NBC, to radio and communications, to FV 432 driving and maintenance and a forced march. The Companies and the LAD entered different teams for each competition so that as many soldiers as possible competed. The standard overall was good and Support Company won with HQ (Comd.) Company their nearest rival.

We returned from Soltau to Munster on 31st July in pouring rain, but no-one complained since we had been blessed with almost perfect weather, particularly compared with the icy blizzards of our 1973 visit.

#### 'Ex Glad Eye'—4 Guards Armoured Brigade FTX

Owing to the global shortage of almost everything and the world wide economic crisis and of course the damned three-day week, even the sacred Autumn Training was at one time in question. Happily, though curtailed, 'Ex Glad Eye' was 'on'. The Mechanised Companies who went straight to our harbour area for Glad Eye from an NCE exercise with 8 Regiment RCT were probably unaware of any curtailment, but

'B' Company finishes the forced march with a 100 m carry. Maj. Taylor looks on anxiously, Capt. Rawlins, nonchalant with stop watch.



for the usual reasons the exercise was cut to just ten days.

The exercise area, the open rolling and quite hilly country South of Paderborn, must be very familiar to the Pompadours, but to us from the flats of Munsterland it was very new and exciting. The harvest was virtually all in and the winter crops had not yet been sown. The scene was set for the armoured hordes to pour across the landscape—but Major Guy Hipkin at Damage Central tempered our blood lust and though we got superb value from the area allotted to us we were able to keep the damage bill within reasonable bounds. What Major Dann of the 5th Battalion or any other British farmer would have said if it had been *his* farmland we were motoring over does not bear thinking about!

For the first week the CO directed a series of four Autumn Poacher exercises. They were all at battle group level with Ajax Squadron of 2 RTR, Major Jim Cornwell, and 159 (Colenso) Battery and Major Keith Dann making up the team. One Combat team in rotation acted as enemy. The first two Autumn Poachers were advance and quick attack exercises, one of which included a water obstacle crossing. The third was a full two days defence exercise (two days were needed apart from any other reasons to dig through the solid rock which lay beneath the thin top soil. As one wag described it, it was like digging through layered paving stones—and it was!). Autumn Poacher IV was a withdrawal exercise through a demolition guard to our weekend harbour areas.

## COLOURS PARADE

'Good morning Poachers!'

'Good morning Sir!'

The shouted greetings exchanged between RSM Greenfield and the Battalion became a familiar sound each morning as the Battalion formed up for practice parades.

And all the hard work and effort of the past months was made worthwhile when at 11 o'clock on the 11th October the markers took up their positions and the mist was burned off the square by the last of the autumn sunshine. The weather was brilliant and with the trees around the square in their most vivid autumn colours the setting was perfect.

The parade formed up and was handed over to the CO. Both sets of Colours, the old and the new, marched on and took up their position—the centre of the four guards.

Maj. Gen. W. D. Mangham, GOC 2nd Division, was received by a general salute as he arrived. Shortly afterwards the inspecting officer, Lieutenant General Sir Jack Harman, the GOC in 1st British Corps, arrived, took the salute and inspected the parade.

After the inspection the old Colours, carried by Lt. W. P. Seccombe and Lt. P. Holme, were marched off for the last time to the strains of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

On parade and amongst the spectators were not a few who had been present in Osnabruck

**The Old and New Colour Parties waiting to march on parade.**





The New Colours are shown to the Battalion for the first time.

on 1st June, 1962, when Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester had presented these Colours to Lt. (now Major) David Goodale (3rd Battalion) and Lt. (now Major, retired) Frank Young.

On the CO's command the new Colours, carried by Lt. A. P. Deed and Lt. K. Hodgson, who had received them from the Queen Mother in July, marched to the right of the parade and were trooped before the Battalion for the first time

The ceremonies of the old and new Colours having been concluded, the Battalion with its new Colours marched past the Inspecting Officer, and then advanced in review order. After General Sir Jack Harman had left the parade ground, the parade was marched off. The ceremony started in Tidworth on 12th July when Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother presented our new Colours; it was completed in Munster with the Colours being properly welcomed into the Battalion. The Tidworth parade is fully reported elsewhere.

The wining and dining and popping of corks which went on the length and breadth of the barracks was a fitting end to a fine parade.

#### Band notes

'Seventy-four was a vintage year for the Band, a grading of very good by Her Majesty's Inspector of Army Bands set the seal on what we knew would be our year.

Enough has already been written about the events at Tidworth, we only add that the three Bands worked in harmony, an experience not often achieved, Bandsmen being notoriously temperamental. From Assaye Barracks we moved to Colchester, old hunting grounds for

some, the delights of a Wimpy Bar or two made up for the camp life of Tidworth. Showing the Regiment to various towns followed with stops at Skegness's Butlin's. Oh, what a holiday, the NAAFI actually run it incognito! Those famous redcoats who seem marvellous after at least six pints and wearing Bandsman Weedon's glasses.

Leicester entertained us right royally, the crowds showing that the Regiment is held in the highest esteem. After the Colchester Tattoo we returned to Munster light in pocket but with a wealth of experience, and no instruments. Anyone being offered for sale pre-first world war cornets, would they please contact the Bandmaster ASP...

#### 2 R Anglian LAD REME—an appreciation

At times it is hard for the Battalion to think of the LAD as a REME sub-unit. This was particularly so at the Rifle Meeting in May when 'C' Company managed to beat the LAD into second place by half a point. Sgt. Noden, REME, was the individual rifle champion. The heavy boys of the LAD had a good win in the tug-of-war competition during the athletics meeting in May.

The LAD has a close working relationship with Support Company. Perhaps they give us more work than anybody else! We awarded the 'Champion Driver Soltau '74' prize to Lt. Deed (OC Mortar Platoon) for the track throwing skill which he demonstrated at Battle Group Headquarters.

All in all there is an unspoken affection felt by the LAD towards the 'Swedes'.

*(Sub-Editor's note: Which we reciprocate towards the 'Grease Monkeys'.)*

# POACHERS AT PLAY

The articles which follow tell the tales of some of the adventurous training and 'fun' exploits which we have been able to undertake this year.

## Exercise Schlosed Poacher — an interlude

Graacher Himmelreich, not just another Mosel wine but this year an unforgettable experience for many Poachers.

Standing in the ornately carved 16th century doorway of Graach's Hotel Zur Traube on a misty November morning I can see scattered over the vine covered slopes towering above me soldiers toiling with their German hosts to bring in this year's grape harvest. A cheery wave from a warmly clad Poacher on the back of the family tractor as he passes me on the way back to the vineyards to collect another vat of grapes for the press. A smile from a passing matron. A friendly people this.

We gather at the bar of our adopted local for a noggin at the end of the days work. 'It's great', is the universal verdict. 'Too much food,' says one. 'Too much free wine you mean!' says another. 'It's hard work,' says someone else. And from a corner, 'What does langsam mean?' 'Slowdown,' says a voice. 'Christ, I thought it meant work harder!' It's clearly been a satisfying day.

And so back to the various homes in the village go our heroes to join their hosts for a well earned supper. And then who knows what the night may bring. Perhaps a few glasses of schnapps at the family fireside or a trip to the bright lights of Bernkastel, Trier or even Luxemburg.

It's taken two weeks but now the vines are bare. The Bürgermaster tells me it won't be one of the great wine years but to the Poachers it certainly will be a memorable one. With money jingling in our pockets and our arms full of those slender green bottles, we return to Munster. Many of us have had invitations to return for Christmas and again next year. A kindly hospitable people these grape growers of the Mosel.



A Poacher at work Pte. Stephen Owen sampling the harvest, Mosel style.

## Sailing in the Baltic

On the afternoon of the 24th June a party of 'B' Company, with Lt. R. J. R. West, assembled at Kiel Yacht Club and looked at the Royal Signals yacht which 'B' Company had just chartered for a fortnight and tried to work out which end was which. We were very lucky in having a permanent skipper, L/Cpl. Brian Humphreys, who soon showed us round. By the evening of the 24th the first crew, Ptes. Thorley, Tich Thurston, Stan Parker and Les Mansfield, were enroute for Denmark and all the delights it had in store for us.

The first crew handed the boat over to Ptes. Taffy Evans, John Bletsoe, Steve Cowley and Pte. Hannegan, and on the 30th June set sail for Faaborg. By 11 a.m. most of the crew are regretting their night out in Kiel! However, by the afternoon everybody had fully recovered and we arrived in Faaborg in early evening, just in time for Carnival Weekend!

On the 3rd July we were back in Kiel doing our second crew change and that day we set off again for Denmark. The third crew, Ptes. Jim Rennie, Andy Naylor, Kim Cunningham and Jim Thurlborn were fortunate, or unfortunate to experience one of the fastest sails to the south coast that year! The weather by this time had changed and we only managed to get

to Momask and Faaborg and unfortunately wasted a day and a half stormbound in Faaborg. However, we were all back in Kiel in one piece by the 8th July.

#### **Potholing '74**

Filled with an air of trepidation, the six of us set off for Silberhutte in early July to acquaint ourselves with the caves of the Harz Mountains. On arrival (Lt. Hall's car having made the journey after all), Pte. 'Cordon Bleu' Kitson unloaded the compo and made the evening meal in the comfort of the hut near Sonneberg.

Monday morning saw the butterflies increase as the six of us stood before a hole in the ground no more than eighteen inches wide and nine inches long. Armed with carbide lamps and torches we wiggled through the hole to find a gigantic wet cave in front of us. Even Pte. Robinson, a somewhat well-built soldier, squeezed his body through the opening!

The rest of the day was spent crawling through tunnels, using six-inch wide ladders to descend various drops and generally getting used to working underground. From then on potholing held no fears. Attempts to better the 'Starship Enterprise' by going where no man has gone before were continually thwarted by abruptly ending tunnels leaving no room to turn round in!

Pte. Evans decided to invent his own form of potholing. Memories of him hanging by the rim of his helmet from a small gap in the rock are all too plain. There was the time when whilst roping us all down a steep descent, he cried 'rope below' and let go both ends of the

rope, leaving himself stranded above ground in the rain whilst the rest of us stood underground, dry but wondering how we were going to get back to the top at the end of the day.

A thoroughly enjoyable week was had by all the party, Lt. Hall, Ptes. Evans, Kitson, McCrea, Robinson and Wilkinson, and we all look forward to going again if the chance arises.

I.H.

#### **Ex-Snow Queen**

Our ski hut lies at about 2,500 feet in the Konstanzer valley, in the village of Thalkirchdorf, between Immenstadt and Lindau. For most of the year the building is used as a Gasthaus, but we take it over for the period December to March each year. Last year we ran a total of eight courses for two hundred and fifty soldiers from both the 2nd and 3rd Battalions as well as the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion. Also last year we produced a ski team which competed in the 2 Division championships, Rhine Army, and all Army championships. At Langlauf our results were very poor but our performance in the downhill events were much more promising. The team, captained by Lt. Tim Power, did very well and reached the Army championships at Ober-tauern in Austria. We were the only Infantry team to get beyond the divisional championships and to appear at the BAOR meeting at Ischl. Pte. Gough went on to become Army Novice Champion, winning the Spencer Cup.

The new season is now beginning and once again we are based at Thalkirchdorf. We hope that the 2nd, 3rd and 5th (V) Battalions will be able to take advantage again of our hut either to learn to ski or to improve the level they have already attained.

Left to right—  
Standing: L/Cpl. Higgins (2nd), Lt. Power (3rd), Pte. Fuller (2nd), Pte. Gough (3rd), Sgt. Sweeney (3rd).  
Kneeling: Cpl. Cooke (2nd), Cpl. Smith (3rd), Pte. Reynolds (3rd), Pte. Lloyd (3rd).



### Exercise 'High Walk', 8th-17th August, 1974

It may seem strange while serving in BAOR to go to Wales for Adventure Training. In fact what had been in our minds when ideas had been passed around was to enter a team for the Welsh 3,000 m.! Due to Battalion training we were unable to arrive for the week of the actual Welsh 3,000 but decided to do most of the course ourselves in our own time.

The departure from Germany began on 7th August when Cpl. Wesley and I took our cars overland with the stores to keep us as comfortable in the field as possible.

Owing to flight delays and numerous other unforeseen circumstances the others, Cpl. Brown, L/Cpl. Tood, L/Cpl. Scales and Pte. Ablitt, did not arrive until the evening of the 9th August.

After a very wet night in three bivies we prepared ourselves for the first day's marching which never got off the ground as the weather turned completely against us and the cloud level

had dropped to virtually zero feet. The weather remained like this for the first two days and we began to wonder whether we would cover the ground we set out to at all.

However, on the third day the weather eased and we set out on a week's gruelling marching. This day took us to the top of Snowdon from our base camp, which was at Craffioyl Hall.

Early on the morning of the 12th August we set off by car to the foot of Tryfan to complete the second stage. Tryfan itself took far longer to climb than we had anticipated and although we included Glyder Fach and Glyder Fann, we decided to leave Ygarn and Foel Grach until the following day.

On the third day we conquered the remaining two summits and decided to leave the final route to the fourth and fifth day which would bring us to the day for our return to Germany. On this route we covered from Pont-An-y-Benglog right up to the Mountain Rescue post at Foel-Grach and back down again.

## 7th (Volunteer) Battalion

A number of major changes have taken place in the Battalion over the past year. Firstly Lt. Col. Billy Wallace, our CO since formation in 1971, departed at the end of September complete with much deserved OBE and the prospect of promotion next year. Lt. Col. Bill Dawson has replaced him, and Major John Gleadell has taken over as second-in-command.

Last March we were unfortunate to lose through sudden death our QM, Major Jim O'Connor, who had served us well since early 1971. The resultant void was most ably filled by the then RSM, WO.I McColgan, until the arrival in October of our new QM, Capt. Guy Symonds. Mr. McColgan is now preparing himself for the rigours of civil life, soon to come. Fresh from Botswana, our new RSM, WO.I Price, is trying to re-adjust to our climate and bar prices at the same time. A lot to ask of any man!

Camp '74 was ambitious, being spread between shooting on Altcar's splendid ranges, adventuring in the Lake District, and a final exercise at Swynnerton, Staffs. Late on in the preparations we were appalled to learn that all our moves had to be by train, but we need not

have worried as British Rail did us very well and we now have several skilled RTOs.

Of many good training weekends organised by Companies, perhaps the best was a watermanship exercise organised by 'A' Company on the canals and the River Trent, attended by teams from the other Companies. This was instructive, much enjoyed, and well worth all the effort in preparing it.

Involving a prodigious amount of bums, twenty-four members of the LDY Squadron visited their parent Regiment, the 9/12th Lancers, in BAOR for four days in July. This proved a great success and did much for the morale of the Squadron.

Recruiting continues to be our major problem, posted strength now standing at 75 per cent—or 80 per cent if the pipeline is included. Of those leaving us in the last year some have gone with reluctance, having served out their time, notably the ORQMS WO.II Perry and WO.II Fensome, ACC, both of whom have earned out lasting thanks, whilst nine have gone on to full-time service. Six soldiers have been commissioned and the officer position remains good.



# Depot Queen's Division

Since our last edition there have been one or two changes in the staff. RSM Hart, Queens, has replaced RSM Ford, known to the Pompadours, who has been commissioned into 2 Queens. Major Martin Franks has taken over from Major Pat King in 'A' Company.

## Achievements

Our major achievements this year have been sporting. We are Minor Units Champions in the district in football, cricket and swimming. We are U.K. Minor Units swimming champions, and there is a separate article on this. We were runners-up in the District Rifle meeting for Minor Units, and improved considerably over 1973's performance at Bisley. Royal Anglians are spread thickly over the ground in all these sports. 'JS' Company were beaten

in the final of the Army Junior Soldiers football cup, and have just retained their Army Junior orienteering championship, which they first won in 1973.

We are now firmly into the 18-week syllabus. The results are encouraging and there has been a marked improvement in the standard of physical fitness. One of the new horrors is a five mile log race, four men to a log. Various programme changes are scheduled for the New Year, and these are designed to improve the standard mainly of the shooting

## Do-it-yourself

The Sappers of 39 Regiment at Waterbeach have built a new hill on the east side of the airfield and have just completed a boating pond, 80 metres by 100 metres, 6 feet deep. Our white elephant, the ski slope, is yet to be completed, although it is now very much a landmark and mounting. Game is on the increase, with a lot of credit due to Major John Parker, who put in a lot of work over the winter to entice the partridges onto the airfield.

Visits have been numerous. Our most notable visitor was the Colonel of the Regiment, who spent a day with us in September. He met over one hundred recruits and junior soldiers, and met all permanent staff of the Regiment. General Dye made a farewell appearance, being dined out by the Division and taking a Passing Out parade on the following day. Rear Admiral Flohic, the French Naval Attache, took a Passing Out parade in August.

Junior Soldiers 'Up and Over' teams practising hard. They took part in the Colchester Tattoo, July 1974.



Our depot is getting a reputation for the spectacular. This year 'Hot Chocolate' performed for the soldiers at a dance, and we have had a visit from the U.S.A. of veterans from the 91st Bomber Group (H) which flew from here during the war. Seventy veterans came over and had a tremendously successful day here. A museum was opened in the White Control Tower for them by General Wray, who commanded here in the early part of the Americans' tour. There followed a hair raising display of flying in which the CO was seen to duck as a Seafury howled past not more than seven feet above the ground. In the evening approximately five thousand people sat in Hangar 3 and listened to Syd Lawrence and his orchestra giving a two-and-a-half hour charity concert of Glenn Miller music. Thursday, 20th June, 1974, is a day that will be long remembered. This depot has cemented a relationship with the Americans that will last for many years.

#### DEPOT SWIMMING 1974

The year 1974 saw the highest achievement of any Depot sport when the swimming team went to the Army Finals in Camberley and came away the Minor Units United Kingdom Champions.

Half the team were Royal Anglians, which obviously accounts for the high standard at-

tained. The star of the team was Cpl. Billy Murton, 3rd Battalion. He was the fastest swimmer and came second in the 2 x 33 m. freestyle and third in the 3 x 33m. freestyle, which was no mean feat for, at all of the competitions, he had less than half an hour between the two races. He also provided the freestyle leg of the medley relay.

Also in the medley relay swam Cpl. John Mojer, 3rd Battalion, whose powerful backstroke helped the team to come second in that event. The other three swimmers, who all swam in the freestyle relay, in which the Depot came third, were Sgt. Bob Eke, 3rd Battalion, Captain M. J. Boocock, 2nd Battalion, and Lieutenant Dick Gould, 3rd Battalion, who also captained the side.

A former member of the Tigers, L/Cpl. Rick Smith, who has since defected to the Queens Regiment, provided the breaststroker of the team, to come second in the 2 x 33 m. and helped the medley relay team to come second.

The team collected trophies as U.K. Minor Units Champions, S.E. Area Minor Units Champions, Eastern District Minor Units Champions.

With so much talent in the Regiment and in particular the 3rd Battalion, there is every reason to hope that 1975 will see one of the Battalions taking the Army championships at the Major Units level.



#### THE UK MINOR UNITS SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

Queens Division Depot Team, star studded with Royal Anglians.

Standing: Cpl. M. Matthews, RRF, L/Cpl. R. Smith, Queens, Lt. R. C. Gould, R. Anglian, Capt. M. J. Boocock, R. Anglian.

Kneeling: Pte. V. Anderson, Queens, Cpl. R. Wood, RRF, TARA (Boocock), Sgt. R. Eke, R. Anglian, S/Sgt. R. Russell, APTC Coach.

Absent: Cpl. J. Mojer, R. Anglian.

# 5th (Volunteer) Battalion

The first and probably the most important news that the 5th Battalion has to impart is a dramatic increase in strength. The inflow of recruits has been improving month by month due to very active recruiting by everyone in the battalion. Despite the inevitable 'turn over' the battalion now stands at 709 all ranks.

In February 1974 a new combined training/social event was implemented when the Officers' Study weekend was combined with a Ladies' Dinner Night. For this effort a hotel near Cambridge was used and while the hard working officers attended various presentations in the conference room, their wives either visited Cambridge or had long 'chats' over numerous cups of tea in the lounge. In the evening everyone enjoyed a memorable dinner where the Mess staff supplemented the hotel waiters and the battalion silver graced the tables. During the weekend we were very pleased to welcome Major General P. Hudson, GOC Eastern District, and his wife, who were our guests at the dinner. The occasion was also appropriate to dine out of Major Bill Lewis, OC 5 Company and Captain John Keep, the Adjutant.

1974 saw intensive company training leading up to the CO's Exercises in March. This year the companies were grouped together over two weekends when they were put through their paces on Stanford PTA. The CO had devised a very active exercise where the companies chased each other over vast areas in ever decreasing circles. This involved much night movement, including a river crossing over the infamous West Tofts rapids. 1 (Ipswich) Company excelled in this operation by a soundless crossing on a very still night. No doubt their training on the Norfolk Broads gave them some very helpful advantages.

Other annual events were the Individual and Specialist Test weekends. These are organised by Battalion HQ and enable the companies to present their soldiers for individual weapons and efficiency tests. A circuit consisting of stands operated by the PSIs is completed by each man and covers all the usual personal weapons and also such things as first aid, signals, map reading, fire and movement, and anti-tank tests. The general standard was very encouraging.

A new event was introduced in April when the QM, Major John Denny, exercised the company 'A' echelons at Stanford PTA. This proved to be a very good weekend and of great value to the C.Q.M.Ss, cooks, drivers, and storemen who ran the echelons. So often on normal company at battalion weekends they are so busy feeding the troops that they have little time to practice or train in greater detail. After lectures in the field on Saturday afternoon on hygiene and cook-shelter layout, the echelons carried out a movement exercise which ended with taking up a position by night. Great attention was paid to camouflage and concealment so that the early light of dawn would not reveal their location.

The Eastern District Annual Study Weekend was held in April and was a double feature programme. Some thirty officers, WOs and sergeants attended the study at Colchester where on the Saturday the Arab/Israeli war was examined in detail. On the Sunday the effect of a civilian disaster, a Jumbo Jet crashing in Colchester, was studied together with the police, fire, ambulance and emergency planning teams from the local authorities.

## Shooting Successes

Also in May the battalion showed very good form on the rifle ranges at the Eastern District Skill-at-Arms meeting held at Colchester. For the fifth year running 3 (Essex) Company won the overall championship.

3 (Essex) Company being the 1973 champions were tested closely in every event and after a very tight competition managed to retain the championship with the following results:

Section match: **Winners.**

Rifle match team event: **Winners**

GPMG pairs: **4th**

SMG team: **8th.**

The individual TAVR champion, Cpl Bentley, also came from 3 (Essex) Company. He obtained top score of the meeting (72) to get into the final 24 for the shoot-off and had another very good shoot to win the day.

Lt. Newsum, of 2 (Lincoln) Company was

another individual winner, taking the Individual Officers Trophy. Also amongst the prizes was the GPMG pair from 2 (Lincoln) Company of CSM B. Graves and L/Cpl. Whitworth. Their score in the TAVR match was higher than the winners of the Regular Match and deserves considerable praise.

3 (Essex) Company team consisted of the following: Sgts. Alderton, Charlick, Goodall, Cpls. Bentley, Rose, Potter, Hilton, Chrispin, L/Cpl. Wilson.

The battalion CPX in June had all the company CPs, 'The Brains of the Battalion', assembled in war-like manner round battalion HQ at Peterborough.

A mass of telephone lines snaked from the CPs to the drill hall where the Exercise Staff sat in splendid isolation on a dais overlooking a cloth model. From here they directed a fast moving battle that covered five days in time span over some twelve hours.

At the beginning of the year HRH The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester graciously consented to accept a Special Relationship with 5th (Volunteer) Battalion. The battalion was delighted when Her Royal Highness accepted an invitation to attend the annual officers' cocktail party at battalion headquarters at Peterborough at 18 May. On arrival Her Royal Highness was met by the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Colonel G. T. Hurrell, who introduced Mrs. Hurrell, the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Freeland, the Mayor of

Peterborough and Mrs. Farrell, and Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Pat Hopper.

Her Royal Highness, escorted by the Commanding Officer, moved around groups of people and chatted informally to them. It was a most enjoyable evening and we are delighted that Her Royal Highness found time to cement her 'special relationship' with the 5th Battalion as a Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. The main drill hall was transformed for the occasion into a garden party setting with a large marquee and banks of flowers.

## COLOURS PARADE

Since January the selected Colour Party and reserves had been hard at work at their respective drill halls and on 'centralised' weekends getting their drill up to standard. Much hard work and attention to detail was rewarded when on Friday, 12 July, the great day went off without a hitch. Our Colour Party consisted of Captain P. V. B. George, Lt. A. B. Carr, WO.II J. Burgess, C/Sgt. B. C. Lee and C/Sgt. K. E. Lacey. They had spent many weeks getting their drill up to the mark under the eagle eye of the RSM at their drill halls with one or two collective sessions at Battalion HQ Peterborough. However, isolated practice is one thing, merging with a well rehearsed parade is another, but how well the Colour Party managed this task.



Her Royal Highness, The Princess Alice, at the Officers' Mess, Peterborough, on 18th March, 1974.

Gradually the ceremony continued until at last the cases were removed from our Colours by the Quartermaster, Major J. Denny, and laid on the piled drums for the consecration service, conducted by the Chaplain General assisted by our Padre the Rev. K. Belben. After the service the Queen Mother moved along the line of piled drums to present the Colours to each battalion. Our CO and 2IC, Lt. Colonel P. D. L. Hopper and Major R. C. Tomkins, received our Colours from Her Majesty and in turn handed them to the Colour Ensigns. The Colour parties then rejoined the parade and the ceremony concluded with a march past in slow and quick time.

Many of those volunteers who took part or were able to be present as spectators, have asked if they would have preferred to have had our Colours presented on a separate Volunteers' parade. The answer was always that there could be no finer way for 5 Royal Anglian to have received its Colours than with its sister Regular Battalions. The parade demonstrated significantly that there is but one Royal Anglian Regiment and that the Regular and Volunteer Soldiers stand side by side.

## CAMP

And so the battalion came to climax of the training year, the Annual Camp. Our camp date being fairly late this year, the last two weeks in September, we had always been aware that the weather could be against us, and this fear was indeed well founded as events turned out. However, even though the weather was poor, morale was high and Otterburn 1974 goes down as a most successful camp.

Camp training was based on a number of cadres so that the various basic skills could be well founded in preparation for our camp in BAOR next year. A recruit cadre of some eighty-two soldiers took pride of place and by the end of the two weeks they had absorbed a vast quantity of training and the companies were pleased to receive back well trained men. Other cadres were Junior Officers and Platoon Sergeants, Juniors NCOs, Signals, NBC and First Aid, Anti Tank, Mortar, Demolitions, and last but not least a select HGV Driver Cadre. For the very few who could not be placed into these cadres a Battle Platoon was organised with an active programme of field firing. In this platoon we were very pleased to welcome on attachment for two weeks fourteen members of our 1st Battalion awaiting posting to Ireland.

The first few days of intensive training passed with a mixture of weather ranging from reasonable to cold and wet. The first Friday saw the battalion visited by the Colonel of the Regiment and Brigadier C. M. A. Mayes, Brigadier Nottingham Area, together with a number of other distinguished guests including Chairmen and Secretaries of our TAVRs and our Deputy Honorary Colonels. The visitors made an extensive tour of the ranges and saw much of the training, including an impressive HESH shoot by the anti tank guns. In the evening they were present at the Beating of the Retreat by our Band and Corps of Drums and then entertained to dinner in the Officer's Mess.

The Band spending the first week in camp with us had a very heavy programme. They played at both the Sergeants' and Officers' Mess

General Freeland with the Recruits Cadre, Otterburn.





**General Freeland and the Demolitions Cadre, Otterburn.**

dinners in the main ORs dining room on two evenings and also on the Battalion Church Parade. In addition the traditional jazz section gave a very well received concert in the local village hall.

After a day's relaxation on Saturday the whole unit was once again ready for action on the Sunday. Prior to the start of the major camp exercise a very impressive Drum Head Service, conducted by our Padre, the Rev. K. Belben, was held on the main square. For the very first time our new Colours were paraded at camp and laid on the piled drums. After the service the CO, Lt. Col. Pat Hopper, presented efficiency medals to:

- Sgt. Bradley (2 Company)
- Cpl. Lee (4 Company)
- Sgt. Paine (2 Company)
- Sgt. Perry (5 Company)
- L/Sgt. Parker (Band)
- L/Cpl. Byatt (Band)

The service had taken place in bright sunshine and the backdrop of the hills of the training area looked very inviting, but as the battalion started to prepare for battle so clouds started to scud across the sky and heavy showers of rain came at regular intervals. For the exercise the battalion regrouped into two forces and by mid afternoon they were deployed in the exercise area.

During a pitch black night of gale force winds and driving rain intense patrol activity (some fifty patrols in all) tested all the junior ranks in leadership. Fifty yards in such conditions could exact as much strain as several miles in normal conditions and much praise was given to all those who went on patrols that night. Despite all the hazards, good contacts were made and by dawn the force com-

manders had enough knowledge of the enemy layout to plan an attack. Dawn was accompanied by mist, low cloud and more rain, but even though everyone was wet to the skin, and cold and tired after a sleepless night, the morale of the battalion from youngest recruit up was first class and every task was done. Returning to camp late Monday night with all the aims of the exercise achieved, everyone washed, fed and were soon fast asleep. Tuesday saw the resumption of cadre training and the visit of Major General Peter Hudson, GOC Eastern District, who toured the camp. He was impressed with the morale and high overall standard of the battalion.

As ever after the mid-camp weekend the last week sped by. The cadres finished their training and an intensive company field firing programme was worked on the last days of training. During this time the companies held their parties where the war stories of camp were recounted. A long journey down the unending A1 and the battalion was back at home locations late on Saturday. It had been a hard camp and at times not very pleasant in the poor weather but by the end of the two weeks everyone was a better soldier, better trained and better equipped with the experience of those two weeks. There is no doubt that with the sound foundations that the cadres have laid the battalion is in great shape in both numbers and morale and now it faces with determined anticipation possibly its greatest test, for in 1975 the battalion will go to BAOR in late October to take part in a very testing exercise. There is no doubt that BAOR will be a memorable experience and our training for the next twelve months is aimed at giving every man the skill and knowledge to play his part.

# ARMY CADETS

## NORFOLK ACF

### Annual Camp

This year we were at Beckingham, on the border of Lincoln and Nottingham, from the 28th July to 4th August. The object was conversion to APC (AC) which was successfully completed and all ranks can now start the new training year on the right lines. The weather was very mixed and the boys got very wet in the middle of the week.

Our visitors were the DVT & C, the Deputy Commander Eastern District (both of whom were paying their first visit to us) and the Secretary, East Anglian TAVR Association, who was making his last visit before he retires next year, and the County Commandant of Lincoln ACF.

### Farewell Party

A farewell party was held at Holt Hall during the annual adult training weekend for Captain W. G. Smith, who has retired because of ill health after twenty-eight years as Assistant Administrative Instructor with No. 1 Area, Norfolk ACF. Captain Smith, 62, of Holt, Norfolk, took up the post at the end of the war, having served sixteen years before that with the Dorset Regiment historically linked with the Royal Norfolk Regiment. Three former County Commandants and two former Commanding Officers were among those at the party to mark his retirement.

About fifty adults from all over Norfolk attended the weekend course to discuss training and also the Army Proficiency Certificate, as it effects the training of adult leaders.

## ROYAL ANGLIAN (LEICESTER, NORTHAMPTON and RUTLAND ARMY CADET FORCE

Since our last report much has been happening in all fields.

The county has now a new display stand thanks to Lt. Col. N. P. Gaffney and his team. Its first public appearance was at the British

Timkin Show, Northampton, followed by the City of Leicester Show. The stand provides a ready medium for showing facets of ACF work and has proved a great attraction.

We much regret the untimely death of Pte. Philip V. Drake in Northern Ireland, aged 20, whilst serving with the Royal Pioneer Corps. Pte. Drake served with Wellingborough Detachment 'D' Company until joining up three years ago.

In June 1974 Cadet Sgt. Steven Collier, Kettering Detachment 'D' Company, and ex-Cadet Sgt. Christopher Adams, formerly of 'A' Company, received their Gold Award Certificates from H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at a presentation held at Buckingham Palace. Ex-Cadet Sgt. Adams is the son of our Deputy Commandant, Lt. Col. K. W. Adams, and Sgt. Collier is the son of our RSMI, P. G. Collier. Does this create a record in the ACF?

### 'A' Company

On the 3rd February 'A' Company held its first Parents' Day for many years. It was an unqualified success with approximately three hundred visitors attending the display at the TAVR Centre, Clare Street, Northampton. Burma Detachment gave a silent drill display followed by the Corps of Drums and a demonstration of battle craft by Gibraltar Detachment and arms drill by Talavera Detachment.

### 'B' Company

In April 'B' Company held an inter-Detachment Physical Endeavour competition with teams covering about 25½ miles. Team members were sponsored and raised £70. Newbold Verdon Detachment were the winners.

In the spring, Market Harborough Detachment 'D' Company mounted a recruiting drive starting with a 'Toughening up programme' to attract recruits and keep existing cadets. There followed a series of one-day exercises and weekend exercises around Market Harborough and at W/E Training Camp at Leek. The culmination was a five-day Pennine Way exercise, starting at Edale and finishing at Charlestown.

### 'C' Company

To mark their appreciation to Cadets of Brentwood Road Detachment 'C' Company in the sale of Poppies in 1973 The Royal British Legion Southfields Branch, Leicester, presented certificates to Cadets who had each collected £20.



### **'D' Company**

During the annual social of the officers and SMI's 'D' Company, the prize draw took place, raising over £100.

At an 'Open Night' of Wellingborough Detachment 'D' Company presentations were made to representatives of two old people's homes, and a Local Home for the Blind of 12-lb. Christmas cakes made in the Regimental design by the Detachment.

### **Annual Camp**

After five years we were at Crowborough Training Camp, Crowborough, Sussex, for our Annual Camp. Forty-two officers, 35 SMIs and SIs, and 300 cadets attended camp. The weather was good during camp, except for the last night and the Sunday of our departure, when it rained.

Training was on a Company basis except for the Post Cert 'A' Cadets, whose advanced training was organised by 16 and 17 AYT's. The training was arduous but exciting and included a march through Ashdown Forest and an all night exercise.

A series of one-day Cadres on the new APC syllabus was held for all adults in camp.

Visits were also made by Cadets to the Royal Naval base at Portsmouth, RSME Chatham, Army Fire Brigade and Airborne Forces Museum both at Aldershot.

Parties went swimming each day in Tunbridge Wells and at our annual athletics meeting 'D' Company won with 166 points, followed by 'B' Company. Prizes were presented by Col. R. A. J. Martin, OBE, JP, President East Midlands T & AVR Association.

### **Sports**

The senior and junior teams were entered in the Eastern District cross-country competition. Cpl. W. Humphries, Market Harborough Detachment 'D' Company, was selected to represent Eastern District in the National Championships.

The inter-Company competition for the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) Challenge Trophy was organised and run by 15 Cadet Training Team. Each Company entered one senior and one junior team.

The competition consisted of map reading/orienteering, shooting, obstacle course and initiative test, making a combination of military skills, initiative and leadership, the key to the success of the competition.

The Challenge Trophy was won by 'B' Company, with 'A' Company being runners up.

Almost immediately after our return from Annual Camp we held our annual swimming gala at Cossington Street baths, Leicester. Capt. F. W. Aldwinkle, our County Sports Officer, ably organised the gala and members of the Belgrave Swimming Club, Leicester, officiated. Prizes were presented by the County Commandant, Lt. Col. A. P. Gilks. The winners were 'B' Company (45 points), 'C' Company (37 points) runners-up.

### **Shooting**

Our annual Rifle Meeting was held at Kibworth Range, Leicester. The individual winner was Cadet Sgt. Stephen York, Rushden Detachment 'D' Company (125 points), followed by Cadet Cpl. Andre Lichfield, Rushden Detachment (124 points). The team event was won by 'D' Company (731 points, followed by 'B' Company (657 points), 'A' Company (644 points) and 'C' Company (503 points).

'A' and 'D' Companies entered teams for the inter-Service Cadet Rifle meeting at Bisley.

### **SUFFOLK ARMY CADET FORCE**

The year 1973/74 will go down in the history books of the Army Cadet Force as the year of changeover from Certificate 'A' to a new training scheme to be known as the Army Proficiency Certificate (ACF). Training will start with the recruit and work up through three levels to 4 Star which will be similar to the Gold Standard of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The eleven subjects to be included will be a balance between military and non-military and will range from drill and shooting to adventurous and citizenship training. The adventurous training will include camp craft and a gradual work up to a fifty mile expedition with three nights camping out in wild open country. All ACF units are now heavily engaged in re-classification of cadets and all officers and adult instructors are being fully briefed in a series of weekend courses under 37 AYT and No. 1 CCT. Suffolk ACF adopted the new scheme as from 1st September 1974 and the tremendous burden of this change is being cheerfully undertaken by officers and adult instructors. We have a number of adult vacancies throughout the county and would be delighted to hear from anybody who would like to take up the challenge with us.

An invasion of Tangham Forest took place in November 1973 when one hundred and sixty

competitors and organisers assembled for the Suffolk Youth Orienteering championships, 1973. Although Suffolk ACF did not have the honour of receiving any of the trophies presented by H.M. Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk, The Earl of Stradbroke, some cadets did extremely well at both *intermediate and junior* level.

Annual Camp 1974 was to Chickerell Camp, Weymouth. A first visit to this location by Suffolk ACF. The cadets soon found the sea front and all the attractions this popular resort has to offer.

*Training followed a normal pattern, including map reading, escape and evasion exercises, watermanship and .303 shooting. These activities were supplemented with all the various competitions entered by all the cadets with unlimited energy and enthusiasm. The Honorary Colonels Cup is one of our highlights, being for competition of an adventurous nature. With 37 AYT being responsible for laying the course we always expect and they never fail to introduce 'something new' to the competition. 'B' Company (East Suffolk) proved worthy winners and received the cup from our Honorary Colonel, Major W. A. M. Stawell, CB, CBE, MC, JP. Chickerell Camp will be remembered by S. Woods and L. Wright (Stowmarket) and D. Combesto (Ipswich), who left the ACF after camp to join The Royal Anglian Regiment at Bassingbourne in September. We thank them for their loyal service to the ACF and wish them well for the future wherever and whatever they may be doing in their chosen career.*

ACF Sunday was celebrated in June with all Suffolk units parading and attending Church services at individual locations. A county parade on ACF Sunday is one of our ambitions but travelling expenses make this difficult at present. Many Regular Army Units have been visited during the year, too many to list separately. Sufficient to say that the welcome, interest and hospitality provided for the cadets has been first class and much appreciated. Without doubt the annual visit to BAOR provides the adventure demanded by modern youth today and this year's movement was for the first time by air. *Apprehension was followed by great excitement and complete satisfaction at the end of the ten day period. Our host unit was the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Munster, who laid on a most interesting training programme and recreational itinerary. According to reports cadets quickly displayed their skills when given the opportunity of driving armoured vehicles.*

'B' Company (East Suffolk) undertook a Spring Bank Holiday Camp at Overloon, Nord Brabant, Holland. Financially self supporting, the complete administration was undertaken by RSM A. Smith (Leiston), who as OC party, supervised the travel by our own vehicles, setting up camp and subsequent visits, including the Dutch National War Museum, Overloon War Cemetery, Nymegan and the famous bridge, an exhibition in the well known Evoluon, to Arnhem, the Airborne Cemetery and Museum and the Reichwald Forest, remembered by so many Suffolk soldiers.

## THE ESSEX ARMY CADET FORCE

This has been a good year for shooting. We have for some years done well in small bore events, especially the 'D' Company team, whose members come chiefly from Mistley and Brightlingsea, but this year we did better than we have for many years at the Inter-Service Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley, held in July.

The major success was the winning of the Patriotic Shield at 300 yards by C/Cpl. Stephen Powell of 'D' Company. His score was 1/7th of a point from the possible. C/Cpl. Powell and C/Cpl. Baxter also obtained places in the Cadets Hundred. The Essex team were 12th in the major team event, the Watts Bowl, and C/Cpl. Baxter obtained fourth best score in the individual 200 yards.

Credit for this success is due to Captains B. Ainger and A. E. Welsh of 'D' Company for their coaching. For CASTLE readers it is worthy of note that the whole of 'D' Company is affiliated to the Royal Anglian Regiment.

We have also done well at swimming. We won the Eastern ACF Region championships and we now hope that the Essex cadets who are members of the regional team will give a good account of themselves at the ACF national championships.

Our County Commandant, Colonel D. G. Flindall, TD, DL, leaves us after four years at the end of March. He has piloted the county through a very busy time, especially the Claymore Experimental Syllabus and we are very grateful for all that he has done. We welcome his successor, Lt. Colonel J. H. L. Parker, MC, who joins us on 1st April, 1975.

## LINCOLNSHIRE ACF

The highlight of a busy year for Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force was annual camp at Garelochhead on the west coast of Scotland. From 4th-19th August over two hundred and fifty

**A scene from Lincolnshire ACF's Cadet Sunday parade at Lincoln on June 16.**  
(Courtesy *Lincolnshire Chronicle*)



cadets were put through their paces. Full use was made of the extensive training areas and, despite rather poor weather, the boys had a good time.

A big 'thank you' is due to the Royal Navy who made available their excellent sporting facilities and the miniature range at the Clyde Submarine Base just across the road from Garelochhead Camp.

Orienteering, fieldcraft, drill and sports competitions were held and the programme also included an Army Proficiency Certificate examination which twenty-eight cadets passed at Three Star level.

One day the boys took a break from training to visit a bear park at nearby Balloch and enjoy a trip on Loch Lomond.

Earlier in the year a small contingent of Lincolnshire cadets visited BAOR and, by all

accounts had a thoroughly good time. They were guests of 50th Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Menden.

Cadet Sunday on June 16th saw two good parades at Lincoln and Boston. The county's drum and bugle band has been reformed and made a very creditable debut on this occasion. Later on the band fulfilled engagements at galas and fetes in the area.

During the year Lincolnshire ACF welcomed a new RSM, Mr. Harry Gamage, and said 'goodbye' to Captain J. J. Rann, OC 1 Company, who had reached retiring age. At an officers' cheese and wine party in Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln, on October 4th, the County Commandant, Lt. Col. T. Prestwood, paid glowing tribute to Captain Rann's unstinting service over a long period of years and presented him with an inscribed silver gallery tray and goblets.



**Sunday Parade in Lincoln.**  
(Courtesy *Lincolnshire Chronicle*)

# BEDFORDSHIRE ACF

Great changes have taken place in the Bedfordshire ACF during this last year, the greatest being the change of training from the old Certificate 'A' to the new Army Proficiency Certificate.

Lt. Col. John Greenwood, after a period of three years as County Commandant, has handed over the reins to Col. O. J. (Jock) Degnan, OBE. Our thanks go to Lt. Col. Greenwood for all his help and for supporting us through a difficult period.

The arrival of Col. Jock Degnan has given the county a slight swing towards the Royal Corps of Transport as he was an RASC/RCT officer.

However, our tie with the Royal Anglian Regiment is as strong as ever; the cadet visits to the Stanford PTA with the Regimental Information team are as popular as ever and the number of ex-cadets who join the Regiment is still high.

Bedfordshire ACF annual camp was held this year at Bellerby, near Catterick. Due to the remoteness of the camp and the type of ground, training had to be long and arduous, but the cadets were marvellous. They entered into Army life with spirit, the NCOs and senior cadets taking full advantage of their responsibilities.

The security risk in the area was very high with the result that all personnel had to be issued with identity passes; this, of course, gave the cadets their chance of a lifetime, to be able to detain their Detachment Commander and, in one case, an Area Commander, for identification by the Duty Officer before being allowed into camp for failing to produce an identity pass. Who was it said 'They have never had it so good'. This enthusiasm, however, had to be curtailed to a certain extent after a sentry refused the Catterick Garrison Commander

The weather was bleak, wet and marvellous in turn, being especially good for the county two-day exercise, thanks to the number of very urgent signals which passed between our padres, Captains All Saints and St. Swithin. It was gratifying to see the junior platoons showing such standards of all round training which resulted in the final battle having to be de-

clared a draw. It was during the heat of the battle that the quote of the year was made—a very small (14?) junior cadet was observing the attacking force through his platoon commander's binoculars. Turning to the assembled brass hats he stated, 'It's funny, I can see their lips moving but I can't hear a word they are saying!'

The county was honoured with the presence of General Sir Anthony Read, who spent the day with us and stayed for the Officers' Mess Dinner Night. General Read took a great interest in all aspects of training and spent a long time talking to cadets who were taking part in the march and shoot competitions.

Major General Peter Hudson, GOC Eastern District, also paid us a visit but on this occasion St. Swithin let us down and a wet weather programme had to be put into operation.

## REGIMENTAL SHOP

A photograph of items for sale appears on page 87, with Order Form.

# 6th (Volunteer) Battalion

Immediately after our sojourn on Dartmoor, reported in last year's CASTLE, our new CO decided to embark upon a toughening up training programme of conventional tactics. From November until the end of February we endured all forms of weather on Stanford PTA. It was a popular phase. Real physical stuff—long night marches followed by dawn attacks. Those without seven league boots thought the CO too well addicted to Wavell's dictum, "To train a soldier well—first make him tired". We provided the enemy for the 7th Battalion who were doing a District Exercise as part of their annual FFR inspection and exercise 'Snow Goose' II proved that HQ Signals Platoon had become effective operators of their W25s.

After a brief interlude during which the main task was recruiting and preparation for the Freedom of Wisbech parade reported below, we embarked on the basic training and revision that was to lead up to the District Skill at Arms meeting. Recruiting had been a success and our strength increased by 18 per cent. Inevitably the dual effect of time spent on recruiting and training recruits, and the worry about the TAVR review in the background, produced some reservations about the standard of shoot-

ing which would be achieved. It was a great relief and satisfaction to all, particularly RSM Knight, when the Battalion Rifle Meeting revealed a fair standard of shooting and a reasonably even level of attainment over the whole Battalion. In previous years 'D' Company had developed the habit of carrying off all prizes. This year, much to the delight of everybody, the honours were fairly evenly spread between all Companies and HQ as the following table shows:

Two weeks after the Rifle Meeting, the Eastern District Skill at Arms meeting was held at Fingringhoe. Our champion shot, Sgt. Martin of 'B' Company, was among the top 24 of the meeting. Of 16 teams entered in the TAVR Rifle Match, the Battalion was represented by 'D' Company—4th; HQ Company—5th; 'A' Company—6th; 'C' Company—7th and 'B' Company—9th. Again, a good consistent result. The LMG Pairs was won overall in class A by the HQ team, Lt. Col. Swayne and Pte. Marshall, and class B was won by Ptes. A. W. Smith and SC Smart of 'D' Company. The LMG Team Match was won by HQ Company, Lt. Col. Swayne, Pte. Marshall, L/Cpl. Moffatt, Ptes. Menditta, Wright and Robertson, as was

## Battalion Rifle Meeting, 1974

Battalion HQ	'A' Company	'B' Company	'C' Company	'D' Company
<b>LMG Cup</b> Lt. Col. Swayne Pte. Marshall	<b>Challenge Cup</b> *	<b>Champion Shot</b> Sgt. Martin	<b>Best WO/Sgt.</b> Sgt. Mack	<b>Falling Plate Cup</b> CSM Shailes Cpl. Marshall Pte. Spooner L/Bdr. McAleer
<b>SMG Cup</b> Lt. Col. Swayne Pte. Marshall Pte. Ireland Pte. Smith	<b>Champion Company</b> * <b>Section Cup</b> *	<b>Section Match</b> Cpl. Forder L/Cpl. Reuter Ptes. Burns, Gallagher, Nook, Williams, Nichol, Domoney, Curtis.	<b>Ladies Cup</b> Miss Skinner	<b>Best Corporal</b> L/Bdr. McAleer
<b>Best Officer</b> Lt. Col. Swayne				<b>Best Trained Soldier</b> Pte. Spooner
<b>Best Recruit</b> Pte. Marshall				

\* Awarded on aggregate scores

the SMG Match, Ptes. Marshall, Ireland, Smith, B. B., and Baker, and the Best Young Soldier (Rifle) Competition by Pte. Robertson of HQ Company, and second was Pte. Marshall, also of HQ Company. In the Section Match, 'C' Company was 5th overall.

Now it has long been the wish of RSM Knight to take a team to Bisley, the Mecca of Small Arms Competitions. One of the many fables of this famous field is that you must shoot there for two or three years before you know the ropes well enough to compete effectively. This myth was well and truly exploded, for in spite of RSM Knight being heavily committed at Sennybridge on a camp recce on the eve of the competition, the team being delayed in transit, and on arrival finding that all their bedding had 'walked', they achieved 3rd in the China Cup. This result gave a real boost to the morale of the team: Lt. Col. Swayne, Cpl. Frodsham, Ptes. Marshall, Steinke, Wells, Wright, Robertson and Smith, B. B. In the overall TAVR competition, out of a total entry of about 700, Pte. Marshall was equal 5th and the CO equal 9th. All the way through these competitions it has been notable that recruits as well as trained soldiers and NCOs have been well represented. If our current standard of recruits is anything to go by we shall take another crack at the China Cup next year!

Needless to say, the CO, a keen shot, was well pleased with the efforts of all concerned. Credit is primarily due to the efforts of our permanent staff and PSIs led by Major Wilson and RSM (Lofty) Knight, who really made

good use of his long legs whilst training the Section Team.

Then in September to camp at Sennybridge, wet and demanding but none the less enjoyable. Visited by the Commander in Chief, Colonel of the Regiment, Director of TAVR and Cadets, our own GOC, Brigadiers Dick Randall and Mike Harvey, and Colonels Paul Raywood, Geoffrey Dicker and Aymar Clayton, we can hardly claim to have been neglected!

The best discovery of camp however, was that Richard Wilson, exasperated with our padre Brian Measures' lamentable performance as weather organiser, took over from him one day at 1200 hours. Within ten minutes the rain stopped, clouds cleared and the sun shone.

### **'A' (ROYAL NORFOLK) COMPANY**

Speaking of recruiting—did you see us on telly? We were on twice—the GOC lending a dash of colour to the otherwise muted khaki. One social occasion of note was Brigadier Barclay receiving the Standard and Whistle of the Norfolk Old Contemptibles. Old Soldiers never die—they don't drown in ale either! We now number 92, having re-opened in Norwich where we have 35. We hope to be the first Company in the Battalion to fill our establishment completely.

During the weekend 5th-6th May a small body of qualified volunteers spent two days paddling some thirty miles along the Grand Union Canal in the Rugby area. The first day

**Boating at Stanford PTA.**



was deliberately easy to acclimatise the canoeists but none-the-less some big tunnels and numerous locks were negotiated. Things were slightly complicated by a party of merry gentlemen aboard a narrow canal boat whose only navigational aid was a series of gin and tonics—their antics behind us were no small cause for alarm. On the Sunday the rain came—and did it rain!—but failed to dampen the spirits of the participants who finished the course tired and wet, but with a sense of achievement.

One final remark; our PSI, C/Sgt. Turner, still lives up to his rank—purple he is as he is heard to say in a soft voice, 'Wot, another \* \* \* \* form!'

### **'B' (BEDFORDSHIRE) COMPANY**

Soon after Camp 1973 we had the news that our new and popular OC, Major Jim Robb, was to leave us. One of his last duties with us was to organise the opening of our new Social Club in Company HQ at Bedford. It is named, appropriately, 'The 16th Foot', with an excellent inn sign painted by former CSM 'Becky' Sharp. The honours were done by Miss Bedford before the CO and the Chairman and Secretary of the Bedfordshire TAVR and Cadet Committee. An excellent evening and Miss Bedford didn't want for attention!

Our former 2IC, Ron James, was soon appointed OC and David Kirk promoted to be 2IC. Next, the OC's wedding on June 8th to Miss Elizabeth Mullett at St. Catherine's Church, Litlington—we wish them every happiness.

Dunstable platoon continues to thrive under Sgt. Martin, who has now gathered an excellent team there. Having now a platoon based on Biggleswade which is growing rapidly and confidently, we look to competitions between the three locations.

On the sporting side, we have taken part in a number of local tug-of-war competitions with some success. The Company football team led by Cpl. Forder of Dunstable is now joint top of the Battalion league. With all this talk of sport, social club and weddings, you may think we have neglected our military duties. Not so—we have cast off the role of 'winner of the Ladies Cup' and we were runners-up in this year's Gaza Cup competition! However, most pleasing was that we put in four teams and however the scores were aggregated or adjusted afterwards, we still maintained second place

overall. Equally satisfying, however, is that we gained the highest number of recruits during the National Campaign.

1974 has been a year of change and turmoil for 'B' Company. We face 1975 with confidence and hope to maintain the progress in both recruiting and achievements.

### **'C' (ESSEX) COMPANY**

Although our 1973 Camp at Okehampton was plagued with sickness and injury, the Company finished on a high note with an excellent party at The George in Hatherleigh. In January we were involved in patrolling and a river crossing on Stanford. All went well except that one man was, in the initial stages, left behind on the river bank. An abacus has been requested in order to avoid any re-occurrence.

As an experiment we have been doing ambush and patrolling exercises on the odd drill night. We find this stimulates interest, makes a change from lectures and is very much enjoyed by all. The Company's 'Test Exercise' proved to be a mammoth test for platoon commanders. It was very instructive for all concerned.

In March we proudly supported 'D' Company in their Wisbech parade and of course, the earlier rehearsals.

The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Colonel Sir John Ruggles-Brise, visited the Company and presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Cpls. Bill Gadd and Bill Giddings, and H.M. Lieutenants Certificate of Meritorious Service to C/Sgt. John Reeve. The OC obtained plans of a CP vehicle designed by 'B' Company of the Mercian Volunteers and featured in the TAVR Magazine. As a result our intrepid PSI, C/Sgt. Sid Wilkinson, and Cpl. 'Mac' McLellan built us a magnificent CP on our LWB Land Rover. With fluorescent lighting, excellent W/T communication facilities, systematic layout and lockable door at rear, this makes life much more enjoyable. We have added a tent attached to the vehicle as a briefing area, which has its own lighting from the truck. It proved its worth on the Battalion IS exercise in July. Also during July we started a recruiting campaign in Haverhill. This was most successful, and the area seems to us to have great potential—we hope to exploit this! Camp at Sennybridge, in spite of very wet weather conditions, was a great success. This was in no small measure due to having our own recruits with us. We hope to recover the Gaza Cup from Cambridge in 1975.



**'D' (CAMBRIDGESHIRE)  
COMPANY**

**Marching through Wisbech  
after the Freedom Ceremony  
on 31 March, 1974.**



Apart from our participation in the Battalion exercises in the earlier part of the year, our first major event was a civic one. On the last day of the life of the Borough of Wisbech, 31st March, 1974, the Borough awarded us the Freedom formerly conferred upon the Cambridgeshire Regiment. Accordingly, we, supported by representatives from the rest of the Battalion and led by the Band and Drums of the 5th Battalion, marched along the North Brink with swords drawn, bayonets fixed and Colours flying. Before the Colonel of the Regiment and the Lord Lieutenant, Colonel G. T. Hurrell, the Mayor, Mrs. June Bond, presented the Freedom Scroll and Casket. After the ceremony and a reception at the Rose and Crown Hotel, the day ended with Beating Retreat by the Junior Band of the Depot, The Queens Division. On display were the former Cambridgeshire Regiment's Singapore Drums which were hidden at the fall of Singapore and survived the Japanese occupation. It was a beautiful spring day and the townspeople lined the route in the manner of a Victory Parade. In all a day to remember both for town and TAVR.

Camp at Sennybridge was a great success in spite of very wet conditions. We managed to win the Gaza Cup for the third successive year with an entire TAVR team. Attached to us from Camp were six young soldiers from the 1st Battalion (Ptes. Thatcher, Rotman, Murray (two of them), Sainsbury and Newman). These excellent lads provided a useful comparison—

Regular vs. Territorial. The former scored on fitness and age plus sheer military efficiency, the latter on experience, age and inventiveness. Equal honours prevailed on capacity for beer and ability to survive wet weather!

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**Are You a  
Member of  
The  
Regimental  
Association?**

# NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Eighth Annual Report and Accounts were presented to an Annual General Meeting held at Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds, on October 19th, 1973.

Lieutenant Colonel C. R. Murray Brown, DSO, took the chair in the absence of the President and Chairman.

This report covers the year ending December 31st, 1973, insofar as the audited accounts are concerned and the period May 1st, 1973, to July 31st, 1974, in other respects.

## Casualties

Since July 31st, 1973, there have been no fatal casualties on operations in Northern Ireland due to 'enemy' action. Six soldiers died due to accidents in the period under review, four in road accidents.

It will be of interest to members to know that a Book of Remembrance has been presented to The Headquarters, Northern Ireland, by the Lisburn Branch of the Guild of St. Helena. This book contains the names of all those who have given their lives in the Province since 1969. It will be kept in the Lisburn Garrison Church of St. Columbus and was dedicated by the Chaplain General to the Forces on December 17th, 1973. A Commemorative Card with a photograph of the Book of Remembrance has been sent to each next-of-kin.

## Committee membership

The following changes have taken place, Cpl. E. O. Gray has replaced L/Cpl. A. J. Lyons on the General and Executive Committees. Major M. D. Franks has replaced Major P. W. King as our senior representative at the Divisional Depot on the same committees. The Training Major 6(V) Battalion has replaced the Adjutant 5(V) Battalion on the Benevolent Committee.

## Membership

There are now 3,532 members registered, 546 officers and 2,986 soldiers. 152 new life members joined between May 1st, 1973 and July 31st, 1974.

## The accounts

Net assets representing the balance of funds of the Combined Funds Account increased from £5,382 to £7,109.

Expenditure was again maintained almost at the exact level of the previous year whilst income from the Day's Pay rose by £1,400 and the Investment Income by £500. Income from new membership dropped slightly due to poor recruit intakes. Profits on sales of Regimental Souvenirs increased by £114.

The abridged Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts are shown at the end of this report.

The Investment Committee report a capital profit on sales of £298. Investment Capital in the Benevolent Fund stands at £24,898 at cost with a market value as on December 31st, 1973, of £20,549 as per the schedule attached to the report. Although this shows a loss in the market value of our portfolio of £4,200, this is considered by your General Committee to be satisfactory under the present economic conditions.

Your Committee recommended the adoption of these accounts.

## Capital policy

The present economic conditions and an expected further increase in level of case grants and attendant administrative costs may be expected to further slow down the rate of capital growth. Your General Committee accepts that the planned build-up of our capital must be further delayed and confirm that grants-in-aid must continue to be made in the light of current costs of living.

## The Day's Pay scheme

As on July 31st, 1974, 1,330 soldiers were donating to the scheme. This is a drop of 300 since the last report, and once again reflects the net loss of serving soldiers annually due to discharges outnumbering new recruits. Your Committee consider this to be a serious reduction and is actively pursuing means of ensuring maximum membership. It is appreciated that

there is a maximum membership and this is the number of soldiers on the Active List. Recruiting of new soldiers is not good at present but there has been a very encouraging increase in serving soldiers prolonging their engagements which may help ease the situation.

The per cent within the Regiment subscribing, both officers and soldiers, remains about the same at 97 per cent and 82 per cent respectively.

The income from the Scheme was £9,351. This was £1,400 more than in the previous year. This was due to the increase in pay.

### **Benevolence**

Eighteen grants were made during the period May 1st, 1973, to March 12th, 1974. The reduction from last year's total of 40 reflects the quieter period enjoyed in Northern Ireland, 26 of last year's 40 being in one way or another attributable to that Province.

During the financial year January 1st, 1973, to December 31st, 1973, grants totalling £858 were made to members of the Association or their dependants. The annual grants to our former Regiments' Associations remained at £2,550, similar to last year.

Your Committee approved a grant to the Army Benevolent Fund of £1,000 for 1974.

Interest free loans from the Army Benevolent Fund for major rehabilitation, house purchase and furnishing amounted to £3,211, about £250 more than last year. These loans are made to long service soldiers on retirement. These are not automatic interest free loans to anyone who wants them, they are made only where the applicant, or his family, would suffer financial hardship if the loan was not available. These are secured by repayments from the Terminal Grants through the Regimental Paymaster, and are short term.

### **Donations to the fund and assistance from other agencies**

Your Committee wish to record their appreciation to the following individuals and organisations who so generously gave donations or assisted members of the Association or their dependants by practical means:

HQ Northern Ireland.

The Bury St. Edmunds Branch of the Regimental Association Club.

Sawston Conservative Association, who asked that this donation should be given to a soldier or relative directly affected by service in Northern Ireland.

Gaza Society.

Wives' Club, Depot Queen's Division.

PRI Depot Queen's Division, from the profits on their gaming machines.

USAF Reunion at Bassingbourn. This was held in June 1974 by members of 91st Bombardment Group (H) USAF who served there during the war. They asked that the profits should go to both American and British Service charities.

RAF Cranwell. This was a direct result of Capt. Hazan's appearance on television.

The St. Osyth Branch Royal British Legion, who make a donation annually to a widow of a soldier killed in Northern Ireland.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who have given financial assistance to the wife of an NCO who was seriously injured in a car accident. The NCO served for a time with RRF.

A society formed in Westbury to give holidays to children orphaned due to action in Northern Ireland have offered a two weeks' holiday to these children whose fathers were killed there.

In addition to the above organisations, several individuals have also contributed in the form of donations.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion your Committee wishes to express once again on behalf of its members our thanks to the Army Benevolent Fund, The Royal British Legion, The Forces Help Society, The National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, and last but by no means least to SSAFA whose Chairman, Lieutenant General Sir Reginald Denning, retired on June 12th, 1974, on his 80th birthday, after twenty-one years in office. As a past Colonel of the Regiment, indeed the one who inaugurated this Association, General Denning deserves our special thanks. The Colonel of the Regiment sent the following message to General Denning:

'On behalf of all ranks of the Regiment I send to you and Lady Denning our very best wishes on your retirement as Chairman of SSAFA. Our soldiers have good reason to thank you, particularly over the past few years of troubles in Ulster. I know of very many families who have been relieved of much anxiety due to the hard work and unselfish service of your SSAFA workers all over the country. Your own example certainly must have been an inspiration to them and is well known throughout the Regiment, as indeed it is amongst the members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Old Comrades Association.'

# THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## COMBINED GENERAL AND BENEVOLENT FUNDS

Abridged Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1973

CAPITAL OF FUNDS			ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
1972		£	1972		£
25,555	Balance brought forward from		86	Furniture at cost less depreciation	118
	1972	30,937	22,634	Investments at cost	25,573
5,282	Excess of income over expenditure	7,109	2,974	Case loans	3,194
			3,328	Debtors	2,625
			322	Stock	710
			1,823	Cash at Bank and Deposit	8,631
			4,909	Special Investment account	810
			80	Cash in hand	393
			36,156		£42,054
				<i>Deduct LIABILITIES—</i>	
			4,483	Creditors	3,432
			736	Mrs. Wilkins Trust account	576
					4,008
30,937		£38,046	30,937		£38,046

### GENERAL FUND

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account, 1973

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
1972		£	1972		£
563	Subscriptions	482	125	Admin. and Audit, etc.	145
138	Profit on sale of stock	252	49	Membership Badges	—
113	Refund of Admin. Expenses from		50	Printing and stationery	92
	Benevolent Fund	67	51	Grants—recruiting	—
—	Lunches refunded	16	14	Wreaths	4
55	Investments	65	8	Regimental Reunions	—
			5	Donations	—
			—	Write off bad debts	6
			622	Excess Income over Expenditure	635
924		£882	924		£882

### BENEVOLENT FUND

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account, 1973

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
1972		£	1972		£
7,959	Days' Pay Scheme—All Ranks	9,351	47	Administration and Audit	47
1,368	Investment per Schedule	1,833	10	Write off bad debts	220
			42	Printing and stationery	55
			50	Membership Badges	—
			131	Refund to General Fund for 1971	—
				expenses	—
			1,422	Case Grants	858
			465	Donation ABF	700
			2,550	Grants to Outstations	2,550
			226	Personal Accident Assurance	228
			50	Appeals	—
			63	Wreaths	69
			—	Donations and appeals	31
			4,289	Excess Income over Expenditure	6,176
9,327		£11,184	9,327		£11,184

# A Report on our Seriously Injured Members

Following our report in the last issue of the CASTLE, we are pleased to say that C/Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Kayes and Pte. Woodford have rejoined their units. Unfortunately Pte. Woodford has not fully recovered and we understand that he will be returning to Chessington for a check up. The remainder are now settling down in civilian life and from reports we have received, are all doing well. Captain Hazan is at a University in Belgium, taking an interpreters course. Fortunately he is able to have his family with him and his parents live only three miles away.

We report only two serious injuries in 1974:

## **Cpl. Shropshire, 1st Battalion**

Cpl. Shropshire was very seriously injured in the leg and eye, when he was blown up by a booby trap in an unoccupied house on the Craigavon estate, on 30th October. After a week in Musgrave Park Hospital he was evacuated to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. MOD arranged immediately to fly his mother, father and wife to Belfast and they returned with him to Woolwich. The latest reports are that he is recovering slowly, and is very cheerful. His wife and family have moved into a married quarter in Woolwich in order to be near him. He is likely to be in hospital for some time and would welcome a visit from any of his friends who are passing.

## **Cpl. L. Hollingshead, 2nd Battalion**

As a result of a car crash in Germany, Cpl. Hollingshead suffered severe spinal injuries and is now, most unfortunately, completely paralysed.

After a long spell in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, he has recently been transferred to the Star and Garter Homes, Richmond, Surrey.

He would welcome a visit from any of his old friends who might be in London.

His wife and family are at the moment living in Married Quarters in Shorncliffe.

## **Army Benevolence in Action**

Extracts from a letter received from the ABF:

It is sometimes argued that in today's society those who in adversity stand in need of help of one kind or another are already cared for well enough by the State. In fact it is the case that state assistance is often too little or too late, and that it is frequently encumbered by provisions which are too inflexible to meet the need.

Few would begrudge help being given to old soldiers, or their dependants, who need it; but it is only natural for the serving soldier to think more about the present and recent past. It needs to be remembered that the soldier of today is the old soldier of tomorrow, and both are eligible for help from Army Benevolence whenever and for as long as it is needed—so too are their dependants. No genuine case has ever been turned away; but if this happy state of affairs is to continue the Army must give the lead—and be as generous as possible—in providing the funds.

The children of soldiers and ex-soldiers are a particular concern. Holidays are provided in special cases, and help is given with school bills. The children of serving soldiers who are severely handicapped pose a particular problem. Many local authorities provide admirable educational day centres to which such children would normally be sent. The soldier and his family, however, are often on the move, and may be stationed in remote parts of the United Kingdom, or abroad, where no such facilities exist. To meet the needs of these children the Army Benevolent Fund has made a start by purchasing vacancies in an imaginative and expanding residential organisation called the McIntyre Schools which is particularly well suited and staffed to care for all cases of sub-normality in children.

The target is clear enough; and if everyone concerned knows and understands the worthiness of the cause and what is needed, the aim must surely be attainable. Happily no one knows what the future holds for him or her; but should misfortune befall you, your support for Army Benevolence and the Day's Pay Scheme is your assurance that help will very quickly be at hand, whenever it may be needed, and for however long.

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## 10th FOOT ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Our 'Roll Call' of Royal Hospital Chelsea In-Pensioners has increased to six with the admission of ex-4795738 Cpl. Horace Rix (aged 69), who served in the Regiment from 1921 to 1942, then transferred to ACC, serving until 1949 when he retired on pension. Regimental pensioner ex-4793163 Pte. A. W. Buck died in November 1973.

### 1975 Reunion

Annual Reunion 1975 will again be held at the Beacholme Holiday Camp, Humberstone, near Cleethorpes, Humberside, as follows:

#### Saturday, 27th September

2.30 p.m. Annual General Committee Meeting.

4.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Annual Dinner followed by dancing.

Delightful chalet accommodation, meals, etc., are available at moderate prices for those wishing to stay at the 'Beacholme', which is a first class holiday centre. Boston branch are making all arrangements and full details and dinner tickets can be obtained from their Honorary Secretary, Mr. F. Myatt, 8 Carmel Green, Boston, Lincs. Telephone number Boston 61053.

#### Sunday, 28th September

9.45 a.m. Divine service in the Music Room, Beacholme.

### Annual Reunion 1974

The Annual Reunion was held at the 'Beacholme' on 28th and 29th September, 1974. On Saturday afternoon the general committee met, followed by the general meeting with the reunion dinner in the evening. On Sunday morning divine service was held in the centre.

Major C. H. Macklam, as chairman of the executive committee, gave a full report of all the activities of the committee, including benevolent grants made during the year. Major E.

Jessup presented the audited accounts and reported on the association activities, expressing thanks for the grant from the Royal Anglian Regimental Benevolent Fund, donations from Lincoln (Reunion expenses), and Grantham branches and the Army Benevolent Fund for providing five families with free Pontin's Holidays.

The AGM followed and our President had pleasure in welcoming such a good gathering of members. He gave a resume of the business transacted at the general committee meeting.

The annual dinner was once again a great success when three hundred and seventy-five sat down to an excellent meal. Our President presided and welcomed Major General Sam Cooke, Lt. Colonel and Mrs. Tony Noble, Colonel Vincent Kehoe and three members of his U.S.A. contingent, Mr. C. A. Usher of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Association, our two Chelsea Pensioners (Law and Butlers), and ex-RSM Flowers. He said a special word of thanks to our Boar War veteran, ex-Cpl. Topliss, for coming along to join us at the grand age of 94. This excellently run function was due to the arrangements and organisation carried out by our Grimsby branch, for which our many thanks. They will 'fill in the gaps' in their branch report.

### Grimsby and District Branch

We were honoured to be the organising branch for the Regimental Reunion held at the Beacholme, Humberstone, and the results were in our opinion a reward for those who assisted.

The presence of Colonel Kehoe and his three 10th Footers from the States would have provided 'meat' for the Press had the latter remained, these days their excuse is 'Sorry old chap—frightfully busy', perhaps discos are more exciting! Members must agree that they were very attentive to what they saw and heard, the Americans I mean, not the Press. It is hoped that it will be possible for the whole contingent to attend the 1975 reunion. What a chance for the organising branch to pull that little extra

out of the hat. Another who took his place at the top table, accompanied by his wife, was Major (QM) Ron Bayliss, who made the journey from N. Ireland. He was RSM of The Duchess of Gloucester's Own in Minden, W. Germany. What a bark he had then, seems to be more subdued now!

The branch annual dinner held in March was well attended, over two hundred and thirty sat down to an excellent meal. Due to the increasing popularity we had to forsake the usual happy atmosphere of the Winter Gardens, Cleethorpes, and dined for a change in Grimsby Town Hall. This meant inviting the civic heads of both boroughs; justifiable since the old Regiment had the Freedom of both conferred upon it. We deeply appreciate the annual appearance of our President and Lady Peggy, hoping that the journey across Lincolnshire into the alien sounding Humberside county provides evidence we are still 'Yellow Bellies', and will remain so. Able to join us Gus and Bernice, Chick and Ivy Martin from Leicester, Wilf Lewin and the Imps from Lincoln; this is comradeship. It would be wrong not to mention the old veteran of the branch, ex-Corporal Topliss, the Boer War, World War I and tried hard to have a crack in World War II, now well in his nineties; what a character! There are many others for which forgiveness is asked in not mentioning them. Also attending was a contingent from the newly created branch in Northampton of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards Association. Their friendship is valued so much that an invitation to attend their Balaclava dance held in Northampton in October was accepted and a party from our branch spent an enjoyable weekend. In return, the 'Skins' are to join us again at the branch dinner in March 1975 and plaques are to be exchanged. Talking about plaques, the branch was presented with what could be the last county borough of Grimsby plaque.

Branch activities remain plenty and varied, thanks to Spiff Harris, our entertainments chairman. Efforts made to keep funds at a good level are rewarded. Ex-members' widows are not forgotten at Christmas, frequent visits are made to hospitals by our sick visitors, and we are fortunate in that the investigating officer, Major Jack Ottley, has not been called upon too often. The Hon. Treasurer consults the Financial Times regularly for profitable investments for our money. He has, by the way, the imposing title of Councillor now—still approachable though.

## LINCOLN BRANCH

Time again to reflect on the happenings of the Lincoln Branch over the past twelve months. Membership and interest in all of the events planned by our Entertainments Committee headed by Tommy Hill and ably assisted by his number two, Reg Firth, has shown no sign of decline during these past months. All functions and indoor competitions have been enthusiastically supported and even more so since we have now joined the Association of Lincoln Sports Clubs. This not only attracts visitors from other clubs, which of course is good for the profit it brings, but best of all it has also brought to the notice of a few 'ex-Lincolns' that an Old Comrades' Association does exist and they have now become members.

The annual general meeting held early in September was well supported and our secretary and treasurer, Wilf Lewin, spoke of the healthy state of the club accounts. Part of the profit has been invested to ensure continued success of the branch.

Our chairman, Fred Smedley, recently spent a short spell in the county hospital undergoing an operation and we are pleased to see him back again fit and well. The Executive Committee remains unchanged for the next year, being voted 'in' en bloc: Chairman, F. Smedley, vice-chairman, F. Abbott; secretary and treasurer, Wilf Lewin, assisted by C. Howlett.

## THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

The annual reunion was held on Saturday and Sunday, 6th and 7th July, 1974, at Northampton. On the Saturday morning the Management Committee met prior to the annual general meeting and at this meeting Brigadier J. B. Akehurst, Lt. Col. P. Worthy, Major D. F. Hooton, TD, DL, JP, and Major P. F. Keily, MC, all took their places as new members. The business before the meeting was to receive the general fund account, to decide on the date for the 1975 reunion and to receive reports from the branches.

The general fund was presented by the Secretary, who explained that there had been an excess of income over expenditure this year of £130, which is more than usual because a legacy of £100 had been received from the will of General G. St. G. Robinson. Accumulated funds now stood at £739.

The reunion for 1975 was discussed and it was decided that it should follow the usual form and be held during the first weekend in July and would therefore be held on 5th and 6th July, 1975.

The annual general meeting followed at noon at which there was an attendance of twenty-seven members. The General Fund Account was explained, as was the Benevolent Fund Account. Benevolent grants over the previous twelve months had amounted to £1,703.09.

On Saturday evening the dinner and dance was held. It was attended by 294 people and the Band of the 5th (V) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment played for our entertainment during the dinner. As soon as the dinner had been completed the Drill Hall had to be evacuated because a message had been received that a bomb was in the building. Nothing was found but the alarm and interval unfortunately persuaded people to leave. Nevertheless, those that did remain had an enjoyable evening.

On Sunday the Church parade was held with the Comrades parading under the command of Brigadier D. E. Taunton, CB, DSO, DL, with the Band and Drums of 5th (V) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, Brigadier P. W. P. Green, CBE, DSO, Deputy Colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment (Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire), and chairman of the Northamptonshire Regimental Association, inspected the parade, laid the wreath at the War Memorial in Wood Hill and took the salute at the march past after the church service. The service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. H. A. Tibbs, BA, and the sermon was preached by Canon J. F. Wrangham Hardy, MBE, TD, MA, QHC, Rector of Greens Norton.

After the parade the officers entertained their guests for sherry and luncheon in the Officers' Mess of the Royal Pioneer Corps at Wootton, and at the same time the Northampton branch entertained in their Regimental Club. We were delighted to have the Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton as our guests.

### **Corby Branch**

Secretary: Mr. J. R. Gayne, 17 Ashley Avenue, Corby, Northants.

The branch continues to be active and keep the flag flying in that part of the county, but find it difficult to get a date in the TA Club to fit in any outside commitments and to get the members involved in them.

Membership of the branch is eighty and they hold various fund raising activities. The members support the old people in Marlow Court, Corby, and in addition to a Christmas party have taken them on three outings during the year.

The branch were able to send one of their youngest old soldiers, 'Buller' Dixon, to the Lord Kitchener Home at Lowestoft for a holiday.

### **Huntingdon Branch**

Secretary: Major H. H. Pallash, TD, JP, 11 Orchard Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon.

Huntingdon branch held their annual general meeting on Friday, 5th April, 1974, and at the meeting the following important proposition was put:

'That in view of the constant and continuing lack of interest among members in almost every effort made by the committee to keep the branch alive, this annual general meeting must seriously consider whether any useful purpose remains in carrying on our activities.'

Eleven members attended the meeting and following lengthy discussions it was unanimously resolved that the branch should be dissolved forthwith.

A 'Holding Committee', comprising the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, was appointed to wind up the branch affairs and control assets, pending the formation of any reconstituted 'Association of ex-Northamptonshires' which might subsequently be formed. Such assets then to be handed over completely to this recognised association. The eleven present then discussed the question of making some attempt to form a group of interested ex-Northamptonshires which might operate on more limited lines to maintain some form of association and agreed to meet again in the near future. It would seem that there is a desire not to lose contact entirely and something will emerge on much less ambitious lines with half-yearly or only an annual meeting as a private dinner party or something similar—no welfare, no social functions and no 'dead-wood' membership.

### **London Branch**

Secretary: Mr. R. Lomas, The Cottage, 237 Long Lane, London, SE1.

The branch as such is inactive but the secretary makes regular visits to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to visit our four in-pensioners.



The branch was also well represented at the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Thursday, 7th November, 1974.

### **Northampton Branch**

Secretary: Mr. L. A. Jeynes, MM, 23 Coverack Close, Gloucester Avenue, Northampton.

In comparison with last year the branch has cut down on its social activities because of the alterations to the club room. These are now finished and we have excellent facilities and hope to raise our membership above the present 237 because there are many ex-members of the Regiment who should belong and do not. Members do not have to be ex-Northamptonshire Regiment, ex-Royal Anglian Regiment are eligible and very welcome.

The branch annual dinner took place on Saturday, 4th May, 1974, at Overstone Solarium. The Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton were our guests and Major D. Baxter presided. Another successful reunion weekend was well attended. A bomb scare spoilt the dance at the Drill Hall but a great time was had by all comrades and our new club was again full to capacity all the weekend.

The annual outing took place on Sunday, 25th August, 1974, and consisted of a bus trip to Wales, taking in Hereford, Ludlow and Leominster, an excellent lunch and a return trip via the Cleve Hills, ending at the branch club for a chicken buffet supper.

Arrangements are being made for the usual Christmas activities and there will be a Christmas supper for OAPs, Christmas draw, a New Year's Eve party and a children's party.

### **Peterborough Branch**

Secretary: Mr. T. C. Ferreday, 13 Stukeley Close, Southfields Estate, Stanground, Peterborough, Northants.

The branch held their annual general meeting on 17th April, 1974, and sixteen members were present. The officers and committee were voted back en bloc.

On 15th May, 1974, a very enjoyable social evening was spent in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess of the 5th (V) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. Some eighty people were present and during the evening the chairman, Bob Oliver, made a presentation of a silver salver to RSM Harris, who was leaving the Battalion to carry on duties further afield.

On 19th October, 1974, the branch organised the reunion and dinner for 5 Northampton (TA), 4/5 Northampton (TA) and the Peterborough branch of the Comrades' Association. Two hundred and forty attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

### **THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

The annual dinner and dance of the Regimental Association was held on Saturday, 18th May, 1974, at Presdades School, Ware. The location of the school in Hertfordshire makes it easily accessible by car and coach and the rooms made available to us ensured the comfort of the two hundred and forty people who attended the reunion.

After a preliminary reception in the bar, everyone moved into the main hall where they were able to sit at branch tables for dinner. Amongst our guests were the chairman of Hertfordshire County Council, Councillor Ireton, and his wife, and the Deputy Colonel and Mrs. Holme. General Holme proposed the toast to The Regiment.

Dancing after dinner attracted a number of enthusiasts until midnight. During the course of the evening guests were entertained by a marching display by the Corps of Drums of the Honourable Artillery Company. The opportunity was also taken to hold a raffle which proved highly successful.

Hertford branch were once again sponsors of this annual reunion and it is thanks to their efforts beforehand that everything went so smoothly throughout the evening. We are all most grateful to them for the part they played to make this such an enjoyable occasion.

### **Hertford**

The annual dinner and dance of Hertford branch was held at the Shire Hall, Hertford, on 5th October, 1974. The chief guests for the evening were the Town Mayor of Hertford and General and Mrs. Holme; Major Jo Townsend presided. In proposing the toast to the branch, Major Vernon French took the opportunity to pay an appropriate tribute to Mr. Charles Mansfield for his continuing services as Branch Secretary.

**The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Dinner and Dance May 10, 1974.**

(Courtesy Mr. J. Matthews, Hertford)



### **Bedford**

This has been a sad year for Bedford branch in that a number of their staunchest members have died. In particular the branch will sadly miss Major Harry Beasley, Mr. 'Ginger' Butler, Mr. Ted Cannon and Captain Wally Folds, all of whom have been branch officials for many years.

Despite these losses the monthly meetings continue to be attended by an average of thirty members. Once the formalities of the meetings have been completed members adjourn to the bar of the TAVR social club. The branch still plays an active part in the local ex-services Indoor Games League.

Full coach loads have been mustered on two occasions: for the Regimental Association dinner and dance at Ware in May, and for the Presentation of Colours at Tidworth in July.

### **Ware (Hertfordshire Regiment) OCA**

All the social activities of Ware (Hertfordshire Regiment) OCA have been very well supported by its members throughout the year. Their latest report includes the success of a sausage supper and social evening on Saturday, 12th October, 1974. In the presence of two hundred and thirty-five members and friends, their President, Colonel George Kenyon, presented cups and plaques to the winners of various bowls competitions.

### **The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) Trust Property**

A limited number of items of silver and chattels from the property of The Bedfordshire

and Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) Trust are available for purchase by officers of the former Territorial Battalions of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Further information may be obtained from The Secretary, HQ Royal Anglian Regiment (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire), Kempston Barracks, Bedford.

### **1975 Diary Dates**

10th May: The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Annual Dinner and Dance, Presdales School, Ware.

16th November: Wreath Laying Ceremony, Kempston Barracks, Bedford.

### **THE ESSEX REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

The annual reunion at Warley in 1974 was held on Sunday, 30th June. The traditional fine weather for this occasion deserted us this time but the dark clouds did not dampen the enthusiasm. As always there was a very fine attendance with almost a full chapel for the Service of Remembrance, and later, the refreshment marquee was just about bursting at the seams.

The Deputy Colonel, Major General Michael Holme, took the salute at the March Past and was joined on the dais by Colonel Peter Franklin, President of the Association, and Major Capel Cure, the Vice-Lieutenant of the County. The Archdeacon of Southend gave the address at the service, and we were fortunate to have the Pompadours Band with us for the day. Help from branch members on the day was greatly appreciated.

The reunion for 1975 will be held at Warley on Sunday, 29th June.



Warley Reunion 1974. The Deputy Colonel, Major General Holme, takes the salute at the march past. With him on the dais are Colonel Peter Franklin (right) and Major Capel Cure.

### The Branches

The highlights of branch activities throughout the year have been the dinners held during the festive season. Dinner arranged by Southend branch in May, 4th Battalion Comrades in October, and Chelmsford and Thurrock branches in November; all received splendid support from their members and were very happy and successful evenings. Saffron Walden branch, which will be twenty-five years old in 1975, held a very happy annual social evening at the Town Hall, Saffron Walden, in October. The 4th Battalion Comrades' dinner at Ilford on 26th October was attended by more than two hundred members, some of whom journeyed from places as far apart as Wales, Leicestershire, Kent, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Colonel Sir Arthur Noble was in the chair. A splendid cabaret by the 'Barking Majorettes', arranged by Captain George Green, was a very popular feature of the after dinner entertainment. Thanks are due to secretary Mr. Bill Hawkins and his committee for a most successful evening.

### GENERAL

#### St. George's, The Alamein Church, Enham-Alamein, near Andover

The village of Enham Alamein, near Andover, is part of a voluntary organisation devoted to the training, employment, housing and care of disabled people, with an emphasis on the rehabilitation of war casualties. The considerable sums donated to the centre have enabled the trustees to build a large hostel and housing

estate for disabled people, and the original village of Enham was renamed Enham-Alamein. A memorial service is to be held at the church each year on the Sunday nearest to 26th October. The service in 1974 on 27th October was attended by a party from 4th Essex Association.

This very practical memorial to the heroes of El Alamein needs financial assistance to help with extensions and renovations to the new church, and donations and further details can be obtained from the Appeals Office, 18 Tobruk Close, Enham Alamein, Andover, Hants SP11 6HT.

### Diary Dates

10th May: Southend Branch The Essex Regiment Association Annual Dinner, Lindisfarne Banqueting Rooms, Southend.

29th June: Annual Service of Remembrance and Reunion, Warley.

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**Are YOU a Member  
of  
YOUR Association?**

# SPORTS REPORT



**Pte. Fox, Sgt. Lawton, C/Sgt. Travis.**  
**Cpl. George, L/Cpl. Hall, Cpl. Sanderson, Pte. Maycock.**  
**Sgt. Lenton, Pte. Josiah, Sgt. Draper, L/Cpl. Scott, Pte. Rogerson, Cpl. Boyd, Pte. Pridmore,**  
**Sgt. Waqairoba, L/Cpl. Dowland (Assistant Trainer).**  
**L/Cpl. Wilson, L/Cpl. Scott, Pte. Thomas, Maj. Lumby (OIC Athletics), Pte. Dyson,**  
**L/Cpl. Leyland, Pte. Parris.**  
**Not present: CSMI White (trainer), Pte. Taylor, Cfn. Work, Pte. Lambert, C/Sgt. Burton,**  
**Pte. Hathaway.**

## ATHLETICS

### 2nd Battalion

Little did anybody think back in May that the battalion would end the season at the Army Championships in Aldershot on 24th July and finish sixth best major unit in the army.

This was entirely due to the hard work and cheerfulness of the teams and the encouragement and intensive training of CSM.I White, Sgt. Lawton and L/Cpl. Dowland.

On the individual scene Pte. Taylor of the Signals Platoon gave outstanding performances in the BAOR Individual Championships, the Inter Services Championships and the Army Individual Championships, as well as at several lesser meetings. He is now the reigning Army 400 metres champion. There were many other excellent performances during the season, highlighted by Cpl. Boyd's first place in the 400 metres hurdles at Aldershot, which was quite

outstanding, and C/Sgt. Travis and Sgt. Waqairoba, our discus and shot men, deserve special mention for consistent high placings throughout the season.

Of the twenty-five strong team, seventeen members were awarded full colours and the remaining eight earned the Commanding Officer's certificate.

## 3rd Battalion

The first full athletics season for over three years led to unexpectedly high standards at Battalion, Brigade, Division and even Army levels during 1974. Two athletes (Cpl. DeCuhna—triple jump, and Lt. Peter Field—discus) won the BAOR individuals finals and both came second in the Army Individuals finals,

The sprinters, led by Pte. Hume, who clocks 11.2 secs. for 100 metres, and by Sgts. Danny and Sean Sweeney, ran extremely well in the 20 Armoured Brigade meeting.

In the 4th Division meeting the best race was undoubtedly the 800 metres in which Lt. Peter Lamb came second with a personal best time of 2 mins. 3.2 secs.



**Cpl. DeCuhna of the Pompadours winning the BAOR triple jump individual title with a leap of 43 ft. 1 in.**



**Pte. Hume winning the 100 metres at the 20 Armoured Brigade Athletics meeting.**

Pompadour athletes competing in the BAOR Individuals finals at Sennelager did extremely well. CSM Kelledy, a dedicated hammer thrower, who regularly throws for the local German athletics club, came third with a throw of 144 ft. 7 in. Cpl. DeCuhna, the battalion triple jump star, who generally only ever uses one of his three jumps, won his event with a personal best of 43 ft. 1 in., despite a pulled muscle. He went through to the Army individuals finals in UK with Lt. Peter Field, who won the BAOR individual discus with a throw of 142 ft. 8½ in.

Next year we will do even better.

## 1st Battalion

The Army semi-finals at Catterick were a welcome break from Colour presentation rehearsals. At the very start it became apparent that the standard was going to be much higher than we hoped it would be. At the lunch break the score board showed the battalion first by 3 points. However, at the end of the day we finished a quite creditable third and also confirmed us as the best unit in both SW District, West Midland District and 3 Division.

Cpl. Austin and Pte. Lincoln won their races in the 1,500 and 5,000 metres track events,

**Chain of Command Race,  
Dhekellia, January 1974.**



which also gave us the team awards at those distances. S/Sgt. Smith took a first in the hammer, and Pte. Wescombe broke the Zone record in the triple jump. Pte. Lincoln went on to the Army Individual Finals and did very well to come second in an equal time with the winner of the 5,000 metres of 15.47 mins.



**WO.II Kelledy of the Pompadours competing in  
the BAOR Individual Championships in which he  
finished third.**

## FOOTBALL

### 3rd Battalion

Played	Won	Drawn	Goals for	Goals against
27	20	4	79	29

This excellent results table hides the fact that the 73/74 season was a mixed one for the squad so often described on British Forces Radio as the Leeds United of BAOR soccer. They won the 4th Division League convincingly but narrowly failed to reach no less than three cup finals, being beaten in the semi-final stage on all three occasions. Outstanding during the season were Cpl. Coombes, Sgt. Thurston and L/Cpl. Northrop, all three of whom played for the BAOR team. These three and Sgt. Allen, Cpl. Dymond and Pte. Nolan all played for the 4th Division side in the Inter Divisional Championships.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess entered for the Herford and Detmold Sunday competitions for first time in the 73/74 season. By playing all their matches before lunchtime they finished as runners-up in the league and won two cup finals! It is a pity that the Northern Ireland tour will prevent them from winning the league this season.

### 1st Battalion

The culmination of two years' hard work resulted in the Battalion becoming champions of the Western Sovereign Base Area Inter Services League. In the run in to the title the Vikings took 10 points from 6 games with wins

over Episkopi Civilian by 4-0, Engineering Wing 3-2, 103 MU 7-0 and Army WSBA 7-2, and draws with Argonauts 0-0 and Flying Wing 1-1, leaving the top end of the table as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Vikings .....	18	13	5	0	59	17	31
Argonauts ...	18	10	6	2	40	16	26
EPI Civilians	18	9	5	4	42	30	23

To win such a competitive league without the loss of one game tends to show how much improvement has been made in the space of a year. In most matches it was obvious that the 1st Battalion were by far the better team and with their skill and understanding were able to dictate the outcome.

During the season no less than nine Battalion players represented Army Cyprus and at no time did less than four actually play. These were Lt. Wells, Cpls. Bell, Scoles, Jones, Ptes. Shepherd, Burnham, Avison, Foley and Clarke. Five Vikings took the field for the Army against the RAF in the annual inter-service match, with another, Pte. Burnham, on the sideline as substitute.

Finally, a bright note and one of increasing importance. In two seasons at Major Unit and Army level, one Viking only has even been cautioned on the field of play and that through a genuine misunderstanding. Other than our Army players already mentioned, the players who earned this enviable record are Cpls. Yarrion, Jackson, Norman, L/Cpls. Stratton, Polston and Mingay, Pte. Andrews.

## 2nd Battalion

Having had the misfortune of doing Ulster tours during the football season in both 1972/73 and 1973/74, this is now the first full season we have had in BAOR. We formed a team in the latter half of last season and entered the 2 Div. League after Christmas, to be eventually placed 3rd, and also entered the Infantry Cup and the 2 Div. Cup, in both of which we were the losing semi-finalists. In a one-day competition—the Rothman's six-a-side—we were the losing finalists, being beaten by one point (a corner). As a result of his performance on that day, Drummer Hills was selected for the 2 Division team which won the BAOR inter-divisional cup; he was then further selected to represent BAOR and was awarded his BAOR colours for football.

Battalion colours for 1973/74 season were awarded to Sgt. Mick Draper, Pte. Steve Gaster, Pte. Phil Eccles, Dmr. Hills, Pte. Roy King and Cfn. Ian Fenemore.

# HOCKEY

## 2nd Battalion

Our tour in Northern Ireland prevented us building a successful side in 1973/74. However, in the BAOR six-a-side tournament we had considerably more success and surprised all Second Division by being runners-up in the Second Division competition. We had no success in the BAOR final, mainly because we could not raise our full team.

The 1974/75 season has got off to a good start with a convincing win in the first round of the Army Cup Competition. Some of the current battalion players are: Capt. Kinson, 2Lt. Holme, WO.II Smith, S/Sgt. Skayman, Sgt. Clements, Sgt. Davis, Sgt. Lines, Cpl. Edmunds, Cpl. Leighton, Cpl. Lucas, Cpl. McClory, Cpl. Germany and Bds. Deguara. Unfortunately Cpl. Gregory and Pte. Syrett have left the battalion.

## 3rd Battalion

The hockey team had a good season. At one stage they won seven games in succession and reached the final of the Infantry Cup in the process. This was lost to 1 Staffords in a hard fought game.

# BASKETBALL

## 3rd Battalion

We entered the Major Unit Championships, Lippe Garrison League and the Detmold Garrison League last season and did well in all three competitions. In the Divisional championship we were runners-up, being beaten in the final by 4 Division HG and Signal Regiment by only four baskets. WO.II Goulding proved to be the mainstay of the team. He is an Army player and Grade I Official Coach to the BAOR squad. The knowledge he has passed on to the younger players is immeasurable and the general standard of our team play has shown improvement throughout the season. Under his guidance two players, L/Cpl. Jones and Pte. Charles, have earned themselves places in the BAOR squad and in due time could well be Army players.

# SWIMMING

## 3rd Battalion

1974 was a year of mixed fortunes for The Pompadours swimming team, with a convincing win in the Divisional Championships and a moral second place in the BAOR final.

As the result of a week of watery hell in Berlin on the Advanced Water Polo course, was that our three would be amphibians, Lt. Tim Otter, Cpl. Roger Stendella and Pte. Mac McKenzie, decided that a swimming team was a 'must' within the battalion.

The first person to volunteer was Capt. Jimmy (I'll coach) Jenks, and so under Jimmy's guidance and pushing we started training in April.

The BAOR finals in Berlin were held on the 20th July in the Olympic pool, a magnificent setting for the event. With just the 4 x 50 metres freestyle relay, the medley relay, and the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay to go we were running second, one point ahead of 16 Signals Regiment. The 4 x 50 metres relay team produced a magnificent swim to edge 16 Signals Regiment a further two points away. Steve Jenkins, L/Cpl. Mike Wilkins, Sgt. Ralph Heath and Kiwi Wilson all produced their best times and won because of slick handovers. The result of endless practice under Jimmy Jenks.

The medley relay was the most exciting event of the day. Roger Stendella (backstroke) handed over a slight lead to Pete Jones (breaststroke). Ken Boyne (butterfly) stayed within four or five feet of the excellent 16 Signals Regiment opponent to let Tim Otter have a crack at the freestyle leg. Tim Otter, himself an Army swimmer in (he says) his youth, was obviously faster than his opponent, the only problem being the size of the gap. To the cheers of our supporters Tim just managed to get home by a fingernail to keep us in second place.

The last event was the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay, our weakest event, and we knew we were up against it. Steve Jenkins, Tim Otter, Ralph Heath and Kiwi Wilson were unfortunately three places or six points behind 16 Signals to give a grand points total of 77 to 76 in favour of the Signals, who went forward to the UK finals.

Tim Otter and Mike Wilkins were selected to represent BAOR against RAF Germany in the 6 x 50 metres freestyle relay and the 200 metres freestyle respectively. Tim Otter was also selected to play water polo.



Capt. Steve Jenkins, The Pompadours LAD Commander, in action in the BAOR swimming finals.

## Also Pompadours

### Badminton

We were represented in the BAOR championships by Lt. Smith, L/Cpl. Kamara, L/Cpl. Frost and Pte. Hume. This was the first major competition for the majority of the team so we were not too disappointed that our only winner was Lt. Smith. He won the BAOR open doubles, playing with S/Sgt. Carter, REME, and was later selected to play for BAOR.

### Rugby Union Football

Played 14, won 9, lost 4, drawn 1.

The rugby XV had by far its best season for many years. The high point of the season was winning two games against 1 Glosters, who were BAOR semi-finalists in the Army Cup. The success of the team was due to all round strength and good reserves.

### Golf

There has been a keen interest taken in golf by the Pompadours this year. It has also been a successful period. The battalion reached the semi-final of the BAOR Inter Unit knock-out competition, having beaten the favourites, 25 Field Regiment RA, by one hole in the previous round. Our success is due to two single figure handicap players, Pte. Bill Eke (2), Captain Bob Aplin (9) and a couple of bandits off 12, namely CSM Tony Walker and Sgt. 'Birdie' Mallet.



## OBITUARY



### BRIGADIER T. L. G. CHARLES, CBE, DSO

Brigadier Charles died suddenly at Camberley on May 28th, 1974, at the age of 64. Tommy Charles followed his father, Lt. Col. W. G. Charles, CMG, DSO, into the Essex Regiment, when he was commissioned in 1930. He joined the 1st Battalion in Pembroke Dock but shortly afterwards was posted to the Pompadours in India. In 1936 the 2nd Battalion returned home via Khartoum, where Tommy was involved in a serious air crash in which Col. Barford, Essex Regiment, was among many who were killed. Fortunately Tommy escaped without a scratch.

When war was declared in 1939 he went to France with the Pompadours as Adjutant, but he was shortly to return home for the Staff College Course. After a period on the Staff he was appointed to Command 7th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

With his characteristic enthusiasm, he faced the task of training the Battalion for their role in the forthcoming invasion. He was desperately disappointed when he had to hand over command of the Battalion, to take over as GSO1 of 50th Division, six weeks before D Day. He in fact handed over the Battalion to our present Colonel of the Regiment, Lt. Gen. Sir Ian Freeland. He was not to remain long on the Staff, as in August 1944 he was selected to take command of 5th East Yorks, as the result of the death in action of their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Jimmie James, who also was in

the Essex Regiment. He remained with 5th E. Yorks until they reached Holland, when he was recalled to take over as Colonel Military Operations at the War Office. In 1945 he returned to Germany to take command of the Pompadours in Einbeck. He took the Battalion to Trieste and Venice, from where he left them in 1947 to join HQ BAOR as Colonel Ops and Plans. Shortly afterwards he returned to the War Office to take up the appointment of Senior British Army Representative on the Military Committee of the Western Union—forerunner of NATO.

The remainder of his career was spent on the Staff, in Naples, Germany and London, apart from one tour between 1950-53, when he commanded the 1st Battalion. Although equally at home on the Staff, it was the periods spent at Regimental Duty that he enjoyed most. On his retirement he took up an RO III appointment at Rheindalen, and in spite of a severe stroke in 1964, continued working until his final retirement in 1969.

On his return to England, he and his family converted their beautiful home at Cricket Hill, Yateley, into 'Charles' restaurant. During his final years he devoted all his energy to this project—in the same way that he had devoted forty years of his life to the Army.

To Betty, his widow, and their six children we offer our very sincere sympathy in their sad loss. He was held in great affection and esteem by all those who had the privilege of serving with him.

### MAJOR LIONEL CHASEMORE GATES MBE, MC

Major Gates was appointed to the 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment as a Regular 2nd Lieutenant on November 4th, 1917.

Previous to this he served in the ranks of the HAC from August 1914 to September 1915 and as a Temporary Lieutenant in The London Regiment for two years until November 1917.

During the First World War he saw service in France and Belgium from September 1914 for a year and again from June 1916 to November 1916. At the end of this period he soldiered in Greek Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, European Turkey and in the Islands of the Aegean Sea from December 1916 to June 1917, when he returned to the BEF until October 1918.

He was awarded the Military Cross.

After the War he served with the Regiment in Ireland and held special appointments on

the Staff of the Irish Command and Ulster Division. For his services in Ireland he was awarded the MBE. From 1931 to 1933 he was Garrison Adjutant, Dover. From 1938 to 1941 he served in India with the Regiment and on return to England became Training Officer, Home Guard Headquarters. He was OC Regimental Depot, Lincoln, in 1946 and retired in 1947 and became the Depot Regimental Administrative Officer and Honorary Secretary to the Regimental Association until his final retirement in 1950. He was a well known figure during his stay in Lincoln and will be remembered by all who served with him and to the many friends he made in the city. He settled in Battle, where he worked for the Historical Society and took a very keen and active interest in local parochial affairs.

Lionel Gates was a kindly man and will be remembered for his willing help and advice given freely at all times.

The respect and affection in which he was held was reflected in the presence of the large number of his friends and citizens of Battle at Battle Abbey on May 8th, 1974.

## DEATHS

- ALDRED**—On 3rd June, 1974, suddenly, Mr. James Ernest Aldred, of 3 Roman Pavement, Tower Estate, Lincoln, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- ALICOAT**—On 10th September, 1974, at Kettering, Horace (Snaz) Alcoat, late 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- ANDERSON**—On 21st July, 1973, Mr. M. Anderson, late 1st/7th Bn. The Essex Regiment.
- ARNULL**—At the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 31st January, 1974, In-Pensioner Cyril George Arnall, aged 68 years, late the Northamptonshire Regiment.
- ASKEW**—On 28th September, 1974, Mr. Robert Askew, at Springfield Hospital, Grimsby, aged 67 years, late 1st and 4th Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment.
- BATCHELOR**—On 25th June, 1974, in hospital in Dartford, Mr. F. W. Batchelor, late 8th Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment, aged 90.
- BEASLEY**—On 12th August, 1974, at Bedford, Major Harold Thomas Beasley, MBE, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 71.
- BENTLEY**—On 22nd March, 1974, Mr. T. Bentley, of 49 Browning Drive, Lincoln, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- BRAYBROOK**—On 14th January, 1974, at Sandy, Bedfordshire, Mr. A. E. Braybrook, late Bedfordshire Regiment, aged 78.
- BUCK**—On 25th November, 1973, Mr. Alfred W. Buck, of 47 Burrard Road, West Hampstead, N.W.6, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- BURDETT**—On 18th October, 1974, Mr. Frank Burdett, of No. 10 Peabody Estate, Chelsea Manor Street, London, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- BURGAR**—On 15th January, 1974, Alfred James Burgar, MM, aged 64 years, late C/Sgt. 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment.
- BUTLER**—On 14th September, 1974, at Bedford, Mr. Leonard (Ginger) Butler, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 65.
- CANNON**—On 6th October, 1974, at Bedford, Mr. E. J. Cannon, late The Bedfordshire Regiment, aged 82.
- CARVELL**—On 14th July, 1974, at Reading, ex-RSM Richard Francis Carvell, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- CHARLES**—On 28th May, 1974, Brigadier L. G. Charles, CBE, DSO, aged 64 years, at Yateley, Hants, The Essex Regiment.
- CHILLINGWORTH**—In August 1974, Major R. G. Chillingworth, late 6th (Cedars) Bn.
- COLES**—On 15th September, 1974, at Oundle, A. A. Coles, aged 81 years, late 2nd Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- COLVIN**—The Reverend A. Colvin, on 20th September, 1974, aged 92 years.
- COOK**—On 10th September, 1973, Mr. Cyril Bertram Cook, of 75 Thorold Street, Grimsby, aged 54 years, late Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.
- COOPER**—In October 1974, at Oundle, Douglas C. L. Cooper (5881530), late 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (TA).
- COYNE**—On 19th September, 1974, at Peterborough, William Charles Coyne, aged 54 years, late Band 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- CROWSON**—On 23rd July, 1974, at Peterborough, George Crowson, aged 64 years, late Band 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- DAINTY**—On 16th September, 1974, at Wellingborough, Lieutenant Walter W. Dainty, late 6th (S) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- DARBY**—On 25th February, 1974, at Peterborough, Ron Darby, aged 65 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- DAVIS**—On 11th July, 1973, Mr. R. C. Davis, late 1st/7th Bn. Essex Regiment.
- EDEN**—On 16th September, 1974, at Warmington, Peterborough, E. Eden, aged 54 years, late 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.

- FOLDS—On 11th June, 1974, at Bedford, Captain W. Folds, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 66.
- FORBES BUCHAN—On 14th January, 1974, Captain Forbes Buchan, late RAMC att. The Essex Regiment.
- GATES—On 2nd May, 1974, Major Lionel Chase-more Gates, MBE, MC, of 'Canbury', North Trade Road, Battle, Sussex, late Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.
- GILBERT—On 26th May, 1974, at Northampton, Charles Gilbert, late 6th (S) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- GILDER—On 21st November, 1973, at Luton, Mr. C. Gilder, late 5th Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment and President of the 'Yellow Devils' OCA, aged 75.
- GILL-DAVIES—On 31st October, 1974, in Bristol Hospital, Lieut. Colonel Derek Gill-Davies, DSO, TD, late The Hertfordshire Regiment (TA), aged 63.
- GOODES—In September 1974, in Ontario, Canada, A. Goodes, aged 63 years, late 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- GOODWIN—On 16th April, 1974, Mr. Goodwin, of 7 Wygate Road, Spalding, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- HALLAM—On 28th July, 1974, ex-Sgt. 5th Bn. G. E. T. Hallam, of Manor Drive, Waltham, Grimsby, aged 76 years.
- HANDSCOMB—In May 1974, Mr. A. G. Handscorn, late The Essex Regiment.
- HARMAN—On 13th December, 1973, at Hertford, Mr. H. N. Harman, late The Bedfordshire Regiment, aged 90.
- HARRIS—On 10th March, 1974, in London, Ernie (Chuck) Harris, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- HOLMES—At the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, on 7th February, 1974, Major F. W. Holmes, of Fleet, late The Northamptonshire Regiment and RAOC.
- HOWARD—On 3rd January, 1974, Mr. J. Howard, late The Essex Regiment.
- HOWARD—On 18th September, 1972, at Thetford, Lieut. (QM) L. A. Howard, MBE, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- HOWARD—On 23rd March, 1974, at Daventry, Robert E. (Darkie) Howard, aged 66 years, late RSM The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- HUCKLE—On 21st April, 1974, at Bedford, Mr. Herbert Huckle, ex-CSM The Bedfordshire Regiment, aged 84.
- HUFF—On 5th October, 1974, Mr. E. W. Huff, ex-10th Bn. The Essex Regiment, aged 78 years.
- HUGHES—At Wellingborough on 1st March, 1974, E. T. (Ted) Hughes, late CQMS The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- HUTCHINS—On 15th July, 1974, at Peterborough, Sgt. Hutchins, one time Caterer and Bar Steward London Road Drill Hall, Peterborough.
- HUTCHINSON—On 2nd July, 1974, at Luxborough, Somerset, Major Arthur Milner Hutchinson, aged 82 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- HYDE—On 1st January, 1974, G. F. Hyde, MC, DCM, in-pensioner at Chelsea (Royal Hospital), aged 78 years, late RQMS The Essex Regiment.
- JACKSON—On 29th October, 1974, at Tenterden, Kent, Major Hugh Wollcombe Jackson, aged 84 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- JEYES—At Kettering on 4th February, 1974, James Arthur Jeyes (8992), aged 79 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- JOHNSON—On 13th July, 1974, at Wellingborough, Lt. Col. J. Hubert Johnson, aged 69 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- JOHNSON—On 4th November, 1974, suddenly, at Scartho Road Hospital, Mr. William Johnson, of 12 Castleford Avenue, Grimsby, aged 60 years, late 1st/2nd Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment.
- KITCHEN—At Northampton on 27th December, 1973, Thomas George Kitchen, aged 58 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- LEE—In September 1974, at Peterborough, ex-Sgt. G. Lee, aged 63 years, late 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- MCGAREL—On 22nd December, 1973, Alfred H. McGarel, in Australia, late The Essex Regiment.
- MALES—On 10th April, 1974, ex-Sgt. H. Males, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 85.
- MAHONEY—Major W. J. Mahoney, late 1st and 2nd Bns. The Essex Regiment.
- MARLOW—On 1st March, 1974, at Northampton, C/Sgt. Harry Marlow, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- MILES—Suddenly on 3rd August, 1974, Mr. William Joseph Miles, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 68.
- MOBBS—At Kettering on 14th January, 1974, Captain Vincent Parris Mobbs, aged 83 years, late 6th (S) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- MOULE—On 22nd October, 1974, Sgt. W. Moule, aged 72 years, late The Essex Regiment.
- MUNSON—On 10th September, 1973, at Winchester, ex-CSM T. F. Munson, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 75.
- NEEDHAM—On 23rd February, 1974, at Milford Chest Hospital, Surrey, RSM Ernest Harold Needham, late 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.

- PASSMORE—On 11th June, 1974, at Oxford, Captain Ernest Gilbert Passmore, MC, aged 78 years, late 7th (S) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- PEARMAN—On 27th August, 1974, at Bedford. Mr. F. Pearman, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 72.
- PHILLIPS—On 27th August, 1974, at Headington, Mr. Arthur George Phillips, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 62.
- PHILLIPS—In October 1974, Capt. D. C. Phillips, late The Essex Regiment.
- PLUCK—In March 1974, Mr. W. Pluck, of Braintree, late The Essex Regiment.
- RICKETTS—In November 1973, Major H. G. Ricketts, late 1st and 2nd Bns. The Essex Regiment.
- RILEY—On 26th December, 1973, Mr. Bill Riley, at Nottingham, of 1 Plungar Close, Billborough, Aspley, Nottingham, late Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.
- ROBERTS—On 24th September, 1973, ex-WO.I H. Roberts, MBE, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, aged 65.
- ROGERS—On 1st April, 1974, Mr. S. Rogers, late Essex Regiment.
- ROME—On 13th March, 1974, at Peterborough Hospital, late Private G. E. Rome, ex-1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns. The Northamptonshire Regiment between 1919 and 1926.
- ROWLANDS—On 9th April, 1974, ex-Corporal 'Pop' Rowlands, late Royal Lincolns, 2nd East Anglia and Royal Anglian Regiments.
- SADLER—On 10th February, 1973, Mr. W. Sadler, of Beverley Crescent, Grimsby, late 1st Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment.
- SANDALL—On 16th November, 1973, Lt. R. E. W. Sandall, in Cape Town, late 6th Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment.
- SCOTT—On 25th August, 1973, Capt. P. W. Scott, aged 84 years, late 1st/4th Bn. Essex Regiment.
- SECOMBES—On 23rd February, 1974, Mr. H. Secombes, late 1st/7th Bn. The Essex Regiment.
- SHAW—On 25th September, 1974, at Northampton, Charles Shaw, aged 56 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- SHEPPARD—On 4th May, 1974, at Brighton, ex-CSM Jack (Sam) Sheppard, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- SHRIVE—On 19th March, 1974, at Hardingstone, Northampton, Tom Shrive, ex-ORQMS The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- SMITH—On 26th March, 1974, Mr. F. Smith, aged 60 years, former Warrant Officer and served in the Essex Regiment from 1931-1968.
- SMITH—At Rugby on 30th January, 1974, William A. Smith, late 7th (S) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- SOLE—On 17th July, 1974, at Worthing, Mr. W. J. Sole, late The Bedfordshire Regiment.
- SPANTON—On 6th April, 1974, at Northampton, George Spanton, late Band 2nd Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- SUCKLING—On 29th May, 1974, Mr. R. Suckling, late The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.
- TOYNE—On 10th October, 1974, Mr. Albert Edward Toyne, of 80 De Wint Avenue, Lincoln, aged 60 years, late 4/6 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.
- TRACEY—At Havant, Hampshire, on 23rd December, 1973, A. F. (Bert) Tracey, late CQMS 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (48th, 58th).
- WADDINGHAM—On 12th April, 1974, Mr. Harry Waddingham, of 68, Raccoon Way, Beaver Estate, Hounslow, Middlesex, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- WEBSTER—In July 1974, at Northampton, Dennis (Skipper) Webster, aged 64 years, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- WHITBY—On 18th February, 1974, Mr. John Whitby, of Saxonhurst, Rookery Road, Healing, Grimsby, late Lincolnshire Regiment.
- WHITING—At Kettering on 29th October, 1973, Herbert (Nobby) Whiting, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- WILLSMER—On 20th September, 1974, Mr. V. J. Willsmer, ex-4th Bn. The Essex Regiment.
- WILSON—On 31st March, 1974, Lt. Colonel C. L. Wilson, OBE, MC, aged 79 years, late Essex Regiment.
- WOODFORD—At Peterborough Memorial Hospital on 13th January, 1974, Patrick Woodford, of Oundle, late 6th (S) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.
- WREN—On 13th April, 1974, at Peterborough, A. Wren, aged 63 years, late Corps of Drums 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (TA).
- WRIGHT—On 29th October, 1974, Mr. J. C. Wright, aged 74 years, late 5th Bn. The Essex Regiment.

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