

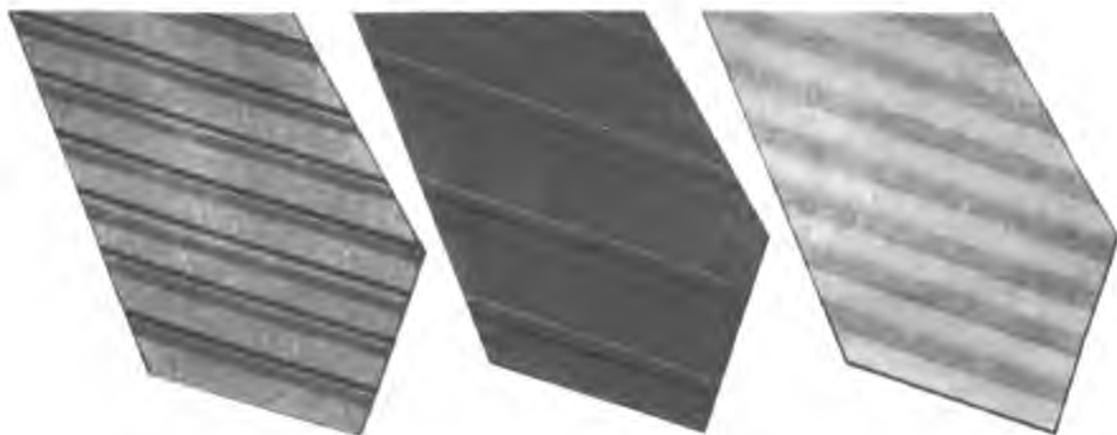


# CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

JUNE 1987





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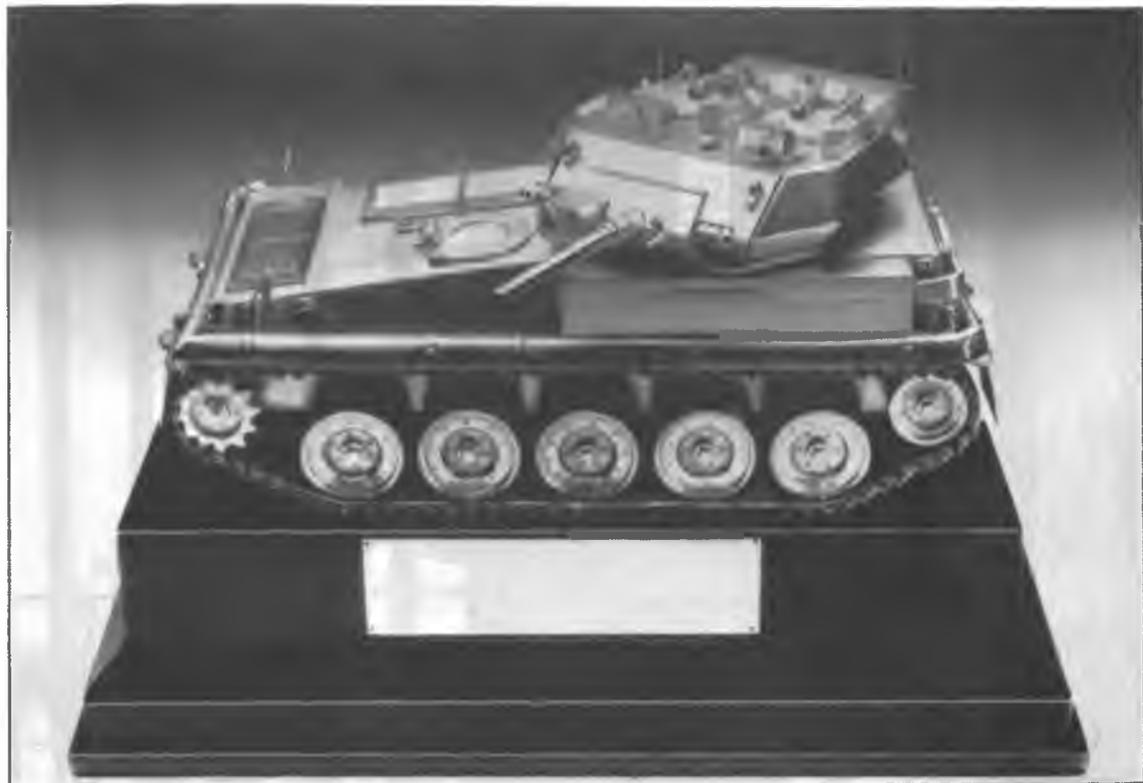
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June 1987

Vol. 8 No. 1.

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Editor:  
Colonel P. D. Blyth, CBE (retired)

Printed by:  
Leverpress Ltd., Goddard Road,  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5NP

Advertising by:  
Combined Services Publications,  
PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hants.

## Our cover

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



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## REGIMENTAL LOCATIONS

**Regimental Headquarters:**  
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(0284-2394/Colchester Military 5138)  
**Regimental Secretary:** Colonel P. D. Blyth CBE  
**Assistant Regimental Secretary:** Major A. G. B. Cobbold  
**Regimental Careers Officer:** Major G. W. M. Hipkin

**Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire**  
Britannia Barracks, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4HJ (0603-628455)  
**Area Secretary:** Lieutenant Colonel A. W. J. Turnbull MC

**Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire**  
Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton NN1 3RE (0603-35412)  
**Area Secretary:** Lieutenant Colonel J. L. Wilson DL  
Captain A. R. Smith (Lincoln)

**Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex**  
Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Essex CM13 3BN (0277-213051)  
**Area Secretary:** Major D. J. Thorogood

**Regimental Information Team**  
Depot, The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn (0763-42271)

## BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion (Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Gibraltar, BFPO 52	Lieutenant Colonel M. J. D. Walker OBE (Lieutenant Colonel J. C. B. Sutherell MBE in Jul 87)
2nd Battalion (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) Celle, BFPO 23	Lieutenant Colonel P. P. Rawlins MBE (Major T. Longland MBE in Oct 87)
3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex), Minden BFPO 29	Lieutenant Colonel A. Behagg MBE
5th Battalion TA Centre, London Road, Peterborough	Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Greenham (Major N. H. Kelsey TD in Sep 87)
6th Battalion TA Centre, Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds	Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Taylor
7th Battalion TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester	Lieutenant Colonel G. I. G. Brett

## Senior Regimental Representatives

Depot the Queen's Division	Lieutenant Colonel M. K. Goldschmidt
RMA Sandhurst	Captain R. C. J. Goodin (Captain C. R. Webster in Oct 87)
JIB Shorncliffe	Major F. J. Perry MBE

# From the Colonel of the Regiment

---

## Outstanding performance in Northern Ireland

IN October last year that great infantryman, General Sir Timothy Creasey, died while Colonel of The Regiment, and it fell to me to succeed him.

Sadly a few weeks later another former Colonel of The Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir Richard Goodwin, also died and his obituary appears elsewhere in this journal. I am glad to report, however, that our other two past Colonels, Lieutenant General Sir Reginald Denning and Major General Dye, are both in excellent form: long may we benefit from their experience and advice.

It is a daunting prospect to follow such predecessors, all of whom made outstanding contributions to building the Regiment into what it is today: six battalions that can hold their own with any in the Army.

The last year has seen our three regular battalions in Northern Ireland. From reports by those who should know, and from my personal knowledge, all three performed outstandingly well. My thanks and congratulations go to all who made this so — whether they were on the streets, involved in intelligence or planning, responsible for the all important administration, or with Rear Parties.

In particular, I would like to thank the wives, families and girlfriends who perhaps had the hardest task of all — waiting for the return of those dear to them while themselves lonely and responsible for all at home. They did well by their menfolk. Well done.

This year sees the turn of the TA to be in the limelight with the 5th and 7th Battalions taking part in Exercise Keystone. I wish them every success in this climax to their training cycle.

As you can see, Castle has reverted to its original style. After four years of experiment with tabloid journalism, the Regimental Council decided that Regimental interests would be best served by biannual production in the more formal magazine format, while retaining the content we have become used to in recent years. The aim of Castle is to record the life of the Regiment and to keep both past and present members in touch. To achieve this we need interesting items from individuals as well as those from regular contributors.

This issue contains several good examples ranging from the "Vikings sailing to Gibraltar" and "Soldiering in the Thir-



ties", to several shorter notes on matters of interest or about individuals. I plan to use Castle periodically to keep you informed on matters of common interest: I hope that you will help by sending the editor your articles, news and views so that between us we produce an interesting and informative journal worth keeping to remind us of our soldiering days.

So many members and former members of the Regiment do interesting things and go to exciting places and make no record. Loan service, former battlefields, expeditions, holidays with regimental friends, visits to war cemeteries, unusual reunions; these are all potential journal material. I urge everyone to contribute.

Everything that everyone in the Regiment does is of historical or general in-

terest and the only criterion is the style and dignity of the magazine, which stands or falls by the contributions to it. The editor would also welcome correspondence on matters of regimental interest, starting, perhaps, with comments on this journal.

Finally, I come to the important matter of our comrades' association. Elsewhere in Castle you will find a letter and article on the evolution of our associations, and these will be expanded on in future issues. I suspect that many of you are unaware of how associations are organised, what they achieve and, above all, the importance of getting Royal Anglians to join so as to perpetuate their good work. I hope to see some lively correspondence in future issues of Castle.

# Mainly about people . . .

## Farewell and welcome

WE wish a happy retirement and success in new ventures to: **Col R H Robinson OBE, Maj P H Willdridge, Capt S H Branch, Capt P J Morling.**

And there is a warm welcome to **Maj David Seed RRF** on joining the 5th Battalion as Training Major.

Congratulations to **Capt Frank Froud** on his marriage and on successfully ensuring that Eleanor was posted to Gibraltar. Congratulations also to **Capt Mike Beard** on his marriage to **Miss Jillian Goudle** in Texas with **Capt Nigel Burrell** as best man. Our best wishes to **Capt Alasdair Wild** on his engagement to **Miss Anne Willdridge** whose father and brothers all served in the Regiment, and to **Capt Julian Pollard** on his forthcoming marriage to **Miss Rachail Pollock.**

We were sad to receive a farewell visit from **Brig Charles Barnes** in his capacity as Divisional Brigadier and thank him for all he has done for the Regiment and individuals while in that post. We wish him well in his new appointment as Commander 43 Inf Bde TA. It was a pleasure to see his successor at Basingbourn, **Col John Holman, Queens**, who we look forward to seeing a great deal of over the next two years.

Congratulations to **Lt Col John Wilson, Maj Bill Brogan and Maj Geoffrey Simpson**, on their appointments as Deputy Lieutenants for Leicestershire. **John Wilson** is now back at work after convalescing at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

**Lt Col Alastair Veitch** arrived safely in Khartoum to find a house with no chairs or kitchen — with luck the rest will have arrived from the UK by now. He has seen **Nell Crumble** who is financial director of the EEC Aid Programme.

**Mr and Mrs French** visited RHQ on 5 Dec. They have donated a fine carved eagle for competition within the Pompadours in memory of their son, **Maj Andrew French**, who was killed with the Poachers in South Armagh.

Congratulations to **Capt Roger Hare** on passing PQS2 for Staff.

Before his tragic death, **Maj Paddy Ford** was a leading light in the British community in Khartoum and was involved in such activities as teaching children to sail and water ski on the Blue Nile.



The Sudan Club members have subscribed towards a silver trophy to be known as the Paddy Ford Memorial Trophy, for the annual men's squash tournament. Paddy Ford's son, Richard, recently presented the trophy to the first winner. Richard was visiting his sister Miranda who is based in Khartoum working for a relief agency.

**Ex RSM and Mrs Knight** called at RHQ in February and were presented with their son David's medal following his tragic death in Northern Ireland in a traffic accident. They tell us that they recently organised a Royal Anglian reunion in Felixstowe at which 114 were present. The Vikings and Poachers clearly forged many lasting contacts in the area when stationed there years ago! We look forward to hearing how many attended in 1987 now that the word has spread.

**WOs1 Hazelwood and Ryan** called on RHQ prior to commissioning.

**Col Dick Robinson** has retired to become domestic bursar of St John's, Cambridge and will once again be able to devote time to his interest in the Hertfordshire ACF.

**Col David James** took a BBC camera crew to Belfast to film the Pompadours as part of a film being produced shortly and **Maj Nick Kelsey** has produced a video of their tour in Belfast.

**Maj Peter Barnes** was in France this winter with **Ray Hazan** and his two sons, Jonathan and Giles, and a party from St Dunstons. Ray sends his regards to his many old friends in the Regiment.

**Padre Hollowell**, who is affiliated to the Poachers, writes that he is now at the Army Engineer School and sends his regards to his friends in the Poachers.

On 11 Feb 87 **Col Martin Romilly**

The Regiment has been well represented in Zimbabwe during the past year, with five members of the Regiment on Loan Service. Pictured are three of them, who served together on the 11-strong team at the Battalion Battle School at Nyanga in the country's Eastern Highlands. They are (from left): **Maj Tony James (3rd Bn)**, the QM; **CSgt Nigel Briers (2nd Bn)**, the RSI and **Maj David Clements (3rd Bn)** a rifle company DS on his second tour in the country.

Not shown are **Lt Col Alan Thompson**, who has recently returned from three years in Zimbabwe where he established the Battle School before becoming a Staff College DS, and **Capt Richard Clements (3rd Bn)** who, last year, was a member of the newly-formed Mozambique Training Team, which is also based at Nyanga.

revisited his old school, Haileybury, and gave a presentation on N. Ireland. **2Lt Lance Gerrard-Wright** and the RCO also attended.

Both officers are Old Haileyburians and spoke to the CCF in the Council Room. This was quite a change for **Lance Gerrard-Wright**; for the last time he visited his old school he was the lead singer in the school pop group!

In 1966 the Regiment presented **Lt Gen Sir Reginald Denning** with a silver statuette of a 1688 Ensign of the 16th Foot on his relinquishing the appointment of Colonel of The Regiment. In Feb 86 the General was burgled and a great deal

Continued Page 6

## Mainly about people . . .

# Korea memorial dedicated

By Lt Col Eric Cooper-Key MBE MC

HER Majesty The Queen, accompanied by Prince Phillip, was present at the service of dedication of the memorial to members of the Armed Forces who died in the service of the United Nations in the Korean War 1950-53.

We assembled outside St Paul's Cathedral on 11 Mar for the ceremony which was scheduled to start at 1130 hrs. There were many greetings among the veterans of the campaign and the west entrance was crammed with representatives of all three Services.

The cathedral was full and Regimental representatives were seated well forward in the Dome. Royal Norfolk representatives were alongside those of the Royal Leicesters. Our other officer representatives were Lt Col John Orlebar, Majs Adam Gordon, Ben Chapman, Peter Farrelly, and Tim Chatting.

Four representatives of the Other Ranks were unfortunately seated away from us and the crush was so great that I never found them after the ceremony. Luckily some of the others managed it. They were: Mr S. Lyon, Mr J. Rintoul, Mr R. S. Pownall and Mr B. Brown.

The service started on schedule and the Queen and Prince Phillip were conducted to their seats under the Dome, followed by the Veterans Association National Standard.



The first lesson was read by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, chairman of the War Memorial Organising Committee and Adjutant of the Gloucesters in Korea. The second was read by the Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, the Canon in residence. After two hymns the sermon was delivered by the Rev S. J. Davies, the Honorary Regimental Chaplain of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

The wreaths were then laid at the memorial by the Queen, Secretary of State for Defence, the Korean ambassador, Chief of the Defence Staff, Chief of the Armed Forces Republic of Korea, UN representative, and finally by the president of the British Korean Veterans Association.

There followed prayers, hymns, one blessing and finally the national anthem.

The ceremony lasted 75 minutes which many of us thought was longer than planned, but sermons have a habit of over-shooting!

It was a well organised and popular service and it was obvious that the veterans were delighted to see the Royal party, the Lord Mayor of London, and all top service representatives, and to feel that the country fully appreciated the sacrifice of their comrades during the Korean War.

Many parties gathered after the ceremony and I am sure the local hostellers were bemused by the reminiscences and stories of the reunited warriors.

From Page 5

of silver was taken, including the statuette.

Last November RHQ were approached by a TA officer who had bought the statuette in Scotland and, following a CID investigation, the trail was followed back through seven people who had bought and sold it.

We are glad to hear that the statuette is now back with the General, having suffered minor damage en route which has now been repaired and created problems with the seven purchasers and insurance companies.

The Independent's List of Army Appointments showed Lt Col G. I. G. Brett to be CO 007 R Anglian 16/4/87: we will be interested to hear how training develops under the new management.

On 9 Jun 62, Lt John Tilley married Miss Zoe Parker, a teacher at Windsor Girls School, Hamm. As they celebrate their silver wedding anniversary they live in Calne, Wiltshire and have two sons serving with the Royal Artillery.

## Pompadour's party

THE 3rd Battalion Dinner Club cocktail party is held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, on the third Friday in April each year. This year the party on 24 April saw 90 people assembled. It always is a marvellous party and one of the highlights of our social year.

Rule number one is not to drive anything for about three days afterwards, lawnmowers included.

The manager and staff at the club are very kind and welcoming — and generous with the drinks for which we are paying!

The success of the party is due to the environment — which statement I had better explain. The party is held in a room large enough to park four or five APCs in (though I am not sure if the ceiling would take it, so don't try it!)

Along almost the full length of one of the long sides they set up a row of six-foot tables (or the Army and Navy Club equivalent, and nicely covered, of course, with some appropriate cloth) from which to serve the drinks. So one never has more

than about 10 paces to move to a refuelling station (in the latter stages there could be an additional involuntary step or two so this might increase, if you want to be pedantic about it, to 15 paces, and of course one may need to take another extra step to avoid a mid-air collision on the way there or back, providing you can remember where you are going back to (or behind which curtain you left her).

But that is not all. Some time ago (about the third paragraph) I mentioned that there were staff. These charming people are continually on patrol and, if you do not feel up to moving the 10 paces, they will do the job for you; just be there when they get back — or tell them behind whichever curtain you will be.

So there you are. An hour and a half of being force-fed whisky (there are some who drink gin and tonic but there is not actually any rule about that — yet) is bound to have some beneficial effect.

HQ WARLEY

# Mainly about people . . .

## Rangiriri revisited

By Maj John Child

DURING Oct 86 I was fortunate to visit New Zealand as the Operations Officer of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles contingent to Exercise Kiwi Connection. This is an annual five power CPX involving Australians, Malaysians, Singaporeans, New Zealanders and British.

During the preparation for the CPX we spent three days on TEWTS in the beautiful country to the south of Auckland and we visited the site of the Battle of Rangiriri, in which the 12th of Foot (later to become the Suffolk Regiment) took part.

Briefly, this battle was fought in 1863 as part of the Second Maori War or Land Wars which arose because the Maoris thought they were being swindled by the early colonists.

Maori hostility to the early settlers and the land deals grew to such an extent that the population of Auckland lived in daily fear of Maori attack. The British therefore decided to attack the Maoris at Rangiriri which strategically controlled all possible movement to the south.

A force of 1,200 British soldiers (from the 12th, 14th, 40th and 65th Regiments) and sailors under Gen Sir Duncan Cameron CB faced 700 men of the Waikato tribe under Chief TeWherepu.

The battle began at 1500 hrs on 20 Nov and by the early morning of 21 Nov the Maoris surrendered and the way was opened for further colonisation south. The British casualties were 40 killed and 83 wounded while the Maoris lost about 50 killed and 183 taken prisoner.

In the Maori War an early Settlers Cemetery near the battlefield is a monument (erected by subscriptions from the Regiments in 1896) to the fallen British soldiers (see photo) which lists the following members of the 1st Bn 12th Regiment: Lt W. L. Murphy, Cpl T. Payne, Pte R. Needham, Pte T. Osbourne, Pte J. Sayers, Pte D. Shea, Pte G. Smith, Pte J. Wood.



Also in the graveyard there is stone bearing the following inscription: This stone is erected by Lt Gen Cameron CB, Commanding the Forces in New Zealand to the memory of his orderly Edward Lauchlan Private HM 10th Regiment Who was killed in the attack on the Maori Position at Rangiriri on 20 November 1863.

## Nautical Poachers

BETWEEN 11-22 Jan three Poachers, Lt Barnes, Pte Peacock and Pte Tomlinson were invited by the battalion's affiliated ship, HMS Hermione, to spend two weeks at sea. The ship, a Leander class frigate, was about to begin an operational tour in the Gulf protecting British tankers in the area.

The Poachers joined her in Portsmouth at the start of her final week's training and first leg to Gibraltar. The captain gave a warm welcome to the three and immediately tasks were given to all. Lt Barnes was instructed in navigation at sea and took the ship through the crowded Gibraltar strait at night without incident. Pte's Peacock and Tomlinson became competent drivers as well as fire fighters.

The first week ended with the "Thursday war" off Portland in particularly icy weather with 15 other vessels of the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Hermione was protecting tankers against air, sea and subsurface attack, a task she carried out to great effect.

The second week was the move south through the Bay of Biscay to Gibraltar, the highlight of which was the live firing of 20mm cannon and SeaWolf anti-missile missiles, all of which were on target.

During the voyage the Poachers showed their skills in other activities such as clay pigeon shooting off the flight deck, where Pte Tomlinson showed the Navy the way. Pte Peacock and his team won the deck hockey and five a side football. Lt Barnes became good at recognising the inside of other ship's funnels aided by Hermione's Sea Lynx helicopter. And finally all three Poachers took part in the Royal Navy's race to the top of the Rock in Gibraltar. They acquitted themselves well and have certificates to prove it.

With ties between HMS Hermione and the Poachers now stronger than ever, we look forward to further encounters over the coming years.

## Life-saving action by Pte Gilbert

PTE Adam Gilbert, ex of the 1st Battalion, has been awarded a GOC's Commendation for his quick and cool action at the scene of a road accident.

Pte Gilbert, who is at the Depot recovering from gunshot wounds received in the head while serving with the 1st Battalion in Londonderry in Feb 86, came across the road accident on the A14 on 5 Nov 86. Two cars were involved and the

driver of one car was trapped in the wreckage and suffering from head and chest wounds.

Pte Gilbert dressed the wounds as best he could and supported the injured person's head and chin so he could breathe. He maintained the first aid for 20 minutes until help arrived. He then continued assisting in the long process of extricating the injured man from the wreckage. There

is no doubt his cool actions saved the man's life. Pte Gilbert was presented with a Certificate of Commendation by GOC EDISI on 5 Mar. In the photo on Page 45 Pte Gilbert is seen with Mr Kirk. AN addition to Depot numbers came on New Year's Day with the birth of a daughter, Jeanne, to LCpl Nigel Giles and his wife Sarah. LCpl Giles has since been posted to the Poachers.

# Mainly about people . . .

## Honours and appointments

WE congratulate the following on their honours and awards: New Year Honours 1987: BEM: CSgt M. J. Dowland 2nd Bn and CSgt P. D. R. Brown 6th Bn.

Northern Ireland Apr 87: MBE: WO2 T. D. Smith — 1st Bn and Lt P L Ludbrook — now NITAT BAOR. MID: Lt Col M. K. D. Walker and Sgt P. L. Boucher both 1st Bn. Lt Col P. P. Rawlins, Maj P. M. Holme, WO2 D. G. Goude, CSgt S. M. Nunn — all from the 2nd Bn, Maj D. H. Greenfield — now 7th Bn. GOCs Commendations: Capt J. F. Dean, Cpl H. D. King, LCpl T. R. Lenton — 1st Bn. Sgt G. J. Godfrey RAMC att 2nd Bn. Lt T. J. Smith, Cpl A. D. Ralph, LCpl N. Skelton — 2nd Bn.

TA Awards: TD: 6th Bn — Maj J. L. Raybould. 7th Bn — Maj E. W. Marshall, Maj M. R. Mee. TEM: 5th Bn — Sgt Nightingale, Sgt McKenzie. 6th Bn — Sgt Williams, Cpl Mills, Sgt Goddard, WO2 Forde, Pte Albore. 7th Bn — Sgt Harris, Sgt Metcalf, Cpl Allaway, LCpl Parker, Sgt Felstead — REME, Sgt Lake —

RAPC. Clasp to TEM: 5th Bn — CSgt Edge, Sgt Harrod, CSgt Burnett, Cpl Hunt (1st & 2nd Clasp). 6th Bn — Cpl Overall. 7th Bn — Sgt Clarke, WO2 (now Lt) Freeman, Cpl Guyett — RAMC, WO2 Phillips — REME (1st and 2nd Clasp).



Senior Appointments: Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE — DSCACEUR (Jun 87) and Colonel of The Regiment (Nov 86). Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE — Col Comdt Queen's Div (Oct 86). Maj Gen A. J. G. Pollard CBE — DGTD (Army) (Jun 87) and Deputy Colonel (Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) (Nov 86). Brig P. P. D. Stone CBE — DMS(B) (Jan 87) and Deputy Colonel (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) (Oct 86). Brig W. T. Dodd OBE — DAR (Jul 87) and Deputy Colonel (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex) (Feb 87). Brig C. M. J. Barnes OBE — Comd 43 Inf Bde TA (Mar 87). Col D. J. W.

Browne MBE — COS NE Dist/2 Inf Div (Dec 86). Col R. J. M. Drummond OBE — DA Prague (Feb 87). Lt Col M. J. D. Walker OBE — Comd 20 Armd Bde (late 87). Lt Col D. K. Harris MBE TD — Dep Comd 49 Bde TA (Col) (Aug 87). Lt Col P. D. L. Hopper — Dep Hon Col TA (Essex) (Mar 87).



Commissions: We congratulate and welcome the following on being commissioned into the Regiment. Regular — 2Lt N. C. Crawshaw — 1st Bn and 2Lt D. P. O'Driscoll — 3rd Bn.

SSC — Lt P. H. Byrne — 2nd Bn, Lt C. Davies — 3rd Bn, Lt M. K. Flynn — 3 QUEENS, Lt G. P. Halewood — BATUS, Lt D. M. Harding — 3rd Bn, Lt R. C. McDonald — 2nd Bn, 2Lt M. C. Dixon — 3rd Bn, 2Lt D. A. England — 1st Bn, 2Lt R. N. Goodwin — 1st Bn, 2Lt R. J. Latham — 3rd Bn, 2Lt M. E. Robinson — 2nd Bn.

SSLC — 2Lt J. A. York — 1st Bn.

## Letters to the Editor

SIR,

Would you please be kind enough to publish in Castle something about our Regimental Association for the benefit of those who, like me, have left for pastures new, but who would like to be able to meet former comrades now and again.

When I was serving I was aware of the association and the Day's Pay Scheme and so on, as it applied to me then, but what happens in the "after life"? It was only by accident that I discovered that Col Peter Badger is the chairman of the association. I presume he has a committee, but who are the members? I have a few more questions, please:

When and where does the association or its committee meet?

Has the association any local branches in the manner of some of the OCA's of our founding regiments and, if so, where?

Has the association any funds other than those accumulated from the Day's Pay Scheme?

How can former members of the regiment contribute?

What happened to the funds of the founder regiments, including their demised TA battalions?

I am an active member of my old regiment's OCA and it seems to know little of the present Regiment and its past members' association even though that has been in existence now for the past 22

years, 19 of which I served. We may just be typical and I find that possibility somewhat disturbing.

By now perhaps we ought to be thinking about bringing all our former-member organisations closer together for the benefit of all concerned. If we fail to do this, I believe that the generation gap between the founder regiments' associations and that of the Royal Anglian Regiment may become progressively more difficult to bridge.

Perhaps your readers may have views on that.

*Stabilis Geriatricus Tic*  
Life member, Royal Anglian Regiment Association 1965.

Editor's note:

Dear Old Ticker (if you will excuse the use of your nickname), Thank you for your letter of 21 Jan 87 which has prompted me to produce the article on the association on page 49, you will also find the balance sheet on page 50.

One point not covered is your query about the funds of demised TA battalions. These were mainly militia funds which did not devolve upon the Regiment, but are still managed by former trusts. This explains why our TA battalions apply for financial help from these funds from time to time: they have no other monies and deserve your support as the successors to the old militia and TA battalions.

I trust that I have provided the answers to your queries. Subsequent issues of Castle will expand on various aspects of the article, but the full constitution and rules of the association may be seen in section 8 of Royal Anglian Regiment Standing Instructions.



SIR

I am trying to compile a list of names of those who were in 4 Commando and who took part in the raid on the Hess Battery at Varengeville, near Dieppe, in August 1942.

Perhaps some readers of your regimental journal could provide me some relevant information. I would be grateful if they would get in touch with me either by post or telephone.

I trust you will be able to find space in your journal for my request.

Mr E. W. Jones  
5 Pentre Dwr, Rhos, Wrexham,  
Clwyd, North Wales LL14 1DD.  
Tel: 0978 840827.

If you wish to contribute to the letters column then please write to: The Editor, Castle, RHQ, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.



# Vikings



## Incidents in tour of Ulster

THE period since the last Castle has been quiet, punctuated by short bursts of hyper-activity and a few significant incidents.

We are now firm on the Rock, and getting into the swing of a different role. Our last people having left Londonderry on 22 Jan, having handed over to 1 Green Howards.

The battalions third Christmas in Londonderry followed traditional lines with companies and departments holding dual farewell/Christmas parties ranging from small lunchtime events to mega disco dances.

We must pay tribute to our ACC boys who produced so many excellent buffets throughout the period. A choir of "angels", well Officers, SNCO's, ladies and children went round the married quarter areas, singing carols and wishing wishing all a merry Christmas. Even if a number of lights were turned off on hear-

ing the first carol, we enjoyed it.

On 23 Sep 86, A Coy on the last day of their penultimate City tour assisted the RUC in the uncovering of a significant find of bomb-making equipment and other subversive material.

B Coy's final City tour in October was most successful, albeit there were a few tense moments, particularly on 9 Oct at about 1915 hrs when the Rosemount Base came under an Improvised Projectile Grenade attack. Two projectiles were fired, one striking the outside wall, the second landing inside the base and exploding in the car park. Fortunately all troops were under cover and no-one was hurt.

On 13 Oct, B Coy completed a near perfect NITAT contact follow up in the Gobnascale area of Londonderry when at 1715 hrs a patrol came under fire. The firing point and bullet splat mark were quickly located and at the same time two people were seen running into a nearby house, a hot pursuit ensued and during the follow up a man and woman were arrested.

A Remington bolt-action rifle with an empty case still in the breech and a substantial quantity of ammunition was found. Well done Sgt West and 5 Pl.

4 Nov was a very rewarding day with

the capture of a number of well known "hoods" caught red-handed in possession of an Armalite, an FNC rifle and a handgun, all loaded and ready to fire.

The incident occurred in the Waterside area of Londonderry and may have been part of a larger enemy operation. During a search operation the next day, LCpl Pearson (A Coy) found a quantity of "sweet jar" petrol bombs (sweet jars hold almost a gallon), some bombs were doubles (two jars taped together), for dropping from a high point.

At 1907 hrs on 13 Nov C Coy patrol was caught by a CWIED blast bomb. Pte Jasper was lifted off his feet but thankfully was not seriously injured, however he was sent home to recover from the experience and we look forward to seeing him fit and well in Gibraltar.

Lundy Day (13 Dec — another Apprentice Boys celebration) was a potential problem day with an expected influx of supporters from outside Londonderry from as far away as Belfast. The RUC reinforced themselves, and the battalion was at a high state of readiness to assist if necessary. However, the event passed off without incident, numbers taking part being lower than anticipated.

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Pte Ryan (A Coy) meets CLF



The Deputy Colonel talks to Pte Horton — the other members of B Coy are from left Cpl Martin, WO2 (CSM) Jones and Pte Marsh.

# News from the Vikings



Left: The Deputy Colonel with a couple of well-known "old faces" — Cpls Woodruff and Smith.

Below: Minister for the Armed Forces Mr John Stanley (centre) on a brief visit to Ulster with, from left (standing): Lt De Planta, Pte Houghton, Cpl King, LCpl Jeffries, LCpl Kelly, Pte Cole, Pte Reeve, Pte Steward, Sgt Hamilton, (kneeling) Ptes Simms, McKenna and Ellis.



# News from The Vikings



About to receive their GOC's Commendations are, from left: Pte Bold, LCpl Harman, Cpl Saunders, Pte Kellett, WO2 (CSM) Jones and Lt Wiles.



The Deputy Colonel with WO1 (RSM) Cookson and Cpl Langley-Stevens (day watchkeeper).



The CLF meets LCpl Bliss of A Coy with (from left) Ptes Wright, Bates and McNelly.

## From Page 9

On 16 Dec at 1536 hrs. Support Coy were involved with the RUC in uncovering a bomb factory at an address on the north western outskirts of the city where 151 kg of HME and other bomb-making components were found. Two men were arrested. This was very good news indeed, especially as there had been a threat of a Christmas bomb blitz around the Province.

The enemy produced a fairly daring daylight attack at Masonic on 30 Dec. Engineers were working on the roof when a burst of about four rounds was fired from a vehicle in Westland St. Thankfully there were no casualties but the enemy, who were mobile, escaped.

A strong team of Vikings first aiders lead by SSgt Charles (APTC) did well at Ballykinler to win the Regular Army Section of the Northern Ireland First Aid Competition in 1986. The triumphant team members were: Cpl Weedon (HQ Coy) Ptes Hale, Howe, Knight and Marsh (B Coy), Ptes Sanderson and Whatley (C Coy), Ptes Docherty and Short (Sp Coy). A magnificent achievement.

We were very pleased to see our Deputy Colonel, Brig A. J. G. Pollard, and Mrs Pollard on their visit just before Christmas. Many of the battalion are well known to the Deputy Colonel from his service with the Vikings first as OC B Coy, then as Commanding Officer and again under his command in Belize.

We had a very short visit by the Armed

Forces Minister, Mr John Stanley, early in the New Year. He visited the City and met several Vikings.

On 6 Jan Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, Maj Gen A. S. Jeapes, made his farewell visit to the battalion before our departure. He visited all locations and had lunch with the Officers and Senior NCO's in the Officers' Mess. He praised the battalion for their performance in Northern Ireland and wished us well for Gibraltar.

On 12 Jan the GOC, Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, paid his final visit to us in Londonderry during which he presented GOC's Commendations to Vikings Lt Wiles, WO2 CSM Jones, Cpl Saunders, LCpl Harman and Pte Bold.

# News from The Vikings



Above: Pte Brown — gate sentry at the Masonic — talks to Mr John Stanley.



Right: Sparing a thought for the children of Londonderry.



Mr John Stanley with Ptes Cole, Steward, Simms, Houghton and McKenna.

# News from the Vikings



Members of C Coy entertaining children from St Christopher's School, Gibraltar



A nice warm day for the Viking 'fun run' on the Rock

# News from The Vikings



2Lt David England and members of 5PI the Vikings on parade during the battalion's first Ceremony of the Keys in Gibraltar.



Drum Maj Bokenham and the Viking Band and Drums.



# Poachers



## Starting a new way of life in Celle

ON 30 Mar 87, after just over four years in Colchester, the battalion handed over to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. At the same time, in Trenchard Barracks, Celle, the Poachers flag was raised and all ranks prepared to start a new way of life in BAOR.

The build-up to the move, including farewell visits and inspections, as well as the mechanised conversion package, began as long ago as October last year.

With many away during this period on career courses, Hyderabad Barracks was comparatively quiet but for those who remained the working week took on a fresh aspect with Friday's work finishing at lunchtime with a run for all. The CO's run, as it has become known, has survived the move to Celle and been lengthened to suit the size of Trenchard Barracks.

Remembrance Day saw a battalion sponsored service, attended by the Brigade Commander, in the Colchester Garrison Church. This served as a poignant reminder not only of two world wars, but also of the more recent and sad losses of Maj Andrew French and Pte's Karl Davis and 'Geordie' Bertram during the South Armagh tour earlier in the year.

The families of all three, as well as that of Pte 'Cuppa' Tee, killed during post NI leave, were present. In addition small contingents represented the Regiment in both Clacton and Boston.

This period, leading up to Christmas was filled with external courses and all the internal cadres necessary to ensure the battalion moved to BAOR with enough soldiers trained in the required skills. These included the specialist platoon numbers cadres and a potential JNCO cadre run by Lt Sean Sweeney.

There were, however, other events during this time. On 5 Nov the battalion was visited by the Commander 1st British Corps, Lt Gen Sir Brian Kenny. In early December we strengthened our ties with HMS Hermione when the CO and a small group of officers and men were admirably



The CO raises the flag in Celle.



Bde Comd 22 Armd Bde talks to Cpl Fox.

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# News from The Poachers



Above: LCpl Piper (A Coy) instructs one of the ratings from HMS Hermione during an exchange visit.



LCpl Gibbons (ACC) runner up EDIST best young chef.

Below: GOC 1 Armd Div speaks to the Milan Pl.



## From Page 15

entertained on board — a return visit taking place two days later. This exchange paved the way for Lt Justin Barnes and two soldiers to spend two weeks at sea in January.

Also in December Maj Chris Groom took a contingent of company plus strength to STANTA to act as civilian population for the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment during their Northern Ireland training. The remainder of the battalion participated in the Brigade Commander's fun run which consisted of a circuit in Friday Woods.

Christmas saw the usual round of festivities and a Christmas dinner was served in the cookhouse by the officers and SNCO's. The Poachers' carol service was well attended by families as was the Wives Club party, which was as always a success.

After Christmas leave, which ended on 5 Jan, preparations for the move and the mechanised conversion package got into full swing. The pre-advance party under Capt Taff Pryce moved to Celle to organise the quartering, while back in England, many of the battalion filtered through Bordon on driving and fleet managers' courses.

On 16 Jan, after a week in which snow had made it difficult for many to get to work, the battalion said farewell to Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst as our Deputy Colonel. During the day the General

**Continued on Page 17**

# News from The Poachers

From Page 16

visited all departments and addressed all ranks before presenting the Cooper Cup, for the best private soldier, to Pte Steve Higgins.

The General and Lady Akehurst were dined out by the Officers Mess that evening.

On 23 Jan GOC EDIST paid his farewell visit prior to his handover.

In the first week of February a study period on BAOR and the Threat was held in Hyderabad Barracks and on the final day Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, Director of Infantry, answered many questions.

The next week saw the battalion's command structure disappear to Catterick to practice mechanised procedures at the Battle Group Trainer. The exercise ended in time for them to return to Colchester to watch the grade 2 novices UKLF boxing final against 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets. It was a good contest which was convincingly won after some excellent bouts by the Poachers.

The climax of the mechanised conversion package for A and C Coys, with their necessary supporting elements, began with deployment to SPTA on 15 Feb for Exercise Phantom Bugle. The exercise ensured that junior levels of command became aware of the many problems likely to be faced later in the year in BAOR and gave the opportunity for minor tactics to be practiced.

By the end of the month, most of the military training was complete and the long job of packing and cleaning began.

The advance party under the 2IC moved between 9-11 Mar and the main body, with boxes packed, departed for embarkation leave on 20 Mar. Maj Peter Willdridge, sadly carrying out his last task within the battalion, remained in Colchester to ensure the move went without hitches which, to his credit and everybody's surprise, it did.

After a few days in which individuals were able to find their feet the CO outlined to the battalion the coming training season. Since then all ranks have been working hard to ensure that Trenchard Barracks is brought up to Poacher standards, vehicles are maintained and the call out system works.

Both the Divisional and Brigade Commanders made their initial visits during April and the battalion is now settling down and looking forward to a hard but rewarding tour in the mechanised role over the coming years in what is a very nice part of West Germany.



Ptes Toon, Wake and Richardson working on one of the Ferrets.



Right: The CO serves Christmas lunch to members of B Coy.

# News from The Poachers

## Glorious skiing on Winter Warrior

A GROUP of ten Poachers, led by Lt Tim Weightman took part in Exercise Winter Warrior between 26 Feb and 15 Mar 87. The exercise consisted of two weeks Alpine and Nordic skiing near Wertach in Bavaria.

After an overnight ferry crossing, and a 14-hour coach ride, the party, totalling 70 in all, arrived in appalling weather. Luckily, after two days, things improved and remained that way to enable ten days of the most glorious skiing to be had.

At the weekends, when the slopes received most use, effort was put into learning, or in some cases relearning, the skills of langlauf. The climax to this side of the training was a cross country course of five miles, after which the rather spartan exercise accommodation felt like a first class chalet.

During the week use was made of the downhill slopes and all participants learned a lot and enjoyed this part of the training. At the end of the fortnight the ten Poachers all passed their Bronze Alpine Certificate, very much to their credit.

As with many exercises that involve learning to ski, it was not all hard work. The apres ski was enjoyed almost as much as the actual skiing, but this was never to the detriment of the day's work, which was always looked forward to.

With the move to Celle bringing the battalion closer to the good Alpine ski resorts it is intended to build on the experience gained over the last season and produce a Poacher's ski team to be reckoned with over the coming years.

Above right: Maj Gen Ramsey talks to Cpl Pinnagar and members of the Milan Pl during his farewell visit.

Right: Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst being briefed by Maj Groom on his visit to the battalion at battle group training, Catterick.





# Pompadours



## Testing time in Belfast

HAVING just completed a Medicine Man exercise as a battle group, the Pompadours had to do a rapid change of direction for their Op Banner tour in West Belfast from Nov 86 to Mar 87.

The training package went smoothly, culminating in a week long exercise in Killymurphy, the BAOR equivalent of Rype Village. Throughout the exercise people were heard to say "It will never happen like this in Belfast, probably won't get a single incident". How wrong they were!

On 3 Nov the advance party waved a fond farewell to wives and families and flew out to a cold and damp Belfast. The party consisted of all the battalion's Multiple and Brick Commanders along with the Q element. 45 Commando Royal Marines gave us a hero's welcome, obviously being extremely glad to see us arriving.

Shortly before our tour began the West Belfast TAOR was increased in size to take in the huge area of North Belfast. This meant the battalion's patch doubled

with A Coy deployed to Girdwood in the North, B Coy to North Howard Street Mill and C Coy to Fort Whiterock in the south.

While A and C Coys got on with the business of the handover from the Royal Marines, B Coy found their TAOR completely out of bounds to patrols and consequently hardly set a foot on the ground until the first week of the tour.

The main body flew out between 10-12 Nov ready to go out on the streets within hours of arriving. Within a matter of days the battalion had settled down to their new task of supporting the RUC in Belfast.

A Coy had the first major operation of the tour on 15 Nov when they had to deal with a large march attended by more than 100,000 people and celebrating the anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement. Also within a few days of arriving, all three companies found themselves out on cordons dealing with hoax and real devices.

These first few incidents, which were dealt with quickly, were seen very much as PIRA "testing us out" and it was only later that we found that we had some very close shaves with secondary bombs being planted in cordon areas.

After the initial flurry of activity the entire TAOR settled down to a steady level of incidents leading up to Christmas. However, on 16 Dec the start of a new PIRA campaign was marked by the proxy bombing of RUC Lisburn Road with an 800lb bomb. The police station was completely demolished, as was a local church, luckily with no casualties. Christmas itself was very quiet with only a visit from the Prime Minister on 23 Dec and an issue of rum on Christmas Day from the CLF, Maj Gen A. S. Jeapes, to liven things up.

By mid-January the Belfast brigade of PIRA had completed their reorganisation and more attacks were being planned. On 12 Jan a VCP mounted by C Coy foiled a second proxy bomb incident with a Mercedes Van being found later with 450lbs of high quality explosives inside it. A few days later C Coy made another find of 140lb of home-made explosive hidden in a hedge.

On 30 Jan a minor bombing campaign started with a large car-bomb detonated in the city centre. The Mayor of Hertford



Sunset in the Clonards.

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# News from The Pompadours



The Band held a concert in the city centre before Christmas the Bandmaster is seen here with a younger member of the audience.



Getting to know the younger generation.

## From Page 19

was visiting the battalion at the time and was about 800 metres away from the device as it exploded.

Moments later the Ambassador Hotel in North Belfast was set on fire by one of five devices planted by an armed gang and a holdall full of explosives detonated on a windowsill outside Mackies factory on the Springfield Road. The following day, during a cordon operation by B Coy, a very sophisticated car bomb was discovered on the Springfield Road obviously designed to kill cordon troops from the previous day's holdall bomb.

During February incidents began to happen thick and fast with PIRA becoming more active than they had been for years. As February drew on people were reminded, at times, of Killymurphy, the NITAT training village were events hap-

pened "unrealistically fast". For every serious incident there were many hoaxes, false alarms and close shaves.

On 5 Feb an alert foot patrol from C Coy were instrumental in the capture and arrest of two INLA terrorists and the retrieval of a pistol thrown into some bushes. Pte Gascoine was promoted to LCpl by the CO for his part in this action.

On 6 Feb about 12 incendiary devices were cleared from the Park Centre on the Donegal Road and on 7 Feb, after some nasty crowd trouble on the Falls Road, Pte Cook engaged an INLA gunman in the Divis Flats with two rounds.

Thanks to Cook's quick reactions the gunmen was prevented from firing, although unfortunately he escaped into the flats complex.

On 12 Feb a routine foot patrol in the New Barnsley area discovered some MK10 mortar components in a coal bunker and later the same evening a PIRA gun team fired several shots at the top sanger of RUC Woodbourne while an IPG was fired at the front gate from a passing car.

On 13 Feb a PIRA bombing team were prevented from firing a claymore device planted in a derelict house on the Falls Road and over the next two days B Coy mounted an operation to clear the device. By 15 Feb the claymore had been defused and a particularly nasty attack prevented. Had the device been detonated it would have shot ball bearings into the children's ward of the Royal Victoria Hospital opposite.



The Mayor of Chelmsford with the CO and the RSM

Continued Page 22

# News from The Pompadours



Left: Training for Ulster tour.



Middle left: The Prime Minister chats to men of A Coy at Girdwood.



Below: Brig Wheeler, Director of Army Plans with CSgt Hillier.



Bottom left: Keeping alert.



Bottom right: The CO and Chief Inspector Jillery during the Mackies car bomb incident.



# News from The Pompadours

From Page 20

On 16 Feb a cordon, again from B Coy, was deployed to clear a hoax device from the doorway of a shopping centre on the Springfield Road. While the cordon was collapsing, after the clearance of the device, three shots were fired at two bricks of the Milan platoon.

Having got a taste for shootings PIRA again took on a cordon on 21 Feb with 16 rounds from an Armalite. Cpl Simmons and Pte Wing had a very lucky escape. On 23 Feb a mobile patrol was fired at by a gunman in the Divis Flats using a shotgun.

On 27 Feb the Protestant Militants began a hoax bomb campaign in A Coy's area that was to keep the company in cordon positions for many hours. This went on sporadically, reaching a peak on 6 and 7 Mar when A Coy dealt with some 30 hoax devices.

On 6 Mar a multiple from 4 Pl, B Coy was moving through the Clonards when another claymore type device was detonated in a derelict house on Clonard Street. Luckily the company commander's rover group had arrived moments before the blast and the APV took most of the explosion. Pte Brady was thrown across the street receiving damage to an eye, an ear and a few flesh wounds.

The remainder of the brick, including the multiple commander, 2Lt Baker, had a lucky escape and were left with only ringing in their ears. Brady spent a few days recovering in Musgrave Park Hospital when he was visited by his parents follow-



All quiet on the streets.

ing which he went home to London where he was treated to a day out by Arsenal Football Club and a ticket to the League Cup final.

On 7 Mar A Coy's fight against the Protestant hoax bombers continued while B Coy mounted an operation in the Bal'ymurphy during which a nasty pipe bomb on the side of a telegraph pole was

discovered and defused by ATO.

On 10 Mar, A Coy's hoax problems having receded somewhat, an RUC Hotspur mobile reacted to a 999 call about an armed robbery taking place in a shop in the Ardoyne. At 2054 hrs Reserve Constable Nesbitt dismounted from the RUC Hotspur outside a bakers shop on the Ardoyne shop fronts and a 40lb command wire bomb was detonated, killing him instantly.

The bomb had been planted inside the bakers with people living in flats above the shops and had been detonated with locals on the street nearby. A Coy mounted a massive follow up operation searching over 16 houses and maintaining a cordon in the area for 24 hrs. It is hoped that some of the forensic evidence gathered during the follow up will eventually lead to the arrest of Constable Nesbitt's murderers.

This has been an intensely busy period for the whole battalion and a combination of pure good luck and our own skill on the ground has meant that the only casualty was Pte Brady.

The fact that the tour was extremely busy meant that time flew and it was not long before the battalion was climbing on board the VC10s bound for Minden.

It has been an excellent tour for the Pompadours and a very good experience for commanders at all levels with young lance corporals growing up quickly. Most of the Pompadours would agree that



Maj Nick Kelsey of the 5th Bn made a video of the tour at Christmas.

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# News from The Pompadours



Sir Anthony Buck, MP for Colchester North with CSM Twell and Sgt Conopo on top of the Divis Tower.



The Deputy-Colonel visited us on his last day in uniform



The Mayor of Watford.



The Mayor of Bedford meets the CO.

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while being one of the hardest jobs many have done, it has also been one of the most enjoyable. Having said that we were all glad to see the back of Belfast and be returning to wives and families in Minden.

The tour in West Belfast was notable not only for being one of the busiest for terrorist activity for years, but also for the amount of senior visitors that the battalion hosted.

Soon after the start of the tour (Cmd 1 (BR) Corps, Lt Gen Sir Brian Kenny, visited, shortly followed by our Divisional Commander, Maj Gen Hobbs. The highlight of the Christmas visitors was the visit of the Prime Minister on 23 Dec. She flew into Girdwood and spent quite some time chatting to the soldiers of A Coy.

Maj Nick Kelsey of 5 R Anglian stayed with us for a week shortly after Christmas during which time he made an excellent video of the "Pompadours in Belfast". On 8 Jan the CGS, Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall visited. On 6 Feb Maj Gen Ward Booth (deputy Colonel of the Regiment) stayed with the battalion on his last day in uniform, and on 25 Feb the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst visited.

In between the senior military visitors the Pompadours also hosted five mayors from our home boroughs. They were the Mayors of Hertford, Chelmsford, Colchester, Bedford and Watford. Each of them brought a local reporter and the battalion gained a great deal of Press coverage. The High Sheriff of Essex visited on the 4 Mar bringing with him 750 cans of beer for the boys — greatly appreciated.

One way or another the Pompadours have become quite well known in both military circles and back in our home counties as a result of this tour.

# News from The Pompadours



The Colonel of the Regiment with Maj Julian Lacey at North Howard Street Mill.



LCpl Cooney, C Coy searches a local.



Cpl Mackness A Coy. during a VCP operation.



The Mayor of Hertford.

## Feature Focus

# Vikings return to sea

A BRIEF warning "Look out! Hold on!" and the boat slammed to a halt again, hit just forward of the beam by the lip of another enormous wave; the deck and cockpit were enveloped in a solid mass of water leaving the four men on watch gasping and spluttering while standing knee high in brine, the self-draining system struggling to cope with the water.

Slowly the boat gathered way once more, heeling over in the Gale Force 11 winds. The waves were awe-inspiring; a full football pitch in length from crest to

crest with height to match, the troughs a lonely and, to the new watch as they tumbled their way out on deck, a frightening place.

Below, the mother watch, struggling to serve up bread and hot soup to keep body and soul together for the 12-man crew, cursed volubly as the cabin floor, already at an impossible angle, dropped sickeningly away only to slam back at bodies bruised and tired out from the perpetual battering; the objects of their attention, an empty mug and a half ladleful of soup

danced in wild arcs in their hands, defying that brief moment of union.

Opposite them, members of the watch just off struggled out of harnesses and dripping oilskins, all clothes underneath damp, soaked at the neck, wrist and ankle. The waiting diners watched patiently, jammed into spaces round the cabin.

The skipper at the navigation table completed a sitrep with a Naval ship for onward transmission to Gosport, the first message passed for a couple of storm-tossed days; as he turned away, another voice, unidentified, came over the ether.

"Dasher? You must be mad to be out in the Bay of Biscay on a night like this!"

We could not but agree; how to get off was the problem! From the corner of the cabin Mark Wenham, married just over a week before, asked "Whose was this great idea anyway?" All eyes swung on me.

Reintroducing "Vikings" to the sea after a layoff of some 1,500 years I had made increasingly ambitious trips around SW Scotland with members of the 1st Battalion, mostly B Coy, in a Contessa 32 between stints of operational duty in Londonderry over the last two years. In the summer the idea of a "blue water" cruise in the biggest of service yachts seemed like a fitting climax; ending in Gibraltar, our new posting, it would also be a suitable Viking arrival.

I applied to crew a leg of Medchase from Sicily to the western end of the Mediterranean. Turning us down, we were offered instead the first leg of Caribdash, a Naval exercise to meet up and cruise with Fleet ships in the Caribbean; the Nic 55 needed to be moved from her home, Gosport, to Gibraltar to meet up with the first of her Naval crews.

It wasn't quite the "blue water" cruise I had in mind, especially Biscay in December, but then adventure training is meant to be character forming and there was every chance of that! Besides, as Hager says, "Vikings can take it".

The Adjutant, Rupert Lucas, and I combined forces and through persistence and trickery persuaded the CO to back the venture. There had been great enthusiasm among the nucleus of sailors, so now I stared back resolutely at the accusing eyes.

Arriving at the Joint Service Sailing Centre, Gosport, on the evening of 1 Dec the 10 man Viking crew met up with the skipper and first mate, both JSSC skippers and Naval Petty Officers. Stowage and briefings followed at which skipper Dan suggested a beard growing contest in

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Heavy sailing after the storm. Capt Rupert Lucas well buttoned up.

# Feature Focus



Calm weather — from left: Pte Ned Kellett, LCpl Tony Boterill, 2Lt Patrick Dean and Pte Brian Raw.

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the interest of reducing water consumption. Then the crew hit port to celebrate Tony Botterill's 21st birthday and Mark Wenham's wedding.

Next day, Tuesday, a Force 6 wind was blowing from the southwest, exactly our intended direction. With time still in our favour Dan elected to head westward for Weymouth. Looking at the chart there's a lot of water to be gained before rounding Finistere.

Out past the Needles it was a hard, wet day into the wind with many sick and only 40 miles gained. Wednesday was no better, and heading on down to Dartmouth, seals were still unsteady, though Alan Bishop put his sickness down to a heavy session ashore the night before. The skipper's insistence on throwing a tin of goulash into the pea soup to "give it body" was observed not to help!

The weather worsened. Thursday 4 Dec, Gale Force 8 winds from the southwest. The skipper and mates pored over the shipping forecast; there was a promise of the wind freeing off by Friday; in the meantime there was little to be gained thrashing on to Falmouth. We stayed in Dartmouth, carrying out repairs, shopping, resting.

Skipper and first mate led the raiding party ashore by lunchtime; they were already hardened Vikings. Reporting progress back to Londonderry there was an increasing tone of scepticism from the other end: were we going to Gibraltar or was this a glorified pub crawl?

Slipping out of Dartmouth at 1345 on Friday we saluted the submarine Onyx as she came in and made our way out into a

westerly Force 6 wind. Though we could now sail in our intended direction the prospects were not good, but time had run out.

The wind became weaker and variable during the night. A beautiful sunrise on Saturday, with dolphins alongside at breakfast but the bumpy seas were still including sickness; Brian Raw scored an all-time record; two bites of toast and away!

The barometer fell all day, the wind from the south forcing us to sail close

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The boat: HMSTY Dasher, a 55ft Nicholson.

The crew: Skipper — Dan Naylor RN, First mate — Alan Bishop RN, Second mate — Maj Bill Mooring.

Watches: Leaders — Capt Mark Wenham, Capt Rupert Lucas, 2Lt Patrick Dean.

Crew — Pte Ned Kellett, Pte Mark Newson, Pte Paddy Braine, Cpl Geordie Patterson, LCpl Tony Botterill, Pte Brian Raw.

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hailed. By midnight we had logged 203 miles from Dartmouth.

We battled on through increasingly worse weather and heavier winds. By lunchtime Sunday the storm jib had been raised, the main reefed down to the third slab by tea-time. Writing in the log became almost illegible. Winds were a steady 40 knots plus by 1900, Gale Force 9. Still, we were managing a general southerly course and made 139 miles by midnight.

Conditions continued to deteriorate during darkness; by 0800 we were register-

ing 58 knots of wind, Gale Force 11, at which point the anemometer gave up the struggle. On deck, turns on the helm were down to 20 minutes of exhausting work, the helmsman forced to wear goggles against the stinging spray. Bilges, pumped every hour and normally dry after two or three strokes were now emptying after 35; by lunchtime Monday they reached a peak at 79 strokes! Our charted position was pitifully close to the plot made 12 hours previously.

An abatement and slight windshift followed on Monday morning, producing the most exhilarating sailing of the trip. That night with Force 7 to 8 winds we crossed mountainous seas; roaring up and across the face of huge waves, Dasher almost leapt off the crests then plunged down the long backs and into the deep valley of the troughs, the seas glistening in the moonlight. Blood coursed with the adrenalin, the crew on watch whooping involuntarily as they clung on, seemingly riding a huge toboggan down a moonlit, snow covered mogulfield. At midnight we had clocked 138 miles in an exhausting day's sailing.

Those that had suffered were now well over their seasickness, though Geordie Patterson had been forced into his bunk with 'flu. The jarring slam of boat into wave had ceased with the windshift and off watch crews slept deeply for the first time in days to a cacophony of snores led by Patrick Dean.

Recently lewd dreams had been a common feature in our fitful sleep; now the second mate was accused of the ultimate wet dream: sleeping on the lee side, he awoke to find the whole bunk awash, all clothes and sleeping bag soaked. The leak was later traced to the liferaft locker outside in the cockpit but at the time it certainly added a certain character to the moment!

The storm had delayed us so badly that skipper now confirmed his earlier idea to continue directly on to Villamoura, leaving out Bayona since time was pressing. Over the next three days winds became variable though mostly from the south and we tacked steadily on down the Portuguese coast, resorting to the engine during extended calms.

Just short of Cape St Vincent land was sighted at 1625 on Friday 12th, the first seen for seven days.

There was an opportunity to dry out clothes in the sunnier conditions and life became more bearable. Dolphins abounded in the area, schools of them visiting us several times, leaping out of the water and cutting under the yacht at speed. A whale had surprised the morning watch on Thursday 11th, surfacing some 25 metres off to port, exhaling with a long sigh.

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# Feature Focus

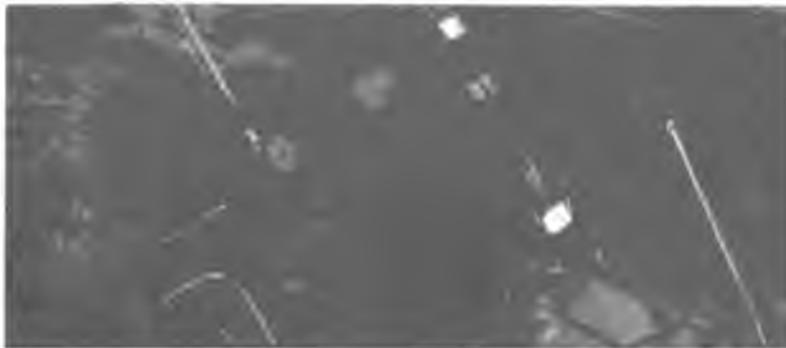
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There were photocalls during some incredible sunsets. The second mate conducted astrological tuition on starlit nights lying on his back with a planisphere held up over his head.

We reached Villamoura early on Saturday morning. There followed a concerted restoration period on boat and bodies. Villamoura turned out to be little more than an excellent new marina, fronted by concrete bars, shops and holiday accommodation.

Prices were high ashore but a taxi ride to the nearby village put a number of us into a local restaurant, looking from the outside little more than a garage workshop, with the cook managing flamboyantly over an open fire in the corner. Soup, huge swordfish steaks and copious quantities of wine cost £2.50 a head, less than the price of a starter at the marina restaurants.

After, making friends with Britain's oldest allies in a local bar, we acquired a taste for Amorguinta, a local almond-



LCpl Tony Boterill at the helm with 2Lt Patrick Dean as the storm approaches.

based liqueur, a bottle of which returned to the boat for continued consumption.

Clearing Portugese customs at 1000 on Sunday we set course for Cape Trafalgar in windless conditions. Apart from a brief spell when the spinnaker was set we were forced to motor until the next morning when the wind picked up from the south-

west. After a dull, misty and rainy night, the Rock of Gibraltar was sighted at 1340 on Monday 15 Dec, bathed in sunshine. With the wind abaft the beam we had some of the best sailing of the trip, bang upright, in sunshine, at a good pace and again escorted by dolphins.

That evening, in company with Vikings from the battalion's pre-advance party we dined the skipper and first mate out as a token of our appreciation ending at Jim's Den where, after much fondling, the waitress decided the beard growing contest in favour of the second mate with Rupert Lucas coming a close second. However, along with Patrick Dean and Paddy Braine he deserves recognition for never even looking ill, despite the conditions and the desperate tasks of cooking and cleaning up below.

Ned Kellett, Brian Raw and "Choggie" Newson too showed Viking grit, playing their part to the full while variously being wickedly sick. Only the skipper, Paddy Braine and the commissioned officers did not succumb; the stiff upper lip?

Next day, closely shaved and respectably dressed; with mixed feelings we lowered the Viking's houseflag, a Norse helmet superimposed on Minden colours, before leaving the boat. In the last fortnight we had battled over 1,300 miles, sailing into wind for an exhausting 10 days, the worst weather the skipper could recall in all his time sailing.

Much of a team before we began, the crew had impressed him greatly. Despite the horrors of the voyage, there was a reluctance to go, to break up such a team, bound closely by the experience shared. As adventurous training at its best intends, every man had learned a great deal about himself and his companions.

For the battalion, a hard core of off-shore sailing now exists, to be put to good use over the next two years in the waters around the Rock and, who knows, further afield. Vikings are afloat again!

Magnus The Viking



Maj Bill Mooring readies himself to catch the photographer.

## Feature Focus

# Recalling days in India

THIS photo of (left to right) Lts P. D. Smitherman, J. R. B. Prescott, 2Lt G. T. O. Springfield and Lt W. S. Bevan was taken at Mhow Cantonments, Central India, in early 1938 when they were serving with 2 Suffolk. Now, after almost 50 years, they are still going strong(-ish).

On disembarking from a troopship at Bombay after more than three weeks at sea, one travelled on the Frontier Mail 250 miles north east to Rutlam Junction and changed to the narrow-gauge line for the remaining 80 miles or so to Mhow. A hot and dusty journey, even with a large block of ice in a tin tray on the floor of the compartment which marginally eased the discomfort.

In those days Mhow was a small town with no civilian European community to speak of other than the District Commissioner and his staff. The large military garrison was located away from the native bazaar area in the cantonments; the British Infantry Lines being a mile or so from the Indian Army units' barracks. Although the temperature reached 110 degrees in the hot season, Mhow was generally regarded as a 'good' station by Indian standards.

The garrison consisted of a field regiment R.A. armed with 18 pdr. horse-drawn guns (relics of the 1914-18 war), a British infantry battalion and an Indian Army infantry battalion. (Sepoys with British officers) plus the normal arms and services including, most importantly, a British military hospital. The role of the garrison was primarily one of internal security, but units had to be ready to serve on the North West Frontier should the need arise.

At the time this photo was taken, the outbreak of World War Two was less than two years away. It is a fact, but difficult to believe nevertheless, that 2 Suffolk was still organised, armed and equipped as it had been 20 years earlier in the 'Kaiser's War'.

The battalion had no MT (not even a CO's car!). Animal transport (A/T) was the sole means of transport, either in A/T carts or on pack animals, generally mules. Lt Prescott was Tpt. Officer and a very successful one too in the district transport competitions which 2 Suffolk usually won.

Senior officers were mounted, everyone else marched. An exception was made in the case of the 'regimental followers' — officers' bearers, grooms, dhobies, sweepers, char-wallahs and the regimental contractor's staff etc., who mostly travelled independently of the troops in ox-drawn carts. The contractor, Khan



Bahadur Haji F. Shaboodeen, to give 'Shabo' his full title, was an impressive red-bearded character, popular with all ranks.

On long route marches the Band and Drums literally 'played' an important role. The Drums headed the column with the Band two companies back. It was exceptional for anyone to fall out on the line of march. Better to stick it out and try to forget the dust, flies and smell of feet and sweaty bodies. Anyway the singing kept one going even if the songs weren't exactly the padre's choice!

It was before the days of radio so all internal communication was in morse code by key, heliograph, flag and lamp, supplemented by field telephone and of course the indispensable runner. Peter Smitherman was R.S.O.

Infantry weapons then were the Lee-Enfield rifle, Lewis gun (LMG), .455 revolver and 12 Vickers heavy machine guns carried on mules in the Support Pl. commanded by Lt Bevan. There were no mortars nor anti-tank weapons. Musketry was taken very seriously; the standard of shooting was high.

Sport featured prominently in the life of a soldier in India; nearly everyone took part in some form of sporting activity. Hockey, played on a hard packed earth pitch was a fast, rather dangerous but very popular game.

The country round Mhow offered excellent small and big game shooting. Ber-

tie Bevan and Jack Prescott both shot several panther. Shooting parties organised by the officers and sergeants messes (each had its own 'shikar' club) were enjoyable but some times inclined to become dangerous when duck came over in large numbers and everyone blasted off — regardless!

The battalion had a polo team; Jack Prescott, George Springfield and Peter Smitherman all played. Many officers hunted jackal with the Mhow pack (Capt Oates of Scott's South Pole Expedition fame was a one-time hunt secretary).

Minden Day, Christmas Day, the King's birthday parade were highlights in the year. Garrison race meetings and gymkhanas, regimental concerts, visits by touring theatrical troupes, boxing competitions and Beating Retreat by the Band and Drums provided a welcome change for the soldiers to warm beer in the wet canteen. The occasional earth tremor and the arrival of the monsoon also relieved the monotony of barrack life.

During its four years in Mhow (1935-39) 2 Suffolk was never called out in aid of the civil authorities. Life followed a fixed routine — individual, platoon, company and battalion training, culminating in manoeuvres which always coincided with the hottest time of the year and consisted mainly in covering vast distances on foot — 30 miles a day in temperatures of over 100 degrees being unexceptional.

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## Feature Focus

# Sheriff in West Belfast

By David Keddie Esq.,  
High Sheriff of Essex.

THE Sheriff is the oldest secular dignitary under the Crown, dating back nearly 1000 years, and is second in the County to the Lord Lieutenant.

In days of old they appointed MPs (usually themselves), collected taxes owing to the Crown, had custody of the Royal Castles, were responsible for military matters and headed the judiciary in the County).

PERHAPS the most memorable event in my year as the High Sheriff of Essex was my visit to the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment in West Belfast. I wanted to be able to express personally, on behalf of the county, our great appreciation for the splendid job being done

by the men of the Pompadours.

I also wanted to be able to leave a more tangible reminder, so I managed to persuade Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, the chairman of Allied-Lyons, which also takes in the Romford Brewery, that I would like to be able to show this in a more liquid form! Thanks to the excellent organisation of Maj Thorogood, 60 dozen cans of bitter and lager accompanied me.

My visit got off to a rather difficult start at Heathrow as it was snowing at the time and when one side of the aircraft had been de-iced, the tanker ran out of appropriate fluid so I had to accommodate my rather large frame between two equally large men, for an hour on the ground while the British Airports Authority tried to find some more de-icing fluid.

Eventually I arrived at Aldergrove, where I was whisked into West Belfast to MPH and introduced to the Colonel and

some of his team. I had previously expressed the hope that I might meet as many people from all ranks as possible and particularly those from my home county during my visit. At the same time, I said that under no circumstances did I want my visit to be a pain in the nether regions because I realised that they had more than enough to do without having to look after visiting firemen.

However, a comprehensive but whirlwind tour had been laid on with customary military precision. This took in A, B and C Companies' bases and the areas for which they were responsible, Battalion HQ, and most of the bandit country of West Belfast. Having been a member of the TA for more than six years and done my National Service as a Gunner Subaltern at Detmold, not a million

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In spite of everything the battalion was a big and, by-and-large, remarkably happy family. All ranks (and the families) from the CO to the youngest Band Boy knew everyone else and had no doubt that 2 Suffolk — the "Old Swedebashers" — was the best battalion in India.

It is quite exceptional that all four young officers pictured above have survived to reach the age of seventy plus. How have they fared since 1938?

Dr Peter Smitherman MD certainly had a worse time in the war than the others as he was captured in Singapore in February 1942 and spent three years in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps in Siam.

He retired in Jan 47 in the rank of major. After qualifying as a doctor he practised for a time in London, then joined the medical department of H.M. Prison Service and remained in it till he retired. He now lives in Kent. His elder brother, the late Col John Smitherman, was for many years a member of the Suffolk Reg TA.

Maj J. R. B. 'Percy' Prescott MC left Mhow in early 1939 accompanied by Peter Smitherman and drove back to England in his open Chevrolet. After many adventures, including making serious inroads into the British Embassy's whisky stocks in Kabul, they eventually had to part company in East Persia. Peter, already overdue for a radar course in the UK, managed to fly back from Tehran; Percy, when he had recovered from malaria, finally reached England four months and 10,000 miles after leaving Mhow. Quite an epic solo drive.

After a time with 4 Suffolk then 2

Cambs in East Anglia he was posted to the Royal West African Frontier Force and served in Nigeria. He rejoined 1 Suffolk in Jun 44 in Normandy. He won the MC during the fighting at Tinchebray. Twice wounded: in Oct 44 at Nijmegen while with 4 DLI, and again in Mar 45 near Bocholt while with 7 RWF during the Rhine crossing operations.

Having recovered from his wounds he returned to the RWAFF and subsequently joined the King's African Rifles in 1952 in Kenya where he remained until retiring in 1955. He now lives near Rye in Sussex.

The Prescotts have a long family connection with the Suffolk Regt. Maj Gen G. H. Walker, one of Maj Prescott's forebears, commanded 1 Suffolk during the second Afghan war in 1878. Other relatives have also served in the regiment and now Maj Jeremy Prescott is carrying on the tradition in the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Lt Col G. T. O. Springfield left Mhow to become ADC to the GOC Bombay District. He rejoined 2 Suffolk in early 1940 in Razmak, on the North West Frontier as a company commander and saw service with it in the Arakan during the Burma campaign.

In 1945 he became BM to Brig (later Lt Gen) Dick Goodwin, 214 Bde., 43 Div. in N.W. Europe. After various staff jobs he rejoined 1 Suffolk in Cyprus and served as a Coy Comd during the Eoka emergency and was Mentioned in Despatches.

Returning to the UK he took over command of the Depot at Bury St. Edmunds before assuming command of 4 Suffolk in 1958. He retired in 1961 and lives at Blakeney, Norfolk.

Lt Col W. S. 'Bertie' Bevan OBE served with 2 Suffolk on the North West Frontier and was wounded while attached to 1/19 Hyderabad Regt. on operations against Fakir of Ipi's tribesmen.

An early volunteer for parachute troops, he joined 151 (later 156) Para Bn and went with this unit to the Middle East in 1942. He attended the staff college, Quetta, then became DAA&QMG to 50 Indian Para Bde for the Imphal campaign.

Repatriated after almost nine years continuous overseas service, he was briefly BM to 1 Para Bde before rejoining 1 Suffolk in NW Europe as 2IC to Dick Goodwin. He was temporarily commanding the battalion on VE Day, then south of Bremen.

Returning to India, he was appointed an instructor at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, north India where he stayed until finally repatriated in Nov 47.

Posted back to 1 Suffolk in Malaya as 2IC in 1950 he was Mentioned in Despatches. He was OCI Suffolk Coronation Parade Party before rejoining the battalion which was then in Trieste keeping the Yugoslavs and Italians from each others throats.

Appointed COI Suffolk in May 1956 in BAOR, he took the battalion to Cyprus in August that year and commanded during the Eoka emergency and was made an OBE.

His stepson, Richard Thomson briefly held a commission in the Royal Anglian Regiment. Bertie, having now remarried, lives in Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.

W.S.B.

# Feature Focus

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miles from Minden, I therefore found it particularly interesting to note how the Army compared with my day, a generation ago. It also helped me to make a better appreciation of what I saw, but I am not one of these people who after a 24-hour flying visit assumes they are automatically an expert on the Irish problem.

What struck me particularly was the high standard of professionalism. It was also encouraging, after the brickbats thrown at the younger generation today, to note the calibre of the members of the battalion still in their teens and the excellent response to the demand for qualities of leadership under active service conditions for each 'brick' and armoured patrol. I was also extremely impressed with how the battalion, trained for a completely different role in West Germany, was able to adapt so efficiently to urban guerilla warfare where to relax one's vigilance for a second could result in a bullet in the back or becoming the victim of a come-on incident.

I believe this was attributable not only to the quality of leadership, training and, perhaps most important, morale but also to technical proficiency, helped by the technology now available to good communications (my memories go back to the ghastly 19 and 38 sets), the armoured Land-Rovers; and the key to the whole operation, a good intelligence room.

During my briefing, I was accurately told that all hell was about to break loose and, sure enough, this began at the end of March just after the battalion had left. I hope this was not just a matter of 'while the cat's away' . . . !

What will remain in my memory forever is the image of West Belfast, a part of the UK where there is actually a dirty little war taking place, while only a mile away in Central Belfast there is a booming city centre, where the IRA might never have existed. West Belfast was more akin to occupied territory, with heavily protected forts, newly-built anti-mortar blast walls and troops only venturing out in heavily armed patrols.

But the most frightening facet of this never-ending campaign is that terrorism seems to have become a way of life rather than a means to an end. History is merely used as the fuel for stoking the flames, rather than looking towards any ultimate solution.

I shall always remember, when visiting the OP on the roof of the Divis, waiting for our relief patrol which had been delayed, standing on the top floor watching for the lift to arrive. Eventually the doors opened and there was a young teenage girl staring into the barrels of two



The Pompadours' Ex OC B Coy, Maj Graham Duthoit, CSM WO2 Twell and Rover Group in Ross Road.

SLR's and two Brownings, not even battling an eyelid.

Again when on patrol, I found the atmosphere utterly depressing, with the squalor of the Catholic areas, the rotting mattresses and other litter in the streets, derelict buildings, uncut hedges, ill-dressed and listless people and not a potential job in sight (except for cleaning up the mess), just endless council estates with no community halls, few shops, and hardly a pub.

Walls and ends of buildings were disfigured with obscene graffiti and provocative murals. It was an eerie feeling moving among a hostile populace, which had become so used to the army that they seldom even bothered to shout obscenities.

Nevertheless, I am convinced that, however irksome a tour of duty may have been in West Belfast, it will have been a worthwhile experience in helping to weld the battalion into an even more effective fighting unit. I particularly noticed the excellent relationship that existed at all

levels, based upon mutual respect. Rigid barriers and 'bull' may have largely disappeared, but in its place is a new professionalism, coupled with the camaraderie of a proud battalion, forming part of a regiment embodying great traditions.

The result was that the 3rd Battalion was able to maintain the peace in West Belfast during its tour of duty, suffered no serious casualties — which was more than just good luck — and was able in one area, to do a job with two platoons which previously required four battalions, although of course the contribution of the RUC must not be overlooked.

It must also have been intensely frustrating seeing the villains hatching their evil plots and yet having to leave the initiative with the terrorists, because politics precluded the type of decisive action which any soldier would normally like to take.

It was a privilege to meet the officers and men of the 3rd Battalion and I shall long remember with pride my visit to them in West Belfast.



# 5th Battalion



Experience  
backs HSF  
volunteer  
spirit

By Lt Bill O'Connor 6 (HSF) Coy

"YOU can't teach an old dog new tricks" — so the saying goes. It is not true of course, but what is certainly true is that the 'old dog' has a hatful of tricks and experience all of his own, ready to be put to use; and there you have the strength of the Home Service Force, a strong volunteer spirit, backed up by a depth of experience.

This became evident during the two year pilot scheme and, as a result, the 5th Battalion was given the go-ahead in 1985 to raise 2 HSF Companies based upon Peterborough (5 Coy) and Chelmsford (6 Coy).

6 Coy held its inaugural training meeting in Jul 85, Ex Brave Defender was only two months away, so the pressure was on. Everyone responded in the best tradition of the TA and the majority of the new company were able to turn out for a shake-down exercise on Stanford Trg area at the end of August. Just one week later 6 Coy took part in Ex Brave Defender with many of us still strangers to one another, and platoon commanders knowing the names of no more than a handful of their men. The Coy, however, immediately pulled together, and not only was the exercise a success, but also an enjoyable experience for all who took part.

This major exercise over, a period of consolidation followed, NCOs were appointed, individuals' various skills and experiences identified and brought to the fore and a basic training programme formulated to establish an even standard throughout the platoons, refreshing old skills, and in some cases introducing new, particularly to those whose previous experience had been other than infantry.

The HSF has limited number of man training days available, therefore it is important to get the utmost out of every

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## If it's spring it must be . . .

If it's spring, then it must be the battalion skill-at-arms meeting. Such is the seasonal pattern of military life

All over the country regimental magazines are pouring forth stories of what their boys have been up to during the long winter months, and what they plan for the future. Last year's calendars have been studied to ensure that nothing is missed this year; old instructions have been re-issued, with only the names changed to protect the lazy. To outsiders, and indeed to some on the inside, it may appear that little changes from year to year.

Perhaps, it is necessary to look back over a much longer period to see significant changes. This year our battalion celebrates its 20th anniversary, and on 20 Jun there is a Celebration Day at the Depot, when we gather together and welcome back old friends.

Reminiscing is fine, but the value of such an occasion lies not just in going over fond memories, but also in examining the broad pattern of changes over the years; picking out the good and bad, and using the lessons so learned as a guide in the future.

At the time the battalion was formed, the TA was undergoing a massive change that saw, not as an improvement, but more a kind of pogrom (organised massacre) The winding-up of National Service marked the end of what had been perhaps, for the Regular Army, an embarrassing reliance on amateurs since the beginning of the Second World War.

Whole regiments, many with long and distinguished histories, simply disappeared or were reduced to a kind of rump, known as Cadres. Their members, many still wearing battledress decorated with rows of medal, soldiered on with no pay and little equipment.

What they did have, however, was enthusiasm, an ability to motivate others and a vast reservoir of experience. The majority of the public thought for many years after that the TA had been abolished completely.

At first little seemed to have changed within those units still left. One could still hear the SLR called the 'FN' and arguments raged over the relative merits

of the Bren and the GPMG. Scant attention was paid to NBC, and 'overhead cover' did not appear in SOP's.

In those days our battalion had companies in Peterborough, Lincoln, Leicester, Chelmsford and Ipswich. Herford came in later as 'Five Company'. Over the years though, changes were made.

Our role changed a number of times. In the late 1970s, we were part of an all-Regular Field Force (Brigade), a period which some look back on with nostalgia. Geographically the battalion also changed shape as the new units were formed.

New equipments such as Milan, were introduced. 'Noddy suits' became de-rigueur on exercise and digging a positive joy. Other less welcome changes also occurred.

As more and more demands were made on the TA, the pressures on CO's mounted. Increased training commitments, with vast tables of individual and collective requirements gradually removed from commanders much of the initiative they enjoyed in the past. They were gradually reduced to becoming filters (and even umbrellas) against the deluge of requirements forced on them from above.

Company commanders, once giants among men, seemed to have become small cogs in a great machine. Now, they should be given back that initiative they once had, then we would see them grow to fill this vital role.

We have come a long way in 20 years but one thing is quite clear: on absolute standards there can be no compromise and we must all strive to meet the exacting requirements of a modern battlefield. What we need to do, however, is to reduce the level of our 'organising' to a human scale.

No doubt at the 20th birthday party some old-timers will shake their heads, some will marvel at the changes and others will be struck with just how familiar it all is. Which reminds me, next year's programme! Chief! Pass me down last year's forecast of events, would you, and the Tippex!

# News from the 5th Battalion



On Fri 8 May 1987, at Peterborough, the 5th Battalion was privileged to provide a Guard of Honour for Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester for the inauguration of the electrification of the Peterborough to London railway line. The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief is accompanied on her inspection of No 2 Guard by the CO, Lt Col Robin Greenham, and the Guard Commander, Maj Tim Warr. The day was blessed with glorious sunshine which showed off the Guard found from HQ Coy and 2 (Northamptonshire) Coy, to best effect. (Picture by Peterborough Evening Telegraph).

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training weekend, this results in a series of intensive, active and interesting events throughout the year. A high spot of the 1986 training calendar, was an invitation to take part in Ex Yeoman's Canter held in the Bridgenorth area, for which 6 Coy provided a bridge demolition guard . . . not quite in character with our role, but an excellent opportunity to practice our individual skills and for officers and NCOs to exercise command and establish effective routines.

By now the Coy had really got its act together and all ranks were entitled to give themselves a pat on the back for their professionalism.

We had expected helicopter support during this exercise, but the lie of the land at our bridge made this impossible. However, the Severn Valley Railway Society came to the rescue, providing a steam loco and coaches which, with a bit of imagination, provided a passable alternative.

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Pie Brooks on Ex Brave Defender

# News from the 5th Battalion



Ex Polar Dawn 87 — CSgt Sid Holl and Ptes Neil Smith, Paul Norris and Christopher Wilkins weather the cold. Picture — Peterborough Evening Telegraph.

## From Page 32

Recruiting was proceeding at a steady rate, but a shortage of officers was making life difficult, until the end of 86 the company had just the OC and one platoon commander. This situation was resolved just in time to take full advantage of the autumn TA recruiting campaign which produced sufficient new HSF volunteers to bring us up to full strength, our three new officers now making it possible to appoint a 2IC to back up the hard pressed company commander.

By coincidence, at the same time, we bade farewell to our first OC, Maj

Douglas Inch, who is now 2IC 6 R Anglian. We wish him every success.

His successor also knows a thing or two about Home Defence operations, Maj Dennis Haslam TD, who has come to us from 6th Bn to pick up the reins and boldly lead us into our third year and beyond.

No report on the birth pangs of the HSF can be complete without an acknowledgement of the vital role played by the Permanent Staff of our host TA companies, who have responded marvellously to the burden of additional administration and training requirements imposed.

Also, a word of thanks to the officers and men of 1, 3 & 4 Coys who have unreservedly welcomed us into their social life and made us feel at home.

At the time of writing we are preparing ourselves for the battalion Skill-at-Arms-Meeting, our objectives for this are simple, win the HSF Inter Company Trophy, the HSF Inter Platoon Trophy, the Individual Rifle, Pistol, SMG, Falling Plate .....and why not.....??

● 6 Coy almost achieved their aims at the SAAM — the falling plate remained beyond their grasp.

# News from the 5th Battalion

## Down in the jungle . . .

**10 Jan 86:** 1100 hrs. Two proud, young Royal Anglians stand in front of Howe Barracks Canterbury, ready and eager to fight for their place with the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment in the jungles of Belize.

At 1701 hrs, 28-year-old Pte Paul Risley and 27-year-old LCpl Terry Murphy are helped onto waiting transport, their bodies shattered and their brains numbed by the events of the day. What remained in their conscious minds however was the knowledge that they had succeeded and that in a few weeks' time they would be off to Belize.

**3 Mar:** Pte Risley and LCpl Murphy return to Howe Barracks, minds and bodies honed to the peak of perfection.

**4 Mar:** They queue for their splendid new blue berets and cap-badges, musing for a while on the significance of the words 'Honi soit qui mal y pense'; thoughts which were to return many times during the next three weeks, when their military skills were being taxed to the extreme by porcelain polishing and area cleaning. Pre-embarkation leave with a chance to say farewell to loved ones; Courage, Whitbread, Ind Coope and it's off to Belize!

**Apr 86:** Airport Camp (APC) Belize; our home for the next six months. In the blistering heat of the Belizian sun we receive helpful hints on avoiding sunburn and heat-associated injuries. Two men collapsed and the rest of us get sunburn on the back of our necks. We soon find that our training in Howe Barracks was not wasted. Within a few days the barracks, recently vacated by 40 Marine Commando, are spotless and the perimeter wire gleams in the glare of the tropical sun.

The next two weeks are taken up with intense physical training, preparing ourselves for the arduous patrols to come. Due to the unrelenting heat we are forced to drink vast amounts of water which seriously affects our consumption of alcohol; a situation from which we were never able to recover. We also tried the local beer, which seriously affected our digestive tracts; a situation from which happily, we were able to recover!

We rapidly learned that time off was a thing of the past as we fell into the routine of APC. As resident infantry company we guarded everything and volunteered for everything. Like all true infantrymen we soon found that life on patrol on field-exercises was preferable to life in a 'civilised' camp. The dangers from animal and insect life and possible contact with armed drug-runners were as nothing compared



LCpl Terry Murphy in Belize.

to the terror induced by a camp sporting 17 WO1's!

Patrols and field exercises were in fact very interesting. The difference between a patrol in Belize and one in Thetford was about two pints of sweat an hour. We learned a great deal from this experience of extended patrolling; much more fun than just a weekend!

Although we enjoyed the exercises and patrols, the part of the tour we looked forward to most was the R&R. After four-and-a-half months in the jungle, America came as a bit of a culture shock; all play and no work. Water consumption dropped.

After R&R, water consumption rose again as we slogged it out in the jungle. This time, with only a month to go it seemed easier. Risley endeared himself to the rest of the battalion by winning a six-day leave pass and a return flight to Miami from a £2.30 stake in a raffle. Murphy took his in-country adventure training during this time and spent the week meeting some of the other hazards of Belize, including a tiger shark at zero feet!

**Oct 86:** Returned to the UK and had

trouble getting off the VC10; we couldn't fit our grins through the doorway!

**Nov 86:** Discharged from the Regular Army and returned to the TA full of enthusiasm and good war stories. Found that we were now demoted to grade four privates and no bounty! The former has since been rectified and the latter not allowed due to regulations, which I suppose is understandable; cruel but fair!

Before we went, the tour was described to us by the Adjutant as 'the chance of a lifetime', and indeed it proved to be just that. Don't go if you don't like hard work; don't go if you're not prepared to get fit, and think very carefully if you're old men like we were!

The tour was certainly an experience we will never forget. Hard, often uncomfortable and certainly a challenge. Should the opportunity ever come our way again we would probably have to admit that we were too old; but we would certainly encourage you to have a go!

● Since the article was written Pte Risley has been promoted to a full corporal with back-dated pay and Pte Murphy has also become a full corporal, one better than before he went.



# 6th Battalion



## Shooting is on target

THE battalion has continued to do well in both shooting and sporting events. In the TARA Non Central Competition, B (Bedfordshire) Coy won the Match 3 Gallery (Infantry) the Kolar Cup and also the Match 8 LMG/GPMG (Infantry) the Machine Gun Cup, with A (Norfolk) Coy being placed 2nd and C (Suffolk) Coy 3rd. HQ (Suffolk) Coy also won the NBC Match.

The Permanent Staff, consisting of Capt Roger Antolik, CSgt Morley and CSgt Long were runners-up in the Infantry Minor Units Orienteering Championships and winners of the Eastern/London District Regular Minor Unit Orienteering Competition.

The battalion WRAC cross country team won the Eastern District Cross Country Championships for TA women and the men were runners-up in the TA men's team event. The WRAC orienteering team from B (Bedfordshire) Coy, were winners of the Eastern/London District TA WRAC Orienteering Competition and in addition, Cpl Shaw WRAC, became the TA women's champion.

October saw well over 400 members of the battalion in north Norfolk on Ex Sea Dragon, FTX. The enemy, provided by 21 SAS, kept everyone very much on the alert and tested our defences to the full. The enemy received a very unpleasant surprise when one of their patrols was successfully ambushed within the first hour of the exercise.

The first battalion cadre weekend for some time was held at Bodney Camp, 21-22 Feb. Cadres were run in first aid, NBC, signals, the 84mm MAW and intelligence procedures. Personnel not participating in the cadres, were involved in a series of Home Defence TEWTS.

Since the new year, the battalion has been visited by the outgoing Divisional Brigadier, Brig C. M. J. Barnes, and in the space of three days, (3,4,5 Apr) the Director of Infantry, Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, the Commander of 54 Inf Bde, Brig P. R. G. Williams and the GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen P. W. Graham. Col J. C. Holman, Divisional Colonel The Queen's Division also visited on the 13 Apr.

The battalion SAAM was held in Colchester on 4-5 Apr. The first day's shooting took place in rain, more rain, mud and more mud, but everyone persevered and all events were completed on time. The following day the rain stopped and the sun came out and the meeting ended with an exciting falling plate competition.

D (Cambridgeshire) Coy were declared Champion Shooting Coy. Prior to the prize-giving, Maj Gen P. W. Graham, GOC Eastern District, presented CSgt P. D. R. Brown with the British Empire Medal and TEMs to Sgt Goddard, Cpl Overall and Pte Albone.

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Pte S. D. Davies of A (Norfolk) Coy, who was killed in a road accident at Dereham, Norfolk on 10 Dec 86.

On a happier note, Sgt Taggart, who fell while abseiling on Stanage Edge in May 86 and who was mentioned in the last issue of Castle, was finally discharged from hospital on 30 Jan 87. We wish him a full recovery.



Bracing Bodney in February. The Commanding Officers' TEWT

# News from the 6th Battalion



Above: Members of the battalion try their hand at gassing young conifers during the cadre weekend in February.



Above right: Background activity on the NBC Cadre — worm racing!



Right: The Mayor of North Bedfordshire, Cllr W. Astle, presents TA Non Central Shooting Medals to B (Bedfordshire) Coy's SMG team of Cpl Twidale, Pte Huk WRAC and Pte Marshall.



# News from the 6th Battalion



Pte Collinson WRAC receives the Champion Company Shield for D (Cambridgeshire) Coy, from the GOC Eastern District during the Battalion Skill At Arms weekend.



CSgt P. D. R. Brown of A (Norfolk) Coy receives his British Empire Medal from the GOC.



Winners of the TA Non Central Competition SLR (Gallery Range) Match were B (Bedfordshire) Coy Receiving the Kalar Cup from the GOC Eastern District is Pte McPoland.



Pte Albane of B (Bedfordshire) Coy receiving his Territorial Efficiency Medal from the GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen P. W. Graham CBE at the Bn SAAM



# 7th Battalion



## Life goes on after camp

WHEN the training cycle forecast is reviewed there is a tendency to think that the whole world ends after camp, be it in the UK or Germany. When however, the period from October to March is viewed in retrospect it seems that everybody within the battalion has been working twice as hard, attending twice as much, and hopefully learning twice as much.

Various landmarks have now been achieved within the battalion, one of the most notable being that we are now a 120% recruited (98% trained soldiers) and a record 489 qualifying for bounty. This means that exercises are more satisfying with a large complement of all ranks turning up, that our own selection process can become more refined and produce soldiers with more commitment to the TA. This also cuts down on the dreaded wastage rate.

These figures have not been achieved by accident or instantly, but by careful preparation and planning which began a considerable time ago. This resulted in a detailed analysis of where our recruiting was weak and a targeting of that area.

Officer recruiting has not been neglected. We are now in the fortunate position of having almost all our subaltern vacancies filled, and 17 officer cadets under training, although we are still looking for elusive captains. If anybody out there would like to come and see how 7th Royal Anglian achieve its motto of 'Perfection and Fun'; please ring us.

It is obviously a waste of time if having received the initial approach, the prospective recruits are not kept interested, and to achieve this we now have a fully formed RRTT working from battalion HQ under Maj Alan Hemmings. This unit, working in close harmony with our new recruit module system and new type RISC, promises even better results for the future.



Cpl Bacon the cook near to tears preparing a meal during Ex Polar Dawn.

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# News from the 7th Battalion

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"How should I know where they are?" Sgt Gordon Hooke of the Recce Pl with LCpl Ball and Pte Reed scanning SPTA for signs of anybody.

After camp, we were soon into the individual training cycle which, in addition to the usual drill night training, saw the battalion at Beckingham Camp for the bounty weekend. As is customary, the Christmas dinner was held and served by the Field Officers and Senior NCOs to be followed by a battalion smoker, including home-produced sketches ranking from awful to reasonable! All however were outshone by Madam NBC the stripper.

B Coy helped the GPO and police by lending them 4 tonne vehicles and Land Rovers to gain access to the outback villages of Lincolnshire during the snow.

D and LDY Company attended, for the first time, the Centurian Package at Hyde and this was acclaimed an outstanding success by all who took part.

Pre-camp recces were carried out by the CO Lt Col D. K. Harris, Maj Peter Barnes, Maj Williams and OC HQ Coy Maj Lawrence Chell.

The work-up training to Exercise Keystone began in February at the battalion CPX, closely followed by Exercise Polar Dawn, a helicopter exercise at STANTA where the battalion played enemy.

D (Northamptonshire) Coy were finally overtaken in the cooking competition Exercise Tasteful Tiger by B (Lincoln) Coy. At the same time our driving skills continued to improve and were tested at Exercise Mechanical Tiger, won by LCpl Peter Overton and Pte Andrew Price of HQ Coy in the Land Rover section, and by Cpl Billard and Pte Michael Sparks of HQ Coy providing the best Bedford team.

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## News from the 7th Battalion

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B Coys "Cook truck" endeavouring to produce a quick brew up for its Company Headquarters.

All companies carried out intensive shooting training, for the battalion small arms competition, the overall winners being B (Lincolnshire) Coy led by WO2 (CSM) Venn.

To improve standards and set a target for personal achievements, a best company competition was instigated in 1985 incorporating shooting, driving, cooking, drill, camp attendance, bounty qualifiers

and the inter platoon competition.

We congratulate B Coy on their outstanding victory, particularly as the competition is aimed at assessing a company over a whole year and the slightest drop in

# News from the 7th Battalion

standards can ensure they lose the competition.

All units have study weekends which are of great value. This year in addition to the normal study, a weekend would be devised to involve wives, girlfriends etc. The first of these was held two years ago and the second was held recently at the Willoughby Hotel near Leicester.

The theme of the weekend was the very relevant FIBUA/DIBUA and the host of outstanding speakers contributed the most interesting and thought-provoking lectures. Our principal speakers were our Deputy Colonel, Brig P. P. D. Stone, Mr Roger Freeman MP — Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (MOD) and Lt Col Colin Wilson TD RAMC, to name just a few.

The supporting programme for the wives included shooting infantry weapons and visits to local drill halls to cook on

number one burners, drive vehicles etc. The evening comprised a Regimental guest night attended by 123 people, including the retiring secretary of East Midlands TAVRA Col Steven Clark who we had the pleasure of dining out.

Also dined out were our previous 2IC, Maj Fred Honnor and our QM, Maj Derek Edwards (who handed over to Maj David Greenfield). We welcomed on commissioning, 2Lt P. Starcevic (D Coy), 2Lt Mike Prebble, Lt P. M. Slinger and 2Lt Shaw.

A first at Tigers Broad was a display by our newly formed Drums Platoon. We look forward to Tigers Broad 3 in 1989.

Lt Barber B (Lincoln) Coy doing what comes naturally. Exercise Polar Dawn.



"Is this the way you hold it?" Pte Odgen, Sgt McKay — HQ Coy.

# News from the 7th Battalion



Left to right: Sgt Smith RA, Dagley, LCpl Taylor, Brig P. P. D. Stone, Lt Col D. K. Harris, Dmr Bloxham, Capt S. J. Marriner, Dmr McBurney, Pte Frisby, Dm Maj Stamp.

## Showing the flag

2LT CHRIS Coward of D Coy has recently returned from an 85 day adventure of a lifetime. Sponsored by the TA, he joined the Pacific leg of Operation Raleigh based at Manapouri on South Island, New Zealand.

He lived for three months in a small tent, existing on dehydrated food and working on various scientific, community and adventure projects in tropical conditions.

One of his more interesting tasks was to learn how best to hatch and rear the Takabe, a rare species of flightless bird close to extinction. The aim was to deny this timid bird any human contact so as to give it the only possible chance of survival. This was largely achieved by using an exact replica of a mother-bird and a tape recording of her genuine bird-language together with a lot of patience and perseverance.

Another, more strenuous, task was to construct a substantial fence around the nature reserve near Manapouri, which involved digging a three-kilometer trench under scorching conditions of 90 degrees or more, set against a punishing dead-line for completion.

While working on these projects, Chris lived closely with 141 other selected young men and women from Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan. The rich cultural exchange of ideas and ways of achieving the various aims made the challenges and hard work all the more interesting and worthwhile.

Chris reflects that his TA training and military know-how enabled him to live and survive under the most demanding conditions rather better than most of the



2Lt Chris Coward

others and to thoroughly enjoy the comradeship, humour and fun.

He found the New Zealanders to be extremely friendly and hospitable. One of his more enduring memories is of their kindness, warmth and more relaxed way of life. Now that he is back in the more sombre climate of the UK, he ponders the thought of going back to settle there one day . . . which all goes to prove what great adventures can be found with a little initiative, plenty of drive and with the support and sponsorship of the Territorial Army.



Sgt Tillyard Mortar PI — first across the line in the Steelback Trophy

# News from the 7th Battalion



THE battalion small arms meeting was held at Colchester and the results were: Champion PI - 8 PI LDY Coy, Champion Company - HQ Coy, Winners Section Match - Def PI, Winners GPMG pairs - Recce PI (Cpl Mann and LCpl Marriot), Moving Tgt - 9 PI LDY Coy, Winners SMG - 10 PI D Coy, Winners Falling Plate - 10 PI D Coy. Individuals: Best Junior and Best SLR - Pte Baillie B Coy, Best WO/Sgt - WO2 Venn B Coy, Best Officer - Maj Hemmings Bn HQ, Moving Target - Sgt Phillips 10 PI D Coy, Best SMG - LCpl Cooper 11 PI D Coy, Best Pistol Shoot - Maj P. Barnes.

In the evening a Regimental guest night was held where we had the pleasant but sad occasion of dining out our present CO Lt Col D. K. Harris, and Brig Greenway. We wish them both all the best for the

future.

A finale to the evening was a charity leg wrestling competition where £27 was raised for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

In the Eastern District/London District Orienteering Championship the outright winner was CSgt Dick Bonnet, PSI LDY Coy. In the Army half marathon WO1 (RSM) G. P. Halewood completed in a personal best time of 1.28.45 and, more importantly, the RSM was sponsored by the battalion and has raised money for a guide dog for the blind. Well done RSM.

Lt Col Harris has handed over command to Lt Col G. I. G. Brett. We wish Lt Col Harris all the best in his position as Deputy Commander 49 Inf Bde and on his promotion to colonel. We welcome Col Gordon and wish him all the best in his new appointment.

LDY Coy — Champion Coy at the battalion SAAM.



WO1 (RSM) Gordon Halewood completing the Army half marathon in a personal best time.



EDIST soccer champions — HQ Coy: standing — WO2 Brian Lee (manager), Sgt John Shand, Sgt Steve Poulson, WO1 Gordon Halewood, LCpl Andy Marriot, Sgt Dick Stamp. Middle row: Pte Pete Bloxham, Sgt Fred Beaumont, LCpl Peter Overton, Pte Paul Johns, Sgt Parkinson. Front row: Pte Paul Fox, Pte Stu Coley, Sgt Dick Robinson, Pte Wayne Derry, Sgt Fred Dymond, Sgt Brian Robertson.

HAVING battled through to the final, HQ Coy took on B Coy 3 WFR in the EDist TA football challenge cup at Simpson Barracks, Northampton on 14 Dec 86.

It was a cold but fine day with the pitch in good shape, if a little heavy. From the outset it was obvious that the teams were evenly matched and a tremendous battle ensued. Twice B Coy took the lead only to be pulled back level by the Royal Anglians. HQ Coy were living up to their forefathers nickname of "The Tigers".

It was all square at full time and another 30 minutes were required to settle the issue. The fitness of HQ Coy, gradually told and for the first time they took the lead and held it to the end.

All agreed it was an exciting match to watch. Brig. Williams, Comd 54 Bde presented the shields and the winners cup to a jubilant HQ Coy.

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# News from the 7th Battalion

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## Special role for HSF

EARLY in 1985 7 R Anglian were tasked with the raising of a Home Service Company (HSF) which would have two platoons at Leicester and one at Lincoln. By April the Embryo was established and the company continued to recruit. By the end of 1986 they had reached 90% of established strength of 95 all ranks, comprising of a company commander, three platoon officers and 91 other ranks.

The role of the HSF in time of emergency is the guarding of key points such as airfields, port installations, ordnance depots, communication centres and any other site of national importance against saboteurs, specialist enemy troops or their agents. A role of interest and one in keeping with the experience and commitment of members.

An HSF Coy can recruit fit men between the ages of 20 and 50 providing they have served a minimum of two years with the armed forces. Members can remain with the HSF until aged 60, provided they remain fit. Everyone, irrespective of previous rank, enlists as a private soldier and that may be their ceiling for 10 years. Comradeship and a sense of continuing purpose far outweigh rank consciousness.

While the HSF is a part of the TA, its commitment is very much less, amounting to no more than nine days training per year. Evening drinks are usually held once a fortnight. A small bounty is payable — £40 for the first year and £100 for each subsequent year, provided that training commitments are fulfilled and a proficiency certificate is acquired. Army rates of pay cover training days and attendance allowance and travelling expenses are paid for drill nights.

As its first major outing E Coy took part in Exercise Brave Defender in Sep 85 and obtained a certain amount of recognition by capturing three members of the special forces by ambushing them in the GDA. A later example was Exercise Sparrowhawk, again a defence exercise against a special forces group. On this occasion four enemy were captured following well-laid ambushes and dogged defence.

Shooting plays a prominent part in training. In Sep 86 the Coy joined the rest of 7 R Anglian on annual camp at Warcop, spending two days on the field firing ranges and then joining the social side!

On a memorable weekend last autumn Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst was invited to 15 (Lincoln) Platoon's exercise on the Lincolnshire Wolds. That too was against the SAS. Present result - special forces (1) home team (2).



Evening training is conducted at platoon level and includes map reading, tactics, .22 shooting, skill-at-arms, signals, personnel and vehicle searching procedures and other basic infantry training, including first aid.

A brief (not always) session at the bar terminates the evening.

New entrants (we don't call them recruits) undergo a period of training under a junior NCO to rekindle old skills and update them in skill-at-arms and to familiarise them with a role of the HSF. When they are considered proficient they then become a full member of a platoon and continue training under the direction of a platoon commander and sergeant (most likely a former Regular WO).

The majority of men in E Coy fall in the 35-45 age group. A large number have seen active service in Malaya, Borneo, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and some in Aden and Suez. Many are serving together for a second time and, in one or two instances, even for the third time — this all goes towards having an immense feeling of comradeship.

There is a wide range of civilian occupations including bank managers, firemen, solicitors, miners, company directors, labourers, supervisors at all levels, builders, engineers and caretakers.

**FORMER** army private Richard Lee has just received his medal for campaign service in Borneo . . . 24 years late.

Pte Lee should have received a General Service Medal after six months' duty in Borneo in the early 60s during his six years service with the 1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment. He recently joined the HSF based at Leicester when the mystery of the missing medal was resurrected, thanks to his OC, Maj Albert Pryce-Howells.

The medal was ceremonially presented to Pte Lee by Maj Pryce-Howells at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

One could not expect anything but high morale in such a Company.

E (HSF) Coy would very much welcome former R Anglian soldiers. Do make contact!

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### Amstrad Society

AN Amstrad Society has been formed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, help with problems and a united voice to deal with software houses and service masters. Any servicemen requiring details should write to: Service Amstrad Society, Leroy TA Centre, Sturry Road, Canterbury.

# Depot Queen's Division

## 'Training the Trainer'

LIFE at the Depot continues apace and begins to gather momentum as SCAMF figures released for the coming six months show that the training teams will be employed to capacity.

Over the last nine months any spare training capacity has been utilized by taking on additional training commitments within the Depot and giving external assistance to both Regular and TA battalions.

'Training the Trainer' has also been the theme here in recent months. A number of internal cadres have been run and a series of TEWTs (for Pl Comds and NCOs) organised, which have been of considerable value and very useful in keeping the Permanent Staff (PS) on their toes!

Since the last edition, six adult Recruit Platoons have passed through the Depot but these have included a relatively low number of Royal Anglian recruits, 20 to be exact. This dearth of Royal Anglians is a good indication that our Regular battalions are well manned and maintaining a high retention rate. The number of Royal Anglians to be trained over the next six months totals 110.

Two platoons of ex-Junior Soldiers (JS) have also passed out since Nov 86 and these have included 14 Royal Anglians. Ex-JS are trained by D Coy which also has the additional tasks of training Drummers, as well as running a large and varied programme of cadres, mostly for the TA.

The system for the training of Drummers has completely changed recently and the Depot is now running the first of a new six-months Drummers Specialist Courses designed to produce men who are highly skilled in music as well as in machine gun drills; 15 are currently being trained, amongst whom are six Royal Anglians, who will complete their training on 1 Oct 87.

The introduction of this new phase 3 course means that the Depot will be able to parade its own Corps of Drums — although not until the latter stages of the Drummers training.

The other major training commitment of the Depot, and specifically D Coy's, is running courses for the TA. Since Dec 86, these have included five TA Recruit Cadres, two TA Potential NCO Cadres, one TA Platoon Sergeants' Cadre and a TA Potential Officer Cadre. But by far

the most regular commitment is the running of TA Recruit Cadres of which 14 are held each year.

Altogether, a total of 216 Royal Anglian soldiers from our TA battalions have been trained at the Depot in the period Dec 86 - Mar 87. The D Coy team is headed by Maj Peter Ferrary, recently arrived and the current Regimental 'rep' at the Depot, and includes other Royal Anglians — Lt Tim Smith, CSgt Smith, Sgt Mason, Cpls Kretay, Lofthouse, Dodd, Saywell and Richards.

The most important training development at the Depot has been the arrival of SA80. All PS have now converted to the individual weapon (IW) and were able to put the rifle through its paces at the Depot SAAM on 14 Mar. This was a hard fought competition fired in perfect conditions, in which HQ Coy B team which included the CO, Lt Col Michael Goldschmidt, and the RSM, just pipped D Coy A team to become Depot team champions. Revenge was sweet however, when D Coy A beat HQ Coy B in the falling plate competition! Highest score of the day in the rifle match went to the CO who, having months before offered a bottle of champagne to the best shot, was gracious enough to present it to the runner-up!

The Depot now has a shooting team in training for EDSAAM (and hopefully RASAAM) and hopes to feature prominently in the prize table.

The new rifle has proved an instant success and can only be described as a marvellous weapon, easy to handle and fire — and accurate! The PS are now converting to the light support weapon (LSW) in preparation for the training of recruits. The whole syllabus will be IW and LSW with effect from 17 Aug, and the first passing out parade with SA80 will be on 17 Dec. Currently, soldiers destined for SA80 battalions will be given a 'bolt on' package on the weapon before leaving here; the reverse will apply with the SLR and GPMG post Dec 87. To match the new weapons, the Depot has also received the new combat helmet and adopted the teaching of the fire team concept to all new recruits.

Keeping apace with these developments in equipments and tactical thinking, the Depot's infrastructure continues to im-



GOC EDIST Maj Gen P. W. Graham inspecting the Depot Quarterguard. In the foreground, Cpl Lemmon and Cpl Coulson, both ex-1st Battalion.

Continued Page 44

# Depot



HQ Coy B team — team champions DEPSAAM. Royal Anglians from left to right Cpl Havercroft ex-Poachers, CO, Cpl Schuchart ex-Poachers.

## From Page 43

prove. The building of recruits accommodation blocks is making good progress and the two blocks will be completed by summer 88. This is part of a phased programme which will eventually include the refurbishment of all accommodation, new training classrooms and lecture rooms and a new armoury.

Our camp church situated in an old Nissen hut has been fully, and quite beautifully, refurbished internally and is now a much more dignified place of wor-



Cpl Kretay tries out the SA80 IW during conversion training.

ship than its external appearance might suggest.

Within the Warrant Officer's and Sergeants' Mess, a magnificent display board recording the VCs, won by all the parent regiments of the Queen's Division has been erected. The display, unveiled by Brig Charles Barnes, of 144 VC winners is something of which all members of the Division can be proud.

The Cpls Mess have also erected an honours board which details all the Gallantry and Meritorious Service awards won by members of the Queen's Division since its formation. This was also unveiled by Brig Charles.

The Depot continues to make an impact on the local community and, security states permitting, many of the Depot facilities are available to the public during the week and especially at the weekends.

Nevertheless, their understanding of what we do here and our problems is often poor and to counter this a series of Basingbourn briefing days have been organised; local dignitaries and community leaders are invited to spend a morning at the Depot where they are briefed, given a chance to see some of the training and entertained to lunch.

The first of these days was held on 15 Jan; visitors included the High Sheriff (designate) of Cambridgeshire, Sir Alexander Reid and the chairman of the South Cambridgeshire District Council, Mr S. T. C. Symonds. A second briefing day was held on 9 Apr which was attended by

our local MP, Sir Anthony Grant, and the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr Michael Bevan among others.

Military visitors to the Depot are many and each passing out parade itself (approximately every four weeks) is taken by an inspecting officer of some rank and status! In the last five months these have included the outgoing GOC of EDIST, Maj Gen Charles Ramsey, on 5 Feb, his successor, Maj Gen Peter Graham, on 5 Mar, Cols Bob Acworth on 18 Dec 86 and Ian Cartwright on 19 Mar 87 (Deputy Colonels of the Queen's Regiment and RRF respectively) and Maj Gen Sir David Thorne on 2 Apr 87. More recently, the parade on 16 Apr was taken by the new Divisional Colonel, Col John Holman.

While on 'personalities', there have been some changes at Basingbourn among members of the Regiment: **Postings Out:** Brig C. M. J. Barnes, the outgoing Divisional Brigadier, has taken up his appointment as Comd 43 Inf Bde having been dined out of the Officers' Mess on 28 Feb. CSgt Lambert to HQ Dusseldorf Station on the LSL. WO2 (TQMS) Sykes pending discharge and on to private enterprise. CSgt Stark to HM Prison Service. Sgt Dixon to the 1st Battalion. LCpl Giles to the Poachers. **Postings In:** Maj P. M. L. Ferrary as OC D Coy. CSgt Smith from the Pompadours. CSgt Thredwell and CSgt Scholes both from the Vikings. WO2 Armes has transferred to the RAPC and is now Service Funds Accountant at this Depot.

# JIB and Affiliated Regiments



Pte Gilbert with his GOC's Commendation. From left: Lt Col M. K. Goldschmidt CO, Pte Gilbert, Maj Gen P. W. Graham GOC EDIST and Mr Kirk whose life Pte Gilbert saved.

## Outward Bound

By JLDR Wilkinson S Coy JIB

A FEW days after returning from the An-dorran skiing trip Lt Fell, my platoon commander, called me into his office to offer me a place on an Outward Bound course in Scotland. It took me at least two seconds deliberation before I accepted, and ten days after I found myself heading north by train.

When I arrived it was like a new start in the Army. I was put into a room with eight others, of whom six were 'bloody' civvies! They were fairly shy and it took two days before they would talk to us.

The activities started in a fast and furious manner. We worked from 06.45 to 2100 every day, spending a large amount of time walking in the fells and mountains in the area, covering up to 20 kms a day. Other activities included rock-climbing, canoeing, abseiling and ropes course with a simulated parachute jump.

The instructors tried to maintain or improve fitness by organising a stretcher race in the mornings. We all did orienteering courses and a fell run. As the course came to an end I knew I had achieved a great deal and had my Army training to thank for that. It was a good, fun course and I would recommend it to anyone.



Maj Gen Sir David Thorne presents Pte Graves with prize for best SLR shot in Salerno Platoon. Pte Graves also won the prize for Best Royal Anglian shot.



Maj Gen Sir David Thorne presents Cpl Brown with his prize for best section in the CO's inter section competition.

# JIB and Affiliated Regiments

Members of 1Sec 2PI, winners of the inter section assault course competition. Royal Anglians are: JLDR Back from 2nd Bn (top right) and JLDR Butcher from 3rd Bn (bottom left).

## Salamanca Coy out in the snow

BEING by the sea Salamanca Coy received only a little snow compared to the rest of the country but nevertheless all drivers found themselves driving RCT ambulances and Land-Rovers around Kent rescuing old people and cattle!

We escaped from the snow of southern England during January for ten days to the snows of Andorra where the battalion held its own 'Snow-Queen'. The juniors impressed the instructors and civilians with their enthusiasm and the Permanent Staff with their attempts to break land speed records. We got used to the Spanish saying "They English is all craze!"

Lt Fell (Poachers) and Cpl Millwood (Pompadors) are taking 16 juniors to Portugal for three weeks to teach them some climbing, among them ten potential Royal Anglians. They have both indented for huge amounts of sun-tan lotion and are said to be taking several large beach towels each!

The weather is starting to improve and soon the sea will be used again for sea canoeing, wind-surfing and the early morning dips. Sgt Mann has joined the company from the Poachers and has now settled in.

We have managed to get people away on courses and Lt Fell, Cpl Munroe and Cpl Sinar (Poachers) have been on an APTC, BOBC Norway skiing and senior Brecon respectively.

Cadet Sergeant-Major Matthew Stone of 32 Coy ACF (badged Royal Anglian) receiving the President's Award for the outstanding cadet in the Greater London TAVRA area in 86-87 from Field Marshall Lord Bramall at the TAVRA annual meeting in March.



# JIB and Affiliated Regiments

WE were delighted to see Lt Col J. P. O'Brien when he visited England in May. The Colonel currently commands our affiliated 3rd Battalion Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and Northland, RNZIR and was over on business.

On 6 May he visited the 6th Battalion HQ for a drill night and a discussion of mutual TA problems and he is pictured exchanging plaques with Lt Col Tony Taylor. The next day he called at RHQ where he visited the Suffolk Museum and presented RHQ with a plaque. He had also hoped to present a four-pound cannonball which was originally fired in support of the 58th Regiment at Ohacwac in New Zealand in Jul 1846. Unfortunately the post did not keep up with him, but the beautifully mounted trophy arrived the following week and is now proudly displayed at RHQ.

We enjoyed his visit and look forward to an item for Castle on the past activities of the 12th and 58th in New Zealand and with current news of 3 RNZIR.



The winning team of the UKLF CCF/ACF orienteering championships 1986 in Achray Forest near Stirling. Back row: Cdt C. Church, Cdt A. Johnson, Cdt W. Womersley. Front row: Cdt T. Johnson, Cdt C. Battye.

## Goodbye to George

ON 25 Feb WO2 George Boss decided to leave the Army after 27 years service. After reliving most of this time in the Fox public house he was given a fine decanter to adorn his home! We wish him lots of luck and thank him for all he did. Now it's about those skeletons in the garages on the airfield . . .!!

During March the RIT hosts CCF field days and this year was no exception. More than 300 cadets from Aldenham (twice), Rugby, Haileybury, Berkhamsted, Kimbolton and St Albans having visited. They have all seen the SA80 and the LSW and most members of the RIT can now teach the basics to cadets on both weapons. We aim to take them on shows during summer show season. All RITs are now preparing for this and once again we are crying out for good photographs of action on the Rock, life in Celle and the return to Minden/Op Banner Tour.

The 2nd Battalion are to host a group of cadets from Oundle between 12-18 Jul and we hope the 1st Battalion will be receiving cadets from Rugby School in late August. In addition we have more than 37 potential officers wishing to visit the three Regular battalions this year!

This year we would like the assistance of any of our potential officers who are keen to play cricket for the Regiment and possibly join a tour to Gibraltar (7-14 Jul). Dates for the diary:

Sat 23 May v Bancrofts (H) 1400  
 Sun 24 May v Harrow (H) 1400  
 Sun 14 Jun v Haileybury (A) 1400  
 Sun 21 Jun v Felsted (H) 1400  
 Sat 27 Jun v Uppingham (A) 1400  
 Sat 4 Jul v Greshams (A) 1130  
 Sun 5 Jul v Oundle (H) 1400  
 Wed 8 Jul v Framlingham (H) 1130

All home matches are to be played at Bassingbourn Barracks. Anyone who is interested in playing should contact the RCO at RHQ.

Finally, we congratulate Stamford School CCF on winning the log race. As in 1985, they were hotly pursued by Berkhamsted School. The RCO presented the prizes on 27 Feb 87. We hope that a photograph may emerge from the CCF at some time.

# JIB and Affiliated Regiments

## 'Hard life in Bermuda'



FOR once the often glibly used comment "hard life in Bermuda" has had a ring of truth as the country emerges from what many claim is perhaps the worst winter for 40 years.

True, the temperature seldom dipped below about 55 degrees, nor was there snow, but very high winds and almost continual, sometimes torrential, rain made for difficulties and a certain amount of frustration. However, happily the worst now seems past and the sun is making more frequent appearances.

Since the last issue of Castle there have been two changes in the LSP team: Maj Alan Deed replaced Maj David Wright as staff officer while WO1 (RSM) Geoffrey Wilcox has taken over from WO2 Brian Bear. WO2 Bill Dowling will return to the UK in August and WO2 Fenn, from the Viking's will replace him.

Despite the weather it has been a busy period for the Regiment. Two major changes in the established training organisation have been introduced. First, we no longer have a permanent training company. Starting this year each of A, B and C will take it in turn to be training company as a new intake of recruits join. This means that instead of recruits being split up among two principal rifle companies at the end of their initial training year they will now stay together, as a company for their full three years of service. This policy will hopefully provide for better training continuity and a greater sense of comradeship among the soldiers.

The other change is that two of our three LSP PSIs have now been withdrawn from the rifle companies to provide a centralised training team responsible for updating instruction material and providing support to whichever company requires it. Bermudian PSIs have taken their places in the companies so the training capability continues to be enhanced.

At the beginning of the year the Regiment, as usual, ran Recruit Camp for two weeks, inducting some 217 soldiers. This

was very successful and for the first time the women recruits followed the same basic programme as the men.

Shortly after the conclusion of Recruit Camp, A and then B Coy deployed to Jamaica for overseas training each company staying for two weeks. This also was very successful and we were fortunate to be well supported by Capt Edmonson-Jones from the Poachers and WO2 Smith, Sgt's Love and Huggins from the Vikings. WO2 Smith, who ran a cadre for the Recce Platoon, is now confirmed to be joining the Bermuda team in Jan 88.

With the tourist season in full swing and the roads and beaches becoming ever more crowded we look forward to going to Canada in July for the PNCOs cadre camp; and then leave. Perhaps it isn't such a hard life!

### DIARY DATES

20 Jun	5th Bn 20th anniversary, Bassingbourn
28 Jun	Essex reunion, Warley
	Royal Tigers Weekend
4-5 Jul	Northampton reunion, Northampton
11-12 Jul	TA SAAM Bisley
1-2 Aug	Suffolk reunion, Bury St. Edmunds
11-12 Sep	Golf Flempton
27 Sep	R Norfolk reunion
	R Lincoln reunion
3 Oct	Past & Present Dinner
6 Nov	Regimental Council and Regimental Dinner
15 Nov	Beds & Herts Remembrance Day

# Regimental Association

## Royal Anglians, your association needs your help and support

THE letter on page 8 has prompted an article on the aims and activities of the Regimental Association, as clearly they are not fully understood by all new members.

It is important that we do understand the reasons behind the organisation if we are to overcome the problems arising from our extensive regimental area and the large number of regiments from whom The Royal Anglian Regiment is descended.

Each of our founder regiments maintained associations for the benefit of their old comrades and it was agreed in 1979 that these associations, being integral parts of The Regiment, should join with the county branches of The Royal Anglian Association to form joint county associations, and that members should benefit equally with those of The Royal Anglian Association. Their titles reflect this amalgamation:

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

The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Branch).

The Royal Tigers Association, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and Leicestershire branch The Royal Anglian Regiment.

10th Foot Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association, affiliated to The Royal Anglian Regiment.

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

The Royal Anglian Regiment Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Essex, Association.

This joint approach was adopted so as to maintain local connections with our counties.

In the early years founder regiment members would naturally predominate but, as time passed, retired Royal Anglians would provide fresh blood and ensure continuity. The result is that we have:

● The associations listed above who run our joint affairs in our counties, assisted

by the appropriate Royal Anglian area headquarters. Presidents meet periodically with the Colonel of The Regiment and the chairman of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association to discuss matters of mutual interest.

● The Royal Anglian Regiment Association is an organisation to which all serving and retired Royal Anglians belong and which is responsible mainly for Royal Anglian matters. The association's general committee meets annually under its president, currently Col Peter Badger, to decide policy and the major distribution of funds, but the benevolent sub-committee meets as required at RHQ to deal with day to day benevolent cases. Funds, which originally came from our founder regiments and are now supplemented by The Day's Pay Scheme, are used mainly to help serving and former members of the Royal Anglian Regiment, its founder regiments and their families who are in need, and to help maintain the 36 regimental cottages available for old soldiers which are owned by founder regiments but available to Royal Anglians.

The Royal Anglian Association also makes a central grant to the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) each year on behalf of itself and the seven county associations which, with grants from other regiments in the Army, forms a major part of ABF funds available for benevolence. The Royal Anglian Association also makes an annual grant to each of our county associations to help cover small benevolent grants, helps with any cases referred to it by those associations as being too large for their residual funds, and deals with all Royal Anglian benevolence. The whole is managed by benevolence committees at county and regimental level backed by a sound working organisation for co-operation based on our Regimental HQ and outstations network.

Royal Anglian membership of associations is our main problem. As the years pass, membership from former regiments will regrettably grow smaller, and an influx of Royal Anglians to county joint associations is essential to our future. As

all associations know, when a soldier leaves the army, initially he has other priorities — perhaps a home to establish or a new career to forge. This has been highlighted over recent years by the late influx to county associations of ex National Servicemen who now want to re-establish old links.

In the same way we hope that ex Royal Anglians will, in due course, return to the fold. With this in mind, every soldier is seen before leaving his battalion and given details of county associations, RHQ follow this up with a letter and area secretaries follow up at local level, provided they receive the correct address.

This is not yet producing the results we would wish, and any ideas for improvement would be welcome, but personal contact from existing members at county branch level will continue to form the basis for success and should be fostered.

There are also success stories. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Past and Present Club is thriving, as is the Officers' Club with its dinner and recently started annual cocktail party. A Bassingbourn Reunion for all ranks is to be introduced in 1988 which we hope will prove attractive to all past and present members of the Regiment and its founder regiments. Care must however be taken, as too many events organised both centrally and by county associations could be counter-productive.

The success of the association depends on county joint associations and on encouraging new members to join. For many years devoted groups, mainly from founder regiments, have managed association affairs: the best interests of both our founder regiments and The Royal Anglian Regiment will be served by ensuring that new members join who will be able to take over responsibility as the years pass.

The next issue of *Castle* will give more detail on our benevolence organisation and work. In the meantime, if you are not already supporting your local branch, why not make contact? (Address list on page 64).

# THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION COMBINED GENERAL AND BENEVOLENT FUNDS

Abridged Balance Sheet as at 31 Dec 86

CAPITAL OF FUNDS		ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	
1985		1985	
£	£	£	£
146,534	Balance brought forward.....	1,252	Office furniture at cost
23,162	Excess Income over Expenditure.....		less depreciation.....
3,981	Profit on disposals.....	159,128	Investment at Cost.....
		29,770	Cash loans/debtors.....
		9,175	Stocks.....
		2,209	Cash at bank, deposit
			and in hand.....
			Deduct Liabilities
		17,857	Creditors and case loans
		173,677	
<u>173,677</u>		<u>173,677</u>	<u>216,766</u>
	<u>216,766</u>		

## GENERAL FUND

Abridged Income & Expenditure Account

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
1985		1985	
£	£	£	£
179	Subscriptions.....	166	Administration.....
92	Investment Income gross.....	98	Printing and Stationery.....
876	Profit on Sale of Regimental	198	Postage, Sundries
	Souvenirs.....		and Depreciation.....
		65	Stock Written Off.....
382	Refund of Administration	457	Donations.....
	Expenses from Benevolent Fund.....		Recruits entertainment
	Funded Charities Grant.....	16	on Liaison Visits.....
		11	Wreaths.....
		518	Excess of Income over
			Expenditure.....
<u>1,529</u>		<u>1,529</u>	<u>1,646</u>
	<u>1,646</u>		

## BENEVOLENT FUND

Abridged Income & Expenditure Account

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
1985		1985	
£	£	£	£
39,245	Days Pay Scheme.....	281	Audit.....
12,170	Investment Income.....	4,907	Case Grants.....
418	Interest from Short Term Deposit.....	5,500	Donations to ABF.....
		6,700	Grants to Outstations.....
2,740	Sundry Donations & Receipts.....	1,500	Personal Accident Premium.....
		5,535	Journal Grant.....
		885	Donations & Appeals.....
		402	Depreciation.....
		218	Regimental Loan Write Off.....
			Grant Suffolk Regiment
			War Memorial Homes.....
			Grant to Regimental Image.....
		432	Recruits Visits Expenses.....
		5,187	Transfer Officers' Subs
			from Half Days Pay.....
		382	Association Admin Expenses.....
		22,644	Excess of Income over
			Expenditure.....
<u>54,573</u>		<u>54,573</u>	<u>58,887</u>
	<u>58,887</u>		

Auditors Messrs Whiting & Partners, Bury St. Edmunds

# Around the Branches



A MEMORIAL plaque to those who died in the Far East during the Second World War was dedicated by the Bishop of Norwich in St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich at a special service on Sun 15 Feb 87.

Some 700 members and friends of the FEPOW organisation attended the service which coincided with the 45th anniversary of the day on which Singapore fell and many thousands of East Anglians became prisoners of the Japanese. From then until the end of the war, services of prayer were held in many churches and particularly at St Peter Mancroft, for those who were prisoners and for their relatives.

The memorial plaque was presented by the Norwich Fellowship of ex-Far East Prisoners of War.



THE past few months have given us cause for great sadness and at the same time for some satisfaction.

As most readers will know, Gen Sir Richard Goodwin died in 28 Oct after a lingering illness. We were so glad that he was able to come to our last Minden reunion, although we could all see that he was fighting hard against his failing strength. He was a truly wonderful man, universally loved and respected, the like of whom most of us will not be privileged to see again.

The Thanksgiving Service for his

life took place in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds on 4 Dec. The church was packed, not a seat free and many standing. Jack Dye gave a truly outstanding address: a most fitting tribute to this most famous Suffolk soldier.

Col Tiny Heal took over the duties of president in the interim and at the Regimental Council Meeting on 22 Apr. Brig Bill Deller accepted the post. We wish him well and thank Col Tiny for his sound guidance and help during his period of stewardship.

The sadness of Gen Dick's death was not made any easier by the loss of Gen Tim Creasey so recently, after a long illness.

All former Suffolk officers and many of their East and Royal Anglian successors will be further saddened to learn of the death of Percy Watts, who ran the Officers' Mess in Gibraltar Barracks and in

Blenheim Camp from 1928 until 1963. Percy was a father-figure to legions of young men passing through or serving at the Depot and we all learned from him according to our needs. A wonderful man and typical of the quiet, modest, unfussy efficiency we know in so many of our comrades, past and present.

On the brighter side, we are delighted to announce that two new Suffolk Regiment OCA branches are launched — Beccles and District (chairman Mr Fred Taylor of Thika, Midmeadow, Beccles, NR34 9TP (0502) 716893), and Felixstowe and District (chairman: Maj G. S. (Cubs) Cubitt of 31, Colneis Road, Felixstowe IP11 9HF (0394) 285661). We wish them every success. Would any former member of the Regiment who lives in one of these areas and who wishes to know more, please contact your local chairman. The other, well-established branches are centred on

# Around the Branches

Bury St Edmunds, Hemel Hempstead and Ipswich. We need more. Any reader seeking more information should contact the secretary of the OCA, Maj Duncan Sutor on Wickham Market 746103.

Here are some dates for your Suffolk diary:

27-28 May: Suffolk County Show (Regimental tent)

6th Jun NOTE NEW DATE: 1100hrs. OCA Annual Meeting, The Limes, Needham Market. (buffet lunch to follow at which ladies welcome).

2 Aug: Minden Reunion Weekend. (begins at 1100hrs).

8 Aug: Britannia latest date for input in Suffolk editor's hands.

3 Oct: Suffolk OCA annual buffet dance, The Limes, Needham Market.



THE dedication of the Whittlesey, Peterborough and District Branch Standard took place on 31 May in Peterborough Cathedral, followed by a civic reception in 5 R Anglian, London Road TA Centre.

On Sun 14 June the Regimental Reunion will take place at Ely starting at 1415. Col W. A. Heal has been invited to take the salute supported by the president and the Mayor of Ely.

By the time the Behind Bamboo exhibition at the Wisbech Museum closes, more than 3,500 people will have seen it. Few will have left dry-eyed for above all, this exhibition is about courage and suffering and the sort of camaraderie which flourishes in adversity.

Put together by the Wisbech Singapore Club whose chaplain, Canon Fred Stallard, himself a Far East Prisoner of War, is chairman of the Friends of the Museum, it tells simply, yet dramatically, with the use of prisoners' treasured possessions, ranging from a toothbrush to diaries, the story of those who from around

Wisbech were captured at Singapore and spent the rest of the war in camps or working on the Death Railway.

Club members have built a replica of the type of hut they lived in and on display are the Cambridgeshire Regiment drums, hidden in a Malayan hut before the fall of Singapore and discovered there in 1947 by Miss Mary Taylor, a Red Cross worker from Dullingham, near Newmarket.

There are numerous drawings from Canon Stallard while in captivity and a photograph of the Changi lychgate designed by a Wisbech man, the late Bob Ringer. There is humour also in the Christmas Day menus and the photos of camp concerts.



OUR comrades reunion was held at Cleethorpes on the weekend of 20/21 Sep 86. Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard presided and more than 200 members attended.

The 1987 reunion will be held on the weekend of 26/27 Sep, at Cleethorpes, details are available from RHQ R Anglian, Sobraon Barracks, Burton Road, Lincoln LN1 3PY.

Our officers reunion was held at Sobraon Barracks on the weekend of 25/26 Apr 87. Col John Gleadall presided and among those present were Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright. Brig Oulton, who was 83 on 24 April, was unable to be with us due to ill health. We all hope that he will soon get better and be able to be with us in September.

Branch dinners were held in Lincoln in February and Grimsby in March. The Grantham dinner will be held this month. Information about these functions can be obtained direct from the branches concerned.

Mr Paddy Neely who has served us here in Lincoln since the R Anglian office was opened, died in March in

his 83rd year. He has looked after the St Georges Chapel, in the cathedral, since 1958 and will be very difficult to replace.

Those who served in our 4th Bn in 1944/45 may be interested in a book recently published by Brig Hart-Dyke of the Yorkshire Volunteers. It deals mainly with the Hallamshire Battalion but the 4th Lincolns are often mentioned. Contact this office for further details.

We sadly report that since last going to press the following have passed on:- Mr Bassingdale, Mr Moore, Mr North aged 101, Mr Bryan, Mr Fosdyke, Mr Hall, Mr Tiverton, Mr Hennington, Mr Sherbourne, Mr Hill, Mr Wingell, Mr Rose, Mr Grunnell, Mr Rains, Maj Corry, one of our In Pensioners, Alf Winters, and one of our regimental widows, Mrs Exton.

It is difficult to keep trace of former members of the Regiment, so please send any news of ex members to the honorary secretary.



TELEVISION and press pictures of the visit of the Queen and Prince Phillip to China last autumn have stirred the memory of Mr Ted Wills of Luton who served with 1st Bedfs & Herts in the Canton area during 1927 where a civil war was raging. Many of the places visited during the Royal tour were familiar to Mr Wills who has photographs of a number of them.

He remembers especially vividly the period when the battalion was protecting the Lindsey coal and silver mines when its duties included the provision of guards for the protection of trains carrying the products of the mines.

As a measure of its appreciation of this service the Kailan Mining Association presented the battalion with a silver model of a locomotive and tender which is now held by the

# Around the Branches

3rd Battalion.

Our only In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Mr Jack Butty, was also with the battalion at this time and described his experiences to Maj Thorogood, when the latter visited him at Christmas.

Mr Wills, who in his youth was a battalion boxer and has always kept himself very fit, gave proof of this recently when, in spite of his 79 years, he repulsed two would-be muggers, knocking one to the ground and breaking two of his teeth!

Mr H. A. Cooper who served with 2nd Bedfs & Herts in Italy during the last war visited the military cemeteries recently where many of his comrades are buried. His account is reproduced, in precise form, in the hope that it will be of use to others who have relatives or friends buried in either or both of these cemeteries.

"Coriano is set someway from the village beside a quiet road, the sides and rear are bounded by neat hedges and the front with railings and double gates. Inside the gates is a small building in which are kept the Roll of Honour and a visitors' book.

The cemetery is in plots, each containing 100 graves, and lie astride a central path. There is a profusion of flowers, mostly red roses, and the grounds are carefully tended, giving it a most peaceful air and it is obvious that no effort is spared to maintain and respect this lovely place.

The Cesena cemetery is much smaller and is situated some way from the town. The approach from the busy road is via a long path which runs through corn fields and an orchard which effectively deadens traffic noise. Again, there was a profusion of red roses although there were lots of other flowers too.

Overlooking the cemetery is a hill on which stands a monastery which, Mr Cooper says, was used by the Mortar Platoon Commander of his battalion as an OP."

Mr Cooper concluded his account with these moving words: "The sense of comradeship we had known in the old days was still there; may it ever be so."

When Mr Stanley Mansfield, Secretary of the Hertford branch, attended the annual dinner of the Royal Anglian Regiment Sergeants



On parade for Remembrance Day.



The OCA Standard

Past and Present last September, he invited Mr Harry Conn of the Essex Regiment Association to attend his branch dinner at Hertford on 7 Mar and to bring some of his members.

The branch was delighted when Mr Conn arrived with a party of ten and their wives. Mr Mansfield expressed the feelings of the entire branch when he said: "This is the first time we have been able to welcome members

of the Essex Regiment Association and we shall certainly return their visit which I trust will begin a period of closer co-operation between us."

In 1986 the Standard of the Hertford branch, then 50 years old, was in imminent danger of disintegration and its replacement was the only solution to add the Battle Honours gained during the 1939-45 War, and of acknowledging our relationship with the Royal Anglian Regiment at the same time.

It was finally decided to place the Royal Anglian Regiment badge centrally on a background of black and amber surrounded by the Bedfords & Herts Regt Battle Honours, the 16th Foot and the branch title.

While current membership of each branch still consists almost entirely of former soldiers of the 16th Foot, recruitment is, sadly but inevitably reducing, and the maintenance of numbers will become increasingly dependant on inducing ex-members of the Royal Anglian Regiment to join. It is felt that, apart from the obvious reasons for the inclusion of the badge, its presence may well provide something with which would-be new members can identify and thus sway doubters.

# Around the Branches



ESSEX

Pictured above from left to right, are Professor Carmelo Testa, a wartime partisan leader, Col Campbell, Intelligence Officer at the NATO base in Italy, Ex-Sgt Bill Hawkins, secretary of the 4th Essex branch of the Essex Regiment Association and Flying Officer Ken Hawkins during the 4th Essex battlefield tour of Italy last year.

Below: A party of 4th Essex comrades pictured on the steps of the Conca Park Hotel, Sorrento, during 4th Essex battlefield tour of Italy, 1986.



## Sport on camera



Sgt Gaster passes the ball as Capt Branch closes in during the Poachers' sergeants v officers soccer match.

# Poachers perform well

DUE to returning late in the year from N Ireland the Poachers were unable to enter the Grade 3 novice boxing championships and attempted the grade 2 using those boxers left from the successful teams of earlier years. Under the guidance of CSgt 'Mick' Downland the team achieved a memorable win in the UKLF final against 2 RGJ coming back from 4-2 down to win 5-4.

In the Army final in BAOR once again it was the RRW who were the opponents and despite an all-out effort from the team the RRW proved too strong and the battalion had to accept the runners-up trophy again.

Battalion boxing will continue in 1987 with inter-coy competitions in September/October and entry in the grade 3 novice championships later in the year in an attempt to add a BAOR trophy to the numerous UKLF wins.

Congratulations to Pte Inglis of A Coy who did extremely well to gain second place in the under 56kg, senior novice class, UKLF judo championships. Having taken up the sport nine years ago Inglis is now a green belt and intends to better himself over the coming year.

The competition staged at the Army School of Physical Education, on 14 Feb was the first such event entered and the result is a promising sign for the future of Poachers judo.

One of the highlights of the soccer season was the Poachers Officers v Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess Christmas match. This took place before block leave and proved to be an enjoyable and memorable occasion, if not for the standard of play, then for Maj Peter Willdridge's exciting displays of tackling finesse.

The Officers fielded a mixed bag with a

few stars, such as the QM(T) Capt McDonnell and Capt Napier, doing much to keep the underdogs head above water.

The favourites, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess fielded a strong side with such players as WO1 (RSM) O'Driscoll, WO1 (RQMS) Brown, CSgt Thomas and Sgts Catton and Gaster all playing notably well. Despite this, the teams were evenly matched, and after a goalless game, penalties were struck to find the winning team. The RSM's team eventually won 3-2 on penalties.

This season the Poachers have managed to produce a good quality battalion rugby team. A policy of encouraging as many soldiers as possible to play rugby on return from South Armagh was adopted. Company and platoon teams joined for battle. The D(Sp)/HQ team had a fine

**Continued Page 36**

# Sport on camera



Vikings' Infantry orienteering champions: from left (back row) Cpl Dawkins, Cpl Martin, CSgt Bonnett; (front row) CSgt Grenfell, Capt Ross and Capt Lucas.

## Victory for the Vikings

CAPT John Ross organised a successful Viking inter company/platoon orienteering competition on 21 Sep which was won by B Coy with 6 Pl winning the inter platoon event and, to prove the point, Maj Bill Mooring, OC B Coy was the individual winner on the B course and Cpl Martin, B Coy won on the A course.

The battalion team lead by Capt Ross won the 1986 Infantry Orienteering Championships at Cannock Chase on 5 Nov 86. Team members were Capt Lucas, WO2 Shrubbsall, CSgts Grenfell and Bonnett, Cpls Martin and Dawkins. Additional congratulations to John Ross as he is also the individual M40 Champion. It is a little sad that our orienteering prowess may suffer over the next two years, however we hope to be back in the fore on our return to Colchester in 89, we know that the Eastern District League has a good following and look forward to competing in it again.

On 8 Oct CSgt Haniver lead the Vikings' cross country team into fifth position in the Northern Ireland Competition. A respectable result bearing in mind the operational constraints on training and availability of individuals in Londonderry.

The battalion concluded the cricket season as runners up in the Northern Ireland Major Units League Championships, winning 10 of the 12 matches played. A total of 21 players represented the battalion during the competition. Two performances worthy of particular note were Sgt Huddlestone batting (7 innings, 1 not out 132 runs an average of 22 and Capt Lucas Bowling (27 overs, 5 maidens, 22 wickets for 64 runs, average 2.9).

The final of the football competition was held in Aldershot on 15 Oct. The Vikings finished third in group B, just missing a place in the final by one point. This was a keenly contested competition and some excellent football was played. LCpl Botley scored 9 of the Vikings 17 goals.

On 23 Nov, the WO's & Sgts put their credibility on the line in a football match against the Cpls. As expected the younger men won a resounding victory 5 goals to 3, albeit two of the Cpls goals were courtesy of CSgts Bacon and Gamble scoring own goals.

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confrontation with an A, B and C Coy XV, to name just one.

From this strong base the Poachers' team took on the local Colchester units. Although beaten by 1 KOSB, in an extremely hard contest, a good win over a strong 45 Fd Regt XV put the Poachers in good heart prior to travelling to Bassingbourn.

The duel was fast, hard and furious with excellent individual efforts from Cpl Cox, Pte Spillar and the diehards of Maj Willdridge and Capt Branch. In the closing minutes the Poacher's sixteenth man, Lt Smith, gave a penalty away in front of the post and Lt Taylor duly converted. The final score of 10-8 to the Poachers reflected the ferocity of the conflict.

The battalion moved to Celle and found that many of the old stars had moved on. A team travelled to Fallingbostel for the 1 Armd Div seven-a-side competition and although failing to qualify for the knock-out stage the team in no way embarrassed itself.

The Poachers are looking forward to the 87/88 season and are hoping to build in a sound resurgence. With so many experienced players having recently been posted the young stars of the battalion will have everything to go for.

## Good day out for golfers

THIRTY-TWO members of the Regimental Golfing Society met at Flempton golf course on 10 Apr in ideal spring weather and all had a particularly good day's golf. Handicap singles and Stableford matches were played in the morning and after a good lunch and a beer or two, friendly foursome Stableford in the afternoon.

The results were: Handicap Medal 1st Maj Colin Ladley with a net 70, 2nd Maj Roy Jenns with a net 71 and 3rd Maj Tony Cobbold also with a net 71. Stableford Singles 1st Capt Dave Davidson 36 points, 2nd Ex WO2 "Shack" Shailes 35 points, 3rd WO2 G. Peck 35 points. Stableford Foursomes, 1st WO2 George Boss and Sgt K. Rowe 38 points, 2nd Capt Tony Thompson and Mr Shailes 36 points, 3rd Maj Guy Hipkin and Capt Dave Davidson 35 points.

Golf dates: Annual meeting, Royal Worlington 5 June. Triangle match v Queens v RRF at Gog Magog golf course 18 Jun. Autumn meeting Flempton Golf Club 11 Sep and 12 Sep, match v Flempton.

## Sport on camera



The Viking football team in Gibraltar.



Cpl Stewart of the Vikings on the ball during a match against the Royal Navy in Gibraltar which the Vikings won 2-1.

## Sport on camera

### Success for Depot runners

THE Depot actively participates in most EDIST sports, though because of the varied work schedule of the PS it is difficult to make the right people available on the right days. (Recruits are not allowed to represent the Depot at sports).

Even so, the Depot has had some success. The cross country team, led by WO2 Dent and including four other Royal Anglians, have had a very successful season. They won the EDIST Minor Units Championship, were runners-up in the area finals and went on to finish 9th in the Army Championships being the only Infantry unit to get that far.

Our runners have also been very active in the East Anglian Cross Country League and our two teams finished 4th and 6th overall. There is also a flourishing road runners club at the depot, led by Sgt Slevin, which frequently takes part in civilian events such as the Bury 20, the Chelmsford 10 and the Army half marathon in Aldershot (in aid of the Ferry Disaster Appeal).

In rugby the Depot team did well to reach the semi-finals of the Army Minor Units Championships in which they were beaten by a strong Royal Engineers side. The rugby team includes a number of Royal Anglians, among whom are Lts Bill Howard and Tim Smith (who captain the side between them), Lt Rob Vass, and Cpls Kretay, Saywell, Dodd and Richards.

Football is popular and the Depot plays in the RAF East Anglian League and regularly fields a side in friendlies with local teams. They also took part in the EDIST Minor Units Championships and reached the final.

The Depot has started a motorcycle club and has bought five Honda CBI25cc motorcycles. The aim is to encourage an interest in motorcycling and to promote safe riding. To this effect the club will be taking part in the British Motorcyclists Federation rider training scheme with assistance from the local police.

Runners-up in the Infantry Minor Units orienteering championship were three members of the 6th Bn Permanent Staff — CSgt Morley, Capt Antolik and CSgt Long. They went one better to win the Eastern/London District Regular Minor Unit orienteering competition.



Royal Anglian members of the Depot cross country team. From left: CSgt Steve Pallant (3rd Bn), WO2 Alan Dent (3rd Bn) running manager, Sgt Dale Keeble (3rd Bn), Cpl Kevin O'Dell (3rd Bn) not in picture, Pte Mark Patten (2nd Bn).



# Sport on camera



Left: Winners of the Eastern London District TA women's orienteering competition were the WRAC of B (Bedfordshire) Coy, 6th Bn. From left: Lt French, Pte McGlynn, Pte Walmsley, Pte Huk and Cpl Show.

In the Eastern District cross country championships at Bassingbourn in February, the 6th Bn did well providing the winners of the ladies team event (picture right) — Sgt Oleszczuk, Pte McGlynn, Pte Lewis, Pte Damant, Pte Bilkhu and Pte Ball. The battalion were also runners-up in the men's team event (below) — LCpl Newman, Pte Bailey, LCpl Moore, Cpl Henman and Pte Kelly.



## Cricket fixtures

CRICKET fixtures for this year are listed below, some of which will have taken place by the time you read the Castle. If you would like to play in any particular match please let Col Julian Browne know on York Military 2434 or Maj Guy Hipkin at RHQ on Colchester Military 5138.

Sat 23 May v Bancrofts  
 Sun 24 May v Harrow  
 Sun 7 Jun v EE Lombes XI  
 Sun 14 Jun v Haileybury  
 Sun 21 Jun v Felsted  
 Sat 27 Jun v Uppingham  
 Sat 4 Jul v Gresham's  
 Sun 5 Jul v Oundle  
 Wed 8 Jul v Framlingham  
 9-16 Jul Gibraltar (TBC)

Bassingbourn 1400 hrs  
 Bassingbourn 1400 hrs  
 Marlingford 1130 hrs  
 Haileybury 1400 hrs  
 Bassingbourn 1400 hrs  
 Uppingham 1400 hrs  
 Holt 1130 hrs  
 Oundle 1400 hrs  
 Bassingbourn 1130 hrs

# Obituary

## Lt Gen Sir Richard Goodwin KCB CBE DSO DL

"WE have come here today to St. Mary's to give thanks for the life of General Sir Richard Goodwin; General Dick in the Regiment; Dick Goodwin; Dick to so many of his friends.

Dick worshipped here in this his parish church and within it his Regimental Chapel.

His life spanned 78 years and there are people here who knew him from his earliest to his last days. School friends at the beginning and neighbours at Denham at the end of his life.

Dick was very proud of his old school and one of his joys was to have been a member of the Council of Cheltenham College for 15 years. The annual meeting of the College Council and our Regimental Dinner occur on the same day each year. When I was Colonel of The Regiment more often than not the General, in that gentle apologetic voice, would ask me to excuse him from our dinners as he thought he should be at Cheltenham. You couldn't really ever refuse him anything.

There are also present today Gentlemen Cadets who were with Mr Goodwin in 5 Company at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, 60 years ago.

Dick was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment, and the first ten years of his service was spent in India. The pattern of army life in those pre-war days allowed Dick to indulge his love of sport.

He was a good games player but it was in India that he found his great affection for the horse, with all its associated activity, and this was to continue all his life. Service in India was followed by an appointment here in Bury St. Edmunds at his Regimental Depot. But a much more significant event than routine peacetime soldiering at home occurred when Dick and Anthea met — where else but when they were out with the Suffolk — and they were married here in this church in October 1940. Thus began a marvellous partnership, lasting 46 years, which gave such happiness to them both and was such a joy to their friends.

General Dick was given command of the 1st Battalion of his Regiment in 1943. He was 34, one of the young breed of commanding officer brought in for the Second Front. His battalion was in the 3rd Division, who were an assault division for the invasion of Normandy, and his task was to prepare his battalion for that role.

1st Suffolk landed early on D-Day 6 Jun 44 and their objectives were to capture two immensely strongly fortified German positions which dominated our beach-head. The battalion secured their positions late in the afternoon of D-Day,

and it is only recently that military historians have acknowledged what a splendid feat of arms it was. A party of officers from my 1st Royal Norfolk Battalion who were close to the operation at the time visited the battlefield this year and in our view the action of the Suffolk under Dick Goodwin on that historic day was one of the outstanding achievements by a British battalion.

Colonel Dick was severely wounded shortly afterwards, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Dick returned to his battalion in November 44 and for the final six months of that war led 1st Suffolk through Holland and into Germany, ending the campaign in Europe with the Divisional assault on Bremen.

The post-war years saw a steady advance in rank and responsibility in Dick's career, and service in many lands. One particularly happy period for Dick and Anthea was when the General was appointed GOC in East Africa. As always, Anthea made their house quite charming and they welcomed any of their friends who could get to Kenya. My wife and I were fortunate enough to be able to do so from Aden, and we enjoyed the Goodwin hospitality as so many others of us have done over the years.

Dick's last field appointment was as Commander of the 1st (and only) British Corps in Rhine Army. This was, and is a most prestigious posting, and it gave great pleasure and encouragement to so many throughout the Army because it demonstrated that someone with Dick's ability, but who was so modest and unthrusting, could make it to the top.

Gen Dick's final appointment was as Military Secretary where he had the responsibility for planning officers careers to the highest level, and his service experience and his temperament made him an ideal choice for the job. The Military Secretary also has the responsibility of telling senior officers when their careers are to end, and this, to some, comes as an unwelcome surprise.

I remember a friend who had high expectations telling me that when the Military Secretary sent for him to tell him the bad news, Dick did it in such a charming and kind way that my chum left Dick's office feeling that he was extremely lucky to have been selected for retirement, rather than to pursue his ambition to become Chief of the General Staff.

During their years together both at home and abroad Dick and Anthea were dedicated hunting people and shared many marvellous days with many of us here today. It therefore seemed a most



natural thing that Dick on his retirement from the service should take up the appointment of Secretary of the British Field Sports Society. The society is involved in matters which to some people are controversial, and consequently the affairs of the BFSS are frequently in the public eye. Dick was so well suited to his new role. With his calm temperament, great charm and unfailing courtesy he was able to exercise a calming but effective influence on the somewhat frenetic life of BFSS politics.

During his seven years with the society Dick built up its regional organisation and greatly increased its membership. He was a marvellous ambassador and greatly respected, even by the society's most vehement opponents. I know that there are many here who believe that our continued enjoyment of field sports today owes much to Dick Goodwin's influence at that time.

Two honorary appointments which gave Dick much pleasure were that of Lieutenant at the Tower of London and that of Colonel of his Regiment. Being a military historian and so fond of ceremonial he always remembered his time at the Tower involving the people who live and work there, with much affection.

The General became Colonel of my Regiment shortly after it was formed from seven line regiments, each are proud of its own traditions and individuality. Dick, of all people, had immense respect

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# Obituary

## Lt Col R. M. Williams MC

RONNIE Williams died on 31 Dec 86 in Gloucestershire.

Ronald Morris Williams enlisted in Jul 40 and was commissioned in May 41, just before his 20th birthday. He served in the United Kingdom for most of this time with 6 R Sussex — until Feb 45 when he joined 4 RWF just before that battalion was committed to the battle of the Reichland Forest.

As a Platoon Commander Ronnie greatly distinguished himself in one of the bitterest battles fought in Western Europe against determined German resistance. A few weeks later at Goch, he was awarded an immediate Military Cross for the leadership and courage he then displayed. He was wounded shortly after the Rhine crossing.

He was posted to 1 Suffolk in Germany in Aug 45 in time to go with the 3rd Division to Egypt and Palestine. In Feb 46 he was granted a Regular Commission in the Suffolk Regiment. He became Adjutant

and later a Company Commander.

After returning from the Middle East he started work in Intelligence which was to become his dominating interest and occupation. The work took him for two tours of duty to the USA where he and his wife, Ann, made and kept, many friends with some of whom he continued to work. He became an expert in his field and his particular knowledge and experience was important and greatly valued.

He attended the Staff College in 1954/5 and commanded the Regimental Depot in 1959. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1967 to command 4 Communications Unit.

Ronnie was a brave, honest, straightforward man who served his country, the Army and his Regiment very well indeed. He was companionable and humorous and a loyal comrade and friend. He will be sadly missed by us all but we are richer for having known and loved him.

To his wife, Ann, and their three children we send our deep sympathy and our affection.

## Maj Harold Bestley

HAROLD Bestley, that well loved member of 9 Battalion the Parachute Regiment, died peacefully on Oct 86 at the age of 66.

He played his part in the annals of the Parachute Regiment to the full. Tributes have come in from many sources and they all bear out the picture I had of him when he was Adjutant of 10 Battalion the Essex Regiment when that battalion converted to the parachuting role early in 1943. One was immediately struck by a deep inner calm that possessed him — unusual I thought in one so young — and this imperturbability, coupled with a strong determination, good humour, and his compassion for his fellow soldiers, made him an ideal parachute officer.

His diligence and ability when attending to detail was invaluable when competing with all the problems of the conversion of 10 Essex into 9 Para. It also stood him in good stead for he was turned down in the medical examination for parachuting due to colour blindness.

His name mysteriously vanished from that role and was inserted in one of the sticks organised for ground and parachuting training. He was a good cross-country runner and we shall long remember that quiet, humble man and the vital role he played in the launching of a great Parachute Battalion.

Before the war he was articled to an Essex law firm with a view to entering his family practice in Southend.

His military career was divided between the Essex and Parachute Regiments. He joined 10 Essex in 1940, became Intelligence Officer that year and Adjutant in 1941. In 9 Para he was promoted to Company Commander in 1943 and was badly wounded in the attack on the Merville battery on the night of 5 Jun 44. After recovering from his wounds he served with 9 Para in Palestine and then with the 1 Essex in Lüneburg, Korea and Dortmund.

He served a term on the staff of HQ Far East Land Forces in Singapore where he met and married Lucy Dakin.

He left the Army in 1961 and entered the teaching profession in Coleshill in Birmingham where he served for nine years. In 1970 he and Lucy acquired and became partners in the Royal Oak Hotel in Rothwaite, Cumbria. His hotel was a mecca for the walking fraternity and many families would return year after year.

Our heart goes out to Lucy his wife and his four children — Frances, Susan, Peter and John. Not only have they lost a good husband and father but in the words of General Sir Napier Crookenden "an exceptionally nice man".

S.J.L.H.

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for custom and past achievements but, equally, as a senior and practical infantry soldier he knew what the new regiment would require in terms of morale and motivation. With quiet insistence, infinite patience, and steel when necessary, he did much to create the mould which has turned out the Royal Anglian Regiment as it is today — confident and sure of its future with a loyal and strong old comrades organisation to back us up. We too, owe the General so much.

Dick and Anthea came back to Suffolk to a second retirement ten years ago, but much awaited them here. Dick was already Vice Lord Lieutenant of the County and he greatly enjoyed his involvement with our voluntary organisations, and particularly with those concerned with young people. He was asked to become chairman of the appeal for St. Edmund's Nursing Home. This was a heavy task requiring the raising of over £750,000. With his local knowledge, enthusiasm and hard work the money was found and the nursing home is flourishing today. Many people have already benefitted from the facilities available there and so many more will do so in the future. Those closely involved both in the concept and the present operation of the nursing home hold the opinion that they would not be in business today without Dick's help and guidance.

One event which gave both Dick and Anthea great pleasure was when Dick was made a Freeman of the Borough of St. Edmundsbury. It was granted as a token of the esteem in which he was held locally

and of his distinguished service in the Suffolk Regiment, the members of which have always regarded Bury St. Edmunds as their home. The presence at this Thanksgiving Service of the Mayor, Corporation Freemen and holders of the Freedom of the Borough is a mark of their deepest respect for Gen Goodwin.

So much time in Gen Dick's later years was devoted to the welfare and well being of the former soldiers of his Regiment. He was looked on by them as the father of the Regiment and it was a privilege to be a guest at a Minden Day reunion held annually here at The Keep. Dick had a phenomenal memory for people and places, and it was fascinating to hear him exchange reminiscences with old comrades of events which occurred many, many years ago. They, the soldiers, loved him in the sense that only soldiers use that word, and they will never forget him. Gen Dick too, truly loved his Regiment, and now its most distinguished soldier has been laid to rest after a lifetime of service to his Queen, and Country and this community.

Our thoughts are with his family, to the three generations here today. Gen Dick Goodwin was the head of the family and his loss is irreplaceable.

We today thank God that our lives touched his, this dear, gentle man of whom no-one ever spoke an unkind word. We pray that the wealth of friendship, respect, and affection present in this congregation will help to sustain and comfort the family at this time".

Address given by  
Maj Gen J. B. Dye CBE MC DL

# Obituary

## Maj Colin Gardiner

COLIN Gardiner was born on 21 June 1927. He was educated at Dunstable School, and after service with 5 Gurkha Rifles, The Royal Irish Fusiliers and a secondment with the Trans Jordan Frontier Force (Arab Legion), he was granted a regular commission in The Northamptonshire Regiment in 1946, joining the 1st Battalion in Austria.

He served in Austria and Trieste until early 1951 when he joined the Glorious Glosters in Korea as they were reforming after the Battle of the Imjin, remaining with them until their victorious return to England.

After leave, Colin rejoined the 1st Battalion in Trieste remaining with them until becoming Adjutant of 5 Northampton in Peterborough under Colonel Wilf Wilford. During this tenure he was one of those primarily responsible for the organisation of the highly successful Officers Balls at Hinchbrook Castle.

Colin attended both the Staff College at Camberley and the US Army Staff College. He was a successful Brigade Adjutant to Colonel Tiny Heal, and was also DAMS HQ1 BR Corps and a GS02 at the School of Infantry. He held Grade 1 appointments with BAS Washington, the TAVR HQ Northern Ireland and finally as DAG/CRLS R and LS, NE District in York, where he retired taking up a RO appointment in the same HQ, which he held until his death.

Colin came from Ireland and possessed all the charm of manner and quiet sense of humour associated with the majority from that country. Those who served with him were indeed fortunate. He was a first class regimental and staff officer, always respected, liked, and popular with all ranks.

The years may pass by and many will be forgotten, but Colin Gardiner will be remembered by all those who had the privilege to know him.

To Betty and their three children we extend our deepest sympathy.

P.W.

**Capt D. G. Hillyard.** David Hillyard, late the Essex Regiment, died on 31 Jan 86 at Hove after a long illness. His funeral was in Brighton on 11 Feb. Our sympathy goes to his family.

**Maj L. Peperell.** Leonard Pepperell died in The Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich on 23 Apr 86. Leonard was a member of the Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, but left to join the RAOC. Our sympathy goes to his wife Irene and to their children Steven and Louise.

**Pte D. J. Goldthorpe.** Pte Goldthorpe of the 1st Battalion died following a long illness, and was buried at St Mary's Church, Lutterworth on 2 Jan 87. Our sympathy goes to his family.

**Pte S. Davis.** Pte Davis of the 6th Battalion was tragically killed in a traffic accident on 16 Dec 86. Our sympathy goes to his family.

## Col M.C.D.L. Reynolds., OBE

IT was with great sadness that his many friends heard of the death, at his home in Seaford, of Mervyn Reynolds, on 19 Feb, following a stroke which he suffered late last year.

Born in 1910 and educated at Aldenham School and Sandhurst, Mervyn was commissioned into the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Battalion at Bordon. He quickly qualified at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot and, being unusually good at many of the sports and skills taught there, soon became a most useful young leader in the battalion.

His outstanding charm combined with his strong personality and enthusiasm for all good "things military" soon earned for him a wide and enduring circle of friends both inside and outside the Regiment.

After Bordon he moved with the battalion into the happy atmosphere of pre-war Colchester and there remained until his acceptance as Adjutant of the Shanghai Volunteers in the summer of 1935. In 1938 he returned to England as Adjutant of the 5th Battalion and was largely responsible for preparing that unit for war. He was promoted Major and remained with the 5th Battalion until 1940.

Mervyn was staff trained and his great ability and drive ensured his early promotion outside the Regiment during his war service in North Africa, Italy, Southern France and North-West Europe. His appointments included several key positions at GS01 and Colonel level both at home and overseas.

He was appointed an OBE in 1945 and an Officer of the Legion of Merit of the USA in 1948. This latter award was for his service in 1943/44 with Allied Force Headquarters Mediterranean Theatre and in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the planning of the Allied Sicilian and other landings in the Mediterranean Theatre and the success of the subsequent operations in the Italian campaign.

After the end of the war with Japan, Mervyn was sent as GS01 to HQ Land Forces Hong Kong and was largely in-



strumental in reconstituting the local defence forces of that colony. Then, after qualifying at the Joint Services Staff College in 1948, and a period in the early 1950's as 2IC of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, he was employed in various Staff appointments at home, and also in Malaya, until he retired in 1956.

Mervyn served the Regiment again as Regimental Secretary at Bury St. Edmunds (1964-1965) and thereafter was employed for a time as an "R.O." at Aldershot. After his final retirement, Mervyn continued to take great interest in many service matters, including active work for SSAFA.

In his earlier years he had sporting interests of many kinds and then, as he grew older, developed a satisfying enthusiasm for golf.

Mervyn is survived by his wife, Nyra, and by Richard and Sara, his son and daughter by his first marriage, to all of whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

C.B.

## Pte P. A. Tee

PAUL Alec Tee joined the Poachers in May 1982 and quickly earned himself the respect and friendship of his comrades. He was a keen, active soldier who excelled at shooting, achieving a place in the Bisley team for four consecutive years and shooting for the Army in Canada in 1985.

Serving in Northern Ireland for three tours, he gained a lot of experience which he willingly imparted to his peers.

It came as a great shock to all of his family and friends to hear that he had been tragically killed in a rail accident during leave after a challenging tour in South Armagh.

A skillful soldier and always a cheerful, friendly character, he will be sadly missed by the battalion.

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# Obituary

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## Colonel Edwin Turnill OBE

VERY many serving and retired officers will have been saddened to read of Teddy Turnill's death on 2 May. He joined the 1st Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment towards the end of 1948, one of a promising group of newly joined subalterns, and quickly made his mark.

Born in Peterborough on 29 Nov 27 into a well known and respected local family he early showed academic promise and won a scholarship to Kings, Peterborough. Upon leaving he first obtained employment as a trainee traffic manager on the LMS Railway but quickly decided life had better things to offer and applied for Sandhurst.

His career of almost 30 years showed promise of high achievement. A few days before his death he told me that he served with the battalion unbroken for almost ten years, ending as Adjutant before going to Staff College from which he passed out high and was posted as DAAG Berlin Infantry Brigade. He became a German linguist and was privileged to pass through the German Staff College in Oct 61. He then returned to the battalion he loved for about three years.

Those who have had the pleasure of serving with him will remember his unswerv-

ing friendship, keen intelligence, pleasant baritone voice (and the large and amusing repertoire that went with it) and, at times, wicked sense of humour.

He could be a stickler for discipline and has been known to order a subaltern to change his odd socks before dinner. On one notable occasion he dressed as the Mess Sergeant to meet a newly joined subaltern and "attempted" to pick up the poor man's suitcase only to say "Bother me, I can't carry that, Sir" and left the owner to carry it himself as he led the way to the Blanco room where, he explained, the poor officer had to sleep as the Mess was 'full'. He then joined the 'padre' and other Mess members in such pursuits as strip poker for the edification of the new arrival.

He was Brigade Major of 8 Inf Bde from Sep 66 and served with the 4th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment from Jan 68.

He gave exemplary service as CO of the Desert Regiment of the SAF from December of the same year and was in command of that regiment when the present ruler overthrew his father. He was awarded the OBE for his outstanding service. Later, and on further promotion, he served with distinction as Chief of Staff ACE Mobile Force and finally set up and was the first Commandant of the Ghana Staff College.

Although offered further promotion he decided in 1977 that the time had come to hang up his sword. He had married in 1971 and by 1977 had two growing children. As his wife, Adelaide, is a doctor they settled near her practice in Huntingdon and Teddy carried out a second career as the estates director of the Papworth and Enham Village Settlements, where he continued to give valuable service.

About two years ago he had to undergo a big abdominal operation. When I saw him recovering in hospital he greeted me: "I'm doing fine, the doctor says I shall die of cirrhosis in the usual way."

I have been privileged to visit him several times in his last bravely-faced illness. He thought hard and planned so well for his family. He was brave and uncomplaining to the end. Typical of his robust humanity is his instruction to his darling wife, a few days before his death, that if his funeral was on a Friday and his son (at Winchester) had a cricket match on the Saturday, he was to be returned in good time to College. The boy had a match and he was returned in time.

Teddy was a man of many talents and of high quality. Not the least of those qualities was his gift of friendship.

We, his friends, extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Adelaide and Roly and Lucy.

H.M.

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## Births and Marriages

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**ADDITIONS** to Poacher families during the last few months include:

**DALE.** On 5 Jan 87 to Pte and Mrs M. A. Dale, a son Daniel.

**EVANS.** On Feb 87 to LCpl and Mrs T. W. Evans, a daughter Lucy.

**GREEN.** On 1 Nov 86 to Cpl and Mrs M. S. S. Green, a daughter Emma.

**HARRISON.** On 3 Dec 86 to LCpl and Mrs G Harrison, a son Arran.

**McKEOWN.** On 30 Dec 86 to Pte and Mrs P. J. McKeown, a daughter Louise.

**MILNTHORPE.** On 24 Feb 87 to Pte and Mrs S. M. Milnthorpe, a son Aiden.

**PETERS.** On 21 Nov 86 to Pte and Mrs P. J. Peters, a daughter Corinna.

**PLANT.** On 5 Dec 86 to Pte and Mrs P. A. Plant, a son Robert.

**ROBINSON.** On 5 Dec 86 to Cpl and Mrs D. A. Robinson, a daughter Danielle.

**SMITH.** On 1 Jan 87 to LCpl and Mrs P. J. Smith, a daughter Kayleigh.

**STAMMER.** On 13 Oct 86 to SSgt and Mrs B. T. Stammer, a son Christopher.

**WALKER.** On 24 Oct 86 to Cpl and Mrs V. J. Walker, a son Daniel.

**AMONG** the 50 Poacher weddings to take place in the few months prior to the battalion's move to Celle were:

**KNOX - CHARLES.** On 13 Dec 86 at Chelsea, Lt R. A. Knox to Miss A. L. S. Charles.

**BUZZARD - HUNT.** On 20 Dec 86 at Uppingham, Cpl S. N. Buzzard to Miss C. Hunt.

**SELBY - ALLMAN.** On 14 Feb 87 at Liverpool, Cpl R. J. Selby to Miss J. Allman.

**BESWICK - PURSEY.** On 28 Feb 87 at Colchester, LCpl R. Beswick to Miss A. Pursey.

**CHAMBERS - BATEMAN.** On 14 Mar 87 at Northampton, LCpl R. Chambers to Miss L. Bateman.

**CHARLTON - HODKINSON.** On 21 Mar 87 at Louth, LCpl P. Charlton to Miss J. Hodgkinson.

**JACKSON - SWARBROOKE.** On 22 Nov 86 at Spilsby, LCpl J. Jackson to Miss A. Swarbrooke.

**MURRAY - ROUSE.** On 29 86 at Colchester. LCpl T. Murray to Miss S. Rouse.

**ROUGET - ERRINGTON.** On 2 Mar 87 at Northampton, LCpl S. Rouget to Miss A. Errington.

**SARGENT - HILLING.** On 7 Feb 87 at Grimsby, LCpl D. Sargent to Miss M. Hilling.

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