

The Journal of the

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

ROYAL REGIMENT

(BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)



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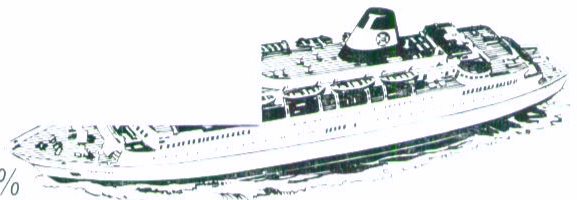
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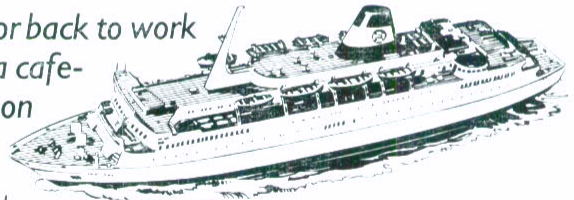
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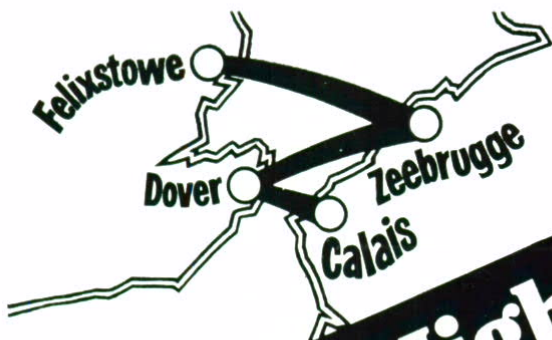


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The European Ferries



The Wardrobe, Regimental Headquarters and Museum

EDITORIAL

This 1982 issue of the Journal has been published earlier than normal resulting from a decision taken at the Regimental Committee Meeting held in September 1981. During this meeting the Committee discussed the future of the Journal at some length and agreed two major decisions. The first was to confirm that there would be only one edition each year but the publishing date would be brought forward to the 31st March. This would enable subscribers to receive it as early as possible in the year so that they could note and respond to future Regimental activities. Some subscribers may feel that this is not early enough but it is difficult to trim any further the already tight programme covering the receipt of material in early January to the posting of copies to subscribers during the first week of April. The

second decision concerned the cost of the Journal. This has been raised to £1.50 a copy to cover increased printing and postal charges. I hope you will feel that it is still good value for money.

This is my first edition as editor and I have taken the easy course of leaving the format very much as usual. However it is your Journal and ideas and suggestions on the presentation of material will always be welcomed. Looking through early editions of the Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire Regimental Journals there are many humorous sketches on Regimental personalities and events which made me wonder whether we have an aspiring cartoonist somewhere in the Regiment. My thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition.

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REGIMENTAL GAZETTE

OFFICERS APPOINTMENTS AS AT 1 JANUARY 1982 }

Major General

D. T. Crabtree Director General of Weapons (A), MOD

Colonel

~~D. W. Fladgate, M.B.E.~~ ~~Comdt Cdt Trg Centre~~
D. C. Munn Col GS(W) NATO SAA Comm.
W. G. R. Turner, M.B.E. AAG PS4 MOD(A)
D. A. Jones Dep Comdt, Ghana Staff College (For MOD August 1982)

Lieutenant Colonel

L. C. Tremellen Project Officer HQ UKLF
M. R. Vernon-Powell (A/Cdt) CI JWW NDC
J. D. Redding (A/Cdt) Col AQ HQ NE District
G. Coxon, M.B.E. CO 1 DERR
W. A. Mackereth ~~Commanding Officer (A/Cdt)~~
A. J. Rose AAG CRLS HQ SE District

Major

~~D. A. Parks~~ ~~OC HQ AODO MOD. Pending retirement 28 May 1982~~
R. T. E. W. Welsh Div RO WESSEX
J. B. Hyslop ~~ASLO SW Dist~~
J. P. Ward GSO2 (W) DOAE
D. C. Murray GSO2 D A Man S
C. G. P. Aylin IO Interpreter HQ BAOR
R. M. C. Wilson Team Offr A Man SG (SW)
P. Bradley Trg Major 1 WESSEX (RV)
T. M. A. Daly 2 i/c DERR (for OC NCOs Div Tac Wing Sch of Inf April 1982)
N. R. West Instructor CTC Gagetown Canada (For Trg Major 21 SAS (V))
A. C. Kenway Trg Major 21 SAS (V)
R. D. O. Foster OC Mortar Div Sch of Inf (For 1 DERR Dec 1982)
C. J. Parslow GSO2 Ops BRITCON UNFICYP
R. K. Titley 1 DERR
A. E. G. Westlake, M.B.E. OC IS Coy, Depot, Lichfield (For 1 DERR April 1982)
D. J. A. Stone 1 DERR
S. W. J. Saunders GSO2 INT/ORG/SY HQ Northern Ireland
M. J. Cornwell 1 DERR

Captain

A. Briard (A/Maj) 1 DERR
R. B. Paddison (A/Maj) S Capt Q LSP Brunei
A. P. B. Lake Language Course (For Belgium Staff Course Aug 1982)
B. R. F. Franklin 1 DERR
N. J. Walker 1 DERR
P. E. O'R-B. Davidson-Houston Adj 1 WESSEX (RV)
A. N. Coates 1 DERR
S. E. Bowkett 2 i/c JS Coy, Depot Lichfield (For 1 DERR Dec 1982)
S. G. Cook Instructor 11 Signal Regiment R Signals

Lieutenant

S. C. D. Baynham Leeds University
P. C. Tomlinson 1 DERR
R. N. Wardle 1 DERR
J. M. C. Rylands Depot Lichfield
N. M. Smith University of London
K. T. Haugh 1 DERR
P. J. King Exeter University

2nd Lieutenant

R. Allen University Cadetship London Sch of Economics
J. Marsh University Cadetship Exeter University
F. D. F. Drury University Entrant RMA Sandhurst for 1 DERR April 1982

Quartermasters

Major (Q.M.) P. Martin	...	...	...	...	QM Depot Lichfield
Major (Q.M.) J. A. Barrow, M.B.E.	...	...	...	...	QM JSB Taunton
Major (Q.M.) J. H. Peters, M.B.E.	...	...	...	...	QM (Tech) Sch of Inf
Major (Q.M.) G. J. Pinchen	...	...	...	...	Pending retirement 1 July 1982
Captain (Q.M.) W. R. Stafford	...	...	...	...	QM 1 DERR
Captain (Q.M.) D. J. I. Leadbetter	...	...	...	...	QM (Tech) 1 DERR

(Pending re-join! Sept 1983)
(For self pending re-join! June 1983)

Special Regular Commission

Captain

W. V. Holmes	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
A. F. R. Steevenson	...	...	...	...	SO3 G2 (HQ 6 Armd Bde)
J. L. Silvester	...	...	...	...	Adj 1 DERR

(For Depot CRICKHILL Sept 1983)

Lieutenant

J. J. Edmonds	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
T. D. O'Hare	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
R. Davis	...	...	...	...	1 DERR

(For Depot CRICKHILL Jan 84)

Q/Quartermaster

F.D. Clackham

Captain

P. D. Stacey	...	...	...	...	QM (Tech) 1 R Hamps
S. A. Durant	...	...	...	...	1 DERR (For Adj 1 WESSEX (RV) July 1982)

Lieutenant

J. C. Wort	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
C. P. Barlow	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
T. R. Frelove	...	...	...	...	1 DERR

Ward

2nd Lieutenant

C. G. Higgs	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
D. J. Denman	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
R. D. Higgs	...	...	...	...	1 DERR

E. A. Allford

Short Service Limited Commission

2nd Lieutenant

G. M. Williams	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
J. Tomlinson	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
C. Waddell	...	...	...	...	1 DERR

Relinquished 6 Colours

Officers attached to 1st Battalion

Captain K. L. F. Beale, B.E.M., R.A.P.C.	...	...	...	...	Paymaster
Captain P. F. A. Springford, R.A.Ch.D.	...	...	...	...	Padre
Captain A. J. Waring, R.A.M.C.	...	...	...	...	RMO
Captain A. J. M. Day, R.E.M.E.	...	...	...	...	EME

R. Poole, Dr D. ✓
G. M. Staley, R.M.A.S. ✓

University Bursary Holders

R. W. Goldsbrough	...	...	...	...	Exeter University
C. P. McCarthy	...	...	...	...	University of London
W. H. C. Wilson	...	...	...	...	Exeter University

?? Thorneill Dr D. ✓
Paulson, R. Sherik

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

W.O.1

W.O.1 Millard	...	...	...	...	HQ Infantry, Senneclager Trg Centre
W.O.1 Venus	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
W.O.1 Nother	...	...	...	...	1 DERR (Bandmaster)
W.O.1 Wiggins	...	...	...	...	1 WESSEX (RV)
W.O.1 Hicks	...	...	...	...	2 WESSEX (V)
W.O.1 Bailey	...	...	...	...	1 MERCIAN (V)
W.O.1 Hobbs	...	...	...	...	11 UDR
W.O.1 Mullings	...	...	...	...	4 UDR

Tongue
Brown
Bradley Dr D. ✓

W.O.2

W.O.2 Habgood	...	...	...	...	1 WESSEX (RV)
W.O.2 Hayden	...	...	...	...	Sch Inf Warminster

✓ W.O.2 Green	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Carter	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Malloes	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Luckwell	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Sherman	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Flay	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Minty	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Cole	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Turner	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Fielding	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Long	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Morgan	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Calladine	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Bryant	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Mehrlich	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ W.O.2 Fedrick	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR

S/SGT

✓ S/Sgt. Mortimer	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Turaga	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Smith	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Hollister	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Pearce	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Coleman	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Pinnell	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Lawrence	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Beet	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2 WESSEX (V)
✓ S/Sgt. Keegan	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	4 UDR
✓ S/Sgt. Fielding	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Brame	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Hoare	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Cox	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2 WESSEX (V)
✓ S/Sgt. Paz	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Godwin	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Baker	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Baleimatuku	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Hiscock	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Merritt	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Smith	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. Carpenter	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 WESSEX (RV)
✓ S/Sgt. Dobie	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2 WESSEX (V)
✓ S/Sgt. Choules	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2 WESSEX (V)
✓ S/Sgt. Walters	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
✓ S/Sgt. North	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	RMAS
✓ S/Sgt. Watts 037	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2 WESSEX (V)
✓ S/Sgt. McIntyre	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	Sch of Inf (NCOs Tac Wg)

SGT

Sgt. Jones 3711	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Trench	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Scully	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Navarro	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Coupland	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Ravu	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Waters	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. White	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Baines	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Kerr	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 WESSEX (RV)
Sgt. Gardner	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Luker	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	ASPT Aldershot
Sgt. Jones 3426	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Griffin	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Dean	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Le-Strange	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Williams	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	RLT
Sgt. Mellers	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	15 Cdt Trg Team
Sgt. Povey	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	ACIO Reading
Sgt. Nimmo	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Samson	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Curtin	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	RSC
Sgt. Rose	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR
Sgt. Pomeroy	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 GLOSTERS
Sgt. Gardiner	4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1 DERR

Sgt. Evans	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Burlow	...	...	...	...	...	ACIO Salisbury
Sgt. Fennell	...	...	...	...	...	LSP Oman
Sgt. Watts 821	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Harrill	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Chitty	...	...	...	...	...	2 WESSEX (V)
Sgt. McLeod	...	...	...	...	...	17 CCT
Sgt. Tadhunter	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Chapman	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. McIntyre	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Davison	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Wilmot	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Duran	...	...	...	...	...	1 RWF
Sgt. Latham	...	...	...	...	...	HQ P of W Div
Sgt. Moloney	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Coyle	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Ficke	...	...	...	...	...	1 R HAMPS
Sgt. Traveller	...	...	...	...	...	Sch of Mil Svy
Sgt. Trappe	...	...	...	...	...	ACIO Gloucester
Sgt. Snee	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Bungay	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Allen	...	...	...	...	...	Depot Lichfield
Sgt. Batty	...	...	...	...	...	Depot Lichfield
Sgt. Cox	...	...	...	...	...	JSB Taunton
Sgt. Elliman	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Gill	...	...	...	...	...	IDB
Sgt. Heal	...	...	...	...	...	Depot Lichfield
Sgt. Henwood	...	...	...	...	...	IDB
Sgt. Maynard	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Porter	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Proctor	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Richardson	...	...	...	...	...	IJLB Shorncliffe
Sgt. Walker	...	...	...	...	...	1 REGT AAC
Sgt. Ward	...	...	...	...	...	1 DERR
Sgt. Wheaton	...	...	...	...	...	Depot Lichfield
Sgt. Wise	...	...	...	...	...	1 WESSEX (RV)

Long Service List

W.O.2 Turner	...	...	...	...	...	SSO Bielefeld ✓
S/Sgt. Watton	...	...	...	...	...	HQ Episcopi Garrison
W.O.2 Whiting	...	...	...	...	...	Krefeld
W.O.2 Whitfield	...	...	...	...	...	3 Armd Div
W.O.2 Wright	...	...	...	...	...	ACIO Bournemouth
W.O.2 Perkins	...	...	...	...	...	ACIO Salisbury
W02 GREEN						SSO MUNSTER CAR.

Colonel of the Regiment

Major General D. T. Crabtree is due to take over as Colonel of the Regiment from Brigadier J. R. Roden CBE in November 1982.

Honours and Awards

Congratulations to the following members of the Regiment who were honoured in 1981.

MBE

Major (Q.M.) J. H. Peters
W.O.2 R. H. Carter

BEM

C/Sgt. T. J. Moore
Cpl. D. J. Hawkins

Mentioned in Despatches in recognition of distinguished service in Northern Ireland.
Cpl. J. M. Higgs

Our congratulations also to Lt Col J. W. A. Fleming PARA who was a Member of the Regiment until 1962 on his award of the OBE.

Promotions

We congratulate the following on being selected for promotion in 1982.

To Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel M. R. Vernon-Powell
Lieutenant Colonel D. Redding
Lieutenant Colonel G. Coxon, M.B.E.

We congratulate the following on their promotion:

- To Major**
 Captain (QM) G. J. Pinchen
- To Captain**
 Lieut (A/Capt) P. D. Stacey (20 March 81)
 Lieut. S. G. Cook (9 May 81)
 Lieut. (A/Capt) S. A. Durant (28 Dec 81)
- To Lieutenant**
 2/Lieut. J. J. Edmonds (7 April 81)
 2/Lieut. R. Davis (7 April 81)

Commissions

We welcome the following officers who have been commissioned into the Regiment during 1981:

2/Lieut. D. J. Denman	.....	.....	.....	.....	(Short Service Commission)
2/Lieut. C. Williams	.....	.....	.....	.....	(Short Service Limited Commission)
2/Lieut. R. D. Higgs	.....	.....	.....	.....	(Short Service Commission)
2/Lieut. F. D. Drury	.....	.....	.....	.....	(Regular Commission)

We congratulate W.O.1 E. A. Millard on his selection for a Short Service Commission in the Regiment in 1982.

We congratulate J. Tomlinson and C. Waddell on their award of a Short Service Limited Commission in the Regiment.

Change of Commission

Capt. (QM) D. J. I. Leadbetter	✓	.....	.....	.....	from Short Service to Regular (QM) Commission
Lieut. R. Davis	✓	.....	.....	.....	from Short Service to Special Regular Commission
Lieut. P. C. Tomlinson	✓	.....	.....	.....	from Short Service to Regular Commission
Capt. S. A. Durant and Lieut. G. P. Barlow have been selected for conversion from Short Service to Regular Commission during 1982/83.					

Retirements

Lieut. A. M. Crocker resigned his commission on the 26th June. We wish him good fortune and thank him for his service to the Regiment.

Transfer

Lieut. T. J. Carr is transferring to the RPC. We wish him good fortune and thank him for his service to the Regiment.

University Bursary

We congratulate R. Goldsbrough, C. McCarthy and W. Wilson on their award of a University Bursary.

REGIMENTAL NOTES

Regimental Calendar 1982

13 — 14 May	Regimental Golf Meeting at TIDWORTH
4th June	Officers Cocktail Party at The Wardrobe
12 — 13 June	The Wiltshire Regiment OCA at Devizes
29 June	Lieutenant Colonel Mackereth assumes command of the 1st Battalion.
24 — 25 July	The Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA Reunion at Brock Barracks, Reading.
29 July	The Official Opening of The Wardrobe
3 September	Officers Dinner at Wadham College, Oxford.

4 September The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Association Reunion at Brock Barracks, Reading.

Congratulatory

We congratulate:

Major Martin on becoming the British Small-bore Rifle Champion; on his selection to represent Great Britain in the USA and in Mexico, and on his retaining the inter Service Small Bore Championship. A superb year for him to remember.

Lieutenant Colonel Graham on being selected to captain the Great Britain Fullbore Shooting Team at Bisley.

Captain Lake on being selected as a student for the Belgium Army Staff Course in September 1982.



Major P. Martin

The 1st Battalion Boxing Team on being the BAOR Champions and for so nearly becoming the Army Champions.

Lieutenant Simon Baynham on his marriage to **Miss Janet Holgate** at Morecombe on 5th September 1981.

Captain Stephen Durant on his engagement to **Dr. Elizabeth Anne Madigan**.

Captain Stephen Bowkett on his engagement to **Miss Allison Booth**.

Cpl. Kendrick on being the runner-up in the UKLF 1981 Golf Championship.

1st Battalion

The Battalion is due to move from OSNABRUCK to Howe Barracks, CANTERBURY in January 1983. The Battalion were due to receive new Colours on their return but owing to other commitments the presentation has been postponed until 1984.

Brigadier H. M. A. Hunter, CVO., DSO., MBE.

We were saddened by the news that **Brigadier Michael Hunter**, who was Colonel of the Regiment from 1969 — 1976, died on the 10th November, peacefully in his sleep. An obituary appears elsewhere in this Journal.

Official Opening of The Wardrobe

The Wardrobe will be opened officially by the Colonel-in-Chief at 1200 hours, Thursday 29th July. Owing to space limitations attendance by members of the Regiment will be by invitation only. All branches of the Regiment will be represented. Details of the ceremony, official guests and attendance by members of the Regiment will be sent out by RHQ to the 1st Battalion, the Depot Lichfield, the Regimental Assoc-

iation and the OCAs of The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment. Elsewhere in this issue there is an account of the history of the Wardrobe Project from its inception in 1973 until its unofficial opening last July.

The Regimental Museum

The Regimental Museum opened to the public for the first time on Saturday 18th July and at the time of writing it has had 3,519 paying visitors. Owing to staffing difficulties it was not possible for the Museum to be open at weekends during 1981. From 1st April 1982 the Museum opening times will be 0930 — 1700 (last visitors admitted 1630) Sunday to Friday. Prices of admission are Adults 60p Children and OAPs 30p. Members of the Regiment and their wives are admitted free.

Mr. Bernard Milner

We are grateful to **Mr. Bernard Milner**, who lives in York, for voluntarily giving his services to plan the layout of the Museum and the presentation of the items in the showcases. He gave up a great deal of his time travelling to and from York and often worked late into the night during his visits. He did a first class professional job which has been borne out by the many favourable comments that have been received from Members of the Regiment and visitors to the Museum. The Museum Trustees on behalf of the Regiment, presented Mr. Milner with a Victorian Barometer and a framed photograph of The Wardrobe.

Dress

At a meeting of the Regimental Committee held at The Wardrobe on 25th September, 1981 and presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment, the following decisions concerning Regimental dress were taken:

Regimental Buttons:

It was agreed that a case should be put to the Army Dress Committee for permission for the Regiment to revert to wearing the Regimental buttons worn on amalgamation, and which were replaced by the Prince of Wales's Division buttons in 1970. Currently only the Regiment and the Devon and Dorset Regiment wear the POW Division button.

Regimental Tie:

It was agreed that the Gosling Green and Maroon tie, known as the County Tie would be formally adopted as the Regimental Tie. The Blue Town Tie would be allowed to waste out and no new orders would be placed with

the suppliers but it could continue to be worn. Regimental Ties can be obtained from the Museum Shop price £3.25 including postage and packing.

Regimental Colours:

It was agreed that the Regimental Colours should be Royal Blue and Red.

Regimental Christmas Card

The Regimental Committee is to consider the design of the Regimental Christmas Card for 1982 at their next Meeting in March. Details, including cost, will be sent out to all Regimental Subscribers by 1st September.

Officer's Cocktail Party

The Officers Cocktail Party was held on Friday 17th July at the Wardrobe to mark the occasion of the opening of the Regimental Museum on the 18th July. **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Roden** received some 150 who attended and who were not deterred from enjoying themselves by the chilly, damp evening.

The 1982 Party will be held on Friday 4th June at the Wardrobe. Details will be sent out separately to all Regimental subscribers.

Officers Subscription Fund

The Officers Subscription Fund exists to provide serving and retired officers with a copy of the Journal each year, subsidies for Regimental functions and entertainment, a wedding present for officers on their marriage and to cover the costs of keeping members informed of Regimental occasions and events. During 1981 Income into the fund was £3,116 and Expenditure was £2,426. There was therefore an excess of income over expenditure of £691, largely due to the Officers Cocktail Party being self supporting and not requiring a subsidy. However, it is expected that extra expenditure will be incurred during 1982 to help subsidise the Official Opening of the Wardrobe.

Garrison Cemetery RAZMAK

Members of the Royal Berkshire Regiment who were stationed in RAZMAK in 1924 with the 1st Battalion may be interested to see the photograph of the remains of the Garrison Cemetery as it is today. The photograph was received from the Defence Attache in Islamabad who toured the area last Autumn. He states that all the graves shown in the photograph are those of members of the Battalion. He listed the following names which are on the gravestones still remaining, **L Cpl. Norton, Pte. Crockford, Pte. Spokes, Sgt. White DCM, Pte. Elliott, Pte. Slade, and L Cpl. F. Elliott.**



News from Abroad

Brigadier Tom Gibson has now settled in Tocumwal, New South Wales, Australia.

Lieut Colonel Clive Lea-Cox has settled in South Africa and is a Colonel in the South African Army.

Major Mike Hartland is still living in Barbados.

Colin Herman (ex Royal Berkshires) is working in Nigeria.

Major Bill Hedges (ex Royal Berkshires) is living in Canada.

News received from all of them recently states that they are well and thriving.

Swords

The 1st Battalion urgently require swords for use by the officers on ceremonial parades and have asked whether Retired Officers in possession of swords would consider either selling them or presenting them on loan to the Battalion. Officers who have a sword which they wish to sell or present are requested to contact RHQ.

Sgt. I. Dean

Sgt. Dean, who is attached to the ACIO Bristol,



Sgt. Ian Dean receives a welcome after his sponsored run from Colerne to Trowbridge Drill Hall.

has been attracting a lot of favourable publicity for the Regiment by his efforts to raise money for worthwhile causes through sponsored events. Recently he raised over £75 for the Trowbridge Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch by running from Colerne to the Trowbridge Drill Hall. Previously he walked 62 miles in a 24 Hour Lawn Mower Grand Prix near Chippenham. Well done.

REGIMENTAL GOLFING SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting was held at Tidworth in May in weather which was a good deal less favourable than that enjoyed at this event in recent years. Even so, the occasional heavy shower apart, this was another happy and successful Meeting. The results were as follows:

Stableford Singles

1st James Cup	Mr. Yiend
2nd Shorncliffe Cup	Lt. Col. Carter

Stableford Foursomes Foursomes Challenge Cups

Brig. Howard-Jones and Maj. Ingles

Scratch Medal

1st Gillson Trophy	Maj. Murray
2nd Silver and Bone Beaker	Mr. Yiend

Handicap Medal

1st Gillson Bowl	Maj. Ingles
2nd Gamble Cup	Maj. Murray

Education Cup (best score off a handicap between 19 and 24)

Maj. Wilson

The 1982 Meeting will be held at Tidworth on Thursday, 13th and Friday 14th May.

The Regimental Dinner

The 1981 Dinner was held at Wadham College, Oxford on 4th September. Greetings were sent

to **H.M. The Queen and The Colonel-in-Chief**. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and the following officers attended:

Maj. Gen. D. T. Crabtree, **Brigadiers D. E. Ballantine and H. M. A. Hunter**, **Colonels F. H. B. Boshell, D. W. Fladgate, J. E. Gabain, L. J. L. Hill, J. L. R. Metcalf, D. C. Munn, D. I. M. Robbins, D. F. Salt and J. R. Welchman** **Lieut. Colonels J. Awdry, G. Coxon, D. C. Gilson, G. T. L. M. Graham, B. R. Hobbs, T. R. M. Ottowell, V. H. Ridley, F. J. Stone, L. C. Tremellen, M. R. Vernon-Powell, L. H. Wood and G. F. Woolnough** **Majors J. Barrow, R. J. Bennett, P. Bradley, D. G. Chilton, A. M. Everett, C. J. Edwards, R. F. Groves, L. Higgins, J. Hyslop, T. C. S. Jennings, A. C. Kenway, J. N. Morris, D. Mortimer, P. Martin, S. W. J. Saunders, J. P. Ward, A. E. G. Westlake, R. C. Wilkins and R. M. C. Wilson**, **Captains S. E. Bowkett, S. G. Cook, S. A. Durant, P. E. O'R-B. Davidson-Houston and N. J. Walker**, **Lieutenants K. T. Haugh, P. J. King, T. D. O'Hare, J. M. C. Rylands, P. C. Tomlinson and R. N. Wardle** **2nd Lieutenants J. J. Edmonds and C. G. Higgs and D. Hall Esq. Private Guest. D. R. M. Ottowell, Esq.**

The 1982 Dinner will be held at Wadham College on 3rd September. Accommodation will be available as usual. Details will be sent out separately to all Regimental Subscribers.

1st Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) Arakan Dinner

There was a good turnout for the dinner held at The Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury on Saturday, 14th November, 1981. All members were delighted that **Colonel J. Houghton-Brown**, who commanded the Battalion in the Arakan, was able to attend and take the Chair. It was good to have him with us again after his illness. **Brigadier Roden** and **Bishop Pike** were chief guests; the latter made a brief and witty speech on behalf of the guests. Other guests were **Colonel K. G. Comerford-Green, Lieut. Colonel B. Hobbs, Major A. D. Parsons, Major. R. F. Groves and Major. P. A. J. Brown**. Members attending were: **Lieut. Colonel G. F. Woolnough, Majors H. V. Avery, S. F. Browne, J. L. Cain, A. M. Everett, A. K. Falcon, N. G. Motion, J. O. S. Redman, G. W. L. Richardson, R. N. Topham, D. Weatherup, Captains S. Affleck, G. Button, J. G. Penn, J. Turner, Dr. J. E. Tinne, Mr. B. J. Haines. Captain P. G. Bryer-Ash** joined us after dinner. Good wishes were received from **Major J. Panks** held up in Australia and from **Major C. G. Adams**. We were sorry that **Major The Duke of Somerset** was prevented from attending as he was still convalescing after

a major operation. A number of members stayed the night at The Red Lion and 9 ladies dined together in the hotel restaurant. Most members and their ladies met together in the lounge after 11.00 p.m. for further drinks and reminiscences. The next annual dinner will be at The Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury on Saturday, 20th November, 1982 at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. The Secretary of the Dinner is **Major J. L. Cain**, The Malt House, 17 High Street, Benson, Oxford OX9 6RP. Telephone: Wallingford (STD 0491) 38267.

JLC.

2nd Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment Wartime Officers Reunion

This was held on Saturday, 22nd August. The attendance was about 33, and we were able to welcome two new members, **Dapper Day** and **Robert Topham**, with their wives **Beatrice** and **Jean**. Unfortunately three other new members were not able to come, **Roy Turner**, **Richard Oldfield** and **Frank Clarke**, and also the **Chadwicks** were prevented. **Ralph** and **Rosemary Davies**, well supported by their family, entertained us in their fine garden and grounds at Hindhead, Surrey, and provided an excellent lunch from a large tent which had no visible means of support. Several photograph albums were produced by some members, which revived forgotten memories of the last war. After lunch, messages from those unable to attend were read, and it was agreed to accept the offer of **Ted** and **Barbara Ingles** to hold the 1982 reunion at Rowlands Castle, a few miles north of Havant. The date decided is Saturday 14th August, 1982.

GFW.

4th and 5th BN. THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

The 1981 dinner was held at the Red Lion, Salisbury on 26th September, and to the great pleasure of all the members, the President, **Col. J. Houghton Brown**, was well enough to take his place at the head of the table. He had also invited the Chaplain of the Old Comrades Association, the **Reverend Canon W. D. C. Williams**, as his guest. The following officers also dined: **Colonels G. G. Drew**, and **D. I. M. Robbins**; **Lt. Col. G. F. Woolnough**; **Majors P. A. J. Brown**, **R. G. Coleman**, **G. B. N. Creswick**, **R. F. Groves**, **D. Hart**, **R. G. Hoare**, **A. S. P. Jeans**, **A. D. Parsons**, **G. R. A. Pickford**, **C. R. Stone**, **R. C. Wilkins**, **Captains M. V. Coupland**, **R. J. Gouldsworthy**, **B. W. Lincoln**, **P. Spencer-Moore** and **L. D. Walker**. **Brigadier D. E. Ballantine** and **Maior W. A. Hill** had booked to attend but were unable to do so at the last minute. Apologies were received from nearly 50 officers, some of

whom kindly sent donations to the fund, which are hereby gratefully acknowledged — the donors may be assured that the members who attend know how to make good use of them! The Club has decided that for the future the Chairman will be afforded some discretion to subsidise the price of the dinner from the funds and to include in the price the cost of wine at the rate of half a bottle per head. Lunch on Sunday was particularly well attended and the mention of a few names may encourage other members to attend in the future — this is essentially a family party and this fact is illustrated by the attendance on this occasion of **Pat Spencer-Moore**, his wife, their daughter and her husband. **Lawrence** and **Joan Wood** were present as guests of **Tim Wilkins**, **Clare Coad** exercising her right to attend for the first time, **Neville** and **Joan Awdry** bubbling over with their usual enthusiasm for such a gathering, **Tom Powell**, **Peter Biegel**, **Alan Snell**, **Gerry Drew**, **Anthony Jeans** and **Peter Brown** with their ladies made a party of some 26 on this most pleasurable occasion. The 1982 dinner and lunch will be at the Red Lion, Salisbury on 25th and 26th September.

6th Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment

The 6th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment came into existence on the 1st July 1939. It was the "younger brother" battalion of the existing Territorial Army 4th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment. For nearly a year the battalion did menial guard keeping tasks in southern England. The first commanding officer was **Lieut. Colonel G. Trimmer-Thompson**. In the spring of 1939 **Lieut. Colonel (later Brigadier) K. P. Smith, OBE**, assumed command and took the battalion to Northern Ireland. For two years and nine months the battalion trained in Northern Ireland, mostly under KP and reached a standard of excellence which was to leave a stamp on every man who served in it. The battalion spirit is reflected in the fact that the officers who served with the battalion during its short war-time life have been meeting for a dinner in London every year for the past 30 years. **Brigadier K. P. Smith** has been the father-figure at all of these dinners and, although now admitting to being a bit over eighty, has not missed a single one. The most recent dinner was held in October, 1981 and, in addition to KP those who attended were **Michael Bodenham**, **Philip Brownrigg**, **John Casserley**, **Frank Clark**, **Peter Burke**, **James Coker**, **Ralph Dodds**, **Ralph Hope**, **David Norton**, **David Owen**, **Ned Player**, **Peter Prior**, **John Ready**, **Ken Seel**, **Chappie Snowden**, "Trim" **Trimmer**, and **Gus Ward**. Others who frequently attend but, were prevented from coming on this occasion are

Douglas Carr, Victor Bonham-Carter, Mick Carter, Harold Finch, Tony Greenly, George Hurran, Pat Hayward, Tom Moss, Ken Powell, Denis Savill, Walter Serocold and Terry Wetherall. There may be other officers whose present addresses are not known and who may like to attend. If they would like to be sent notices of the dinner they should contact **James Coker**, 1 Compass Rise, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4PP. Telephone: Taunton 84313.

JFC.

THE WARDROBE APPEAL

Since the last edition of the Journal many contributions have been received for the Wardrobe Appeal Fund all of which have been individually acknowledged. Unfortunately the lack of space in this issue precludes the publishing of names but the Colonel of the Regiment and the Wardrobe Trustees are extremely grateful for the generous response by the Regiment and its friends.

The following financial statement of the Appeal Fund has been prepared from the audited accounts and is published for the information of

all those who have made contributions. The current position is that the Regiment still has liabilities of £49,000 the pressing one being the Architect's fees which are due for payment. Steps are in hand to settle this liability in 1982 but our cash flow is very tight. The Colonel of the Regiment and the Wardrobe Trustees would be most grateful for continued financial support and request members of the Regiment to do all they can to maintain the flow of funds from any source to help reduce our liabilities. Much will depend upon the income from Museum admissions and although we are publicising the Museum throughout the South West, members of the Regiment are asked to spread the word by urging their relatives and friends to make a visit when they are in the Salisbury area. The income from Museum admissions for the period 18th July to 30th November, 1981 was perhaps disappointing but there was very little advance publicity of the Museum being opened as a tourist attraction and it is anticipated that the amount will be substantially higher in 1982.

WARDROBE HOLDING CHARITY APPEAL FUND

Financial Statement

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
First Appeal	24,985	Lease	25,000				
Second Appeal	12,364	Builder (incl. VAT.)	158,271				
Counties Appeal	5,468	Surveyor (incl. VAT.)	5,750				
Grants and Donations	125,773	Engineer	316				
Sale of property	9,433	Stamp Duty and Rent	1,174				
Income from Bank Deposit	1,810	Interest on Bank Loan	5,450				
Income from Museum admissions ..	1,838	Setting-up Museum	5,536				
Interest Free Loans	34,936	Fire and Security System	3,246				
Bank Loan	12,500	General refurbishing of Garden and surrounds	3,001				
		Appeal Expenses	1,620				
		Maintenance Expenses	1,612				
		Repayment of Bank Loan	12,500				
		In Bank	5,631				
Total	£229,107						£229,107

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Loans				In Bank			
Regimental (Interest Free)	34,936	Current A/c	361				
Creditors				Deposit A/c	5,270		
Architect (incl. VAT.)	14,168						
	£49,104						£5,631

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Now that we are firmly established in our new home this does seem a good opportunity to explain, for the benefit of our many visitors, the role and functions of RHQ so that full use can be made of the services which we provide for the Regiment.

The main justification for our existence is to provide an office for the Colonel of the Regiment so that he can exercise overall direction and supervision of those regimental matters within his Charter and to act as the focal point for the co-ordination of Regimental affairs and activities. Specific tasks include responsibility for officer recruiting, co-ordination of soldier recruiting in the Regimental area, Public Relations, Trusts and Funds, Welfare, organisation of Regimental functions, Museum management, the Journal, administration of Regimental Chattels, liaison with ACF/CCF/Civic Authorities, the Regimental Association and historical research.

Policy on Regimental matters is formulated by the Colonel of the Regiment in conjunction with the Regimental Committee, the Trustees of the various Regimental Trusts and the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association. Details of these are as follows:

Regimental Committee

The Committee considers such matters as regimental dress and customs, officer recruiting, Regimental functions and entertainment, Journal policy and any other matters which are not covered by the other Trust Deeds. The present members are the Colonel of the Regiment, **Brig. Ballantine, Colonel Boshell, Colonel Turner, Maj. Myatt, Major Everett** and CO 1st Battalion.

Managing Trustees (Combined Funded Charities)

The Regimental Trustees control and administer

the Regimental Funds and Chattels. They appoint a sub-committee to advise them on investment policy. The present Trustees are the Colonel of the Regiment, **Brig. Ballantine, Colonel Turner** and CO 1st Battalion.

Museum Trustees

The Museum Trustees advise on the presentation and administration of the Regimental Museum. The present Trustees are the Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel Robbins, Lieut. Col. Peddie, Lieut. Col. Woolnough, Major Myatt, Major The Duke of Somerset** and the CO 1st Battalion.

Wardrobe Trustees

The Wardrobe Holding Charity was set up to control and administer the moneys received for the acquisition and conversion of the Wardrobe. The Trustees are the Colonel of the Regiment, **Brig. Ballantine, Colonel Comerford-Green, Major Myatt, Major Everett** and the CO 1st Battalion.

Regimental Association

The Regimental Association with a membership of well over 2000 is administered from RHQ through its executive Committee which consists of **Lieut. Col. Woolnough, Major Price, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Dunford, Mr. Duncombe, Mr. Dudman, Mr. Le Que'neec and Mr. Briggs.**

The staff at RHQ are always pleased to see members of the Regiment at any time and encourage you to drop in whenever you are in the area. The Regimental Library and Historical section which **Major Jack Price** has now set up is well worth a visit and if you have the time, an hour spent browsing through past records and early editions of the Journals of the former Regiments can be very rewarding.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

To occupy a seat in a window overlooking the magnificence of Salisbury Cathedral could be a dream cherished by many down the generations since that edifice was completed in 1258. To be paid to do so would be to stretch one's imagination to its extremity. Yet both benefits accrue to the incumbent of the Regimental Museum Curator's chair. True, there are other facets to this sinecure, but when the world outside appears frenetic and verging on dementia, the peace and

sanctity of The Close puts everything into perspective and it is a pleasure and a privilege to work in such beautiful surroundings.

From its opening on 18th July until it closed for the winter on 30th November, 1981, the Museum attracted over 3000 visitors, many of whom paid unsolicited tribute to its planning and layout bearing testimony to the foresight and industry of **Mr. Bernard Milner** whose brainchild it was and the exertions of those volunteers and

staff who worked hard and willingly to meet the deadline.

Despite the exterior calm befitting a Museum, behind the scenes, unseen by the general public, a degree of chaos was evident which is only now subsiding.

We are grateful to those who have made helpful suggestions and constructive criticisms to improve the present display, and have utilized the "closed period" sifting through the many ideas and where possible putting them into effect.

By far the greatest criticism initially was the lack of information of the display. We have endeavoured to correct this by the production of a Brochure and Guide, available at the desk, aimed at giving a detailed description of the Collection.

To enhance the MAIWAND display an information bar will be installed adjacent to the showcase enabling the visitor to view the scene whilst listening to a realistic account of the battle complete with back-ground sound effects including the barking of a simulated "Bobbie" at the "Stand of the Last Eleven".

Where necessary certain aspects of the Collection have been enhanced by the addition of items relative to the period and displays re-arranged with more general information available without departing from the original concept.

Every major campaign in which the two former Regiments participated throughout their history is covered to some degree and displayed to whet the appetite of the connoisseur, the browser or those wishing to spend a pleasant hour or so in a tranquil and informative atmosphere.

The Medal Room is a source of delight to all with the faintest trace of patriotism and love of Country in their veins and evokes a sense of awe in those deficient in these attributes. Visitors from far and wide have commented with some enthusiasm on this comprehensive Collection of medals and silver encompassing seven original VCs of the eight won by members of the Regiment, a map of the World showing where the Regiments have served in the past with medals indicating where they were earned, not to mention individual collections of former distinguished members of the Regiment such as **General Sir Miles Dempsey** and **General Sir William Platt**.

For those disposed to assimilate further the history of the Regiment the Museum possesses a Library containing archives of which we can be justly proud and those wishing to while away the hours in quiet contemplation and who promise

not to interrupt the Curator in the performance of his duties are most cordially welcome.

From 1st April, 1982 it is hoped the Museum will be open six days per week, Sunday to Friday throughout the season. Admission for past and present members of the Regiment is free but for those wishing to show their appreciation a donation box is available at the desk where numerous Regimental items are on sale at realistic prices.

Whatever your tastes a visit to the Museum will prove of tremendous interest to your family and friends and provide an opportunity perhaps of meeting contemporaries and reliving the past.

Donations and loans to the Museum collection continue and we are most grateful for the generosity of those who put treasured possessions in our care for safekeeping. Every gift/loan is recorded in the Museum Accession Book as a permanent record of its receipt and is allocated a number to facilitate future identification. Each donation is acknowledged on every occasion by either the Regimental Secretary or the Curator on behalf of the Museum Trustees, with an assurance that their donation will be preserved in safe keeping.

The following is a selection of recent acquisitions which have been received on behalf of the Museum Trustees:

Two Volumes "The Royal Berkshire Regiment" by **F. L. Petre** — **Lt. Col. J. F. Hibbert LI**

Two Trophies India Command 1931 — **Sgt. Vallis** — **Mr. A. Vallis**

Gold Locket containing photograph, and Coronation Medals — **Mrs. Booth-Jones**

Group of Seven Medals — **WOII J. A. Stacey MM** — **Mrs. S. Stacey**

Group of Six Medals — **Major A. J. Frazer MC.** — **Maj. S. Frazer**

Cased Miniature Medals and Commission Certificate of **Maj. Gen. B. A. C. Coad** — **Mrs. C. Coad**

Group of Four Medals, Silver Tea Pot and Militaria of **C/Sgt. Chapman** — **Mr. F. J. Chapman**

Two Medals and NOK Plaque — **Pte. B. H. Macey** — **Maj. G. L. Davies**

Gold Wrist Watch concealed whilst **POW** by **Brig. G. Oldfield** — **Mrs. M. Oldfield**

Group of Three Medals — **Cpl. G. Stanbridge MM** — **Miss R. M. Stanbridge**

Framed Print of **Lt. Turner** winning the VC — **Miss M. Turner**

Military Cross, Photograph and Military Items — **Lt. Tinsley** — **Mrs. M. R. Tinsley.**

1st BATTALION

INTRODUCTION BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

1981 has been an exciting year. To my mind the outstanding highlights include the shooting achievements of **Major Peter Martin**, the British National Champion, and the public recognition of **WO2 Reg. Carter MBE.** and **Cpl. 'Arry Hawkins BEM.** in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours List and **Major John Peters MBE.** and **C/Sgt. Tim Hoare BEM.** in the 81/82 New Year's Honour List.

My first draft of these introductory notes ran to several pages and clearly they required much editing. I decided to refer back to previous issues of the Journal to see how my predecessors had coped with their notes. I became enthralled with edition no 17 (The Battalion was then stationed in MINDEN as a mechanised battalion) and was delighted to see that life over the past dozen or so years has changed very little. The, then, Commanding Officer (**Lieut. Colonel J. R. Roden**) commented in detail over the hectic pace of life and the multitude of external commitments. Life has not changed and provided I updated a few ranks and dates I could have reproduced his notes and used them for my own. I suspect that **RSM Venus, WO2 Luckwell** and **WO2 Long** would chuckle over reference to "Young John Venus" and "two promising L/Cpls, Luckwell and Long.

1981 has been a good year too. The Battalion paid a second, consecutive, visit to the Canadian Prairies in SUFFIELD and is probably the only Infantry battalion ever to have been so fortunate since the British Army Training Unit Suffield was established. Not surprisingly therefore our ability and performance as a mechanised battalion is very adequate. Canada again proved to be an exciting challenge and doubtless numerous stories will appear throughout the Journal. My lasting memories recall vividly the late April/Early May weather which ranged from sun-bathing temperatures in the morning to wretched afternoons with either cold, driving rain or sub zero temperatures. Is this a sign of my advancing years?

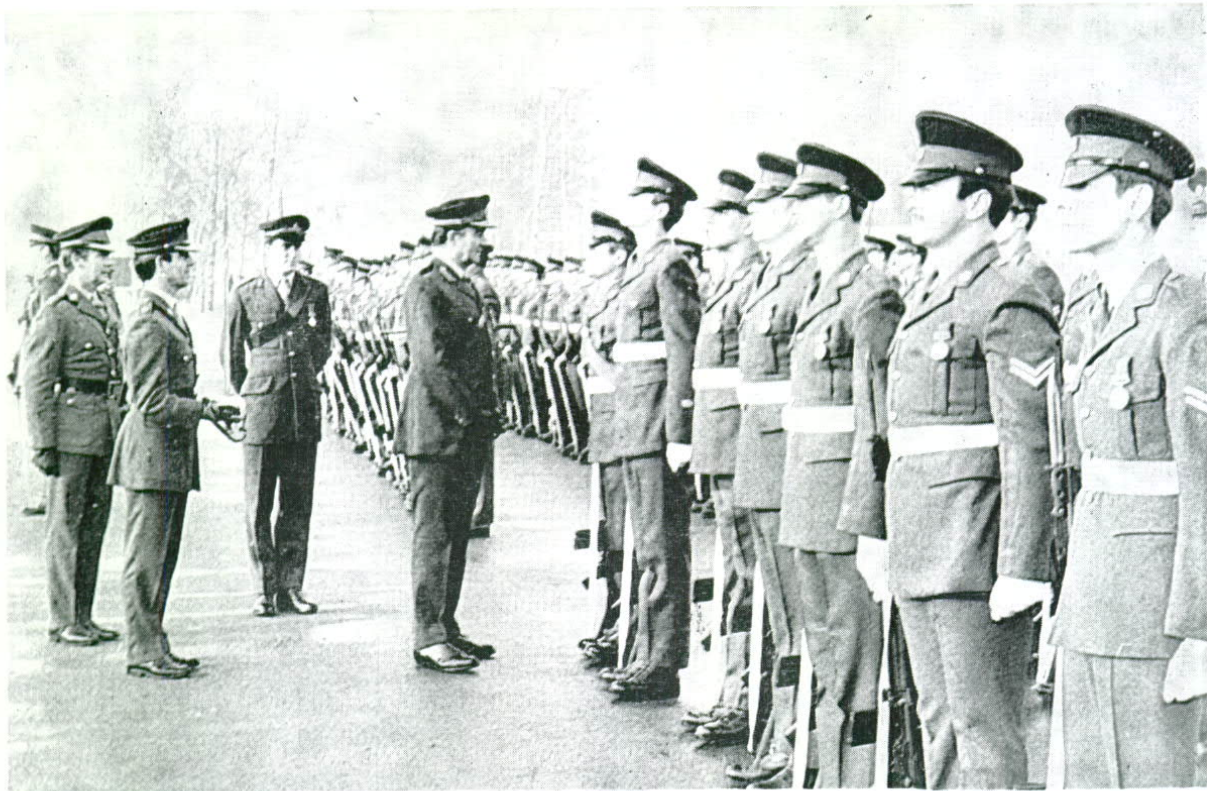
During both of our Canada trips I have been most pleasantly surprised by the ingenuity shown by many of our soldiers. We may be "Farmers Boys" but when given the opportunity to see the world our soldiers are not slow to spread their wings. The most intrepid explorer — via courtesy of the Greyhound Omnibus Company — travelled as far south as Mexico. Whenever the night stage, sorry, bus reached its over-night destination this

solitary Englishman was seen to emerge from air — conditioned discomfort and jog around the town limits — complete with DERR track-suit. He remained in Mexico long enough to drink — or eat? — tequila before returning to Canada. To avoid any personal embarrassment I will not mention his name. But **Major Paul Bradley** we salute you.

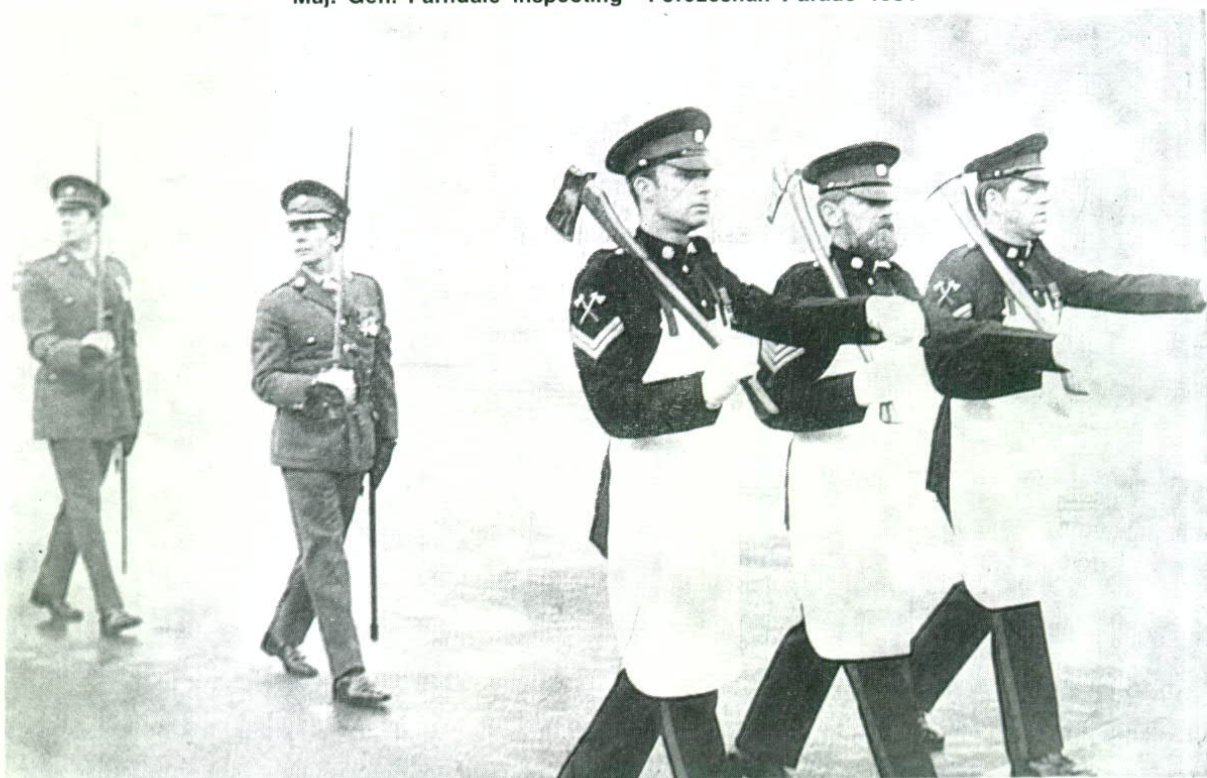
Our Sporting Record in 1981 perhaps equalled our best for a number of years. The Novice boxing team won the 2 Armd Div. Championship by defeating 1 KOSB 5 INNIS DG and our West Country friends 1 R HAMPS and 1 GLOSTERS. The latter two Regiments provided stern opposition and our progress to the BAOR final proved less exacting. After a fine victory over 1 RWF our team swept the board against 26 Engr Regt. and won the BAOR Championships by 9 bouts to 0. The Army Final proved a back-cloth for disappointment and sadly we lost by 5 bouts to 4. Nevertheless it was a memorable evening and the Regiment can justifiably be proud of its boxers. The early days of 1982 show promise and already our boxing team — with many new faces — has progressed to the semi-final stage of the 2 Armd Div. Competition. To be realistic however we should not expect much further progress. The Battalion Judo team reached the BAOR final; the ski-team became the premier Infantry team in the Army; the hockey team were losing finalists in the Infantry cup and the cricket team reached the BAOR semi-final. Not surprisingly the Battalion won the BAOR Tickle fit-to-fight award as the unit most prepared — physically — to meet its operational requirements.

I can recall many highlights during 1981 but perhaps the most striking memory is the Ferozeshah parade. Despite temperatures during rehearsals of minus 20°C and a temperature of minus 8°C on the day the Battalion was impressively steady on parade. The Inspecting Officer, **Major General Farndale, GOC 2 Armd Div.,** was fulsome in his praise. The Ferozeshah Ball was quite superb.

Osnabruck is not at its best in mid-January. As I write these notes the view from my window is one of ice-laden trees, an extremely heavy frost and a very grey sky. But amusement is never far below the surface and the sight, and sound, of the Quartermaster explaining (complaining?) to the Adjutant that he has just been gassed by **C/Sgt. Brame** and his ad hoc gas chamber, established outside the QM's office, does much for my morale.



Maj. Gen. Farndale inspecting—Ferozeshah Parade 1981



Ferozeshah Parade 1981—L. to R. Capt. Silvester, Lt. Col. Coxon, Cpl. Annear, Sgt. Rose, Cpl. Irving.



Brig. Roden and Lt. Col. Coxon in front of the newly-painted Regimental sign which Cpl. Hawkins recently finished.



A typical Canadian Scene. The Battalion on Medicine Man 1981 at Batus.

These notes will be my last as Commanding Officer. **Lieutenant Colonel Bill Mackereth** will soon be established and I know the Battalion will go from strength to strength. Perhaps even more important than this standard of efficiency is that the Battalion will remain happy and relaxed. I shall be wholly sad to leave the Battalion but I have a treasure store of happy memories and immense gratitude that my career has included the pinnacle of every soldier's dream — to command the Battalion.

A COMPANY IN BERLIN AND TRAINING IN RUHLEBEN FIGHTING CITY (RFC)

With doors shut and chains locked, the train draws away. Strange faces peer out to the bare existence of the East. 'Stealthy A' are on the move again.

In the latter part of June this year, A Coy became the first sub unit ever to go to Berlin and Ruhleben Fighting City on a one week exercise. The week started by a fascinating journey on a military train which goes through to the East at Helmstedt. The train is completely locked and chained and on first sight you are not sure who is locked in or out. Travelling through the East opens the eyes to the bare existence of the other side. Military presence is felt wherever you look, whether on the station platforms, or in the tank and artillery squares. The other unusual facet of this journey was the meal. A fine three course menu served on white clothed tables by experienced waiters is given to all passengers (much to the delight of the young soldier).

As a Company, we were accommodated in Smuts and Alexander Barracks. The lads began to settle in and prepare for a good hard week of work and play. The work was to be conducted at Ruhleben Fighting City, which is an excellent



"This is why we didn't get in." L/Cpl. Holmes "washes up" after house entry drills. Berlin RFC—A Coy.

training ground for FIBUA and DIBUA. We started slowly initially, with undefended houses being cleared by sections, and building till we had platoons defending parts of the village, and the other platoons attacking and trying to clear their way through. The soldiers learnt very quickly how to defend using very limited resources (probably one of the failings of RFC) and the ingenious ideas were quite unbelievable. **L/Cpl. Holmes** had constructed a swinging tyre so that as the unsuspecting intruder advanced, he came face to face very suddenly with a smouldering black mass.

The culmination of the week's training was a company defence of the village to be attacked by 2 RRF, and then a reversal of the roles, allowing us to beat them.

As a training week, it was very successful and we all agreed that a lot was learnt and that soldiers enjoyed doing it. However, our endeavours did not stop at the fighting city, because connected to it is an entertaining, if not very taxing, Assault and Confidence course. The special attraction given was a wall walk. The Object horror on



Capt. Franklin and Pte. Petherick at Ruhleben Fighting Village, Berlin.



He said strip to the waist so here goes. L/Cpl. Weavings prepares for an A Coy. tactical river crossing during cft.



Talk about startled rabbits. 2Lt. Higgs apprehensively prepares for tactical river crossing — A Coy. cf.

people's faces attempting this obstacle was amusing if not hilarious.

The training concluded with a visit by all to the Olympic swimming pools, where all capable attempted the military swimming test. All who tried passed, but ACK had an additional treat for us all. A confidence jump from the top board of the diving pool, which was at least 20 meters high. Many attempted and succeeded and all credit to **Cpl. McIntyre**, who, although he hates heights, and can hardly swim, jumped and was hoisted ashore having eventually surfaced.

What would Berlin be like without a little entertainment and social life? The old and bold of the 1972-73 era took their trip down memory lane and the newcomers — well, we just burnt the midnight oil taking it all in. The highlights must have been The Wall and Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, The Brandenburg Gate, all the museums — too numerous to mention — and the old Olympic Stadium. If you closed your eyes, you could almost imagine the noise, the drama of the games, and the haunting memories of the past. In the East, the attraction was a guided tour, or as the case was, a visit to the opera in a beautiful, traditional-style Opera House.

The irony of the East is that here people seem to be reasonably well off and the difference between East Berlin and East Germany, I would imagine, is quite great. The last memory I hold of Berlin is looking across from West to East to a communications tower. At the top is a globe and the reflection of the sun causes the sign of the cross to be permanently fixed there as if watching over the people of the East.

B COMPANY

During the training season of 1981 the Company went through the normal round of exercises and Skill at Arms meets, all very necessary,

but nothing out of the ordinary, until Exercise "Spring Venture".

In late May and early June, B Company took on a commitment in Southern Germany at the US Army Training area, at Hohenfels near Regensburg. It involved about one third of the Company, doing their best to look like Soviet soldiers. The reason for this "change of sides" was so that they could act as the enemy during the making of an Army training film. The film was to be called "Soviet Encounter", and a film crew from England were to do the filming.

The **OC Major West** was in overall command of a mixed force which included RAC, RE (commanded by a Canadian Lieutenant), RCT, and RAMC personnel.

To make the film as authentic as possible, Soviet vehicles including a T54/55, a T62, two BTR 60p and a BMP were loaned from the US Army. There were also AK 47's for each man of B Company's "Soviet platoon."

For this commitment 6 Platoon, commanded by **Lt. O'Hare**, were chosen to "play" the Russians, while 5 Platoon did their normal job as British Infantrymen. 4 Platoon were split with each half going to the other two platoons.

As the "defenders", 5 Platoon naturally had the job of preparing positions. This proved to be a considerable task because of the very rocky ground, but it did give the Aslt Pnr Sect valuable training by having to "blow" most of the trenches.

During the making of the film, strange new phrases peculiar to the world of film makers were learnt. Particularly "it's a wrap" as this meant that filming had finished for that day.

As with all film making, it sometimes took many "takes" to get the desired effect and everyone had to call on their reserves of patience. The film crew were very professional and we are now eagerly awaiting the film's general release to see the end product of our work. It should be available in early 1982.

C/SP COMPANY

The orbit of the Company continues to change, and the past year has resembled the Multi-Coloured Swap Shop. Suffice to say the Company now consists of Company HQ, the Mortar Platoon, the Anti Tank Platoon, the Corps of Drums, the Assault Pioneer Platoon HQ, and 8 Platoon. A total of 182 all ranks. To attempt any summary of so many diverse activities under a single heading would be futile, so I will highlight the Company's achievements and then let the individual Platoons account for their activities over the past year.

As usual the specialist platoons have taken part in their own Concentrations, and sent sections to Canada to support the Battalion BG. In the military field the Company was a dominant force in the Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting, and the Inter Platoon Competition. Musically the Corps of Drums continue to thrive, and are gaining a good reputation for entertaining Messes with their musical display.

On the sporting front the Company continues to provide representatives for the Battalion sports teams, though the Company teams have not met with the same success as last year. The highlight of the sporting scene was the Company's success on Maiwand Day. We won the 6 a side football, the Tug O' War, the Slow Bicycle Race, and came second in the Obstacle Race and the Sprint Relay. The overall result was a win for the Company against close opposition from all the other Companies.

Departures and arrivals within such a large Company have been numerous, and, rather than catalogue every change, it is simpler to welcome all new members to the Company and thank all those who have left, for their support and endeavours.

However one change of appointment should be recorded. In August **WO2 (CSM) R. Luckwell** handed over to **WO2 (CSM) D. Fielding**, our thanks and appreciation to **WO2 Luckwell** and we wish him all the best in Ops/Trg, and hope that he is unaffected by all the "green grenades".

MORE ON MORTARS (AND MORE MORTARS !) OR "HAS ANYONE SEEN THE CHAMPION PLATOON CUP ?"

The Mortar Platoon have, as always, been particularly busy during 1981. The year began with a cadre, and has since then continued at the same sort of hectic pace that most years do. As last year, the Pl sent a section of Mortars to Canada to support the Battalion. This year **Sgt. Pete Maynard** had the honour (?) of taking 52 through an enjoyable exercise. The stories to come out of Canada are numerous, but there is one common factor to all of them — **Sgt. "Spanish" Navarro**. Whether being refused drinks (for being an Indian), or threatened by lumberjacks, **Sgt. Navarro** was always involved.

The major command change of the year came in June when **Capt. John Silvester** moved on to take over as Adjutant, and handed over to **Lt. Russ Wardle**, fresh back from a tour at the Depot. The rumour that the Pl will try and take advantage of the positions held by ex Mortar Officers (i.e. Adjt and Ops Offr) is entirely true !

An unexpected bonus, from a live firing point of view came in July, when at two hours notice we raced to Munster ranges to night fire for the 17/21st Lancers. The first problem occurred when **Sgt. "Bertie" Baines** proved that you don't have to be a map reader to be in the Mortars — he got there eventually.

The shoot was interesting in that the Mortar line was located directly alongside the tanks, providing a grandstand view, and very battered eardrums! The value of training was demonstrated when, on the order 'ceasefire', **Pte. Hassett** immediately tried to recover the aiming post (as taught) much to the horror of the Pl Comd — the tanks were still firing the machine-guns over the post! **Hassett's** comment was, "Well it's my job."

The Battalion Skill-At-Arms camp at Senne-lager was the next major outing for the Pl. The first week saw the Pl practise field-firing with their personal weapons. Some excellent section attacks were produced, and each man did close-quarter-battle exercises with the rifle and Sub Machine Gun, and a very hairy exercise with the copy of Range Safety rules to justify himself, and GPMG. Mr. Wardle produced a well thumbled despite **Cpl. 'Higgy' Hignett** saying that it was a pre-war copy, all went well. A good interest period involved Pl members firing the Israeli designed Uzi SM6 and the American ArmaLite rifle.

During week two the whole Battalion took Annual Personal Weapons Tests and finished the week with a shooting competition, which was also phase one of the Inter-platoon competition. The platoon came a very creditable third overall and the falling-plate team of **Lt. Wardle, WO2 Jim Long, Cpl. Hignett** and **Cpl. Jerry Decarteret** won their particular event thanks to good sprinting, good shooting, and a little luck. Despite 'B' Coy's complaints, **Lt. Wardle's** Optic sight is only for show (honest !).

Week three saw the Pl live firing each day. The Rifle Coy's were given the opportunity to practise fire-control, and we also provided illumination for the Milan Pl to night fire. **Cpl. 'Merv' Towner** had a go at fire-control and, much to the Mortar Fire Controllers amusement, used the SWAG (Scientific Wild Arsed Guess) method, he promptly hit the target straight off and was rapidly forced out of the tower before he got **Cpl. 'STAN' STAYER'S** job. Week three also included phase two of the inter-platoon contest, which was a fitness test comprising of a forced march and an assault course. The Pl started well by having a good inspection score, and then produced a good march time. All looked set for a fast assault course time, though **Sgt. Navarro** — the oldest man in the competition — was suffer-

ing (to put it mildly !). A good time was indeed produced thanks to the 'pushing' of the PI by **Cpl. Clive Chapman**. The sight of the troops crossing the finish was enough to move the CO to stand us 'cokes' all round (from Coy funds !). The eventual results placed the Mortar Platoon second on fitness, and **Sgt. Navarro** deserves a special mention for really putting everything into it, and showing a lot of the young men in the Battalion what its all about. The overall result was that the PI was the "Champion platoon" for the second year running, but still has no cup to prove it ! Rumours abound about its whereabouts, but we really would be grateful to see it.

Now to explain the "more Mortars" title. The Battalion has now received its fourth section of Mortars, bringing the number of tubes up to eight. The PI is now going to hold a cadre in November, which should bring PI strength up to fifty.

Finally a 'thankyou' to all who have left the Platoon in the last year. Though you are too numerous to mention individually, we thank you all and hope you enjoyed your tour with Mortars as much as we enjoyed having you with **us**.

EXERCISE TANK TWATTER



L/Cpl. Williams, Ptes. Langdon, Richards and Decarteret "Where to Now?"



"Come on — Too Slow."

EXERCISE TANK TWATTER



Ptes. Minns and Cruse "Ground Action."



Cpl. Shead "I've lost my beret."



Pte. Kruse carrying "no kit."

ANTI TANK PLATOON

Last year's journal notes ended with an advert for a vacancy for a Watchkeeper in Battlegroup Headquarters, and that provided he could be located **Lt. P. C. Tomlinson** would fill the position. In fact his appearance in the Platoon has coincided with a number of changes. The postings of **Sgts. Allen** to the Depot, **Bartlett** to **Arborfield**, and **Waters** to SASC SWW Netheravon; **Cpls. Tucktr** and **Reading** have reverted to rifle platoon life with 8 Platoon, and recently **Ptes. Cheese-worth** and **Kuryszko** have departed for civilian life. However we do welcome **Sgts. Snee** and **Nimmo** to the platoon, and also **Cpl. Goddard** from A Company. A new set up, ready and raring to go.

Certainly the last six months have been very busy. The platoon has worked hard, and with some good results.

BATUS provided 174 with some very realistic and enjoyable training. Two weeks at Soltau followed by a month in Canada proved to be a valuable experience: we hit with 7 out of 8 missiles fired, the "light went out" on **Pte. Maxwell**. **LCpl. Williams** must have broken the BATUS record of the number of books read on exercise, his nose (which is quite considerable) was never out of a book — there was a rumour at one stage that he used to use it as a book-marker! With a well deserved and enjoyable R. and R. we returned to Germany to prepare for the Anti Tank concentration at Putlos.

A lot of work went into getting the platoon up to the required standard for the concentration. For eight new soldiers **Pte. Bailey**, **Haines**, **Attwood**, **Hawkes**, **McKissick**, **Powell**, **Brown** and **Oldham**, the training and indeed the concentration was their cadre. The standard of AFV Milan Skills and fitness had to be very high — those eight did especially well and should be congratulated. We fired 24 missiles at Putlos with mixed results — I shall withhold any further

comment until we receive the report. We remain optimistic ! !

No sooner had we finished at Putlos than we had to start preparation for three weeks at Sennelager, for our annual field firing. The first week was taken up with field firing, the second week with APWT and an Inter Platoon SAA Competition which we won clinching it with a very good win in the Section match. Apparently we must thank **Pte. Dick** for some good long distance shooting. The final week included a week-end exercise in which we acted as enemy; there was a great deal of marching and a lot of sore feet, which became even more apparent a few days later in the Inter Platoon Fitness Competition. Although we achieved good times on both the Assault Course and the march we suffered heavily on penalty points and came only 12th. Overall we came 4th but a lot of effort and satisfaction was gained

We returned from Sennelager looking forward to a well earned rest, we had had a self enforced minimum leave period since the end of May to the beginning of August and leave became a definite priority for those who had not gone on leave, (**Cpl. Hall** has only just got back).

Sport became another priority. We do in fact supply a number of sportsmen for the Battalion teams **Pte. Ledgister** at cricket, boxing, rugby, soccer — you name it he does it; **Ptes. Dick, Harris, Clarke** and **Stewart** for judo **Ptes. Maxwell** and **Hawkes** for boxing. **Sgts. Snee** and **Nimmo** display their talents for the 2nd XI Soccer team. Rugby has its share with **Ptes. Dick** and **Carey** doing well in the 2nd XV **Cpl. Shead**, **LCpl. Arman**, **Ptes. Hodgkinson** and **Stewart** are our "Tug of War" experts.

For those who don't participate at these professional levels, **Cpl. Mallinson** has proved to be the new mouthpiece for Platoon Cricket — being able to commentate and play at the same time. **Pte. Dyer** has been accused of having had a Public School "education" as he is one of the few players in the Platoon team who knows how to take guard. **LCpl. Williams** doesn't know how to take guard and since he tends to stand in front of the stumps his nose has proved to be the only suitable aiming point.

When **LCpl. Arman** is at the crease "the bottom centre of the visible mass" has proved to be the best option. Rugby, basketball and hockey we take in our stride — we do however tend to struggle at the moment in soccer. We tend to end up with a mixture of rugby and soccer: **Ptes. Minns** and **Stewart** prove to be a most useful and practised combination in sandwiching poor



Anti-tank (Milan) Platoon in training.

Crockford, who has to concentrate half his efforts in keeping his glasses on his head, and rather tends to be taken by surprise.

8 PLATOON

The Platoon was formed towards the end of January, 1981 and totalled 27 all ranks, the Platoon Commander being **Sgt. (I'm just going to my room) Coupland**.

February was our first exercise, which was Escape and Evasion with A Company against the potential NCO's Cadre.

The next few months went by with plenty of weapon training and BE's taken by **Cpl. (I'm good at spelling) Truman** and **Cpl. (I've been to Brecon) Reading**, in preparation for the SAA Meeting. In July we found ourselves at Senne-lager hoping to put all our training into practise. Notable achievements in shooting were **Pte. Chapman** with a score of 61 on his APWT (top of the Battalion); **Sgt. McIntyre**, winner of the Roberts Cup. At the end of the meeting 8 Platoon was in 3rd place.

The second part of the competition took the form of a March and Shoot — the march being over a distance of 9½ kilometres, followed by the assault course and a final inspection.

At the end of the day 8 Platoon finished 4th overall — ½ point behind 1 Platoon (if **Cpl. Stanley** had only remembered his ID Card)!

The next few months passed peaceably by, with **Cpl. Reading** posted to Depot Lichfield and **Pte. Harris** posted to the Signals Platoon.

To sum up, 8 Platoon has turned out to be highly skilled and is a professional Rifle Platoon.

CORPS OF DRUMS

BERLIN TATTOO 18th Sept — 5th Oct.

After a hectic week of packing during the middle of September, the Corps of Drums finally set off for the magical city of Berlin. We divided into two travelling parties, one to go by train, the other by road. The train party were due to take seven hours from Brunswick Bahnhof, but because of delays the journey extended to eleven hours. Those travelling by road had an equally frustrating journey. **LCpl's "Lugs" Cook** and **Marginson** abetted by **Dmr. Calcutt**, not having travelled through the Berlin corridor before, thought that the NAAFI Round house at Helmstadt was the checking-in point. Needless to say the Drum Major was as impressed as the RMPs on Checkpoint Bravo when the Russians refused our three intrepid travellers access and sent them back. They finally reached their des-

tinuation in West Berlin at 2000 hrs. The residence for the Corps of Drums for the next month was to be Alexander Barracks. (The general comment from the Drums on their return was that they missed the quality of food that they received in Berlin. However it should also be noted that the comments were made before the Drums had a chance to sample the cuisine of the Hawkins Restaurant, under the new leadership of the SQMS.)

On Monday 21st September we started rehearsing for the Tattoo, which was to be held in the Deutsche Halle. That first week was very hectic and we still try to blot those rehearsals from our memories. By the second week we were thumbing through empty pockets. Our recreation had been as hectic as the rehearsals! So to ease the problem the Corps of Drums, between shows at the Tattoo, commuted to the German Blood banks and became replete on tea and sandwiches.

Whilst rehearsing the Tattoo and doing the actual performances, our vehicles in Osnabrück were in the capable hands of **Dmr Woolford** more affectionately known as "OMD 75 FORD". To make sure that he was with us in spirit he sent us a loving letter from peace time location, though not everyone appreciated his sense of humour.

Regrettably the Tattoo came to an end, and after the final performance a party was held for all the performers in the arena, which turned out to be a muddy performance, and during this revelry twenty harpists disappeared. How this happened I do not know, though perhaps the organisers should consider using this trick in two years time for the next Berlin Tattoo!

REGIMENTAL BAND

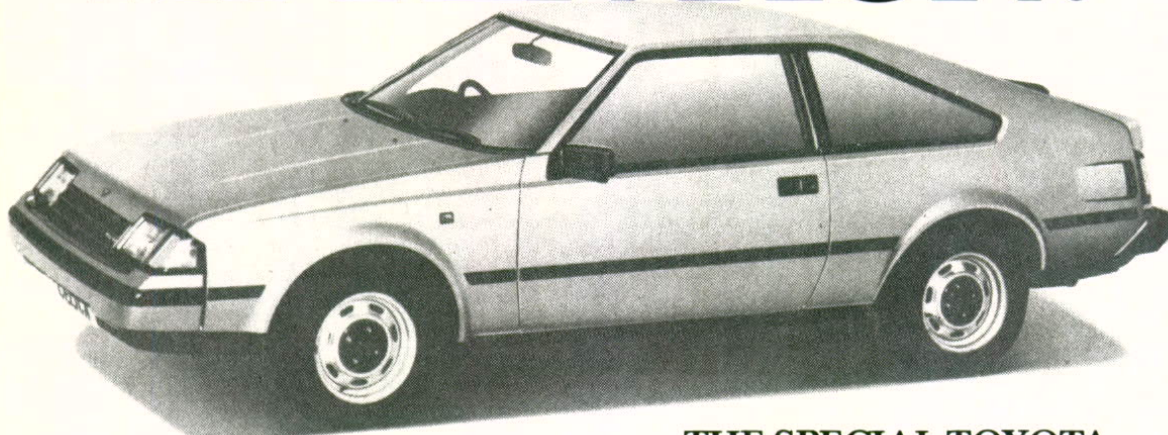
For the Band notes this year I have chosen, instead of a diary of engagements which tends to be rather tedious, to explain for the uninitiated the position of a Regimental Band in the early 1980's.

Military Bands as we know them, were first introduced into the British Army as early as 1700, and with the time of change were standardised in 1867 with the founding of The Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall.

The primary task of any Regimental Band is the well being of its parent unit which it supports: as it is the Corps of Drums that belongs to the 1st Bn, but the Regimental Band is under the direct command of the Regiment, and naturally supports the 1st Bn whilst serving with it, being placed in H.Q. Coy purely for administrative reasons.

Our peacetime role is musical, but on mobili-

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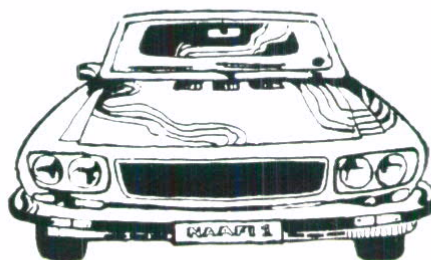
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zation we exchange our instruments for stretchers to reinforce the field ambulance MDS (Medical Dressing Station) just behind the FEBA.

Your Band is more than just a device for providing the tempo for marching, it is a business which is financially self supporting or should be. The Army does not offer us any financial support. We have a Band Fund into which money is paid from certain engagements outside the Regiment. We provide our own instruments, uniforms and music which is our responsibility to maintain. We are also required to cover ourselves by insuring all of our accountments at full replacement value. Currently this Band is annually insured for £60,000, but in these inflationary times this figure will increase by between 10 (ten) and 15% per year. This insurance is also paid by Band Funds.

With such high finance involved the devotion to duty is equally as high, when you consider your Band is the finest ambassador of the Regiment and is called upon to play for the complete cross-section of the public, from Royalty to very small children, and standard of production never being allowed to fall below par. To achieve the required effect of high musical standards, many long hours need to be devoted to rehearsing. This calls for a certain type to enrol into the Band ranks — he must be willing to work many unsociable hours including weekends, and be prepared to wait for years in the hope of receiving promotion.

OFFICERS MESS

The final phase of the Mess re-decoration should be completed by the time this article goes to print, and by then we hope that the Axminster carpets will be laid. Whilst the "Battlefield" tours may have stopped, the decorations are so good that no PMC worth his salt will permit Coffee Break to be taken in any other room than the so-called Romper room.

The "Vernon Room" has been completed, and functioning since January, but the last journal notes had to be in prior to the completion date. The Mess is indebted to the sterling work of **Captains David Leadbetter** and **John Silvester** in producing the room.

The active training cycle undertaken by the battalion this year has curtailed the usual hive of social entertaining. However, during the year we have entertained the Divisional Commander, **Major General M. B. Farndale, CB.**, at a Regimental Dinner; the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier C. A. Ramsay, O.B.E.**, at a Regimental Dinner, and also to lunch; **Brigadier Levey** to lunch

Colonel K. G. Comerford-Green, C.B.E., **Colonel D. I. M. Robins** and **Major T. Everett** to a farewell dinner for **Colonel Comerford-Green**; and numerous other officers at Regimental Dinners.

In the past year we have lost eleven officers — among them **Majors Colin Parslow, John Peters, Alan Kenway** and **Norman West**; **Captains Stephen Durant, Peter Stacey** and **Anthony Steevenson**; **Lieutenants John Rylands** and **Tim Carr**, and our delectable doctor **Captain Sheila Macdonald**.

Arrivals have included **Majors Tony Briard, Terry Daly, Bill Holmes, David Stone** and **Richard Titley**; **Captain Bill Stafford**; **Lieutenants Russ Wardle** and **Patrick Tomlinson**, and **2nd Lieutenant Chris Williams**. Again a substantial turn round.

Needless to say the day to day running of the Mess and the extra effort for Regimental functions could not be undertaken without the work of the Mess Staff.

Again our thanks go to **C/Sgt. Fielding**, who has now left to go to 2 WESSEX, his successor **C/Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Hedges** and all the Mess Staff.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

1981 has been a varied year for the Mess, with training taking place in Canada, Soltau, and Sennelager; many old members reporting back from various postings and others departing.

Since the last edition we have had a very successful Christmas Draw organized by **WO2 'Jim' Long**, with the "star prize" a video, won by **WO2 'Mick' Bryant**. The Ferozeshah Parade and Ball was again the highlight of the year, and many thanks are extended to the Ball Committee for a superbly organized Ball.

The first part of the year saw us in barracks with cadres being run all round the camp. As already published in the Boxing Notes, we would like to congratulate **WO2 'Paul' Mehrlich** and his Boxing Team for a very successful season, and in recognition for many trips and hours of enjoyment, the RSM invited all the Boxing Team into the Mess for a curry supper and drinks after the inter-company boxing finals.

The highlight of our year was the award of the M.B.E. to **WO2 'Reg' Carter** — the day he was awarded it was also a Regimental Dinner Night, and needless to say a "good night" was had by all. At the time of writing he is just preparing himself to leave to go to the Palace and receive his award (well done Reg).

The Mess has now a changed face, thanks to

the RSM for his drive and efforts to get things done. Now with new velvet curtains and a large fish tank, it is a Mess to be proud of.

July saw Maiwand Day with Beating of Retreat, followed by cocktails and a dance, thanks to the PMC WO2 'Bob' Luckwell.

The entertainment in the Mess throughout the year has been very well organized and attended. Regimental and Ladies Dinner Nights have appeared with constant regularity in the diary. The only Mess Member to be dined out was the dreaded Sgt. 'Ted' Wheaton. We wish Ted and his "family" all the very best in the future.

From August to November we hosted our Australian visitor, Sgt. 'Doug' Melrose. We really enjoyed his company, and it has been noticed already that bar sales are down.

October saw us taking part in Exercise RED CLAYMORE. We provided the guards and umpire teams. The non-tac area was a field full of mud, but certain aspects caught your eye (the RSM in Wellington boots!), and then if you looked carefully enough — the RQMS and his caravan!

At the time of writing preparations are in hand for the Ferozeshah Parade, with the Colour Party being rifled around the square, and the companies preparing under their respective CSMs, all trying to be selected as the RSM's Company. We are also looking forward to the Christmas Draw, and the first round of the boxing.

In our attachments, mainly the LAD Section and the Catering Platoon, there have been many changes, but the main ones have been in the leaders — WO1 (ASM) 'Del' Le Gall and WO2 (SQMS) 'Noel' Warke. Welcome gentlemen, you have certainly made a mark in the Battalion already.

Finally congratulations are also extended to the following on their promotions during the year:

WO2 Mehrlich
WO2 Fedrick
WO2 Bryant
C/Sgt Dobie
Sgt. Porter
Sgt. Allen
Sgt. Shervington

CORPORALS' MESS

1981 has been a very busy year with a full training programme and not a lot of time spent in camp. We had a very successful Christmas Draw in which the HAWKINS Restaurant was used. A good attendance made the evening, with

a fair distribution of prizes to many of the new members. Apart from our monthly entertainment, we have had two Ladies Dinner Nights followed by a disco in the Mess, which proved to be a hit with all the ladies.

During Exercise MEDICINE MAN in Canada we were sorry to lose Cpl. 'Smudger' Smith from behind the bar — he was posted to the officers' mess at Taunton. In his place we welcome Cpl. 'Reg' Bowers, who found it hard going at first but has adapted well and now has full control of the Mess. The Mess has improved with numerous pictures including a painting of LCpl. Welch VC. Royal Berkshire Regiment, and the purchase of five medals from The Wardrobe.

Again this year the Mess has entered the Players No 6 Darts Knockout Competition in which LCpl Thackeray and LCpl Brown were the finalists, with LCpl. Brown coming out the winner after a hard and exciting final.

Unfortunately we have said farewell to Cpl. 'Chippy' Hayward who was medically discharged. Before leaving, the Battalion held a short parade and the Commanding Officer presented him with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. To his surprise the CO invited him to take the salute as the Battalion marched past. The RSM presented him with a clock on behalf of the Corporals' Mess.

Also to leave us was LCpl. 'Noddy' Martin who is still working and residing in Osnabruck. The highlight of the year was Cpl. 'Dave' Hawkins being awarded the B.E.M. for his long hours and tremendous work he has done in the Battalion.

Among our entertainments a soccer match was played against a local German gasthaus, which everyone enjoyed. A disco was laid on after the match by kind permission of Cpl. 'Jimmy' Wright. The Tramps Night was a success, with nearly everyone dressing up for the occasion.

We are all looking forward to this year's Christmas Draw for which we must thank Cpl. 'Derek' Butler and his committee for all the hard work they have put in to make this year's Draw even more a success than in previous years. Just for older and past members to read, the times have changed — this year the "star prize" being a car ! !

A final note is to say goodbye to all JNCOs who have left us, either on promotion, discharge or posting, and to welcome the new NCOs to the Mess.

RANDOM SHOTS

The 1980/81 season has been a particularly good one for smallbore shooting within the Regi-

ment. Firstly, it is with great pride that we record **Major Peter Martin's** success at Bisley, shooting his way in becoming the 1981 British Champion. The cups in the accompanying photograph are:

The Marquess of Salisbury Cup, for the Army Championship.

The Royal St. George Cup, for the English Match.

The Lord Roberts Cup, for the British Match.

If those are not enough, he has also retained the Wilkinson Sword for the Combined Services Championship. In May, he travelled to Mexico as a member of the Great Britain Team, and to North America in July as part of the Pershing Trophy Team for their match against the U.S.A.

His outstanding contribution to smallbore shooting over the years has now culminated in his selection as the Great Britain Team Captain in 1982. We are all confident that his success will continue unabated over the next few years.

It is difficult to follow that, yet the achievements within the battalion over the past year are encouraging.

Notable honours included: Runners Up in the BAOR Inter Unit Finals, (first were our arch rivals 25 Fd Regt RA, alias Royal Artillery Marksmanship Training Team). In fourth place came 1 DERR 'B'. Unfortunately our 'C' team did not qualify for the finals. We were also runners up in the BAOR Service Rifle Match, this time missing first place by only one point. In the Army Rifle Association Inter Unit Match, we were again second (25 Fd Regt RA being the winners). However, our 'B' team were placed sixth, this being particularly encouraging as we were the only unit to enter more than one team.

A very fine sunny weekend in June saw a good turn out from the battalion attend the BAOR



L/Cpl. Jackson (A Coy.) A member of the Battalion Bisley team.



Pte. Proctor (A Coy.) with trophies from 2 AMMD Div. SAA Meeting.

Open Championships at Sennelager; shooting shoulder to shoulder with a strong international contingent from England, Scotland, Wales, UKLF and US Forces Europe. This was the first time many of our younger shooters had attended such a meeting, and a lot of valuable experience was gained.

The weather was also particularly kind to us one day, towards the end of October, when, on what was certainly the only sunny day in the month, club members assembled on the Vorden ranges to the north of Osnabruck, to shoot in the Army Long Range Individual Match. The results are now with us, the overall winner being **Major Martin** (firing in the UK) Class, 5th **Major Tony Briard** (recently returned to the battalion), 1st Class: 1st **Lt. Terry Freelove**; 3rd **Major John Peters**; Tyro Class: 6th **LCpl. Gibbs**, 9th **Pte. Speck**, 10th **LCpl. Sutherland**, 11th **Sgt. Rose** and 13th **Sgt. Ravu**. More DERR members firing than any other Regiment or Corps.

Our efforts on the Anglo German, Dutch scene were more than amply rewarded on the 21st November when we sponsored a 'Mini International' in Mercer Barracks. The shooting in the morning (which we won) was followed in the evening by a most successful disco where many new friends were made, and with the hope of future visits to Holland to come.



Maj. West leads the Battalion shooting team to victory at the 2 ARMD. Div. S.A.A. Meeting.



Maj. Gen. Farndale presenting prizes at 2 ARMD. Div. S.A.A. Meeting to—L. to R. Lt. Freelove, Sgt. Ravu, Pte. Clay.

The interest in the sport continues with unabated momentum within the battalion. It is no longer the sole province of the older members, which is very encouraging, and augurs well for the future.

RUGBY

This season saw the departure of **Major Norman West** from our midst to Canada for a 2 year posting to train the Canadian Army how to play Rugby. We were sorry to see **Norman** go because he has done so much for the Rugby club that he has left a large void that we are still trying to fill. However the whole of the club wish him all the best in his new job.

Despite the loss of a great driving force we did very well in the Army cup reaching the BAOR quarter finals before finally losing 4 — 16 against 21 Engr Regt. In all we played 14 lost 4 and won 10 as follows:

1st XV Vs 2 Div. Fd Ambulance	3 - 11	L
2nd XV Vs Windsor boys school	28 - 3	W
1st XV Vs 73 Independant Fd Sqn. R.E.	44 - 3	W
1st/2nd Vs 15 Sqn. R.C.T. . .	28 - 3	W
2nd XV Vs 2 Div. Tpt. Regt. . .		L
1st XV Vs 12 Armd. Wksp . .	48 - 0	W
		Cup Match
1st/2nd XV Vs 12 Armd. Wksp.	47 - 6	W
1st XV Vs 8 Regt. R.C.T. . .	7 - 15	L

1st XV Vs KOSB	13 - 10	W
		Cup Match
1st XV Vs Javalins	30 - 4	W
1st XV Vs 2 Div. Tpt. Regt. . .	32 - 12	W
1st XV Vs Lubbecke layabouts	22 - 21	W
1st XV Vs 2 GREN. GDS	16 - 12	W
		Cup Match
1st XV Vs 21 Engr. Regt. . . .	4 - 16	L
		Cup Match

At the time of writing we are still only half way through this season and have about 12 more matches to play, including the 2 Div. final against 7 RHA.

This season has been a steady improvement on the last and will hopefully be the basis for a tremendous season before we return to Canterbury.

FOOTBALL

The season 1981/82 has seen quite a large change within the Battalion Team. The Battalion season started on 12th August 1981 with an inter-company league knock-out competition, with the aim of deciding the 1980/81 unfinished competition, talent spotting for the Battalion squad, and giving our officials the chance to prove themselves, with every game having the competitive edge of a Mini World Cup. After a hard fought contest the eventual winners being **A Company**, with prizes being presented by **Col. Comerford-Green**.



1 DERR Rugby Team.

From the inter-company competition a squad was formed, and on Saturday, 22nd August, 1981 took part in a "Friendly International Competition" played in Hengelo, Holland. Again the competition came down to the fittest and most skilful with the Battalion winning through to the Final, but unfortunately coming runners-up to a very good Dutch team.

The Battalion entered four competitions for the 1981/82 season, and to date remain in two of them, having been knocked out of the Army and 2 Div. Cup Competitions in the 2nd Round. This leaves the Infantry Cup and 2 Div. Major Units League. At present the team is second in the League having played nine, won five, lost three and drawn one. The Battalion Squad being: **LCpl. Dunn (Lad REME), Cpl. Taft (Capt.), LCpl. Earley, Dmr. Peake, Pte. Chaffe, Pte. Murtagh, Cpl. Truman, Pte. Smith, LCpl. Brown, Cpl. McGuire, Pte. Spence, Pte. Saunders, Pte. Humphries, Cpl. Kirkland** with occasional assistance from the old and bold i.e. **CSgt. 'Sporty' Mortimer, WO2 Bryant, CSgt. Cox and S/Sgt. Finch (APTC).**

This season will see a young team gain a lot of useful experience which will stand it in good stead for the future.

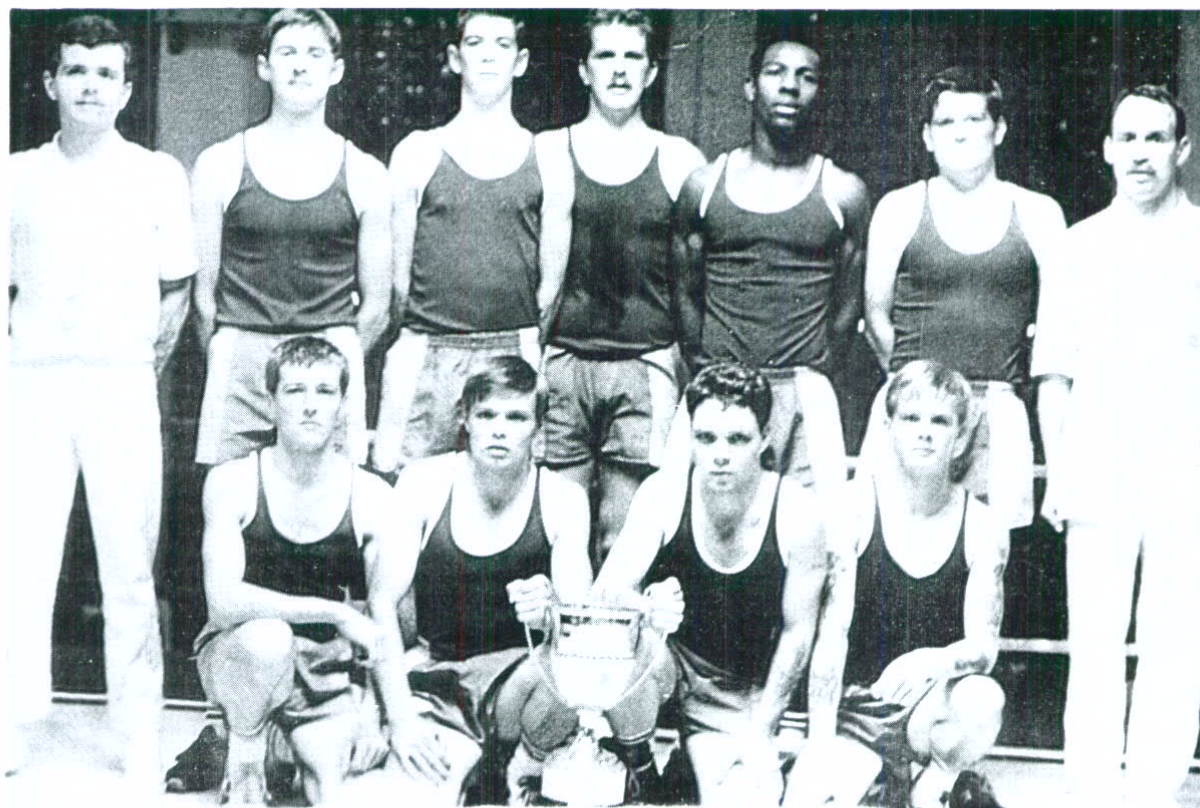
BOXING

It is with great pride that we continue to report on the achievements of our boxing squad. In the last edition of the Regimental Journal we reported up to and including our win against 5 INNIS DG in the 2nd Armoured Division Novice Boxing Quarter-Final. The remainder of the competition was as follows:—

2 Armd Div. Semi Final		
v 1 R HAMPS	5 - 4	W
2 Armd Div. Final		
v 1 GLOS	5 - 4	W
BAOR Semi Final		
v 1 RWF	7 - 2	W
BAOR Final v 26 Engr. Regt.	9 - 0	W
Army Final v 1 IRISH GD	5 - 4	L

A very successful season. The Battalion was 2 Armd Div. Champions, BAOR Champions and Army Runners Up.

We started the new season with every intention of doing as well as the previous season. The Inter-Company Boxing Competition was held on the 24th September 1981. The Trophy was won by C/SP Company. The individual winners and runners up were as follows:—



C/Sp. Coy — winners of the Inter Coy. Novice Boxing.

Bantam Pte Agustino 'D'
beat Pte Tollafield 'CSP'
Feather Pte. Vichery 'B'
beat Pte Jacobs 'CSP'
Lightweight Pte. Cook 'B'
beat Pte Smart 'HQ'
Lightwelter Cpl Tait 'D'
beat Pte Maxwell 'CSP'
Welter LCpl. Crawford 'B'
beat LCpl South 'D'
Light Middle Pte. Carpenter 'CSP'
beat Pte Davies 'B'
Middle Cpl. McIntyre 'A'
beat Pte Lealman 'B'
Light Heavy Pte. Ledgister 'CSP'
beat Pte Corns 'A'
Heavy LCpl. Brannigan 'CSP'
beat Pte Coombe 'HQ'

The Boxing Officer entered two competitions for the year 81-82. It was necessary for **WO2 Mehrlich** to select additional potential to bolster the Boxing Squad so that the tried and tested could represent us in the Intermediate Competition, with the new blood being trained to defend the Novice Championships. The full squad being as follows:—

Boxing Squad

Pte. Agustino 'D'
Pte. Tindall 'B'
Pte. Tollafield 'CSP'
LCpl. Tollafield 'CSP'
Pte. Etheridge 'CSP'
Pte. Barraclough 'D'
Pte. Cook 'B'
Pte. Goodway 'B'
LCpl. Crawford 'B'
LCpl. Edgar 'CSP'
Pte. Bryan 'D'
Pte. Lynch 'B'
Pte. Davies 'B'
Pte. Barnes 'B'
Pte. Carpenter 'CSP'
Pte. Ledgister 'CSP'
Pte. Maxwell 'CSP'
Cfn Theunissen 'LAD/HQ'
Pte. Coombs 'HQ'
Pte. Chaffe 'B'
Pte. Bastin 'A'
Cpl. Hillsdon 'D'
Pte. Avery 'C'
WO2 P. Mehrlich Coach and Trainer
WO2 (SQMS) N. Warke Assistant Trainer

In the Novice Competition we received a bye for the preliminary round and then met 1LI at the Quarter-Final Stage. This proved to be a very hard match with 1LI being as strong as any team

that we met in the previous year, however we eventually won through with a final result of 5 — 4.

In the Semi Finals we were drawn against 25 Engineer Regiment (who are residents at Osnabruck). The match took place on 18th January, 1982. Unfortunately we lost 5 — 4 which on reflection appears to be a fair result. However we feel that by being knocked out at that stage we will be able to do better in the same competition next year.

As far as the Intermediate Competition is concerned there are only two teams entered for the BAOR stage. Ourselves and 2 RRF, who are stationed in Berlin. The venue for this event will be Osnabruck on the 12th February, 1982. An account of this match will be given in the next issue of the Journal.

The finale to our season will be the Novice Open Championships (Individuals) which will be held in Berlin on 22nd to 26th March, 1982. Here all of our Boxers will strive to become a BAOR Individual Champion.

I am sure everyone in the Battalion wishes them every success. They have been and are a credit to the Regiment.

HOCKEY

The last edition of the journal covered the first half of the 1980-81 Hockey season and the impression given was that the spirit was willing whilst the flesh was weak. I think that the following account will show that is not the case.

The Battalion had entered the 2 Armoured Division Cross Keys League. With eleven other major units in the league the team was assured of a maximum twenty two fixtures. As it transpired the team ended the league having played 18 matches winning 13, drawing 1 and losing 4. Our final position was third.

In the Army Cup the Battalion was drawn firstly against 27 Fd Regt. RA. On a sloping pitch the Battalion quickly opened the score line with a penalty goal, and by half time were 2-0 up. With 5 minutes to go the Battalion were leading 4-2, when sudden lack of concentration gave away 2 quick goals. However in extra time the team scored a further 3 goals to finally win 7-4.

The next round of the Army Cup was also the Divisional Final and we were drawn against our Bete Noir team, 2 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment. In a close hard fought game in which the lead changed twice, the Battalion lost 3-1. However, as Divisional Finalist we qualified for the next stage of the Army Cup, our opponents were to be the current Army Champions,



Infantry Cup BAOR v UK winners. WO2 Fedrick taking a free near 2 R. Anglian goal.

5 Heavy Regiment RA. Regrettably the date we offered as a fixture was initially accepted and then turned down and their date coincided with the major exercise training period for BATUS. The impasse was eventually resolved with the Battalion ceding the match as it did not feel justified in playing the match with a very depleted team. 5 Heavy Regiment went on to retain the Army Cup.

In the Infantry Cup the Battalion had a more

successful run, although the administrative arrangements were often fraught with difficulties. In the 1st Round the Battalion played 1 Glosters and won 4-0. In the first 20 mins the Battalion played excellent hockey and it would be fair to say that few teams could have lived against us during that period. The next round opponents were 1 RHF and although the Battalion were the better side we scraped through with a 1-0 win, and that goal was scored from a penalty stroke.

In the BOAR Final the Battalion was drawn against 1 BW and again although playing well we had to come from behind to level the score 1-1 and then rely on extra time to win 2-1.

For only the second time the BAOR winners of the Infantry Cup played the UK winners to produce the overall Infantry Champions. We travelled to N. Ireland to play 2 R Anglian, on a shale pitch. In a warm up match the day before the final we beat the Brigade and Signal Squadron team 5-0. However the final was a different story. The Anglians scored in the first half, and despite continuous pressure in the second half by the Battalion they maintained their lead, and with a few minutes left scored a second goal to run out winners by 2-0.

The season ended in July with that final, and at the time of writing the Battalion has just



Winners of the BAOR Infantry Hockey Cup 1981. WO1 (RSM) S. J. Venue; Sgt. Waters; Cpl. Giddy; C/Sgt. Mortimer; Sgt Chapman; Capt. J. Silvester; Maj. C. Parslow; Pte. Clucas; Sgt. Gardner; WO2 Fedrick; Lt. Col. G. Coxon MBE; Sgt. Shervington; Lt. J. Edmonds; Cpl. Shinnick.

finished the inter Coy Competition with D Company winning. As the new season starts we now have two teams in the Cross Keys League and hope for further success.

Colours were awarded to **Majors Cornwell, Parslow, Capt. Silvester, Lt. Edmonds, WO2 Fedricks, C/Sgts. Gardner, Chapman, Waters, Cpl. Giddy and Pte. Clucas.** Also playing throughout the season were **2Lt. Higgs, Sgts. Carpenter, Shervington, Cpl. Shinnick, Ptes. Ward and Begley.** **STOP PRESS** The Battalion Hockey team have reached the 3rd Round of the 1981-82 Army Major Unit Competition. During this period of the season with many players away on courses and attending important internal cadres, the current success is due to having a depth of experienced players and keen youngsters. Among those who have been instrumental in the current season success are newcomers to the Hockey scene. **Ptes. Fisher and White 66, LCpl. Anthony (RAPC) and Tuckwell** and one experienced "golden oldie" who has shown us how it should be done — **Lt. Col. G. Coxon, M.B.E.**



"Sorry Colonel—Capt. Walker is not playing today"

1 DERR HARRIERS — CROSS COUNTRY

Masochists or unsung heroes? Who really knows? In any case a certain band of dedicated Cross Country runners slogged their way from September 80 through to April 81 across mud, track, forests, streams, fields and hills. The scenery changed each time as this was the Westphalia League, and various units had volunteered to 'sponsor' the event, thus devising their own devilish course. The League was a friendly competition, open, as the name implies, to any military major and minor unit in the 'Laude'. It was surprising how many units did participate, with some managing, like us, to produce two full teams.

It would not be exactly truthful to say a good time was had by all! That really is the last thing associated with this particular sport. (Perhaps our

runners are masochists after all). Nevertheless in the series of 8 races throughout the 80/81 Season, 1 DERR ran the lot with two teams, and individuals.

Of the 8 races, the best 6 counted towards the final position of the unit overall. With consistent running on the part of the Farmer's Boys (and despite the fact that the Ski Team had stolen a lot of talent for the majority of the season) the Battalion 'A' Team came a good second to 7RHA, beating a serious challenge from 25 Engr Regt. About 10 other major units and 6 minor 'also ran'.

As a result of their hard work and repeated attendance as well as good performance, the CO presented the following with Cross Country Colours, Season 80/81:—

L/Cpl. Smith	Pte. Burgess
Cpl. McIntyre	Pte. Davies 02
Pte. Knight	Pte. Poolman
Cpl. Vincent	Sgt. Traveller
L/Cpl. Scott	C. Drake

The following achieved $\frac{1}{2}$ Colour status:—

Pte. Pullen	L/Cpl. Davies
Pte. Clay	L/Cpl. Dicker
Sgt. Porter	L/Cpl. Wardell

"We're Harriers, Harriers, we run and run while people stand and stare"

"We're Harriers, Harriers, we don't know where we're going and we don't care!"

The Harriers Song.



Cpl. Hawkins, BEM, The Bn signwriter outside the restaurant which bears his name in recognition of the work he did on the room.

SKIING FROM ANDERMATT IN SWITZERLAND

The results of the 1980/81 Skiing were rushed to the journal editor in February and were in time for printing. I hope that that will be the case this year, and that the results will be even better. Battalion Officers are asked to submit notes on their sports teams by early December, which is always difficult for skiing as nothing is yet finalised and the last year seems so much like history. I therefore thought I would write about the training and build up to the skiing competition, and send the results in later.

The aim of the ski team this year, 1981/82 is to enter the Princess Marina Competition by getting a Langlauf and Downhill team qualified for the Army Ski Meeting, and to enter a novice team at the 2 Armd Division Meeting. To qualify for the Marina, and also to be in the running for the Infantry Cup, the team must have several elements. On the Langlauf side, the team must participate in four events: a 10 Km relay; a 15 Km race with 3 members to count; a 20 Km Patrol race which is done in a white uniform carrying weapons and packs, and firing on the range; and a 3 man biathlon team relay race, each man doing 7.5 Km and shooting twice. On the downhill side, a team of four must participate in two Slalom races, one Giant Slalom and the Downhill itself. At divisional level, the best 6 Langlauf teams can go forward to the army event, while on the downhill side each team needs to get its members within 120% of the race winners time, in order to go to the Army meeting. With an average speed of 70 mph in the downhill, this is no small achievement.

Training to reach these very high standards in a sport which is very closely contested in the Army, begins early. Fitness for all team members is vital. This year as soon as Ex. Red Claymore



Langlauf training. L. to R. Pte. Knight, L/Cpl. Harris and L/Cpl. Dicker.



Ski team at Andermatt. L. to R. Cpl. Ball, L/Cpl. Sanderson, Pte. West.

was finished in the middle of October, the team started to train. This concentrated training centred on running, weight training, shooting and roller-skiing. The latter is the nearest training aid to Langlauf skiing without snow, and consists of a short ski with small wheels on it. The RSM was delighted to see them being used on his square. At the same time the basic administration of a two month expedition must be carried out. Two Landrovers and trailers are civilianised, food and equipment assembled, passports and banks sorted out for the soldiers.

On the 20th November the whole team went to Andermatt in Switzerland. Here the snow is generally good. This year was no exception. The snow in the valley is quite sufficient for the Langlaufers, and high on the glacier there is plenty of snow for the downhillers. We share the village with the Gunners, who run a course for over 130 soldiers. This provides us with some healthy rivalry, and the opportunity to join their races. We have our own Langlauf instructor, Joe Hohl, who taught us last year. He is invaluable. Unfortunately, this year he has injured his shoulder, so he arranged another instructor for a week or so. The downhill instructor Chris, is an improvement on last year. His English is better, and he is a much fitter and harder man, who works us hard, but intelligently. At the time of writing, there is room for cautious optimism. The old hands like **Lt. Tomlinson** **Cpl. Smith**, **L/Cpl. Dicker** and **Pte. Clay** are skiing well; in the first race they were all in the first 7 places of the Gunner race, while our novices did equally well in their novice race after only one week on snow. Three novices are here now; **L/Cpl. Harris**, **Ptes. Knight** and **Crockford**. They will be joined later by **Sgt. Porter**, **Pte. Balser**, who skied for the battalion two years ago, has rejoined the team to give competition to the old hands. The downhillers are skiing well, but

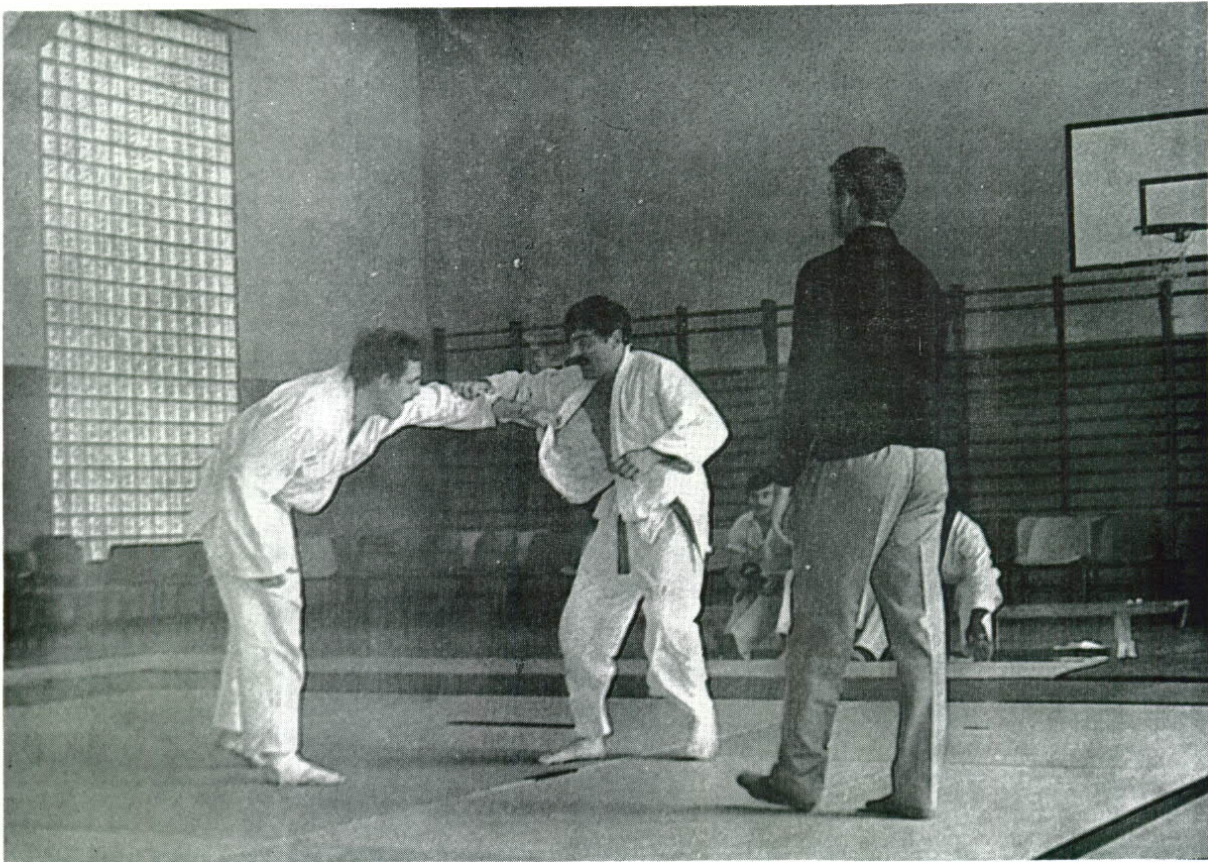
that is not enough. They are concentrating on work through Slalom poles which is quite different, presenting its own challenge. **Capt. Franklin, Cpl. Ball** and **L/Cpl. Sanderson** have all raced before; **Pte. West** has joined the team for the first time and is doing well. Shortly **Lt. Edmonds** will join them, making five downhillers.

The Langlauf team stays in Andermatt only until Christmas, by which time the snow should have arrived in Ruhpolding, Bavaria. There they can make use of the World Biathlon Centre, with its excellent Langlauf course and shooting ranges. The downhillers stay in Andermatt where, despite the Christmas tourists, good training is possible. By the 13th January, the whole team is together in a large self catering flat in Ruhpolding for the start of the divisional meeting.

The life of the ski team in Andermatt is difficult to describe. On the one hand it is glamorous. Certainly the village is beautiful, the mountains are huge and magnificent with their new covering of snow. All the roads in the village are white, no attempt is made to clear them; and it is possible to ski to the shops. However, the village has the empty tourist area feeling. With-

out the army here, it would remain empty until before Christmas, apart from the weekend visitors. On the other hand, the life is one of a fitness camp during the day, and of soldiers who believe apres ski at night is important, but are too tired to do much about it. The downhillers start the day early, cooking breakfast, preparing skis, and catching the early cable car to the slopes. They return to the flat for lunch, and ski again in the afternoon until perhaps four-thirty. For the Langlaufers, the day is perhaps shorter, but they expend vast quantities of energy during morning and afternoon training that might cover 30 or 35 Km distance. Cooking in the flats is done on a rota system, with the duty person having to buy and cook the food after work is done; most amusing, if not disastrous with the inexperienced.

So far this year the weather has been kind. We have enough snow. The weather has been sunny and cold — temperatures of -20 to 25 on the glacier — yet we have had the odd night of new snow. Visibility has been good. Our training and fitness has proved our greatest asset. Technique is improving, and our morale is high. We look forward to the weeks, and the competitions ahead.



Inter Coy. Judo — Pte. Dick and L/Cpl. Flay.



Children's Christmas Party.



Santa (L/Cpl. Fitzgerald) at the Children's Christmas Party.



Marlborough Schoolboys' visit to the Battalion.

THE DEPOT, LICHFIELD

Despite savage cutbacks in Adult and Junior Soldier recruiting the Depot at Lichfield is still here and moreover the substantial DERR contingent is working harder than ever.

Training Company has suffered badly. At present there are no adult platoons under training and the next intake is due to arrive in April 82. Happily the zealous DERR contingent have found other interesting jobs to do. **Sgt. Batty, Cpl. Evans, Cpl. Reading and Cpl. Tait** are all tearing their hair out trying to instruct numerous T.A. Cadres. **Sgt. Allen** is heavily involved with the P.O. platoon (alas no Duke of Edinburgh's). Training Company has also lost **Maj. Bill Holmes** who at the time of writing should safely be back with the Bn. We wish him well.

Junior Soldiers Company under the patient command of **Maj. Adam Westlake** is still churning out the goods — but at a reduced rate. With the arrival of **Capt. Bowkett, Lt. Rylands and Cpl. Herbert** the DERR contingent in the Company is strong. **Cpl. Maine** is still running the Coy Office, **Cpl. Probets** helping in the External Leadership Wing and **Cpl. Smith** 'tootin and floatin' in the Drums. Unfortunately we lose **Maj.**

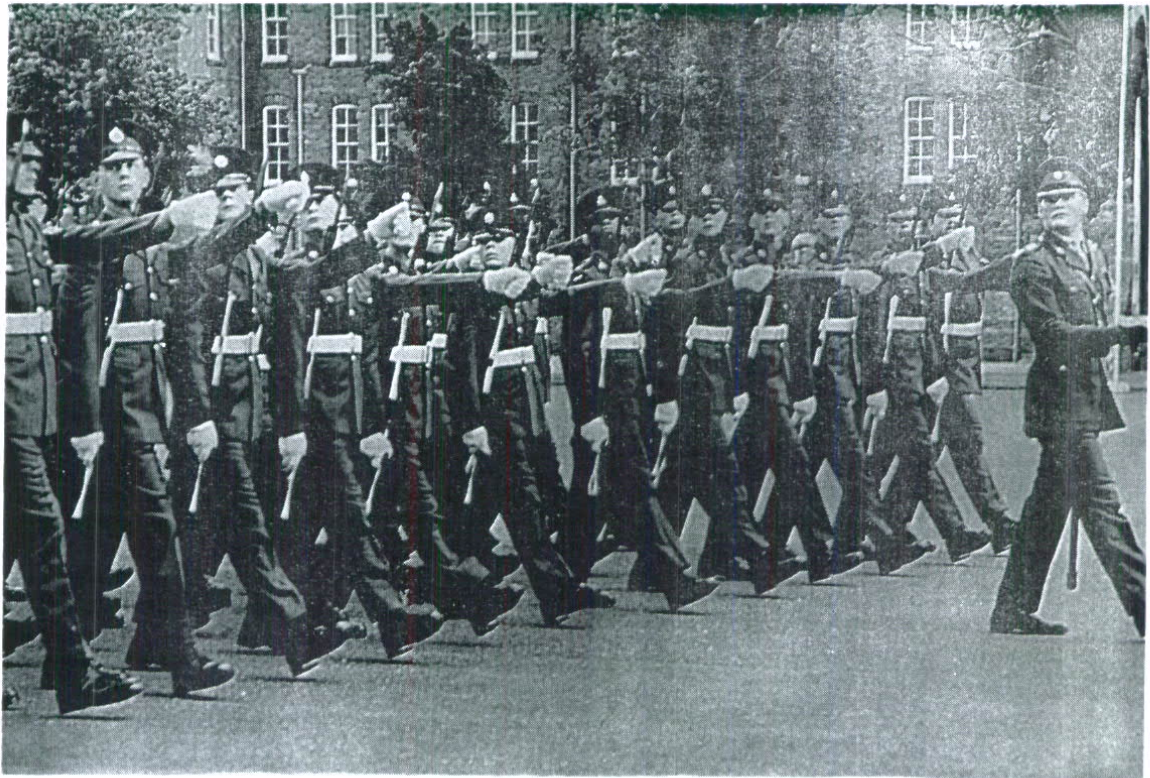
Westlake in April to the Bn. We wish him and Trish all the best in Germany.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year for J.S. Company was the Colonel in Chief's visit on June 6th to take the Passing Out Parade of Alamein Platoon under **Lt. 'Russ' Wardle**. **JCPL. Barraclough** was presented with the Gale Cup awarded to the most outstanding Junior Soldier of the intake while **JCPL Hayward** won the most improved Junior Soldier of the intake. **JCPL Keegan** and **JPTE Gallop** also did well winning the P.T. Certificate and the SLR plaque respectively.

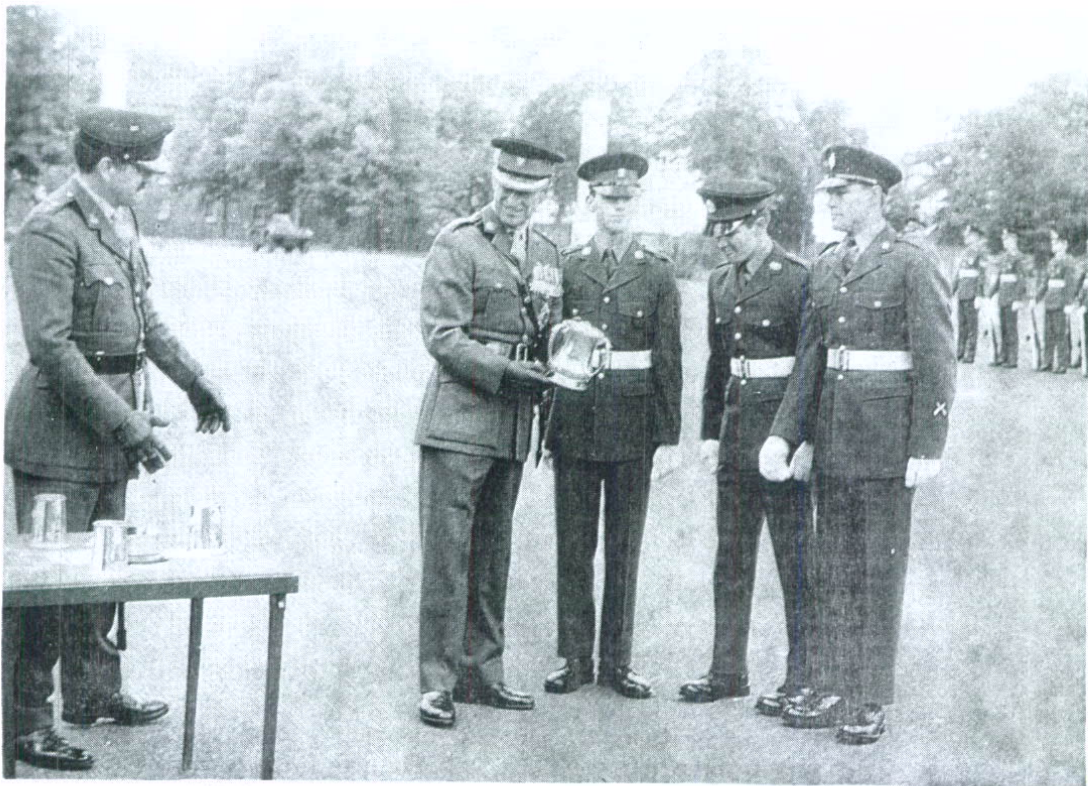
The permanent staff are flourishing. We welcome **Sgt. Batty, Cpl. Reading, Cpl. Herbert, Cpl. Essery, Cpl. Probets** and **L/Cpl. Edwards** and say farewell to **Sgt. Coyle, Cpl. 'Paddy' Kendrick, Cpl. Arnold, Cpl. Taylor, Cpl. Tait** and **Cpl. Kew** all of whom are now back with the Bn.

We congratulate **WO1 'Doug' Bailey** on his promotion and wish him all the best as **RSM 1 MERCIAN**.

In HQ Company we have a finger in every pie **L/Cpl. Hickman** is still producing poetry in Depot HQ, **Cpl. Fern** is gathering cobwebs in the Coy



Lt. Wardle leading Alamein Platoon on the March Past on 6th June.



L/Cpl. Barralough receives the Gale Cup from the Colonel-in-Chief.

Office while **Maj. Martin** and **CSgt. Hollister** with the help of **Cpl. Knowles** run the Q side of life. **Sgt. Heal** is now happily installed in the M.T. and **Cpl. Holmes** and **L/Cpl. Smith** beat the boys in the Gym and Guardroom respectively.

On the sporting front the DERR P.S. do especially well **Cpls. Reading, Parks, Holmes** and **L/Cpl. Edwards** represent the Depot at rugby while **Cpl. Owens** and **Cpl. Tait** perform on the football pitch. **Lt. Rylands** and **L/Cpl. Hickman** both play

hockey for the Depot and **CSgt. Hollister** is the mainstay of the Sgts. Mess Darts Team.

Maj. Peter Martin continues to compete in world class small bore competitions which drag him all over the world. He is also passing on his considerable expertise to the Adult and Junior Shooting teams.

All of us here wish the Bn the best of luck for their last year in Germany. We look forward to having you back in England's Green and Pleasant Land in 1983.

THE REGIMENTAL LIAISON TEAM

The Regimental Liaison Team, for those who do not realise it, is still very much in existence and working extremely hard at Prince Maurice Barracks, Devizes, Wiltshire. Since our last notes, the Team has remained in high spirits having had a very demanding Summer. It has put at least 5 years on the Team, with **Sgt. Geoff Williams** suffering worst (or so he keeps getting told). The summer started wet with the Melksham Meccari suffering badly, even **Fred Wedlock**, who opened the show, was never seen without his size "10" wellies on. The weather slowly got better as the summer went on.

Mini KAPE 26th June — 11th July Originally the Battalion had arranged to do the KAPE (Keep the Army in the Public Eye) but for fuel reasons it had to be cancelled. So the RLT took on the KAPE. We realised the task ahead was by no means an easy one with only 5 members on the Team, **Sgt. Geoff Williams**, **L/Cpl. John Stevens**, **L/Cpl. Steve Hall**, **L/Cpl. John Burgess** and **L/Cpl. Martin Hayter**. It was a matter of visiting schools in the morning, putting up a Team Display in the afternoon and then visiting ACF Detachments in the evenings, then moving on to the next Town or village, travelling throughout Berkshire and Wiltshire. We also filled the weekends by doing two school fetes. It was a successful KAPE with public relations very high throughout the two counties. The Team also received some very good reports for their work and efforts. None of this would have been possible if we had not been able to borrow a Land Rover from 10 Ord Sp Bn, Many thanks.

Late July and August Saw us go on to both ACF camps at Penhale and Weymouth. Great help was given to the cadets by the Team, especially on up-to-date information on the Battalion, and on modern weapons. We finished the summer with a few more shows. During November two members of the Team visited the Battalion in Germany to get some up-to-date photographs for our Data Board and also more information about the Battalion's past year.

Winter Period The winter is spent mainly on school visits and ACF visits in both counties, and also on refurbishing equipment for the 1982 season. The Team also carry out courses in the winter season, with **Sgt. Williams** very much into the Adventure Training side of life, with a very good pass in his Rock Leaders Course and also a Skiing Course. **L/Cpl. Stevens** completed a Methods of Instruction with a good pass, and later a Map Reading Instructors Course achieving an "A" grade.

The Team for 1982 will be: **Sgt. Williams**, **L/Cpl. John Stevens** 2i/c, **L/Cpl. Eddie Gallagher**, **L/Cpl. Peter Edgar** and one more person from the Battalion. The Team now look forward to the summer season which looks to be a busy one with firm bookings already made.

A note here for any member of the Battalion, if when on leave you become bored, why not go along to the nearest Cadet Unit and offer your help? They would look forward to being updated on news of the Regiment's activities.

MISCELLANY

THE STORY OF THE WARDROBE BY COLONEL K. G. COMERFORD-GREEN C.B.E.

(This is an edited version of the text which has been written for the Regimental archives.—Editor)

The story began in 1971 when the Regiment was informed by the MOD that Amalgamated Regiments which had their RHQ and Museum split between two locations were to co-locate in one place. Shortly afterwards we heard the news that part of Brock Barracks, including the Keep which housed The Royal Berkshire Regiment Museum was to be sold. The Museum at Le Marchant Barracks was too small to house both the former Regiments' collections and being off the beaten tourist track it did not attract a large number of visitors. The Regiment had two alternatives, either to put the RHQ and the Museum Collections together in a new location or to arrange for one of the collections to be cared for by a public or military museum in one of the counties. The latter course proved unworkable and it was decided to concentrate on trying to find a suitable new location. After much deliberation and consultation by the Regimental Committee it was agreed to look in Salisbury, a Cathedral City with an established tourist industry and thus considerable visitor potential for the Museum. Several sites were looked at, but eventually it was agreed to return to the first building which was considered, The Wardrobe in the Cathedral Close. This was in an ideal position but had initially been ruled out because of its state of disrepair. It was decided to obtain an estimate of the cost of restoring and converting the building for use as a RHQ and Museum. The estimate was high (however it proved to be only half of the ultimate cost) and the Ministry of Defence refused to take it on because of the building's "deplorable condition". An approach was made by the Regiment to the Landmark Trust to see if they could help and following an offer of a £50,000 grant by the Trust in return for a self contained flat within the building and the likelihood that another grant may be forthcoming from the Historic Buildings Council, the possibility of the Regiment itself acquiring the property was seriously considered.

An architect, **Mr. Brakspear**, a wartime officer in the Wiltshire Regiment was commissioned to make a survey of the building and following his favourable report it was decided to approach the Dean and Chapter to negotiate a lease. This was

eventually agreed on a basis of 99 years at a rent of £200 per annum. The MOD was then approached again and agreed in principle that if the Regiment acquired the property they would undertake the responsibility for staffing, servicing and the provision of showcases for the Museum.

When the Historic Buildings Council confirmed that they would make a grant towards the repair of the building, the Regimental Committee decided to make an appeal to Members of the Regiment for financial support to see whether there was a possibility of making up the shortfall between the two grants and the quoted estimate of costs. The Appeal went out and the Wardrobe Holding Charity Appeal Trust was set up to collect and administer donations. Meanwhile arrangements went ahead to acquire and repair the property. The lease was signed and applications for tenders for the repair work requested. Eventually the Wardrobe Trustees accepted the tender from Rush and Tompkins Ltd. Work finally started on the Wardrobe on 2nd July, 1979 with an estimate of completion of just under one year. Although the response to the appeal by Members of the Regiment was encouraging it was apparent that there would still be a shortfall in the total amount of money required and it was agreed to enlarge the Appeal to take in the two Counties and the OCAs of the two former Regiments.

The Colonel of the Regiment launched the Public Appeal in the two Counties in November 1979 having obtained the patronage of the Colonel-in-Chief and the support as Joint Presidents of the Lord Lieutenant of each county. Although he travelled extensively in the two county's meeting the Mayors and the Chairmen of Councils to enlist their support. The overall result was disappointing. At the same time new financial problems were arising as the building work progressed. Inflation was worse than allowed for in the estimate, VAT had been doubled and costs were rising at some 2% per month. The problems were such that serious consideration was given by the Trustees to abandon the project, but the Colonel of the Regiment's view that the work should proceed prevailed.

A second Appeal was made to Members of the Regiment and to others who might help. Slowly more money came in and the 1st Battalion in particular were very active in raising funds by sponsored activities and other means and played a large part in keeping the project going. Work was finally finished on the Wardrobe in October 1980 and the RHQ installed itself in its new

offices but a fresh problem now arose, the provision of showcases for the Museum. Although the MOD had agreed to provide the officials concerned seemed dubious that the Regiment had actually restored and repaired the Wardrobe to the necessary standards and started to drag their heels. It took a personal appeal by the Colonel of the Regiment to the Director of Personnel Services for approval to be given in January 1981. The showcases arrived in May and **Mr. Milner**, who was to lay out the collection started work. The results of his hard work and skill now remain for everyone to see and were endorsed by the first visitors to the Museum when it opened to the public for the first time on the 18th July, 1981.

As you will see by the statement of the accounts published elsewhere in this Journal we are not out of the wood yet and we still have substantial liabilities to clear in the next two or three years. We hope to achieve this by the support of the public visiting the Museum and the continuing financial support of the Members of the Regiment.

Three extracts from a book kept in the Land-

mark Trust Flat for comments by their visitors are a fitting conclusion to this story: "What an excellent job has been done on the building . . ." "to be able to live in the Cathedral Close in Salisbury, even for a short time, is an immense privilege . . ." "The Wardrobe is superb."

FROM THE REGIMENTAL ARCHIVES

An extract taken from the official Historical Record of the 66th (Berkshire Regiment).

"Of its early history there remains little information, the records of the Regiment having been chiefly destroyed or lost in the evacuation of ST DOMINGO 1796."

ST DOMINGO 1796-97

A list of names of Officers and numbers of non-commissioned officers and privates of the 66th Regiment that died since landing in St. Domingo from February 1796 to February 1797 (the high mortality rate being mainly due to an epidemic of Yellow Fever).

Month	Officer's Name	Number of men
Feb. 1796	—	3
Mar.	Brevet Maj. Barville Surgeon William Long, Brevet Maj. Gabbett	13
Apr.	Capt. LT. Long, Lt. Peach, Lt. Simms Lt. Swainson Ensign Ward	100
May	Lt. Arbuckle Surgeon Lauder	174
Jun.	Capt. Lipzert	162
Jul.	Lt. Best	40
Aug.	Capt. Riche Gabbett	23
Sep.	—	34
Oct.	—	34
Nov.	—	31
Dec.	Lt. Riche Harrison	28
Jan. 1797	Acting Ensign Carr	37
Feb.	—	11
Total	15 Officers	690

Signed **D. Gun, Adjt.**

"Of the Services of the Corps during the two and a half years which it stayed in occupied St. Domingo no records remain. From the fatiguing and harrasing nature of the warfare in that unhealthy island their exertions, privations and losses must have been great."

6th September, 1798

GENERAL ORDER ON THE EVACUATION OF ST. DOMINGO

"The **Hon. Brig. George Maitland** in the General Order of the 31st of last month having so properly noticed the admirable conduct of the

officers, puts it out of the power of **Brigadier General Spencer** to denote what his sentiments are on this occasion, but he is happy in having it in his power to make some recompense to the Non Commissioned Officers, Drummers and Privates of The Royal Artillery and British Regiments as a mark of his appreciation of their soldier like behaviour during a long and fatiguing service. He therefore has directed that a shirt and a pair of shoes to be delivered to each man including those in hospital."

BADSHAR MIR

An Afghan account of Maiwand

The following account is taken from Volume I Issue No 8 of The China Dragon (The Chronicle of The Royal Berkshire Regiment) August 1907. The Chronicle, the forerunner of the present Regimental Journal, then cost "twopence". The interview took place four years earlier in 1903 and only twenty-three years after the Battle.

It is not often that a man enlists in a regiment which he has helped to drive off the field of battle, yet such was the experience of Badshar Mir; and the story of his adventures came to my ears in this wise.

A few years ago I was stationed in Hyderabad, Sind, with three companies of my regiment; and I used to while away an hour or two of "the long, long Indian day" by trying to learn Persian. The native regiment which was quartered there at the time was one of the finest in the Indian Army; and as they consisted entirely of Mohammedans from the North of India, it occurred to me that perhaps some of them might be able to speak Persian. I accordingly approached the Adjutant on the subject with the result that, on the following day, **Badshar Mir** called at my bungalow.

He was an elderly man, with an eagle face and a soft, gentle voice. I asked him how it was that he could speak Persian. "Why should I not speak Persian?" he said quietly. "I am a Durani, and I came from Kabul."

"From Kabul?" I repeated. "Then why are you not in the service of the Amir?"

"So I was — for twelve years" he said, "but I ran away from Afghanistan."

"Have you ever been to war?" I asked. "Yes", he replied, "I fought with **Ayub Khan**. See where I was wounded," he continued, showing me a big scar on his leg.

The punkah was swinging monotonously, and the drone of **Badshar Mir's** voice had nearly sent me off to sleep; but at the sound of the name of **Ayub Khan**, I was instantly galvanised into life.

"Tell me all about it," I said hastily.

"When the war began," he continued, "I joined **Ayub Khan**. I was one of his orderlies. There was a great battle. It began late in the morning when the sun was high. It was a very hot day. There was a great slaughter. I killed some myself. **Ayub Khan** had beautiful guns, you could hit a two-anna piece with them. He captured some guns from the English, and some flags too. We took a few prisoners but I think they were all let go. I was told that one died. We had many killed, but we won; and after the battle we went to loot the English camp. We did not find much. The next day I went off to Herat. I was a young man at the time. I do not know how old I was, but my beard was beginning to grow."

"How many soldiers had **Ayub Khan** with him?" I asked.

"There were about 6000 in the force I was with and there were two others just like it," he added.

"The English call that battle by the name of Maiwand," I remarked, "and it was fought twenty-three years ago. If your beard was just beginning to grow then, you must have been about sixteen; so you are now thirty-nine years old."

He seemed delighted at learning his age.

"The regiment you are now serving in," I went on, "fought against you in that battle."

He started with surprise.

"Will you ever go back to your country?" I enquired.

"No" he replied; "If I go back, they will kill me."

Badshah Mir then took leave of me; and as soon as the door had closed behind him I began to write down all I could remember of this interesting conversation. His account of the battle was wonderfully correct. The statements that the Afghans lost heavily and that after the battle they went off to loot the English camp perhaps will explain why the remnants of **General Burrow's** force were not more hotly pursued. He assesses **Ayub Khan's** army at 18,000 men. The prisoner who "died" was no doubt **Lieutenant Maclaine** who was murdered outside **Ayub Khan's** tent.

It is curious to note that although **Badshar Mir** had been in his present regiment for some years, he had no idea they had been at Maiwand. This is the more astonishing because there were still serving in it one or two of those who had taken part in the battle, who had been, fortunate enough to escape with their lives.

C.C.R.M.

"THE NEW ZEALAND WARS"

by Capt. S. A. Durant

A unique memorial pillar in Tasmania is dedicated to men of the British forces, who fell in the New Zealand land wars of the last century.

As well as being an imposing piece of architecture, this memorial is unique in the Australian (and probably New Zealand) context. It is the only one of its type erected in Australia by a British regiment to commemorate those men of the regiment killed on active service in the land wars of 1845-46.

I wonder if there is in New Zealand a memorial to British soldiers who fought in these wars?

The pillar is an excellent example of early Victorian style, done in local freestone. It is set in a neat lawn which is part of the ancient (for Tasmania) Anglesea Barracks, headquarters of the Australian military forces in that state.

The site of the barracks was chosen by **Governor Lachlan Macquarie** in 1811 well before Waterloo, and is easily the oldest military establishment in Australia still occupied by the Army.

Of course, the place was known then as Van Diemen's Land, and the site chosen was on a small hill about a mile south-west of Hobart town — still known as Barrack Hill. Records show that the barracks were partially completed and occupied by 1818, the foundation stone being laid by the **Lieutenant-Governor, Thomas Davey** of the Royal Marines, in August 1814.

The British regiment, the 99th of Foot, was sent out to New South Wales in 1842, and had only been there three years when the first of the New Zealand land wars broke out in 1845. The regiment was later stationed in Hobart from 1848 to 1856, during which period this monument was erected.

"The wars", says the Australian Encyclopedia, "were a series of campaigns fought by imperial and colonial troops against various combinations of Maori tribes in the North Island between 1845 and 1872.

"The basic cause of the wars was the justified fear of white encroachments on Maori land. The tribes were a highly developed people, tilling land for exportable crops, running flour mills, and owning trading vessels. They wanted to govern the land for themselves, and resisted the selling of land to Europeans.

"The first serious outbreak involving the British 99th Regiment occurred in 1845, before the Maori king movement and land agitation disturbed the peace of the central Waikato provinces. **Hone Heke**, a northern chief, raided Russell in the Bay

of Islands, defeating reinforcements sent from Auckland, and forced troops and settlers to evacuate the area.

"Imperial troops were rushed across from Australia and the New Zealand authorities raised a local militia. The arrival of **Captain George Grey** as the new Governor speeded up the campaign and forced Heke to sue for peace."

A record of the 99th Regiment states that the men who took part in the storming of Heke's pa and compound were a combined English force of 600. This action was a failure, as half of the storming lead party of 200 were struck down without a breach being made in the palisade. The men of the 99th to whose memory this monument was erected died in this attack.

A model of this pa is in the Hobart museum. The 99th, with other troops, fought with such determination and gallantry that they received high praise from the Commander-in-Chief, and the Governor of New Zealand was also generous in his thanks.

The regiment fought in other conflicts with the Maoris, including a strenuous engagement at Ruapekapeka in 1846. For its services in the campaigns it was awarded the Battle Honour of New Zealand. The medal for the land wars was not awarded until 23 years later.

Only 48 recipients of the medal are recorded in the annals of the Wiltshire Regiment — successors to the 99th.

The memorial pillar was erected from money raised by voluntary subscriptions from officers and men of the regiment, to perpetuate the memory of their comrades killed in these campaigns. It is 12 metres (40 ft) high and was completed in 1850.

Its existence is still remembered in the United Kingdom, though the 99th left Hobart for service in India in 1856. To mark the centenary of the monument erection, an officer of the Wiltshire Regiment came out from England in 1950 to affix a plaque to the memorial, to signify that the men still remembered the services of their predecessors in Tasmania and New Zealand. Fittingly, the plaque was installed at Armistice time, 1950.

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE BY BRIGADIER AND MRS. G. WORT 10th SEPTEMBER — 29th DECEMBER, 1981

Brigadier and Mrs. Wort visited Australia and Singapore from 10th September — 29th December during which they visited places in both countries which had Regimental associations. Whilst in Melbourne, Australia they met up with **Mike**



Brigadier George Wort presenting a Regimentsal Plaque to Col. Gair.

and **Syliva Chivers** and **Tom Gibson**. During their trip they used 14 aircraft, drove 12,300 Kms and crossed Australia from Sydney to Perth by train. The following notes on their visits to Anglesea Barracks Hobart, Gladstone Queensland, Victoria Barracks Sydney and Tanglin Barracks, Singapore were made by **Brigadier Wort**:

As I was planning to visit friends in HOBART in Tasmania, and as I intended passing through GLADSTONE in Queensland on my way by road from SYDNEY to CAIRNS, I suggested to RHQ that I should take with me two Regimentsal Shields. These were produced and were engraved "From the Colonel of The Regiment and All Ranks."

Anglesea Barracks, Hobart

Before leaving England I had already been in touch with **Colonel R. N. Gair**, who commands 6th Military District. His HQ. is located in the Barracks and he is responsible for the whole of Tasmania. On arrival in Australia I told Gair about the shield and arranged to visit the Barracks on Wednesday 7th October, 1981 to make the presentation on behalf of the Regiment. Gair made

Helen and me most welcome and we were taken to see the 99th Memorial. This is very impressive and beautifully kept. The surrounding area has recently been developed and includes a number of other interesting memorials and plaques on a wall behind The 99th Memorial. We were given a conducted tour of the Barracks which contains some fine old buildings. It is a lovely site; all the buildings are well cared for and I think "listed". A new Museum is in the course of construction, the old one having been closed by a previous Commander.

We then adjourned to the Mess where a number of Officers and their wives and the Lord Mayor of Hobart were assembled. I presented Gair with the Regimentsal Shield, stating that it marked the successor Regiment's continued interest in the Barracks, the Memorial, and their distinguished forebears. Gair then presented me with a 6th District shield for The Regiment. As it had not been engraved and in view of our baggage situation, he took it back and promised to send it to England. After this we all had lunch in the Mess, followed by a certain amount of port. Photographs were taken of Gair and me beside the Memorial, and the Army photographer took photographs of various parts of the Barracks for me. I hope that in due course they will appear! The PMC showed us round the Mess. Amongst other things they have a few 99th items in a showcases. We left soon after 3 p.m. feeling that our visit and the presentation of the shield had generated much good will and interest. The Lord Mayor of Hobart (**D. R. Plaister, MBE**) had invited us to call on him at the Town Hall and this we did. He showed us all over the fine building and expressed much interest in The 99th and the Barracks. On leaving I was presented with a City tie and flag, and Helen with a City brooch!

GLADSTONE, Queensland

Shortly before we left England someone (possibly **Mike Chivers**) mentioned to me that a **Captain Day** of The 99th had helped in the founding of Gladstone. In the short time available RHQ were unable to confirm this, so I hoped to obtain the necessary information when I got to Gladstone. On our way north from Sydney in a campervan we stopped at Gladstone on 27th October, 1981. I called at the new Civic Centre to see if the Town Clerk could help. I was eventually referred to the Library where we met **Miss Stephanie Pidgeon**, the Librarian. She explained that they had few books on the history of the town and that there was no Historical Society. She readily agreed to do some research and I said that we might possibly call in again on our way back from Cairns; otherwise she would let me

know by post in England. Unfortunately I could not see the Mayor but left him a note. We departed thinking that we should have to take the second shield back to England with us!

As it happened we were able to call in at Gladstone on 11th Nov. 81 on our return journey. A delighted Stephanie Pidgeon confirmed **Captain Day's** connection with the founding of Gladstone and she showed us Chapter IV of "The Gladstone Colony" by **James Hogan**, published by **William Brooks** circa 1879 which reads:

"On January 8th, 1847, the Lord Auckland, under the command of **Captain Brown**, sailed out of Sydney Harbour, having on board the founders and pioneers of **Mr. Gladstone's** new colony, viz. His Honour **Lieutenant-Colonel Barney**, Superintendent, **Mrs. Barney**, and family; **W. W. Billyard, Esq.**, Chairman of Quarter Sessions; **J. S. Dowling Esq.**, Crown Prosecutor; **E. C. Merewether Esq.**, Colonial Secretary; **Mr. G. H. Barney** Clerk; Assistant **Commissary-General Darling**; **Captain Day**, of the 99th Regiment, **Mrs. Day**, and family; **Mr. W. A. Brown**, Deputy-Sheriff; **Mr. Robertson**, Surgeon; **Mr. G. O. Allen**; **Mr. W. K. Macnish**, wife and family; **Miss Stokes**, **Mr. and Mrs. Vellier**, **Messrs. W. Thew**, **W. Carney**, **A. Cook**, **T. Shaddock**, **J. Rutter**, **C. Jones**, **W. Rowell**, **C. Smith**, **J. Harrison**, twenty-two soldiers of the 99th Regiment, seven women and twelve children."

We then went back to the Civic Centre to have photostat copies taken of the relevant page. In view of what had been found and the Regimental shield, the Town Clerk's secretary suggested that we should interrupt a meeting the Mayor was having with his Aldermen. This we did, and we met the Mayor and were introduced to the members of his Council. I then said my piece about the successor Regiment, **Captain Day** and The 99th and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and presented the shield to the Mayor (**Alderman Col. Brown**). The Town Clerk promised to date the shield and to write to The Colonel of The Regiment enclosing a photostat copy of the extract from "The Gladstone Colony". I retained a copy and sent one to **Mike Chivers**. The Mayor and councillors all seemed very pleased and interested in this little piece of history. After much chat and a cup of coffee we took our leave and got on the road again.

Victoria Barracks, SYDNEY

I visited this fine old Barracks during the 1981 National Ex-POW Reunion. A friend of mine is on the managing body of the Museum there, and he produced some papers about the history of

the Barracks and The 99th connection. However the package was rather heavy and we had no room in our suitcases, so I sent it home by sea mail. There have been postal/seamen's strikes so the papers will not appear for some time.

The Old Garrison Church, Tanglin Barracks, SINGAPORE

This is now called St. George's Church, Tanglin, and is a Singapore listed building. The present Vicar is the **Rev. Bob Robinson** and it is entirely a civilian Church. We attended the Midnight Service there on Christmas Eve. I had not been inside the Church since I was stationed at Tanglin with the 1st Battalion in 1936. The Church is very well supported, especially by ex-patriates. Various Regimental memorials were removed when there was doubt about the Church's future. Now that it is a listed building and therefore secure, there is a move to try and get these Memorials re-instated.

BOOK OF THE YEAR REVIEW

"Long winded digressions were the bane of all Medieval Storytellers" — F. Bacon

The most boring book in the world — as the **GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS** would have us believe — is a tome explaining the workings of the value of Pi calculated to the five hundred thousandth decimal place. However, we believe this will soon be knocked into second position by a recent rival publication, namely **Battalion Standing Orders (Bn. SOs)**!

Bn. SOs is a mammoth new epic. It attempts to answer the questions that plague us all in our dull routine lives and certainly succeeds in proving that our lives can be made a lot more routine and boring. It is of course aimed at the military, yet contains words of caution and doom for others. Be warned!

Bn. SOs. is in essence a series of socio-psychological papers, attempting to explain in everyday verbiage how more paper can produce less practical results. It instructs in painstaking detail, how today's soldier can carry out his duties rigidly, train without using his imagination and generally live his life like an automated zombie. 1984 has arrived early folks!

The first unexciting publication came hot from the presses in its trendy red plastic cover and was the unabridged and unexpurgated version. From the very first page, which is included solely for future amendments, it becomes apparent that this is not the end of the story by any means. Already gnomes of **BHQ.** are churning out expurgations which come complete with highly detailed explanatory notes describing how one unclips the

four spring rings and extracts the naughty out-of-date bits, then smartly inserts the new words of wisdom. The author here has scored a major triumph. Knowing the huge numbers of plain 'dumbos' in the unit, he has realised that asking one to maintain a written record of amendments is — frankly — 'not on'. So a dinky little mellow yellow amendment sheet is included each time. This could catch on.

No readers — it is not the end of the story. Already in the green ink pipeline are:

"Bn. SOs — The Inside Story"

"Bn. SOs. — Vol. XVII"

"Bn. SOs. — The Film of the Book"

"Son of Bn. SOs".

and more. Or would be had the paper for the next financial year not been used up with this first mint edition. (It could prove to be a worthwhile document to keep for posterity.)

One military spokesman was quoted as saying: "I defy any military person of any rank who picks up this staggering work and tries to read it, not to feel moved. Having read it — life will never be the same again".

What the other papers say:

"Unbelievable — is THAT what we pay them to do?" —WILTSHIRE TIMES

"Impossible — quite impossible" —SALISBURY CHRONICLE

"Where did they go wrong?" —MAYFAIR

"I don't think much of the photographs" —PLAYBOY

"Author, Author, Author" —SOCIETY OF BLIND REASONING

ONCE IN A LIFE TIME "ON THE ROAD BACK"

by Mr. A. J. Salisbury

On Monday morning, 27th May 1940, I was a member of a small section of the 1st Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regt. which had become detached from the unit in the somewhat confused retreat and had spent the night in a R. E. Dump on the French border. We were given orders to make our way to Poperhinge in Belgium to join our unit which was supposed to be there.

However, having gone a few miles over the border we met a Military Police Officer who, having got our "Gen" said, "You will not be going any further because **King Leopold** has asked for an "Armistice" and, no doubt, your unit has already embarked at Dunkirk by now. The whole B.E.F. is being evacuated, didn't you know? Your

best plan is to make for the coast anyway and as fast as you can get there if you want to get home."

We promptly turned around and left under the orders of the two Sergeants who were with us, and by marching and hitch-hiking where possible, since all roads were jammed with transport and refugees, we reached the last canal bridge to be blown as darkness set in. We spent the night sleeping in beds in houses which had been evacuated by the owners.

At the break of dawn on Tuesday, 28th May, 1940, we were on the move again and reached **BRAY DUNES** at 1000 hrs, right on the beach by a large villa run by nuns. Here the whole situation was plain to see. To our left was Dunkirk just beginning to smoke. Far and near out at sea were ships of all sizes and inshore were the little boats taking out and loading troops to the waiting bigger ships. There were also plenty of wrecks in the sea. To our front were thousands of troops milling about, the dead, the wounded being washed ashore, the Padre doing his rounds. To our right and far up the beach were more troops and in the distance was what we later found to be an improvised pier known then as **General Gort's pier** not far from La Panne.

On joining these troops on the beach we found an R.A.S.C. Coy., running a boat taking 22 men at a time to the nearest ship at sea. We joined this queue and each time we reached the head of it to get into the boat it was "Sorry mate, you're not R.A.S.C." We tried this several times, but it was always the same answer. I could tell you the Coy's. number but it wouldn't be fair. There were some German prisoners standing close by, subject to much abuse, of course, and they were later taken back into the dunes and were taken off on a special boat.

Wednesday was spent trying all ways and means to get away, turning over boats on shore to see if they were any good, but no luck there. At 2200 hrs. we joined a queue to a ship that was standing at sea some distance from the shore. It had failed to make the tide. Troops were still getting aboard up the gangway hanging down the side of the ship. Just as we got there, actually swimming around now, the Captain came to the top of the gangway and said he could not take on any more as he would not get off with the tide. So, it was back to the beach, wet through into the bargain. I remember the Captain requesting us to travel slowly back to the beach to avoid creating too much phosphorescence on the sea, as he did not want to be the target of enemy planes.

As we went back to the beach there was a

paddle steamer being beached. It was on fire from stem to stern with ammunition exploding while the gallant crew were trying to put out the fire. A hopeless task. Perhaps someone could say who she was.

Thursday was another day of failure to get away. Each night we had been subjected to a few odd shells falling on the beach and this night we, I say we, because my mate the No. 2 to the A.T. Rifle I carried, was still with me, were sheltering in a pit we had dug when we saw an officer of the Royal Artillery seeking shelter from the shells and he joined us in our pit until things got quite quiet again. During the afternoon we had heard the shells from the Navy passing over our heads and knew that things were getting worse and the enemy nearer.

On Friday, 31st May, at 0600 hrs. some sort of organisation was brought in and it was decided that one officer would have sixty men under his control and each would try to get the men off where he could. There were several parties, some turned towards Dunkirk, some stayed where they were, but our party turned right towards La Panne and set off immediately, our officer being the one who had sheltered with us the night before.

As we marched up the beach we passed the burnt out wreck of the paddle steamer and every boat we came across was inspected for seaworthiness, but it was hopeless. We continued on and came across a naval boat carrying two British officers and a naval rating which was stuck on the sand. They asked our officer for assistance, stating that twenty men would be taken off if the boat was pushed into the sea so that it was afloat again. Of the volunteers I was one and after pushing for about ten minutes we got it afloat standing up to our necks in the sea. At this time the two officers in the boat stood up, drew their revolvers and said, "Any man who attempts to board this boat will be shot, start the engine, sailor, and take it away". On the beach the expression on our officer's face was surprise at this action of his brother officers and it turned to disgust, so much so that he turned to us and said, "In view of what has just happened, if there is anyone in this party who think you stand a better chance to get away on your own you are free to do so". As a result, there were about 16 who chose to leave the party.

We then continued up the beach and reached the improvised pier at about 1300 hrs. Here we had some food of corned beef and N.A.A.F.I. biscuits while our officer went to see the officer i/c pier to find out if we would be allowed to be taken off. I might add that there were thou-

sands waiting, there had been for days apparently. I know that on the way up the beach there had been hundreds going the opposite way to us and shouting as they passed, "You'll never get off up there, chaps, we've been there for days". At 1330 hrs. our officer returned to tell us that we would be taken off at 1400 hrs. and that we would be given a filled sandbag which we would carry out along the gangway as we went and to drop it onto the bed of the last lorry in the sea.

That was what happened at 1400 hrs. and at the end of the gangway we got into the small boats lined up there and were towed out to sea by the naval motor launch to the side of the destroyer waiting there with the scrambling nets hanging down its side. Being dressed in full fighting order, carrying my rifle, that was the hardest climb I can remember, but the best, once I reached the top and was pulled over the side by the naval lads on board. I surely gave them my thanks, you bet.

In no time at all we set sail across the channel and arrived outside Margate about 1700 hrs. Here we disembarked, were taken by bus to the Railway Station, put on a train and eventually ended up at Chesterfield on Saturday morning at 0050 hrs.

After being given billets we slept for hours and were given the best of hospitality before re-assembling to our particular units. My mate was a **Pte. Judd** and he came from Swindon — I wonder if he is alive to-day.

This is the end of my story and I thank the officer who got us away, though I never knew his name.

AN HOUR AT SAINT PATRICK'S BARRACKS

by Warrant Officer Class Two P. Habgood

On the day that patriotism was found to be alive and well and thronging the streets of London awaiting the marriage of His Royal Highness The Prince Charles to The Lady Diana Spencer I paid a long overdue visit to Saint Patrick's Barracks in Malta.

As I stood in the hot early morning sun on the roadway between Saint Patrick's Barracks and the Pembroke Military Cemetery I remembered the theme of an address delivered at a Remembrance Parade in Catterick Garrison many years ago, to a compulsory selected congregation. The Padre had said a string of precious stones circled the World. In every country dominated by the British Empire there were headstones to commemorate those British Soldiers (and their de-



pendants) who had fallen in foreign fields. The Pembroke Military Cemetery, cared for by the British Wargraves Commission is no exception. I was met at the gatehouse by the Maltese caretaker and conducted through row upon row of neatly kept graves which record, on the face of it, the history of the various Regiments who occupied Malta during Britain's long and close connection with the Island. The earliest grave was that of a Royal Engineer laid to rest in 1906. Amongst the latest were those of our own Regiment — **Private John Scott, Private 'Skid' Roe and Private George Chennery.** Lying behind them, a little further away, beneath the shadow of a Mediterranean Pine tree was the unmarked grave of (Colour) **Sergeant Eric Skinner's** boy.

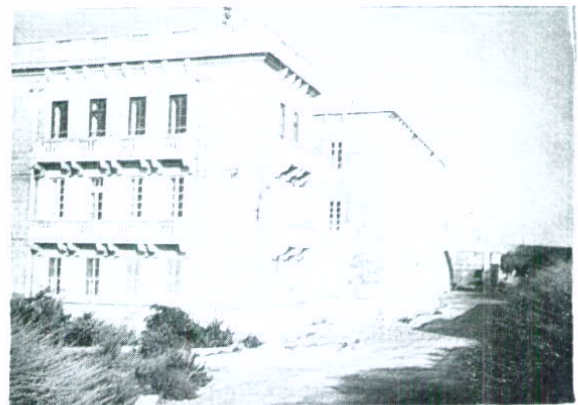
Not only did the long established caretaker know exactly where the graves were situated for the fallen members of the Battalion, once I had given him the name of our Regiment on meeting him inside the gate, but he also knew why they were there and how the men — and **Eric Skinner's** boy — had fallen. During our conversation he highlighted many of the names of regimental personalities with great accuracy and his remarkable memory proved to me, along with other conversations which I was to encounter with



the Maltese elsewhere during my stay on the Island, that the Regiment's association with the Island of Malta has yet to be forgotten.

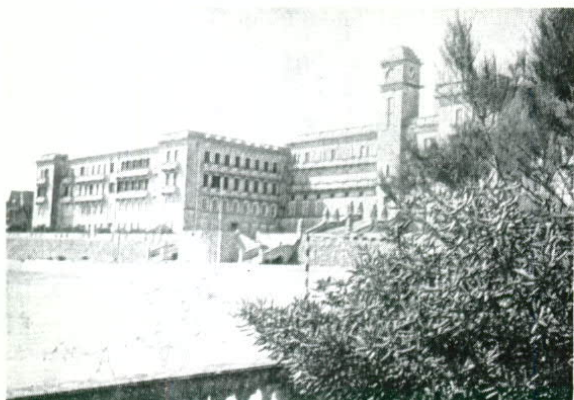
I crossed the road and confronted a watchman, sleeping peacefully, on the Guardroom verandah in Saint Patrick's Barracks and sought his permission to tour the barracks and take photographs. Whilst he forcefully fed my children with water melon and grapes on the guardroom steps I proceeded around the barracks, where the echoes of yesteryear came flooding back to me.

The Guardroom windows were dirty. Cobwebs hung in every doorway. Weeds grew in the exercise yard and the barbed wire strung across its high walls to prevent the once would-be escapers had rusted. The floors were filthy and the outside verandahs had not seen a bumper or squeegee for many years. Yet, through this neglect one could still read the various parking and directional signs, which vitalised the fading memory —



parking spaces for the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command, Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major and the Fire Picquet Vehicle and Duty Driver. With closer scrutiny could I have detected the impression left by the Ships Bell on the Guardroom verandah.

The rusted flag pole housing at the bottom of the Guardroom steps reminded me of the incident all those years ago when as an orderly room private on duty in Battalion Headquarters, I had been roused by the Guard Commander at two in the morning to assist him to search for a person crying for help in a distorted voice. With other members of the guard we searched the nearby shrubberies for minutes until the light of a passing vehicle caught the unusual shape of something hanging from the flag pole. Closer observation revealed a member of A Company who was worst for drink, hanging by his feet some way up the mast. He had been tied by his feet to the flag staff rope and had been hoisted to half mast.



His clothes had fallen over his head and this had muffled his cries for help.

Through the dining hall windows beneath the Clock Tower I could see the scars in the dining room floor where the hot plates had been removed. Those hot plates where, many years before mutiny had occurred because of the poor quality of food and the continued lack of, or staleness of, our daily bread. Could I hear, in the quiet hot mediterranean air an echo of the crescendo which used to prevail when **Stan Sawyer**, under beads of perspiration, issued out our bread and butter at two slices per man per meal — “Hand the Breadman”.

The upper barrack square, now covered with tumble and chick-weed and the marks of former volley ball pitches caused me to pause and reflect on those distant and better days when a medical certificate did not prevent one's participation in the Battalion drill parade on this square every Saturday morning. Could I detect the sharp voice of **Regimental Sergeant Major Mortimer**, which would have cut these weeds at their roots and who would have never permitted volley ball to be played on his square. And, whilst I feasted on the memories of my formative youth, looking out over the Pembroke Ranges towards the sea, a lizard ran down the edge of a storm drain. Had it heard, as I thought I had, the moving feet of a Battalion marching past!

In the MT yard my thoughts turned to the many miles we had travelled in our vehicles from here. The forty man Turkey expedition which saw **TROY** and **ISTANBUL**; the **TIBETSI** expedition; our participation in **Dirk Bogard's** film — “The High Bright Sun”. The many Lybian exercises in **TOBRUCK**, **TRIPOLI**, **TARHUNA** and **TIMMI**. And, our participation in peace-keeping duties in Cyprus.

The watchman, having fed all his water melon and grapes to my children, came to find me and escort me from the barracks. We were sad to leave. My children would have preferred to con-

tinue to sit in the shade and eat this man's gifts of fruit whilst I would have liked to have had the opportunity to visit other parts of the barracks and continue to take photographs.

PAD'S PARADISE? AN IMPRESSION OF LIFE IN BAOR BY CPL. CHRISTIAN

To the married man and his family living in BAOR, particularly in a Garrison like Osnabruck, the way of life is not unlike that within any Garrison in UK. Shopping in the NAAFI, Wives Club meetings, schooling for the kids at BFES schools, Mess and Regimental functions, etc.

However, there are distinct advantages and disadvantages. Among the advantages can be listed the LOA and tax concessions, enabling the 'pads' to improve their standard of living, buying their own furniture much more quickly and cheaply, or buying a new car, things which the pad would find difficult, or even impossible, to do in the UK.

Other advantages include the opportunity for travel for short day or weekend trips, and for holidays either within Germany, or anywhere in Europe, camping or caravanning, or even staying overnight in a local Gasthaus at very reasonable rates.

If the family prefers to spend their time within the Garrison area, there are many recreations and pastimes available — swimming, skating, bowling, horse riding, in fact if you are prepared to learn a little of the German language, the possibilities are unlimited.

The language, of course, is probably the biggest disadvantage of all. This particularly gives the wives problems when it comes to shopping and getting a job, although many take advantage of the courses available at Education Centres and BFES schools in the evenings.

Those who take the trouble to learn German, find life so much easier. The husbands never really come up against these problems.

Most of the married soldier's time is spent in much the same way as in UK; daily work, duties, exercises, in fact 'normal routine' and with rarely any need to use or learn German.

Most pads will say that they enjoy living in Germany. But then, who wouldn't, with two crates of German beer permanently stationed on their balcony ?

RODENT CONTROL v RATS RULE O.K. (A LETTER RECEIVED BY THE R.Q.M.S. 1 DERR)

1. That this barracks has rats is well-known; its design and construction render this inevitable, and a continuing presence must, reluctantly, be accepted.

2. What cannot be acceptable is that they are allowed to multiply in number, and increase in size and ferocity. The frequency of sighting reports recently, and the descriptions of the rodent seen, (even if reduced by 50% to allow for well-imbibed "wrong-end of the telescope" vision) would indicate that the problem is serious, and that any measures being taken are ineffectual.

3. The well-ingrained doubting-Thomas mentality which life in the Q world induces is appreciated and your natural scepticism of RATREPS understood. However, herewith an unimpeachable source's personal experience.

4. This morning at 0135 hours whilst en route from Bn. HQ. to the Officers' Mess — and with ne're a drop inside me — I chanced upon a Rat-in being held on the sward to the east of blocks 47 and 48. The participants were 6 — 7 in number and un-Pirbright sized in length (exempt tail) from 10 cm to at least 35/40 cm long. These figures are estimations, but it must be admitted were made using the well-tried infantry hand-angle method from a position out of scent-range in dead ground. On approaching this Cagney-coven, (whistling loudly in the true one-man patrol style which apprehension brings on), one of the larger members of the order Rodentia peeled-off with a smaller wing-man and came at me out of the moon, eyes gleaming. For an ugly moment I thought I would be nipped in the bud — or worse — but the menacing point of the well-balanced broly clamped vice-like in my steadfast right hand obviously unnerved the foreign furries, and their hasty withdrawal could have become a rout if I had not disciplined myself, imposed a limit of exploitation of 2 paces, and pushed off to the bar.

5. The message is clear; offensive action is needed, and now! Young children are in camp frequently, and while I have none myself, I must consider the risk to the subalterns; I have no desire to see either category nibbled and then have to be subjected to the thousand needles treatment. Please activate the Divisional Hygiene Team as a matter of some urgency.

EX. TRISTAR 81 — STEALTHY 'A' ON THE HUNT

by 2/Lt. C. G. Higgs

Over the countryside North East of BAD PYRMONT during the early hours of Saturday, 4th April, the sound of C130 Hercules engines were heard by the Hunters on the ground. They knew that jumping from them were the majority of two complete Regiments and a squadron of the Special Air Service !

The Hunters waited in their carefully planned ambush positions. At 0342 the first ambush was sprung and was successful. Two SAS prisoners were in the bag! For the Hunters of A Coy, Ex. Tristar 81 had begun.

In fact one of those 'prisoners' was a good 'catch'. He was the Squadron Commander of 'Reserve' (R) Sqn. 22 SAS based in Hereford. This sub unit is unique even within the TA. SAS., as all its members are on very short notice for quick deployment in war. 'R' Sqn. had been dropped opposite A Coy, in the deployment by para entry of 21 SAS, 23 SAS, and elements of HQ. DSAS, as well as R. Sqn. The remainder of the Hunter Force consisted of 3 Coys 1 WFR, 1 mobile Sqn. QOH, elements of 110 Pro. Coy RMP, 652 Sqn. AAC, 1 Dog Unit RAVC, 230 Sqn. RAF (Puma), and the German Police, all controlled by a Tactical HQ. supplied by QOH. The dreaded Joint Services Interrogation Wing (JSIW) also took part !

The aim of the 'evaders' from the SAS was, after para entry, to travel across varied terrain by night and day, covering about 50 kms. in 28 hours, avoiding capture by the Hunter Force, and making a successful RV at a safe location, thus making a 'home run'.

As the evaders gradually moved South towards, safety the Hunter Force withdrew, ambushing and patrolling all the while to try and capture more of R. Sqn. Once 'in the bag' the prisoners were handed over to guards, who escorted them to the JSIW for interrogation. This is not a pleasant experience so the evaders tried every trick in the book to avoid capture. (A couple actually 'cheated' and were spotted by the Training Major hitching lifts on a main road outside the exercise area. Perhaps their tour was shortlived !)

The highly fluid and enjoyable exercise ended early Sunday afternoon with all Hunter Units moving back to barracks and QC attending an exercise debrief at 'Tin City' Sennelager. The outcome was interesting. Of the 18 captured through the exercise, (about 90 dropped in), stealthy 'A' was responsible for bagging 10 including the Sqn. Comd. previously mentioned. This proved, apart from the fun and excitement, the training paid off. The remainder of the S&S evaders (including the Director himself) made successful 'home runs'.

BOBC NORWAY

by LCpl. Sumner

BOBC Norway is 1 BR. Corps Adventure Training Centre in Norway, BOBC standing for British Outward Bound Centre. The course is split into

two main parts, canoeing in Kristsand and mountain training in Gaudestad.

We arrived in Norway after a twenty hour coach and ferry journey from Germany.

On the course I was on, there were four men and one Q.A. Nurse. The first few days were spent drawing kit and attending some lectures on kit, the weather, and map reading. Half-way through the first week we moved onto top roping abseiling and also some basic rope work.

On the Thursday, we travelled further North by Landrover. We then had the six day expedition, which included a twenty mile walk to Base Camp. Here we practised using snow shoes, and crampons. We also learnt about security on Ice and Navigation. On the fourth day of the expedition we moved to a desolate mountain hut. There were only beds and food. The method of payment was to put money in an envelope and leave it.

It was a good place to stay, but like all good things it had to come to an end. So we all moved back to camp for a good clean-up and debrief. Everyone I spoke to said that they had enjoyed it. Not only was it good fun, but also most of the things we did were related to patrolling; e.g. Navigation as well as the fitness.

You can get details from **DCIs** or **Cpl. Thomas**, **Ops/Trg**. Or failing that — see me !

A COMPANY'S ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

by **Captain BRF Franklin**

Exercise "Great Locksmith" was the official title given to A Company's adventurous training. It took place at the Nato Sports Centre, Weissensee, near Fussen in Bavaria, between the 1st and 18th of September, 1981. Over eighty soldiers and a large group of camp followers took part.

The idea of taking the whole Company away to Bavaria to carry out adventurous training started almost a year before. **Major Kenway** decided that **Captain Franklin** should organise a large scheme, rather than another small Matterhorn trip. The challenge was quickly taken up ! The exercise was applied for in August 1980 as adventure training, but rejected in November as being "within the rules of adventure training, but not in the 'spirit' of it." It was suggested that we re-apply, calling it "A Summer Military Camp". Basically the authorities thought it consisted of too many people. The Military Camp was then applied for, only to fail in March because the area was within a "Restricted Area of Germany". Luckily HQ. BAOR came to our aid said they could see no reason why 2 Armd Div. had rejected the idea



as adventurous training, especially as it was to be done at almost no cost ! Thus, the second attempt at getting Adventurous Training clearance was successful. All was still not plain sailing. On return from leave, and only one week before the exercise was due to start, **Captain Franklin** was sent to Bavaria to find a new sports centre, as the owner had accepted a higher rent from another unit, and we were to be homeless. Luck was on A Company's side, and with a slight change of dates, the exercise was 'on' again.

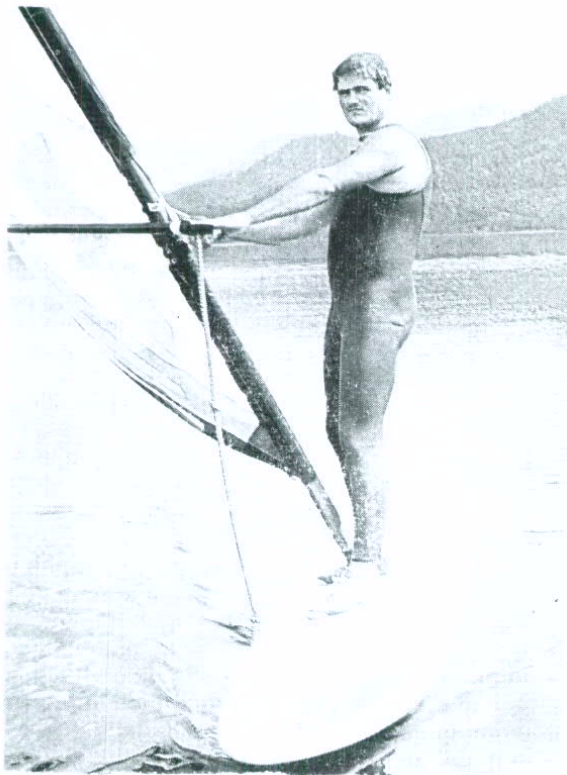
A large advance party drove to Weissensee on the 1st September. The acting Colour Sergeant, **Sgt. Watts**, soon found that he was the Hotel Manager. He brought with him 3 cooks and a small Admin. staff. His work was easy, as the centre is fully equipped. It provided a large kitchen with pots and pans, cutlery for 150, beds, bedding, a huge dining room, a breakfast terrace to eat out on, a Bar, and a small discotheque. The other side of the advance party was the instructors. We had brought instructors for sailing canoeing, wind-surfing, rock climbing, hill walking and someone to lead the tourist days. These instructors had three days to take over their equipment, familiarise themselves with it, practise their skills, recon routes and generally plan for the arrival of the course.

The general plan was to split the Company into seven groups, each with a Sergeant in charge of it. Each group was given a name like Matterhorn or Zugspitz. These groups had one day initially

on each activity to learn the basics, and then in the second week they could choose the one they liked best. Groups ate together, had a room each, and competed against each other in each activity. A prize for the best group was given at the end of the course, and they were given for the night a huge sword which had been found in the lake several years ago.

The water sports were very popular. The weather was not ideal. Several days, though, were warm and sunny with no wind. The water was good to swim in, and sunbathing on a surf boat near the tourist beach was popular. Even so, every group was taught the basics of surfing and sailing. Canoeing proved popular, and despite being restricted to the lake, **Cpl. Herbert** taught everyone a lot. **Lt. Carr** and **Pte. Cowley** looked after the sailing. They had eight dinghies of various types. **Captain Franklin** instructed windsurfing, helped by **Pte. Waghorn**. This new sport was very popular, and was quickly mastered by nearly all the Company.

The mountain activities covered hill walking, rockclimbing, high level touring and a short four



Endangered Species! This exotic animal, related to the Loch Ness Monster, was photographed on a rare appearance out of the water (as he cannot usually balance!) at Weissensee, S. Germany, during a Coy. adventure training, Sept. '81. The creature's name is **Pte. 'I've passed my watermanship course' Bowler**.



Looks easy doesn't it? **L/Cpl. "Duke" Sumner** is confident because he is only posing! Actually he did a great deal of abseiling during A Coy's adventure training trip, Sept. '82, to Weissensee.

day expedition. Many people were surprised how hard work it is walking at altitude. The hill walking was led by **L/Cpl. Hopgood** and **Grocock**, the rock climbing and touring being taken by **Kai Grapham**, the owner of the Centre, and **L/Cpl. Sumner**. The Centre had good equipment and warm clothes. One day, we had hot sunny weather on the walk into the mountains, and then snow during the night . . . and this was early September. The final four day expedition was attempted by 20 soldiers. It consisted of a 20 Km high level route, with overnight stays in mountain huts, carrying equipment and food, and taking in some climbs on route.

Cpl. Goffey was made the tourist 'guide'. Each day he was seen wearing his Bavarian hat taking groups to the local sights. The "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" Castle, Neuschwanstein, the cable car where the film 'Where Eagles Dare' was made, and other sights in Fussen were visited.

The camp followers seemed to enjoy themselves. There was a large field to put up their tents, next to the centre. The leader was **CSM Fedrick** who was known to be an expert on the barbecue, though not so good on the windsurfer! The disco was even put to good use at 3 o'clock, when the



Pte. Nick Tonks pretending he can map read! Actually it is easy when you are sightseeing near such an obvious landmark as the Castle of Neuschwanstein, S. Germany. (A Coy. adventure training Sept. '81).

event was the Juniors Disco. I am told, that all the children enjoyed the afternoon dance. Certainly, on this occasion A Company was showing the "Family Regimental Spirit" that we pride ourselves on.

Everyone went running each morning around the lake; a 6.5 Km route. The sportsmen; runners, boxers and judo teams were able to train together. Perhaps the success of A Coy at the Nines Cup was due to this altitude running.

The exercise was a great success. A whole infantry company took part in an adventurous training exercise. Every soldier participated in every activity, and had the opportunity to specialise in their chosen activity at the end. New skills were learnt by all; fitness improved; the cost to the public funds was very small and to the soldier — negligible.

A good and worthwhile time was had by all ! We look forward to a repeat performance next year

DUKES FROM THE SKY

by Lt. Davis

"C 130 going down to strip,
We're all going for an airborne trip.
Hey Big Daddy have you heard?
We're all going to jump from a big arsed bird!
Stand up, hook up, shuffle to the door
. etc etc"

After spending four months at the British Army Training Unit in Suffield, Alberta, I was fortunate enough to attend the Canadian Airborne Basic Parachuting course at Edmonton

The Course was for three weeks and one had to have completed six static line jumps to pass out with one's wings. Basically the first two weeks were ground and fitness training and the last week contained the actual jumps. All jumps were from a C 130 Hercules, including one night jump and four with complete equipment.

On arriving at the Parachute Depot I was met by a huge Sergeant with a 1941 Spitfire pilot's moustache who, when he saluted me kept saying "Airborne Sir", to which I found out later I was to reply "All the way Sergeant", whilst standing smartly to attention, of course. With me on the course were initially 82 other nervous would-be jumpers: the majority were English speaking but we had some French speaking soldiers. Although there were some problems in the communication field, if one jumped up and down enough and shouted very loudly the message would get through.

On the first morning of the course we had to take a very simple test involving running, sit-ups and pull-ups. If one failed this test unfortunately that was it, no retest just an immediate RTU. Then on to the fitting of equipment; we were issued a training harness that was to be worn throughout all training. When this thing was on I walked rather like a **John Wayne** character after riding a horse for three months. The issue included helmet, reserve pack, snow shoes and rifles, which when fitted resulted in 82 hunchbacks shuffling about the place!

After the Admin and the issues were completed, straight into the daily routine which was soon to become all too familiar, a basic day would consist of:

0530	Reveille
0600	Road Run (no equipment)
0645	Breakfast
0730	Aircraft Drill
0930	In Flight Training
1030	Break
1045	Landings
1130	Rigging Equipment
1230	Lunch
1330	Emergency Drills
1430	In Flight Training
1530	PT
1645	Tea

Aircraft Drill We were taught the sequence of events prior to mass exits. The Canadians used a system of drills, simple steps that make life easier

for the jumper to actually get out of the aircraft. One had to learn the words of command and the actions that go with them.

In-Flight Training This period had the affectionate name of the "Racks". They had rigging lines hanging from the roof, and one would clip on to things and hang there like a marionette as they hoisted you to six feet above the ground. We had to learn in-flight drills, including lowering equipment, increasing and decreasing drift, use and deployment of the reserve, and a hundred and one other things you had to learn and pass a test in before they let you near a parachute.

Landings This was an amusing subject, quite simply they would clip you into the racks, hoist you about 12 feet and drop you. One soon learnt how to land, coming in forwards, backwards or at any angle.

Rigging and Equipment These periods came as a welcome rest, for they were the only lectures when one could actually sit down. They were simply giving you insight into the history, usage and development of the equipment, and usually included lots of statistics of how safe the Canadian equipment was.

Emergency Drills This was a subject that one tended to pay particular attention to, especially

when told that, if for example you exited at 800 feet with an average load of 96 lbs and your main chute did not develop, you had approximately five seconds to deploy your reserve. The instructor would throw in these amusing little statistics just to ensure we were listening, obviously I can only talk for myself but I think I can repeat his lecture word for word even now.

The final subject was PT, every morning and night these Muhammad Ali look-alikes would appear. Their aim in life was to find as many hills as possible for us to run up, or crawl up, or, even if they were feeling generous, hop up! The highlight of these lessons was the singing, I must say that on initially learning and singing these airborne songs I was a little dubious. The singing of these songs was solely psychological with the result that, nearing the end of the course on the really long runs or the long races, one would worry more about getting the words right than the actual run itself. Rivalry between the two platoons over who could sing the most original song the loudest had to be heard to be believed!

The ground training took two weeks, including two days jumping from the mock towers. This tower was 60 feet above the ground and had wires running from the top of the tower to the ground. Each student was given a 16 metre static



" I really did jump "

line and two 16 metre rigging lines to attach to his harness. After two days of jumping off this tower we really did walk like Quasimodo, and at this stage, our numbers rapidly dwindled down to 49.

The third and final week had arrived, J stage was here. The first jump was side door exit with no equipment with the first stick being picked up at 0530. The time had arrived, not a training harness or a mock tower, but a real parachute from a Hercules. After completing the rigging checks and loadmasters' check, we boarded the plane in stick order. Some people were very jovial — joking and singing — others, including myself, just shuffled forward in stunned silence.

Once in the plane the instructors had us singing, it was the rudest song we had learned, and there was not one of us who was not singing at the top of his voice. Suddenly the red light came on and we all stopped, the culmination of two weeks training was here. We went through our drills like robots, and stood staring at the back of the man's helmet in front. Then brace for slow down, door opens, the roar hits you, shuffle to the door and suddenly green light and go. One second you're in the plane and then it's all over and you're looking up at a fully developed chute. The roar of the engine has gone and all you hear is the wind rushing through the risers above our head.

From below the instructors on the DZ were shouting up at us to keep our legs together, look-around, pull on rear risers etc. The last 20 feet rushes up to you, I can remember thinking of the position to adopt, and suddenly I was on the ground going through my landing drills — obviously those hours of training had worked. Apart from one man who landed with his legs apart and damaged his ankle, all 19 were safely down, and we were back on the bus ready for the next time.

The second and third jumps were similar, although we jumped with equipment weighing 90 lbs. Jumping with equipment, although cumbersome on the ground and in the plane, does not really make that much difference whilst in the air. One tends to drop a little faster, but, if you remember not to roll on your snow shoes when on the ground, there is no real problem. The final jumps were from the ramp, with one at night. The amazing thing about a ramp jump is how you were almost thrown from the aircraft, within a split second you are picked up by the down blast of all four props and are suddenly hurtling away from the plane.

The actual feeling on completion of the course was superb, on moving away from the DZ for the last time one almost felt remorse. The com-

radeship between all of us was something I think I will never forget, especially with the parade at the end of the course really bringing all of us together. Of the initial 82 that started, 41 received their wings, many went off to join the Canadian Airborne, others went back to their own battalions. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Canadians whose professionalism and fitness was refreshing to see. Perhaps it was because I was the only "Brit" on the course, but they went out of their way to make me feel welcome. If anyone ever has the opportunity to attend this course, I strongly advise them not to let the vacancy pass, it is an experience.

THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT OR

THE LAND THAT NCO'S WANT TO FORGET

Yes, a small article from Brecon, where the Regiment is represented by **CSgt. McIntyre** and **Cpl. Lowery** (Base-Rat).

Before mentioning them in broad outline, let me explain the aim of the NCOs Tactical Wing. The Wing itself is split up into Divisions — SNCOs, JNCOs, SP (yes there's base rats here also) and the Demo Coy made up completely of Gurkhas, generally known as Jock Bahadur, Brummy Bahadur etc. The old hands of B Coy will know what their jobs about. Basically simple enemy tasks! Now you know why you were here B Coy.

Well then, let's start with SNCOs Division: The aim of the eight week course is to qualify Sgts. and Cpls. to be Pl Sgts. The eight weeks is split into packages, covering subjects such as Battle Lessons and Exercises. These certainly sort out the basics in infantry work and gets rid of the cobwebs. Leading on from that they progress into the attack, patrols and mech ops for one week in Warminster. The course wraps up the final weeks by covering TEWTS on anti armour and bridge demolitions, and yes that race over the Pen-y-Fan. Week eight is the final exercise week (Deer Hunter) which is very demanding. Before departure a regimental dinner is held, where I hear our own **Cpl. Ian Tait** (yes RSM Sir) fell asleep with the regimental tie draping in the soup bowl. The standard of students passing through the division certainly varies. But we hold our own and the flag flies with the best of infantry regiments. Since being here the likes of **Sgts. Luker, Porter, Gardner, Moloney, Cpls. Tait, Stanley, Truman** and **Vincent** all passed well.

Now JNCOs Division: It covers all the same packages as SNCOs Division but on a lower command level. The pace is quicker and pressure applied gradually. The aim of the course is to

teach students to be section commanders. Due to increasing demand the course was cut to only six weeks in Brecon after two weeks at Divisional Depots under our own **WO2 Flay**. This cut enables us here at Brecon to get that extra course in each year. Both courses teach students the basic demolitions requirements for infants. Like the SNCOs, we have had our fair share of success with **Cpls. Reading, Smith, Carpenter, Mellam, Wardall, Ball, Sumner, Cook, South, Thirtle, Rogers** and **Burgess** all doing their best.

Now just a word on the fitness side at Brecon. Well as most of you are aware, or should I say think you are aware of, to be a good Section Commander you have to be fit. The courses down here do not have time to get you fit only to assess standards. So to do well it pays to be at a good standard on arrival, and this can only be obtained by personal effort and determination. The Instructors are not raving fitness fanatics, they are only at the standard required to lead the field.

I mentioned earlier that we had two of the Regiment serving here, **Cpl. Lowery** at the Tactics Wing, yes, he ensures SNCOs Div ticks over, being ever present at his desk, but alas he claims to have seen the light, he's gone to the RAOC where he can get promotion to Sgt. And then there is **CSgt. McIntyre**, Instructor on JNCOs Division on arrival and then pushed across to SNCOs Division for his final year. On the sport side he runs the Wing football team, a successful one I might add, represents the Wing at Cross Country and Squash. Look out **CSM Frederick** your place is at stake.

Well that's just a short note to let you know we are here and looking forward to seeing more Dukes.

THE ALDERSHOT MILITARY HISTORICAL TRUST

by **Brigadier W. J. Reed**

What picture does the name Aldershot conjure up in your mind? Serried ranks of red brick Victorian barrack blocks; Sergeant Majors, drill, and freezing barrack rooms? Or perhaps it is the clusters of concrete cubes familiar to the present generation.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment's association with Aldershot goes back to 1856 when the 1st Bn. of the Royal Berkshire Regiment came to the camp briefly at the end of the Crimean War. In the 1860s the 1st and 2nd Bns. and the 1st Bn of the Wiltshire Regiment all did a year's tour in the camp. Thereafter the four battalions of the the regiments did between them

eleven tours in Aldershot and two in Bordon and Woking up to 1939.

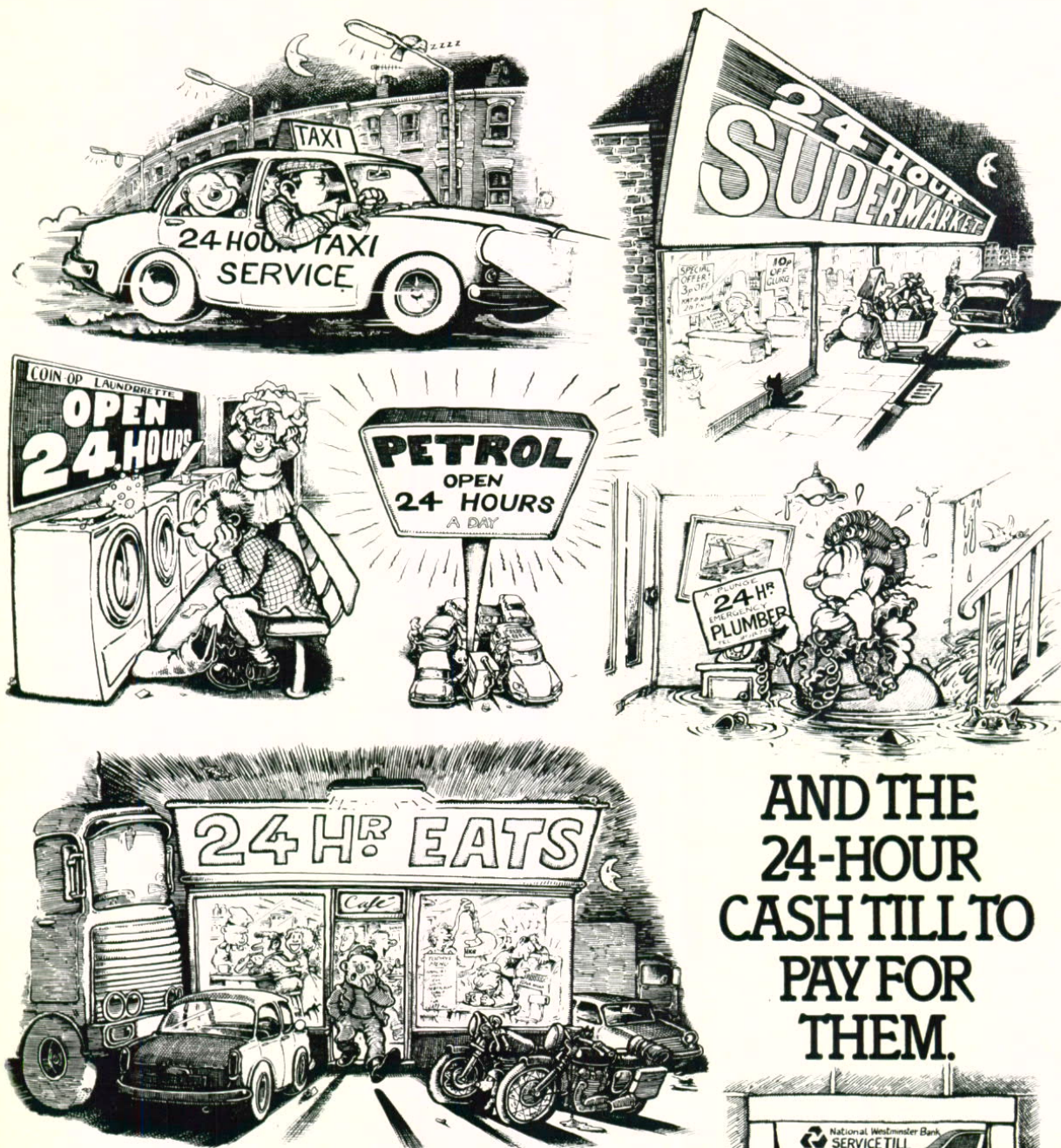
The soldiers life in that bygone era appears to have revolved very largely round sports, tattoos, reviews and similar events. In 1897 the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment took part in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Review and in 1935 the 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment were in Talavera Barracks at the time of King George V's Jubilee Review.

Over a million soldiers have passed through Aldershot since the Second World War and perhaps there are still another million who knew it before the war. But to most of them the camp will be largely unrecognisable as the modernisation of the last two decades has swept away almost all of the Victorian barracks and visitors returning after twenty years or more can hardly believe the transformation.

Prior to the establishment of the "Camp at Aldershot in 1854 no garrison nor camp existed in the whole United Kingdom for the concentration or training of troops on a large scale. The British Army was stationed in long established garrisons most of which had been military centres from the earliest times and the soldiers occupied castles, forts or similar old defensive installations. There had never been a sufficient number of troops concentrated in any one area to permit even brigade size field days. Troops not stationed in such recognised garrisons were quartered in the main cities and county towns, for the most part in small detachments billeted on the civil population.

As part of the training programme for the Army in 1853 a summer camp was established on Chobham Common in Surrey under the direction of **Lord Hardinge**, who had succeeded the **Duke of Wellington** as Commander in Chief, and exercises were conducted for two divisions in succession. The success of this experiment and the imminent enclosure of much common land in the vicinity led to a proposal for a permanent training camp in the area. Aldershot Heath was selected; the proprietors agreed to sell for £12 an acre and so a tract of ten thousand acres was purchased early in 1854.

Only a summer tented camp was first envisaged but the need to accommodate the militia called out during the Crimean War led to the erection of two hutted camps, each for a division, north and south of the Basingstoke Canal. Construction began in February 1855 and the first troops moved into their huts in North Camp in May that year. At the same time permanent brick barracks for another two brigades of cavalry, infantry and artillery were built close up against the village of



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Aldershot which then had a population of about 850. Although intended only as temporary accommodation for training purposes, the hutted camps soon became the permanent home of troops returning from the Crimea.

In the 1880's and 1890's these camps were replaced by permanent brick barracks including schools, hospitals, a reservoir, sewage works, gas works, power station, indeed everything, even its own bye-laws, needed to make Aldershot Camp the only complete military town built in the Kingdom since the Roman occupation.

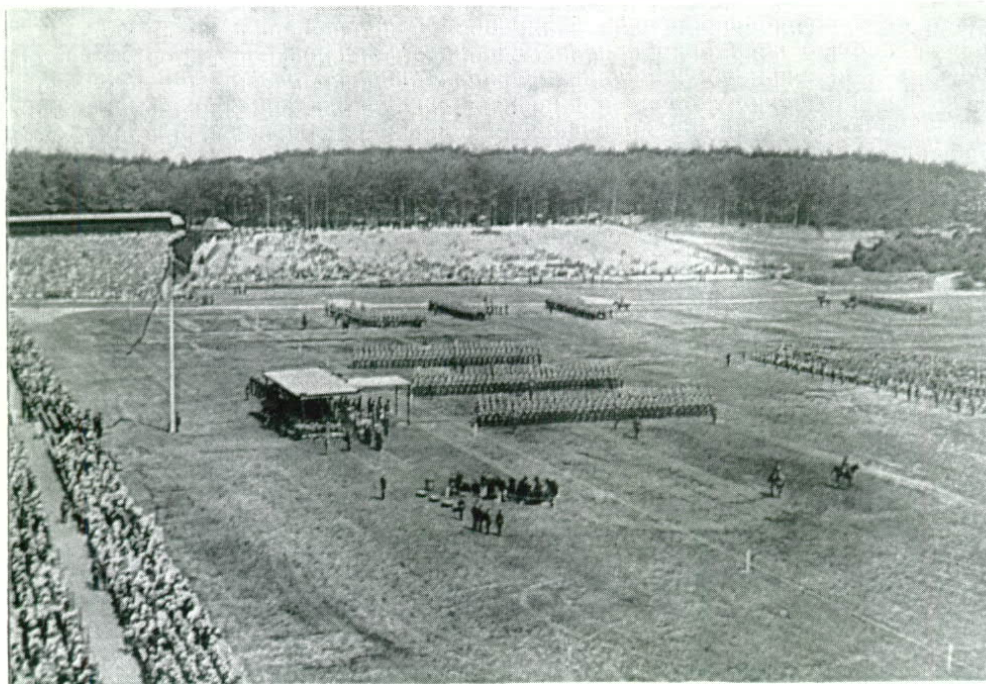
Aldershot became the home of the 1st and 2nd Divisions comprising the bulk of the 1st British Army Corps and it was from Aldershot that the British Expeditionary Forces set out for France in 1914 and again in 1939. Reviews, manoeuvres, sporting events, the famous Searchlight Tattoos and a military population of 25,000 had made Aldershot synonymous with "The Home of the British Army".

In 1939 when the main body of the regular Army departed for France, Aldershot became the base for the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom for the duration of the war, while many British units and formations continued to use Aldershot as a transit area before embarking for North Africa, Europe and almost every theatre of war. When the Canadians left in 1945 a complete change was to take place in the character of the camp for it became a great training centre

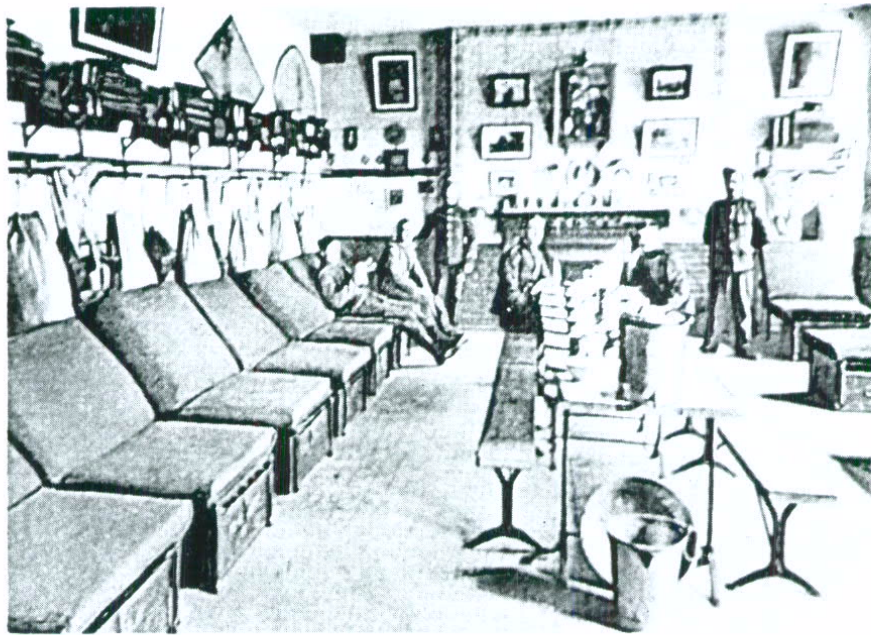
for the National Service army, including the famous Mons Officer Cadet School. It embraced too the depots and training centres of eight Corps of the British Army, and the home of the newly created Parachute Regiment. Soon the Camp's outward appearance was also to change.

The latest rebuilding programme started in 1960 but it was not until 1970 that the Aldershot Garrison Historical Committee was formed at the instigation of the then GOC Aldershot District, **Maj. Gen. Penfold** and his **Deputy, Brigadier** (now **Maj. Gen. Mans.** Conscious of the losses to local military history resulting from the almost complete rebuild of the camp they sought to preserve Aldershot's military history "both in its written and material form". Much valuable material was initially collected but there was nowhere to display it and enthusiasm gradually waned. It was to be rekindled with the arrival of **Brigadier Reed** as Garrison Commander in 1978.

The Historical Committee was reconstituted and two years later, with valuable help and encouragement from Hampshire County Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the Southern Tourist Board, a charitable trust was created with His Grace the **Duke of Wellington** as President and three Vice Presidents, **The Marques of Anglesey**, **General Sir Edwin Bramall** and **General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley**. The Trust's aim is to with plaques briefly describing their history and significance. The post 1939 era will be greatly ex-



King George V's Silver Jubilee Review 1935.



A Barrack room c. 1910.

preserve the history of military Aldershot and present to the public the story of the most famous military town in the world.

This will be done in two phases. Phase 1 which should be completed by early 1983 is to create in the first block a Visitors Centre and Museum of the Camp where the public can see the history of Aldershot laid out in chronological order with plans, maps, photographs and recordings, models of the camp and the soldiers life including a recreated barrack room c 1900, Royal and historic events and the development of military technology associated with Aldershot.

To guide the public around the historic features of the camp a trail is being created and the buildings and monuments included will be provided panded in Phase 2 when the second block becomes available. If anyone has documents, letters, militaria, photographs etc relating to Aldershot or knows the whereabouts of any barrack furniture of pre WW2 vintage the Hon Director of the Trust would be very pleased to hear from them.

Aldershot, Home of the British Army, is part of the national heritage and we owe it to posterity to preserve its history and its treasures and present these to the public for the recreation, education and interest of both present and future generations. The Museum and Visitors Centre will stand too, as a fitting tribute to the British Soldier, past and present, in the Home of the British Army.

But the project will not be cheap and we cannot draw on the public funds of the Ministry of Defence which are, of course, required to meet our direct defence needs. The Trust is a registered charity and donations of any size will be greatly welcomed. There are many ways of giving e.g. cash, legacies, covenants, deposited covenants, interest free loans etc. Further details donation and covenant forms can be obtained from the Appeal Director, Aldershot Military Historical Trust, FREEPOST, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BR. The two phases will each cost about £200,000 and the Trust seeks the support of all who feel that the story of this unique and famous military camp should not be forgotten.

1st BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (Rifle Volunteers)

PERMANENT STAFF

News of the Rifle Volunteers was absent from the pages of the last Journal, and so much news follows. At present the following officers and soldiers from the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) are serving with the Battalion:

Major P. Bradley	— Training Major
Captain P. E. O'R-B Davidson-Houston	— Adjutant
WO1 (RSM) D. T. Wiggins	— Regimental Sergeant Major
WO2 (ORQMS) Habgood	— Chief Clerk
WO2 N. Minty	— SPSI D Company (Bournemouth)
Sgt. R. Wise	— MT. PSI. HQ. Company (Devizes)
Sgt. M. Kerr	— QPSI. HQ. Company (Devizes)
C/Sgt. M. Carpenter	— PSI. Mortar Platoon (Andover)

WO2 N. Minty, took over at Bournemouth last September from **WO2 A. Hobbs**, who has gone off to be RSM of 11 UDR. **Major P. Bradley** has just arrived as Training Major and **WO1 (RSM) D. T. Wiggins** is just about to depart for Sennelager being replaced by **WO1 (RSM) M. W. Gibson R. Hamps**. It is understood that **Captain "Jimmy" Durant** is lurking somewhere around Camberley ready to takeover as Adjutant in the summer, when he finally completes a year of various studies. The present Adjutant, **Captain Patrick Davidson-Houston's** twin brother (younger by 7 minutes!) received a TA Commission in the Battalion last year having soldiered as a Volunteer for over 3 years — rumours of nepotism — with C (Dorchester) Company. Finally, before expounding on the news of the Battalion, many congratulations to **C/Sgt. T. Hoare**, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List 1982 for his outstanding work with the Mortar Platoon at Andover.

THE BATTALION

Last year was dominated by Exercise Crusader 80 and its various integral exercises and was very much the focal point for our Battalion training. 1981 has seen the emphasis put on individual and sub unit training. This is reflected in the high number of Volunteers that have attended external courses such as the Platoon Sergeants and Section Commanders courses at Brecon and the Specialist courses on Milan, Clansman and 81mm Mortars. Many of the Volunteers who attended courses also managed to come to Annual Camp, which was most encouraging.

Perhaps the most interesting news for the Battalion was the announcement in September that we are to leave the 4th Armoured Division and

join the 1st Infantry Brigade, (the retitled 6th Field Force), on the 1st January 1982. We have had a long association with the 4th Armoured Division, being the only TA Battalion in the Division, taking part in FTXs at both Divisional and Brigade level and many CPXs over the years. We look forward to our new role with the 1st Infantry Brigade, whose Headquarters will be based in Tidworth, which will ensure a close liason and greater opportunities for training with the Brigade..

In February the Battalion spent a weekend on Salisbury Plain training in the skills of fighting and defence in built up areas. This included specialised training for the PSIs on the Friday by the experts from the Platoon Commanders Division of the School of Infantry and a presentation to all officers, WOs and SNCOs on the Saturday morning. The rest of the weekend was spent



Medal Presentation by Major General M. J. H. Walsh, C.B., D.S.O., Honorary Colonel 1 Wessex accompanied by the Adjutant (December 1981)

developing section, platoon and company tactics culminating in an ambitious battalion attack on Imber.

Due to the cancellation of the South West District Section Competition the Battalion held its own inter company section competition during the first weekend in April. This tested 2 sections from each company in minor tactics, first aid, radio, navigation, patrolling and finally a march and shoot. The competition was visited by Cincent, **General Dr. F. Von Senger und Etterlin** accompanied by the Inspector General of the TA **Lieutenant General Sir Frank Kitson KCB, CBE, MC**, and the Deputy Commander South West District **Brigadier J. G. Starling, CBE, MC, ADC**. This was the last weekend before **Lieutenant Colonel J. G. T. Southwood** handed over command to **Lieutenant Colonel T. B. Dutton, MBE**, Glosters, whom arrived from Headquarters 3rd Armoured Division.

At the end of April part of Battalion Headquarters moved to BAOR to take part in the 4th Armoured Division CPX Exercise Mainbrace. This was a most useful week practicing the Battalion Headquarters Staff in planning and executing moves, deployment and siting of hides and operating as Divisional and Brigade troops.

Again this year the Battalion won all the shooting competitions at the South West District Skill at Arms meeting sweeping the board for the 2nd year running, with most of the prizes going to C (Dorchester) Company. After the success at TASAAM Bisley last year the Battalion Shooting Team had a tough task to maintain the position as TA Major Unit Champions. Competition was fierce and although the team shot well, we were unable to repeat our successes of last year. We will be back, however, with even greater determination to win in 1982!



Volunteers of 1 Wessex during the Advance to Contact (Section Competition, April 1981)



CINCENT and DCINC UKLF follow a 1 Wessex GPMG team through a Battle Handling Exercise (April 1981)

We were blessed with fine weather for our annual exercise on Dartmoor, which involved the whole Battalion in advancing along company axes, dealing with enemy stay behind parties and helicopter borne troops. It was a physically demanding weekend during which the Volunteers covered over 25 miles in full equipment. This was followed in late June by field firing at Sennybridge concentrating on anti tank weapons and grenades.

The GOC South West District **Major General Sir John Ackland, KCB, CBE**, paid a farewell visit to the Battalion in July and saw the recruits cadre on Lavington ranges live firing platoon and section weapons. We also said farewell to **Brigadier J. G. Starling, CBE, MC, ADC**, who has been a great supporter and friend to the Battalion.

The major Battalion FTX of the year was held in September on Salisbury Plain in preparation for our Annual Camp in October, which concentrated on defence and counter attack. We were well supported by B Sqn. QRIF and 100 Fd Sqn. RE and 395 Tp RCT kindly air dropped our rations and water.

For the 2nd year running the Battalion went to Annual Camp in BAOR having been on Exercise Crusader 80 last year. The aim this year was to concentrate on individual, section, platoon and company training for the 1st week and then to take part in a Battalion exercise during the 2nd week. Throughout we were based on Reinsehlen Camp SOLTAU using the LUNEBURG Extension for training with the usual very wet October weather. Exercise WYVERN WORKUP run by 11th Armoured Brigade proved very testing for the Battalion, particularly as 34 JNCOs were away taking part in a 2 week NCO's Cadre and another



The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion. Adjutant—Capt. P. E. O'R-B. Davidson—Houston
DERR Drum Major WO2 (DM) W. Morris.

86 Volunteers were taking part in a Recruits Cadre.

Flexibility proved to be the great cry of Annual Camp as 10 hours before we were due to return to UK. our road party of 56 assorted vehicles were diverted from BREMERHAVEN to ZEE-BRUGGE a difference of some 360 miles, and timings brought forward by 7 hours! Apparently the ferry had broken down at BREMERHAVEN! In fact the only vehicle not to make it back to the UK. was the Staff Car with QM. on board which broke down 15 miles from SOLTAU. Our valiant QM, having suffered a broken down ship and car then boarded an aircraft at Hannover which also broke down!

We have held a number of social functions during the year and said farewell to many long serving Volunteers. Perhaps the most significant departure from our ranks was **Major General G. C. A. Gilbert, CB, MC**, who retired as our Honorary Colonel in December after 6 years of valuable service to the Battalion. Our new Honorary Colonel is **Major General M. J. H. Walsh, CB, DSO**, who until his recent retirement was Director of Army training, and has now been appointed Chief Scout in succession to **Sir William Gladstone**.

We all now look forward to our new role with 1st Infantry Brigade from 1st January 1982. Another busy year ahead, which includes the occupation of a fifteenth Drill Hall by a platoon of B (Hampshire) Company in Southampton in January 1982.

HQ COMPANY (WILTSHIRE)

O.C. — **Major G. D. McMeeken**

Sadly, due to change of Company Commanders we were unable to grace the pages of last year's issue.

Life has been fairly hectic with the run-up to Annual Camp, which took place in BAOR in October. After a work-up period the Battalion less NCO and Recruits Cadres took part in a tough four day exercise under the control of HQ. 11 Armoured Brigade.

The weather was foul over the whole exercise, and between extensive digging and the laying out of real defence stores everyone was tested to the full. The Echelon had a chance to practice their new harbouring system, and by the end of the exercise were able to move in and out of locations by day and night in a matter of a few minutes. The specialist platoons and Drums Platoon continue to grow — there are now thoughts of an Assault Pioneer Platoon to make the package complete. A great deal of our time of course has been absorbed by the preparation for the issue of the new Clansman Radio equipment and the Milan anti-tank weapon to replace the present WOMBAT. We are now fully equipped with Clansman, and ready trained to receive Milan.

Another slice of the year has been devoted to individual training as this is often pushed to one side by the administrative demands made on the Company in its supporting role. As a result of this

training we are now in a stronger position to supply the specialist services required by Battalion.

Our aim next year is to continue scouring the countryside for recruits and having got them, to keep them! To this end, and to keep the trained soldiers and NCOs interested and attending, we

will aim to bring as many new but relevant topics as we can into the programme.

This has been a hard year for the Company, but they have responded magnificently. With our growing numbers we are looking forward now to even better things!

2nd BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (Volunteers)

B COMPANY (READING)

OC: Major B. Childs

Since reading the Spring issue of the Regimental Journal it occurred to me that it was about time that we updated "avid" readers of the B Company saga as we seemed to have taken a "low profile" for some time.

In summary everything has changed from the old OC Major Howard "Bill" Bloomfield, who has been elevated to the dizzy heights of Bn 2i/c, to the very old CMS "Lofty" Allcock who decided to sign on, yet again, and take over as CSM of the newly constituted HQ Coy. Rumour has it that the QM platoon is panicking over the new catch phrase "when did you last do a BFT". The Company 2i/c Captain Robert Mills being the only intelligent officer in B Coy was moved to Bn. HQ. as Ops Officer and the PSI CSgt. Jim Cox (more of which later) was replaced by CSgt. Dave Beet. The new OC is Major Brian Childs who assumed command in June 1981 having been OC HQ. for the past 20 months, his 2i/c is Captain Julian Walker who is an ex-regular LI officer and jungle warfare trained. (He says SPTA or Malaya its all the same if you're a real soldier.) The new CSM is WO2 Alan Overton, who has served over 15 years with the TA, and is a much skilled man on weapons, although not such a skilled parachutist!, and in addition the new PSI CSgt. Dave Beet brings many skills to the company most of which cannot be printed due to one regulation or another.

We wish to congratulate Major Bloomfield on his appointment as Bn 2i/c where we believe he will be able to "salute" more and become even richer and wish him every success at Staff College. We also welcome the new team and look forward to a very successful 1981/82.

The two Majors wish to thank the following members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment for their assistance in aiding and abetting their rapid and meritorious rise to fame at some

stage over the past "n" years: Lts. P. Stacey and T. Freelove; WO1s J. Venus and R. Hicks; WO2 D. Morgan, C/Sgts. C. Choules, J. Cox, D. Beet, and D. Walker QGM and Sgt. F. Chitty.

The writer is reliably informed that C/Sgt. Jim Cox accepts full responsibility for everything that happens from here on in as he claims to have had the casting vote!

Biggles.

'C' (ROYAL BERKSHIRE) COMPANY (MAIDENHEAD)

OC: Major G. D. Miller

The highlight of 1981 for the majority of the company was Annual Camp in Gibraltar. The resident battalion on The Rock, at the time 2 LI, sends its companies back to UK. in rotation to sample the delights of Salisbury Plain which gives selected TA companies the opportunity to spend two weeks in Gibraltar maintaining force levels. Members of the company mounted a ceremonial guard at the Four Corners Guard Post, manned various OP's over-looking Spain and were also able to make use of the limited but imaginative training facilities on the Rock. There was



L/Cpl. Gawthrop and L/Cpl. Protheroe demonstrate the two man bivouac tent at a recruiting display in Maidenhead.

also some time available for adventure training and sightseeing. By the time we handed over the Four Corners Guard Post duty to 2 LI even the CSM was satisfied with the standard of drill on our side of the border but he has volunteered to do his camp for 1982 in La Linea to give the Spaniards some "advice".

Other training activities during the year included the annual inter section competition won by 5 section (**Cpl. Malcolm McGuirk**). At the Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting in May the Company 'A' team (**Sgt. Alan Overton, Sgt. Ian Kingsford, Cpl. Mick Stafford, L/Cpl. Mick Turner**) won the falling plate competition with ease. Following the Chain of Command Match the OC would like to know who used all the ammunition and then let him run all the way to the firing point (over those enormous obstacles) without telling him the only way he could hit the target was to throw stones at it. An exercise planned for January in which we were to play the part of saboteurs attempting to infiltrate RAF Oakhanger had to be postponed because of the security situation following the bombing at RAF Uxbridge. Fortunately we were able to arrange an exercise

with our own B Company as an alternative, which culminated in a company deliberate attack on a B Company prepared platoon defensive position.

It has been a vintage year for comings and goings, **Major Tony Gardner** set the tone by handing over the company in January to **Major Greg Miller**. We are pleased to see that after a spell with Southampton University Officers Training Corps **Major Gardner** has now been appointed 2i/c of 6/7 Queens. Other noteworthy departures included **Sgt. Alan Overton** to CSM B Coy on well deserved promotion; **Sgt. Ian Kingsford** to HQ Coy as Provost Sgt; **Sgt. Eric Smith** to HQ Coy to command the REME fitters section; **Cpl. Andrew Stone** to join the Regular Army, where he is now serving with 3 Para and reappears from time to time on weekend training; finally **C/Sgt. Charlie Choules** handed over the PSI's ceremonial whip and tea mug in October on his return to 1 DERR. Among the newcomers is **C/Sgt. John Dobie** who comes to us from 1 DERR and has already shown himself to be an asset to the company, not to mention the Coy HQ team in inter platoon shooting competitions. Another newcomer was noticed by the RSM on



Gibraltar: Capt. Mike Gaunt meets some old friends.

his first weekend with the battalion. As his vehicle passed the Battalion Release Point the RSM was heard to remark "Who's that bleep-bleep in the bobble hat". We can now reveal Mr. Hicks, Sir, that it was none other than **Lt. Paul Wolanowski** late of the 51st Highland Volunteers. One very recent newcomer who arrived in December is **Lt. Richard Howman** who comes to us from 1 Wessex and before that 1 DERR.

On the courses front both **Cpl. Malcolm McGuirk** and **Cpl. Mick Turner** attended the TA Junior Brecon Course and returned to the Company as qualified section commanders. Meanwhile **Cpl. Bill Young** passed the TA Regimental Signals Instructor course at Warminster. We have also had some successes on the TA Recruit Cadres at Lichfield where **Pte. Phil Adcock** was best recruit in December 1980 and **Pte. Alex Winchester** was joint best recruit in September 1981.

The major social event of the year was the Annual Dinner when we welcomed the MP for Windsor and Maidenhead, **Dr. Alan Glyn**, as our guest of honour. Another distinguished visitor to the TA Centre was the Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead who visited on a normal drill night and saw the Company training before he was entertained in the bar.

D COMPANY (READING)

OC: Major B. J. Tristram

Since the last Journal notes D Coy has been soldiering in conditions as varied as any regular soldier. In Belize, with no time for acclimatisation, the risks in a 48 hour period included exposure, after 3 nights of sleeping and working in frequent very heavy rain and heat exhaustion after an all-day advance to contact across Mountain Pine Ridge. In U.K., section attacks became somewhat bogged down in snow 3 or 4 feet deep, while the hazards of Gibraltar appeared to consist mostly of competitive sun-tanning and being bitten by the apes.

During 1981 **Patrick Wild**, one of the longest serving members of D Coy, moved on promotion to command HQ Coy and we welcome **Capt. Gavin Pass** from B Coy to take his place wrestling with the accounts. We also welcome our new **PSI, CSgt. Watts**, and were pleased to see **Barry Taylor** our NRPS also put up CSgt. rank.

Owing to his other work for the MoD at Aldermaston **Lt. Nick Marshall** has had to opt for the lower commitment of a sponsored unit. His place has been filled by **Lt. Dominic Felice**, who will soon be on the Platoon Commanders course



Gibraltar: 8 Platoon take a smoke break after emerging from the gas chamber while the Platoon Commander and his henchmen plot further tortures.

Exercise Montezuma's Revenge III 1981.



Pte. Caulcutt and Cpl. Tiller.

checking out the changes since his last appointment with 5 Loyals (TA) in the Isle of Man.

After many years service, recognised by his Territorial Medal and Bar, **C/Sgt. Cossey** decided to retire on March 31st 1981. At the same time **Sgt. Farrow**, the platoon Sgt. at Newbury, also decided to leave us due to business pressures. Both were presented with suitably engraved presentation clocks at the Annual Dinner.

The departure of **CSgt. Cossey** resulted in the promotion to **Sgt** of **John Briggs** to take over the stores he had been working in for some years. **Sgt. Keith Arnold** took over as 11 Platoon Sgt.

In October **Sergeants Briggs** and **Brough** completed their CQMS course with the RAOC and on December 1st we said farewell to **CSgt. Briggs** who went to sort out HQ Coys stores. '**H**' **Brough**, another former member of the mortar platoon, took over our stores in the rank of **CSgt**. This



Cpls. Tiller and Annal, Ptes. Caulcutt, Ward and Griffiths.

was the last move in the great 1981 shake-up and promotion share-out. Congratulations to the following who moved on promotion: **Sgt. Frank** to B Coy as Pl Sgt., **Sgt. Stamp** as Signals Sgt, **Sgt. Taylor** as MT Sgt. HQ Coy, and also to **LCpl. Crook** who got his dream posting to the Regimental Police, to **LCpl. Maguire** who opted for the Signal Platoon and farewell to 2 members of **Sgt. Frank's** section who followed him to B Coy **Ptes. Chalker** and **Symes** (now a **LCpl**).

Final congratulations to those who stayed with the coy on promotion. At the sharp end **Cpls. Annal, Palmer, Flake** and **Giles**, **LCpls. Williams, Burgess, Tuthill** and **Turner**, and in the engine



Cpl. Holmes, the ghost of Airport Camp.

room **Cpl. Cripps** (stores, first aid and assistant chef, and **LCpls. Philpott** (arms kote) **Davey** (combat clerk) and **Burke**, a former 'DERR' who now runs the MT section.

Most trained soldiers in the coy went abroad in 1981. About 20 went to Gibraltar in the spring to assist the companies tasked with Ex. 'Marble Tor'. **Lt. Walton**, **CSgt. Brough** **Sgt. Fraser**, **Cpl. Annal** and **LCpl. Williams** were attached to various German regular and reserve units, but Annual Camp was Ex. Montezuma's Revenge III in Belize from 28th July to 11th August.

It proved difficult to learn any details from UKLF, initially the coy was planning to send 60



Next week it will be back to the scrap metal business and studying for exams, Ptes. Symes and Chalker.

all ranks, but eventually on June 4th the format of the exercise was confirmed.

The OC was to command a composite company of 100, consisting of 35 men each from D Coy and 6LI(V) and a platoon of 30 from 6 R. Anglian (V). The extra men from ourselves and 6 LI were to provide a Coy HQ. We provided the CSM, **Cpl. Taylor** as MT NCO, **Cpl. Stamp** as a very high grade driver-op and **LCpl. Bell ACC** as cook.

The advance party, consisting of the OC, **Sgt. Arnold** and the platoon commander CQMS and Sigs Cpl. from 6 LI, flew out on July 20th. The week before the main party arrived was invaluable, but passed very quickly in recces and 'Q' preparations. At the last minute **Lt. Richards** had to stand down owing to business commitments, and **Sgt. Arnold** found out when the main party arrived that he was to command the D Coy platoon, with Cpl. McGregor as pl sgt.

The two weeks in Belize gave tremendous interest and training value to all the volunteers, and letters sent afterwards by **Brig. A. C. Vivian**, Commander BFB, and from UKLF confirmed that the exercise was also a success as far as the resident troops who were being tested were concerned.

A feature on Montezuma's Revenge and several pictures, mostly featuring the then **Cpl. Frank**, appeared in the October issue of 'Soldier'.



The CSM briefs the Mayor and Mayoress during their visit to the Drill Hall.

The OC and CSM found little had changed since 1969-70. Some survivors of that era may be interested to know that the OC gave a lift to a Belizean near Burrell Boom, who recognised him, and proved to be Moses Bengueche, who used to be the mascot and char-wallah of the detachments who went to Punta Gorda when about 14 years old. Moses was later an instructor at the Jungle Training School but is now a farmer.

The first phase of the exercise was around Airport Camp. D Coy were pleased to take up a challenge from the RAF Regiment and placed a 'bomb' in the most sensitive area of their defences.

The second phase on Mountain Pine Ridge, with 2 platoons of the Belize Defence Force and 2 Scimitars under command, culminated in an assault on the bridge at Privassion Creek, which unfortunately we had to lose.

A satisfactory number of tarantulas scorpions etc. were obtained by those interested in such things and 3 days R and R gave everyone a chance to off the cays and tourist attractions. The CSM and CQMS so enjoyed their days trip that they only made the plane home with about an hour to spare.

The rest of the year has included training as wet as Belize and a lot colder. The coy is now

fully recruited. Most recruits go to Lichfield for 2 weeks soon after joining. Numerous courses have been attended by officers and NCOs, (**LCpl. Williams** does little else including Brecon at 24 hours notice). The coy is also holder once again of the Hackney Shield as Champion Coy at the Battalion Skill at Arms meeting.

Sgt. Fraser and **Cpl. Tiller** have started on the road to a commission, and having passed the selection procedures could well be at Sandhurst by the time these notes are in print.

Doug Puffet, who was of course a WO1 with DERR, finally severed his army connections when he resigned as our civilian storeman in order to take over the Swan Hotel, Tetworth. His hotel was an ideal setting for our annual dinner. Despite fog, ice and snow 120 members of the company and their guests, including **Lt. Col.** and **Mrs. E. D. Churcher**, sat down to an excellent meal, which was followed by dancing. Some felt it was a pity that the coach drivers were prepared to risk the roads back to Reading and Newbury as the Swan is an ideal place to be snowed in for a week-end!

Best wishes to all friends of D coy from the volunteers serving in 1982, who are as good a mix as the recruiting posters say, with private soldiers who also work as company directors, bricklayers, shop assistants and stockmen.

WILTSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

County Commandant: Brigadier J. T. Paley, C.B.E., M.C.

INTRODUCTION

Currently the strength of The Wiltshire Army Cadet Force stands at 37 Officers, 58 SNCOs and 738 Cadets. These figures are most encouraging in an age when youth has rather more than its fair share of critics. We are very nearly at our adult establishment ceiling and we have a healthy waiting list of adults who wish to join. So far in this training year 22 cadets have achieved passes at 4 star level and 29 cadets have passed the 3 star test.

In 1981 36 cadets from The Wiltshire ACF joined the Regular Army. This is an impressive figure at a time when there has been a near embargo on recruiting.

REORGANISATION

In 1981 MOD carried out a review of all ACF Establishments and as a result most counties lost at least one Company Headquarters and several platoons. Wiltshire ACF was previously organised on a five Company basis which has now been re-

duced to four with Company Headquarters at Church Place in Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham. The Wootton Bassett Platoon was closed early in 1981. The 25 platoons which make up Wiltshire ACF are at Church Place, Liden, Walcot, Wroughton, Pewsey and Marlborough. These collectively form 'A' Company. 'B' Company has platoons at Bulford, Downton, Larkhill, Ludgershall, Salisbury, Tidworth and Wilton. Calne, Chippenham, Colerne, Malmesbury and Melksham form 'C' Company. 'D' Company has platoons at Bradford on Avon, Devizes, Mere, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury. We are continually under pressure to maintain a viable strength of 25 cadets in each platoon and MOD is loathe to finance any platoon under this figure. The most vulnerable are those who parade in hired accommodation. Sadly the Mere and Pewsey platoons, which both provide a service in large village communities, are under threat of closure. As a result of this reorganisation all the platoons in the Wiltshire ACF are now badged DERR, less

the Larkhill Troop which retains it's Gunner connection.

ANNUAL CAMP 1981

These notes are being written with Devizes covered in snow in December and with several villages in Wiltshire cut off. This is a far cry from the glorious weather we experienced at our Annual Camp at Penhale in August. We took over Penhale Army Camp from the Devon ACF on 14th August and for the first time in eleven years we took over a Camp in impeccable order. Planning for Annual Camp got under way during the autumn and winter 1980. As this was our first seaside Camp for eight years no star training was included in the Camp programme and the emphasis was placed on making the best of our environment by the sea and the facilities available at Penhale Camp. Each Company had the same programme to follow, staggered to allow all use of the various facilities and the services of 12 CTT. Each Company had two days of abseiling and canoeing, swimming and beach games. A day of 30 metre Range and Assault Course, two days at Company Commanders disposal, a one day exercise set at County level, a day of inter platoon March and Shoot Competition, a day for inter Company Competitions and the middle Sunday for Drumhead Service and inter Company Sports. A fortnight before we went to Camp we were told that no. 303 blank was available. This bombshell however brought us an unexpected bonus. By the good offices of HQ South West District and by much telephoning and vehicle mileage we managed to obtain the loan of 80 SLRs and a handsome amount of .762 blank and ball ammunition. We managed to squeeze in an adult weekend at the Weekend Training Centre before Annual Camp devoted entirely to instruction in the SLR. On arrival at Camp Skill at Arms training became one of the most popular activities. The scale of .762 blank and ball ammunition gave cadets the chance to fire the weapon both on the 30 metre range and during the exercises on the training area. The speed with which all cadets became safe and proficient in handling the new weapon has completely changed our attitude to the suggestion that the SLR should replace the No. 4 rifle. We were luke-warm at first because of the complexity of the weapon and the danger of bits and pieces going astray.

Apart from 1 DERR we were again lucky to be able to have so much support from Regular and TA Units and we would particularly thank 12 CTT, DERR RLT, 1 Wessex, 155 Regt. RCT (V) 211 Fd Hosp (V), ACC CVHQ, 2 Fd Regt. 2 R Irish, D Med at Ludgershall, R WX Y and RY and especially 10 Ord Sp Bn RAOC in

Devizes. Help from these sources puts a new dimension to our activities at Annual Camp. Our visitors included our old friend and the new Secretary of Western Wessex TA Association **Brigadier Joe Starling**, his successor as Deputy Commander HQ South West District, **Brigadier Rory Walker** who although he professes to be new to ACF affairs at once established a rapport with our cadets putting them completely at ease with his informality and friendliness, **Colonel David Fladgate** from Frimley Park, **Colonel Bob Warner**, Commandant of Cornwall ACF and **Roy Bethel** who struggles despite the moratorium, to keep our buildings standing up. All had a chance to see cadets at work and play and were kind enough to be our guests on our Guest Night. This a very enjoyable evening which was a credit to Tappe Catering and our conscientious PMC.

Camp came to an end all too soon and **Lieutenant Colonel Tom Hyslop**, our Deputy Commandant, who has 37 years experience of ACF Camps judged it to be the best in his ACF service.

FUTURE DATES

We will be represented at the ACF Banner Presentation at Chelsea on 27th March, and are planning on running an Open Day at the WETC at Tilshead on 23rd May. Annual Camp will be at Penally in Pembrokeshire from 15th to 29th August.

APPOINTMENTS

Our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel Eddie Northey**, will handover to **Colonel Cally Alexander** in May this year. **Colonel Cally** was our Commandant from 1971 to 1978 and we welcome him back. It is appropriate to mention how grateful we will always be to **Colonel Eddie** for his friendship and personal interest in all of us. He has always been able to communicate with the cadets and to be accepted by them as a friend. His guidance of our affairs since he was first appointed Commandant in 1968, has been quite invaluable. **Lt. Col. Monty Ormsby** retired in October after 11 years as the Cadet Executive Officer and we were all delighted to see his M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. He has been replaced by **Major Peter Baxter**, late of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment but who has now rebadged. He was until recently GS02 Cadets at Bulford.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Lord Lieutenants Certificates for Meritorious Service were awarded to **Lieutenant Ken Griffin** (Calne) and Second **Lieutenant Ted Brennan** (Downton) in November. **Captains Paul Carter** (D Company Headquarters) and **Jim Cook** (Headquarters) have both been awarded The Cadet

Force Medal. **Majors Stan Sheppard** (Headquarters) and **Terry Lynch** (Headquarters) have been awarded first and second clasps respectively. In common with the other Counties in the Western Wessex area HM's Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, **Lord Margadale of Islay**, appointed four Lord Lieutenant's Cadets at Fonthill House on 29th November. The Wiltshire ACF nomination was Cadet **CSM Nick Skeates** of the Larkhill Troop.

He will attend the Lord Lieutenant at several functions in the County in the coming year.

CONCLUSION

We will always welcome visitors from 1 DERR and former Cadets will also be welcome to visit their old Platoons when on leave. We look forward to the return of the First Battalion to Canterbury and will try and organise Annual Camp for 1983 in that area.

BRADFIELD COLLEGE COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Combined Cadet Force at Bradfield is flourishing, a recent increase in Establishment bringing the total number of cadets to 331, divided between Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and since January 1981, Royal Marines. The Contingent is one of the first ten to have an officially recognised Royal Marine Section, although an unofficial one had been run for the preceding 17 years.

Cadets in the Army Section do a year to the Army Proficiency Certificate, currently helped on their way by **Sgt. Mellers**, who is a member of our local Cadet Training Team. In their second year they specialise for Advanced Training in either Infantry Section training, Regimental Signalling, or First Aid, for which the Contingent has the first CCF Sub-Section officially sponsored by the RAMC. In the third year all cadets can expect to be Junior NCOs, and will in one of their three terms be trained in mountain navigation and lightweight camping to complete a 48 hour exercise in the Brecon Beacons. Held for the physically fit in November and March, and for the less so in June, it is a testing experience, even in fine weather.

The past year has provided a typical range of activities: Annual Camp in July was on a self-help basis at Capel Curig, where 45 cadets from all the Services enjoyed a week of essentially adventurous training. Canoeing, rock climbing and hill walking were all supervised by qualified Officers in the Contingent. Some cadets from the RAF Section went to RAF Gutersloh, West Germany, at Easter, whilst members of the RN and RM Sections spent a week on a Motorised Fishing Vessel in the Clyde in August. Field Day Weekends (Saturday afternoon to Monday evening three times a year) have seen Bradfield cadets inter alia at HMS Dryad, CTC Lymington, RSA Larkhill and the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, under the benevolent eye of **Col. David Fladgate**.

The College Shooting VIII had a satisfactory year. It was 5th in the Country Life Cadet .22 Competition, and 13th in the Ashburton, being unable to repeat its success of 1980 when it won the Shield. However, the Old Boys made up for this by bringing home the Veterans Shield for first time since 1956.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Major R. Groves, RHQ, DERR

Among subscribers to the Journal there must be many retired members of the Regiment who know little about the Regimental Association. It has, as one might expect, much in common with the Old Comrades' Associations of our two old Regiments. Its aims amount to much the same to stimulate comradeship between past and pre-

sent members of the Regiment, and to provide help for past and present members and their families who are in need.

Matters of policy are dealt with by the General Committee under the Chairmanship of **Brigadier Ballantine**, and routine affairs are in the hands of **Lt. Col. Woolnough** and his Executive Committee, of which most members are retired war-

rant officers who are also secretaries of their respective Branches. Together they constitute an experienced and hard-working Committee which meets regularly at Regimental Headquarters, and is quietly steering the Association through its difficult formative years.

The merging of the two Old Comrades Associations with the Association may lie some years ahead, but meanwhile there are encouraging signs of movement to close the gap. Many Old Comrades have been attending the Reunion in recent

years; a number have joined the Association, and one hopes that the trend will continue.

The past year has seen a good deal of activity, with Branch parties, dinners etc held at Reading, Salisbury and Exeter, and the Annual Reunion, attended by nearly two hundred members, at Salisbury Racecourse in May. This year's Reunion is being held at Brock Barracks, Reading on Saturday 4th September, commencing at 2.00 p.m. Tickets at £3.75 each, may be obtained from the Hon Secretary at RHQ.

THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

**Secretary: Major D. Savill : Brock Barracks,
Reading**

The Annual Reunion on 25th/26th July, 1981

The Reunion was very well attended and a first-class buffet was arranged by Mr. Goddard. Approximately 200 members were present on the Saturday night, which included three newly enrolled members, which proved there are ex-Royal Berkshiremen still not members of the Association. Every effort should be made by all members to bring back to the fold any ex-Royal Berkshireman who has not joined the Association. It is essential to the well-being of The Royal Berkshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association.

The service at the Cenotaph on the Sunday was very moving and many civilians from outside The Regiment came and joined the Old Comrades in remembering our Fallen Comrades in the two wars. The Band of the 2nd Wessex Regiment (TA) played at the service and march past. After the service there was an excellent marching display by the Pipes and Drums of the 7th Gurkha Rifle Regiment. A film show of the 1980 Maiwand celebrations was shown in the miniature range at various times. For this we must thank most sincerely **Mr. Roach (Pat Roach's husband)** for an excellent effort.

Again, our thanks are due to **Tommy Baynham**, 2nd Wessex Regiment (T.A.) and the Berkshire A.C.F., for their assistance.

Last, but not least, the band of collectors led by **Mrs. Di. Whitewick** for arranging the collection for the Benevolent Fund.

READING

Since our last notes we think we can claim to have had a fairly successful year in one way or

another. The branch is well supported by those of its members living in the area and most of the functions we hold from time to time are well supported, especially when one bears in mind that many of our members are now getting on in years.

Our Christmas Party, held in the Dragon Club in Brock Barracks, was without doubt a huge success. It also gave us the opportunity of making a presentation to **Major W. G. La T. Cockcraft** and to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the Association whilst acting as Honorary Secretary.

Major Cockcraft has now been succeeded by **Major D. J. Savill** and we extend a very warm welcome to him. He has already put in a tremendous amount of work for the Association and we would like him to know how very much it is appreciated. We wish him every success in his new role. We understand he has managed to recruit **Frank Beville** as his clerical assistant, in place of **Pat Roach** who gave such sterling service over a number of years. Frank will be well remembered by a number of our members, since he was for some twenty years on the civilian staff of the Regiment's T.A. Battalion in Brock Barracks.

We very much regret having to report the death of one of our older members. **Mr. 'Bunchie' Turner** and would like to take this opportunity of extending our deepest sympathy to his relations.

We wish all Old Comrades everywhere every happiness and prosperity in 1982.

WINDSOR

1981 has been seen a few changes for the Branch.

In the early part of the year the R.C.M. at Windsor Barracks offered his Mess for our monthly meeting, which we gladly accepted and were made very welcome.

Our Annual Dinner/Dance in the same Mess was a most successful evening with members and their friends.

The Branch was again represented on Armistice Sunday at the Garrison Church, Windsor. Mr. O'Hara carried the Poppy wreath with Messrs J. Vass and E. Vicary as escort.

Our A.G.M., brought two extra members on to the Committee, which now reads as follows:—

President: Major Moss
Vice-President: Mr. C. O'Hara
Chairman: Mr. A. Willey
Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Vass
Treasurer: Mr. C. Beenham
Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. Vicary
Asst. Secretary and
Welfare Officer: Mr. R. Dovey

MIDLAND

The year 1981 has passed fairly peacefully for us, considering the age of our members, and I have only to report one death. Unfortunately, it was of our Chairman, Mr. H. Clemons of Dorden, Tamworth. He was a fine member and as he was only in his fifties I had hoped that he would succeed me, but that was not to be. Our meetings are now restricted to the Spring, Summer and Autumn periods; this is a good thing as most of our members do not have transport. The A.G.M. was most splendidly supported and we were honoured with the presence of Major Savill, who

lifted us all with his grand speech about keeping the ties of military service going. Our funds are keeping pace with inflation and we were able once again to distribute about £60.00 to older members who like a 'wee dram' to drink to the memory of the Regiment at Christmas and the New Year. The Remembrance Parade at The Hall of Memory was, as usual, well supported by the old stalwarts of the Regiment led by Col. L. J. L. Hill, M.C. The crowds lining the route were ample testimony to the fact that we are not really forgotten.

I would like to inform all members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment that, if they are ever in the Birmingham area, they will be most welcome at the B.U.S. Club, Broad St., Birmingham. Just tell the doorman who you are and you will be admitted 'free'. You will find it is a nice club to have a good 'natter' with old sweats and the drinks are sure to be the cheapest in the area.

10th BATTALION THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

We have had another successful year which included Ladies Night in April, Reunion In October and attendance on Armistice Sunday at the "Field of Remembrance" St. Margarets Westminster. Our thanks go to the Sergeants Mess, London Irish Rifles where we held our reunions and were invited to gather on Armistice Sunday.

In 1982 Ladies Night will be held on Saturday April 24th and the Reunion Saturday October the 9th. Both will be held at the Dragon Club Brock Barracks Reading. I hope members will make every effort to attend.

THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Major R. Groves, RHQ, DERR

ANNUAL REUNION 1981

The Reunion was held on 13/14th June in, one recalls thankfully, the sort of weather one hopes to see at that time of year. The programme opened, as always, with the Annual Business Meeting at 5 o'clock, and moved on to more weighty matters at 6 o'clock when the Bar opened in the Corn Exchange.

Some rousing music was provided by the Hampshire Band of 1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers), by kind permission of their

Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. T. B. Dutton, M.B.E., whose father, the late Major T. J. Dutton M.C., is remembered by many. At Dinner, with our President, Brigadier Roden, in the Chair, we were again almost three hundred strong. A boisterous but enjoyable evening followed, and when, some hours later, the Bar closed it seemed that most of the original three hundred had stayed the distance, even if not quite as fresh as when we all started.

There was a strong turn-out for the Sunday morning Church Parade, which marched off to the music of the 1st Wessex Band. We set off to

follow what has become the normal planned route, and this year, a matter of agreeable surprise, nothing intervened to divert us. The Church had few, if any, spare places for the Service, which was conducted by our Honorary Chaplain, **Canon Williams**, and the sermon was preached by the **Reverend John Hopkins**, who had been the 4th Battalion's Padre in the 1960s.

Back in the Market Place the Corn Exchange doors were open and, as soon as the Parade had fallen out so was the Bar. One sensed, not for the first time, a sense of urgency, or so it seemed, at this stage of the Reunion, which had not been present on the previous evening. No doubt this arises partly from numbers of Old Comrades looking for old friends whom they had missed seeing on the Saturday; in part from the surge towards the Bar when these old friends meet, and overall from the thought that this happy Regimental gathering would soon be over for another year.

The 1982 Reunion will be held at Devizes on 12/13th June. Tickets, at £4 each, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary at RHQ.

SALISBURY

Captain Pat Steele, MBE, whose home address is 32 Macklin Road, Salisbury SP2 7HD writes: The Branch continues to function and we gained four new members during the year. We sincerely hope that many ex-members of the Regiment reading this report will come along and join us and help to swell our Branch. They can be assured that they will be accorded a very warm welcome. **Major G. Read** is still making progress in Newbridge Hospital and we all wish him a speedy recovery. We regret to report the death on 22nd September of **Mr. C. Bridle**, ex-1st and 2nd Bn. **Lt. Col. G. F. Woolnough MC.**, with the Standard Bearer and four of the Branch Members attended the funeral. The Branch entertained Warminster Branch at the Porton Social Club (by kind permission of **Mr. W. Dunford**, Chairman) for a Social Games Evening in July and we returned the visit in November. Both visits were thoroughly enjoyed by all. **Lt. Col. Woolnough** and Members of the Branch, wives and friends attended the Fovant Badges Service on 5th July. **Mr. J. Lush** carried the Branch Standard. We had a few more Branch Members attend the Annual Dinner and also attend the Church Parade on the Sunday. We were all pleased to see **Major Read** on the Sunday Remembrance Sunday, the weather being kind, quite a few Members attended. The RHQ wreath was laid by myself, **Mr. P. Hobbs, BEM** laid the Branch wreath and **Mr. W. Dunford** laid the wreath for the DERR Association prior to the Service at St. Thomas's Church. We hold our

Branch Meetings at the Royal British Legion Club, Market Square, Salisbury, the first Wednesday in January, April, July and October at 8 p.m. If any other Branch Members are in the district, we extend them a cordial welcome. We wish other Branches and all the Staff at RHQ all best wishes for a prosperous 1982.

WARMINSTER

Mr. B. F. Maxfield writes: We still have a good flourishing Branch thanks to an excellent Committee under the Presidency of **Col. J. Houghton Brown DSO, TD** who most regretfully, for reasons of health, tendered his resignation in June, to be succeeded by **Major Jeans** who also has been associated with Warminster Branch and the pre-War TA since 1928. **Col. Houghton Brown** will be sadly missed in the Branch for his wit and humour, especially at the Annual Branch Dinner, but his interest in the Welfare of the Branch and the OCA remains as keen as ever. Many events took place during the year: the Branch Dinner in May, the attendance of some Members at the Annual Reunion, the annual Games Evening with Salisbury Branch home and away, Church Services at St. Giles School of Infantry and the Service of the Badges at Fovant in July when a Mini Bus took some 15 Members and wives to Broadlands in Hampshire, returning by way of Shrewton with the normal visit to the British Legion Club, where we were made most welcome. Sadly we suffered a loss of 3 Members, namely **Mr. J. Osland**, **Mr. S. Besant**, a founder Member in 1947, and **Mr. G. Andrews** also a founder Member. Hopefully 1982 will see us through without further loss. The Branch Dinner will be on Friday 7th May, 1982 and arrangements are well in hand. Best wishes for 1982 to all Members and much success to the Museum — a grand display of Mementoes. Branch Meetings: last Thursday each month. AGM in March.

CALNE

Mr. T. Martin writes: The Branch has had another successful year and has maintained its membership and supported a number of social events. I am pleased to say that we have again retained the Memorial Cup in skittles against the RAF Association, with whose members we continue to have a happy relationship, at other social evenings at their Club. We still have skittle evenings with Devizes Branch and our members are delighted to be invited to their Reunion Dinner and Dance. Our President, **Lt. Col. Wood** laid the wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the Parish War Memorial, at which our Standard was paraded with escort. Meetings are still held at the RAF Association Social Club on the last Monday in the month at 8 p.m.

CHIPPENHAM

Mr. E. W. Goodway writes: This is my first report since 1979 and if any of our Branch Members are thinking the Branch is not now in existence, I hope that this will reassure them. As to be expected, we are now getting thin on the ground, as the saying that "Old Soldiers Never Die" but "Only Fade Away" is very true. Amongst the members of the Branch who have gone on since my last report is **Mr. George Larkham**, for many years Branch Chairman, and **Mr. Arthur Witts** who also held office in the Branch; both were in their eighties. I must give my thanks to **Mr. Fred Wiltshire** who stood in for me on the Armistice Day Parade, when I was unfortunately blown off my bike by an ill wind, (some say it was a Rum wind). I shall soon be on my annual round of the retired members or widows, of which I know of thirty, to wish them the Season's Greetings, but by the time this report is published it will be all in the past. I will admit that the social side of the Branch is not very active, and has not been for some time. We have a very good HQ at the Ex. Servicemen's Club, and the prices are easy on the pension, so Old Comrades take advantage of the facilities. We may get enough members together to declare war on our social inactivity and find fresh fields to conquer. I will end on that note; but I would like a letter now and then from our Branch Members and I welcome ideas and criticism.

MARLBOROUGH

Mr. V. C. H. Cook writes: Our meetings have been mostly well attended; Members have also been generous in donating to the finances, which proves their belief in the Branch's future and their loyalty to the OCA. We held our Annual Social Evening at the RBL Club after our AGM, with their Committee and Swindon Branch. This was a very successful evening which made a small profit, although the Buffet was free. We hope to hold our next in February, inviting other Branches to come along — best of luck to them. My wife and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in May and enjoyed the evening dinner with family and close friends, receiving many presents, including one from the Branch with congratulations. The Branch attended all the usual Church Parades with Standard throughout the year. The Branch wishes RHQ and all other Branches best wishes for a prosperous year ahead.

DEVIZES

Mr. Normington writes:

The Branch meetings, held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Drill Hall, Church Walk, are still only supported by the usual 10 —

12 members. Once again we would appeal to all old members of the Regiment living locally to come along and take part in our activities. Sadly we lost a very stalwart member in June in the death of **Len Fillis**. His jovial presence is sorely missed at our meetings. **Fred Kerley** our Secretary has had to take things easy for a while. After a couple of spells in hospital he is now home again. We sincerely hope that when he next sees the Specialist he will get an A1, or is it FE? assessment. At last we have been able to register a win at Skittles against our Comrades of the Calne Branch; these twice yearly "get togethers" are eagerly looked forward to. In November we held another successful dinner at the Drill Hall. Our guests on this occasion were **Colonel Wood**, **Major Jeans** and **Col. and Mrs. Hyslop**. We wish all Old Comrades a happy and successful 1982.

SWINDON

At the Branch AGM the retiring Committee members were re-elected for a further year: namely, President — **Ernie Nichols**, Secretary — **Fred Ferris**, Chairman — **Len Pebworth** and Vice-Chairman — **George Butcher**. On 9th December the Branch held its Annual Dinner, which was well attended, at the usual haunt of The Noah's Ark. The Branch was represented at the funeral of **Mrs. Sally Venton**, who died exactly one year to the day after her husband **Frank** (MI Room Bangalore, Medical Sergeant in Hong Kong and later TA with 4th Battalion), by **Reg Whitmarsh**, **Harold Wirdnam** and **George and Pat Butcher**. She was buried with **Frank** at Whitworth Road Cemetery, Swindon. On the subject of departed Comrades, we were saddened by the untimely death of that great England Cricketer **Ken Barrington**, who served in 'B' Company in the Bn at Krefeld. I well remember the delight of **Jim Harrowing** on **Ken's** joining the Bn at having a "real" cricketer in the Bn at last. **Ken** was also a good all round sportsman, and I can still see his shock of woolly hair bobbing up and down in the Boxing ring in the Bn inter company Boxing in Krefeld. We are still hoping for a few more Swindon Old Comrades; goodness knows there are plenty of old Wiltshires living in Swindon, so any who can make their way to the Albion Club for our monthly Wednesday meetings for a beer and a few reminiscences of the old times in the "Shacks" will be more than welcome.

LONDON

Major W. C. Hawkins writes:—

It often happens that, no sooner have notes for the Annual Report been submitted, with the usual apology from the scribe for the lack of

news, that something of real interest crops up, and the writer is faced with the choice of two alternatives, he either rushes in with a plea to the Hon. Secretary to accept an item or late news, or he lets it go altogether. It is with this in mind that I refer to the passing of one of our most respected and best loved comrades, **Mr. W. S. Penney**, which occurred at the beginning of the year "Tich", as he was familiarly known, owing to his lack of inches, was an ex-Boy, and a native of Potterne. He served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, where he earned a reputation as a boxer.

As a tribute to his memory no fewer than eight of his former comrades attended his funeral — the largest turn-out I have ever known — which took place at North Sheen Cemetery. His memory will long be cherished by all who knew this popular little man. Are any "rooty" medals given for service to the OCA? If so, both the President and Chairman, each having completed 25 years service in their respective offices, must surely have qualified. One member at least, **Mr. George Hinks**, deserves a "mention". He is our Standard Bearer, and spends much of his time as an active member of the Royal British Legion.

The Remembrance-tide ceremonies were carried out as in previous years with solemnity and decorum. The usual crosses were planted, including one from The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. Unfortunately, the Queen Mother was unable to attend.

On arrival at the plot, we found that there had already been a visitor. Propped against the Regimental Cross was what appeared to be an illuminated address, as officially issued during the 1914-18 War by the War Office, indicating that **Pte. J. Hawkins** of the Wiltshire Regiment had made the supreme sacrifice. I was the only one to whom the article was familiar, and suggested that it had probably been left in the hands of the last survivor of the family, and that it was now being returned to the Regiment through the medium of the Regimental Cross. I suggested that it should go to the Museum, and I understand that our Chairman has passed it to the Curator.

5th BATTALION THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT (1939-45)

Mr. Wood writes: I am happy to record another successful year. At our 1980 Reunion, members indicated that they wished to have two reunions a year, so this year it was put into practice, and will continue, providing support is forthcoming. Our two London Reunions this year were held on 25th April, 1981 at the Union Jack Club and on 10th October, 1981 at The Prince of Wales, Drury Lane. Both were a complete success and 69 and 71 members respectively attended. It was

a pleasure at our last reunion to welcome "**Crash**" **Gullis**, **Ray Cannons**, **Freddie Adams**, **Les Harris** and **Jim Cloke** whom we had not seen for several years. Our April reunion had an unexpected and never-to-be-forgotten ending. The coach conveying our Wiltshire Members back home ran into a violent snow storm soon after leaving London. It had poured all day. After getting soaked and frozen removing trees lying across our path near Kintbury, we finally came to a halt at 2.45 a.m. about 2 miles outside Calne, where the road was blocked by cars abandoned in a massive snow drift. There we stayed until 10.15 a.m. until the road was cleared by a snow plough. Our thanks go to **Sammy Slade** for keeping us alive with his life history — they should make a film of it — and also to our gallant coach driver, who on two occasions set out in the blinding snow storm to make contact with the outside world. We eventually got home to find a power cut in existence. Should anyone find a blue trilby hat near Calne please return it to "Pasha" Baker. It was blown off his head on answering a call of nature. Two Ladies Nights were held in Croydon on 28th November, 1980 and 20th November 1981 when we treated our wives to a dinner and a get-together. Other functions included the London Branch Dinner on 28th February 1981 where several of our members enjoyed themselves and also the Devizes weekend in June where a good time was spent by all. Monthly meetings are still held on the second Tuesday in the month at the "Gloster" PH in West Croydon. All are welcome. Forthcoming attractions: 24th April, 1982, 33rd London Reunion at the Union Jack Club; 16th October, 1982 34th London Reunion at Prince of Wales, Drury Lane.

VLY CLUB

Mr. J. A. Matthews, 15 Spinhill, Market Lavington, Devizes writes:

Once again the club has been very active over the past twelve months and we are pleased to report an increase in numbers from ex. 4th Bn. members. The following have joined the club since January 1981: **Messrs. T. Bridewell, A. G. Jenkins, P. Lucas, J. F. Davis, A. E. Lang, H. H. Harrison, D. W. Cresswell, A. H. Andrews, M. J. Holloway, T. E. Ward, G. P. Witts, A. E. Lawrence, M. Stevens, G. E. Atrill, F. Williams, T. Gardiner, A. J. Barnard and Mr. Viveash**. The Vly Club has run its social activities much the same as in past years, with small dances at the TA Centre in Devizes and the very popular .22 Rifle shooting, competing with the local Army Cadets and a team from the local Branch of the Royal British Legion, but undoubtedly two events stand out in the club calendar. The first was our

trip to Normandy on 6th June, when members, wives and friends crossed the Channel on the Friday evening to enjoy an unforgettable weekend. In addition to the three British War Cemeteries visited, we managed to get a brief visit to the American War Cemetery. Everyone was most impressed, particularly in the difference between the British and American. On behalf of the Club and the Regiment the party laid wreaths on three of the War Cemeteries and a fourth was laid at the foot of the 43rd Wessex Division Memorial at Hill 112. A similar trip is being organised for 25th June, 1982 and interested parties should contact me at the above address. This trip is open to all (not necessarily members). Looking ahead there is talk of a trip in 1983 to Arnhem in Hol-

land. The second main event of the year was indeed the Annual Reunion Dance, held in The Prince Maurice Barracks. Due to circumstances beyond our control, namely flooding, we had to switch the dance to a smaller hall. These problems only occurred in the final week and we are sorry that members had to put up with the crowded conditions. Certainly the 1982 Dance will be limited and due to this event's popularity, members are advised to act quickly on receipt of their Vly Club Bulletin, which will give you full information on allocation of tickets. Vly Club members send greetings to all members of the Regiment wherever they may be.

Hon. Secretary,
Tel: Lavington 3226

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

BDSM Dunford A.—Kevin Nicholas on 10th May 1981.

Sgt. Wilmot J.—Suzanne Linda on 17th December 1980.

Pte. Bowler R.—Nathan Peter on 3rd December 1980.

Pte. Haines P.—Stuart Peter on 19th January 1981.

Pte. Attwood A.—Tina on 21st January 1981.

LCpl. Holmes A.—David John on 29th January 1981.

LCpl. Spence W.—Joanne Elizabeth on 30th August 1980.

Pte. Henry J.—Leona Louise on 14th January 1981.

LCpl. Summer C.—Mark David on 23rd February 1981.

Pte. Wigley K.—Nichola on 28th February 1981.

LCpl. Cook P.—Simon on 20th February 1981.

LCpl. Foy K.—Ryan Derrick on 13th March 1981.

Pte. Cullen S.—Lisa Anne on 18th March 1981.

LCpl. Goldsmith D.—Tracy Peggy on 9th March 1980.

LCpl. Dartnall R.—Mark Steven on 23rd March 1981.

Pte. Hutchins G.—Bianca Gloria on 10th March 1981.

Pte. Ward A.—Charmaine on 20th December 1980.

Pte. Davis G.—Scott Richard and Sarah Marie on 15th January 1981.

LCpl. Goldsmith D.—Vanessa on 21st April 1981.

LCpl. Scott P.—Anne Marie on 22nd April 1981.

LCpl. Latham C.—Richard Paul on 15th April 1981.

LCpl. Bowen D.—Amanda Jane on 21st May 1981.

Pte. Carr P.—Matthew Leigh on 29th March 1981.

LCpl. Nichol G.—Kelly Ann on 15th June 1981.

Pte. Vaughan A.—Lee David on 2nd June 1981.

Pte. Bullock M.—Kelly Anne on 28th June 1981.

Pte. O'Doherty G.—Ryan Christopher on 2nd July 1981.

Cpl. Herbert K.—Kevin David on 13th July 1981.

Pte. Ballard V.—Terri Alica on 17th July 1981.

LCpl. Leonard S.—Paul on 10th July 1981.

C/Sgt. Turaga L.—Marcus on 17th July 1981.

WO2 Mehrlich P.—David Peter on 30th July 1981.

Pte. Rose J.—Jennifer Gladys on 5th August 1981.

Cpl. Bennett K.—Keith Charles on 29th July 1981.

Pte. Panting R.—Natalie Renate on 14th August 1981.

Pte. Harbron R.—Beckey Louise on 12th August 1981.

C/Sgt. Lawrence C.—Scott Curtis on 2nd August 1981.

Cpl. Little H.—Lee Kevin on 10th June 1981.

LCpl. Arman P.—Julia Catherine on 19th August 1981.

Pte. Combes D.—Kelly Faye on 26th August 1981.

Pte. Ward G.—David Desmond on 31st August 1981.

LCpl. Archer R.—Darren James on 18th August 1981.

Cpl. Taylor L.—Ian Malcom on 8th August 1981.

Pte. Cheeseman P.—Francesca Louise on 27th August 1981.

LCpl. Wolfenden B.—Naomi Maxine on 18th September 1981.

Pte. Rixon G.—Nancy on 5th September 1981.

LCpl. Home P.—Terrence Peter on 16th September 1981.

LCpl. Walters D.—Richard on 29th September 1981.

LCpl. Hodd C.—Richard Brian on 1st October 1981.

LCpl. Fisher A.—Steven Paul on 8th May 1981.

Pte. Morag F.—Natasha on 19th October 1981.

Pte. Turner R.—Stewart John on 6th October 1981.

Pte. Chambers D.—Wesley David on 12th October 1980.

LCpl. Preston S.—Craig Stephen on 16th November 1981.

LCpl. McNeil P.—Amy on 21st November 1981.

Pte. Decarteret T.—Michelle Louise on 29th November 1981.

LCpl. Kleis M.—Phillip Gordon on 29th November 1981.

Sgt. Luker D.—Kelly Anne on 30th November 1981.

Pte. Smart P.—Gareth Leigh on 27th November 1981.

Pte. Bebbington S.—Janine on 14th March 1980.

Pte. Kerr P.—Kelly Yvonne on 13th December 1981.

MARRIAGES

LCpl. Latham—Married to Susan Passmore at St. Andrews Ch, Walcot on 27.12.80.

LCpl. Arman—Married to Birgit Raschke at the Standesamt Osnabruck on 6.2.81.

Pte. Rose—Married to Helen Hammond at the Register Office Plymouth on 20.2.81.

Pte. South—Married to Teresa Rich at St. Ann's Parish Ch, Bristol on 20.2.81.

Pte. Barry—Married to Penelope Courtney at All Saints Ch, Porthcawl on 21.3.81.

LCpl. Leonard—Married to Christel Steinke at the Standesamt Osnabruck on 6.3.81.

Pte. Panting—Married to Martina Renate at the Standesamt Osnabruck on 24.4.81.

Pte. Humphries—Married to Karen Haines at St. Barabas Ch, Southampton on 18.4.81.

Pte. Hodge—Married to Sandra Wright at St. Thomas Ch, Exeter on 16.5.81.

Pte. Lambert—Married to Mair Mumford at St. Margarets Ch, Aberaman, S. Wales on 16.5.81.

LCpl. Traveller—Married to Jayne Thornton at St. Georges Ch, Osnabruck on 6.6.81.

Pte. O'Doherty—Married to Nichola Luckwell at the Register Office, Warminster on 1.7.81.

LCpl. Pethick—Married to Gabrielle Voss at St. Margarets Ch, Fernhurst, Sussex on 4.7.81.

Pte. Davies—Married to Elizabeth Rowles at St. May's Ch, Langley Marsh, Berks on 18.7.81.

Pte. Agostino—Married to Deborah Morgan at Register Office, Reading on 27.6.81.

Pte. Burgess—Married to Caroline Smith at St. Peters Ch, Staines on 8.8.81.

LCpl. Goodman—Married to Elaine Lucke at the Register Office, Gravesend on 3.9.81.

LCpl. Colliss—Married to Cornelia Reinsch at the Parish Ch, N. Baddesley on 5.9.81.

Pte. Carr—Married to Lynne Birkett at the Christ Ch, Hatfield, Herts on 22.8.81.

Cpl. Barber—Married to Rebecca Mead at St. Johns Ch, Bishopstrow and Boreham, Wilts. on 29.8.81.

Pte. Zak—Married to Pauline Johnson at St. John Fisher Ch, Greenwich on 5.9.81.

Sgt. Coupland—Married Linda Eastham at the Register Office, Droitwich on 11.9.81.

Pte. Farthing—Married to Delphine Bott at the Parish Ch, Lichfield on 26.9.81.

Pte. Harris—Married to Karen Davis at the Parish Ch, Redbourne Cherney on 24.10.81.

LCpl. Devlin—Married to Collett Woolf at St. Timothy's Ch, Swindon on 7.11.81.

LCpl. Kordowski—Married to Beverley Williams at St. Nicholas's Ch, Newbury on 5.12.81.

Pte. Bebbington—Married to Martina Boschke at the Register Office, Norwich on 11.12.81.

Pte. McGuire—Married to Lianne Gunn at the Parish Ch, St. Mary, Arnold, Notts. on 19.12.81.

Pte. McCauley—Married to Rachel Freeman at St. Michaels, Ch, Mitcheldean, Glos. on 16.1.82.

DEATHS

We record with regret the following deaths:

Buntin, Christine Joan, wife of **Pte. Buntin 1 DERR** on 31st December, 1981.

Hunter Brigadier H. M. A., CVO., DSO., MBE., at home on 10th November, 1981.

Gibson, Dorothy Irene, wife of **Brigadier T. A. Gibson, CBE.**, at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot on 15th July 1981.

Marginson, LCpl. D. C. I DERR on 17th January, 1982 as the result of injuries received in a road traffic accident.

Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA.

Rev. Enoch Davies in July 1981 (Padre to 1st Bn at Kohima)

Captain Bennett in July 1981.

Captain S. Sturgin on 14th August 1981 in New Zealand.

Major J. Jenkin, MBE., on 11th August 1981.

Mrs. J. Mills wife of **Major General Graham Mills** on 29th October 1981.

Mrs. E. C. Ward wife of **Major H. L. F. Ward** on 29th November 1981.

Lieut. Colonel F. J. W. H. Moore on 20th December 1981.

Major J. Wilder on 21st December 1981.

Lieut. Colonel H. Niven, OBE., on 22nd January 1982.

Lieut. Colonel J. H. (Jack) Sugrue on 30th January 1982.

Mrs. Pearl Sturgin wife of **Stan** and daughter of late **Hamilton**.

Mr. A. C. Turner (5329191) (Brother of "Bunchie") on 21st March 1981.

Mr. R. H. Elliott in 1981.

Mr. J. D. Lewin in February 1981.

Mr. J. Harbourne in 1979.

Mr. H. V. Axton on 3rd April 1981.

Mr. F. R. Gardiner on 31st May 1981.

Mr. G. T. Pritchard in May 1981.

Mr. C. F. Adams in July 1981.

Mr. F. H. Thomas (5340139) on 17th August 1981.

Mr. W. R. Moseley (5333789 Ex-CSM) on 11th September 1981.

Mr. W. Sopp (5329998) on 10th October 1981.

Mr. W. Robinson on 14th October 1981.

Mr. L. Bolam on 16th October 1981.

Mr. D. Turner (53331285) on 15th November 1981.

Mr. E. Crocker (5333433) on 18th December 1981 in Newbury.

Mr. H. Clemons in 1981 (Chairman of OCA Midland Branch).

The Wiltshire Regiment OCA.

Lieut. Colonel S. M. C. Theyre, J.P. on 31st December 1981.

Major Sir Noel Arkell on 22nd June 1981 of Highworth, Wiltshire aged 87.

Captain C. Dunkley on 28th May 1981 of Blackwood, Gwent aged 73. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. G. R. B. Andrews of Warminster on 11th October 1981 aged 79.

Mr. L. W. Besant of Warminster on 14th July 1981 aged 71. Served with 4th Bn 1926-45.

Mr. C. Bridle of Salisbury on 22nd September 1981 aged 79. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. E. Bicknell of Plymouth on 20th November 1981. NSM with 1st Bn Drums.

Mr. J. W. Browne of Bordon Hants on 8th August 1981 aged 64. Served with 1st and 5th Bns.

Mr. W. A. Humphries of Salisbury on 10th August 1980.

Mr. R. M. Lang of Torquay on 2nd May 1981 aged 73. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. R. Mason of London Colney on 11th September 1981 (ex. Col. Sgt.) served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. A. F. Mead of Mere on 7th December 1981 aged 84. Served with 3rd and 4th Bns.

Mr. P. T. Squib of Hastings on 23rd June 1981 aged 86. Served with the Regiment 1914-18.

Mr. F. G. Shorney of Birmingham on 2nd October 1981 aged 62. Served with 2nd Bn 1938-45.

Mr. S. Talbot of Lyme Regis on 21st October 1981 aged 103. Served with 2nd Wiltshire Volunteers.

Mr. R. T. Walford of Swindon on 12th September 1981 aged 75. Served with 1st Bn.

Mr. E. T. Wells of Melbourne, Australia in 1981. Served with 2nd and 4th Bns (Band).

Mr. W. J. Marshman of Westbury on 26th November 1981 aged 73.

OBITUARY

BRIGADIER H. M. A. HUNTER, CVO, DSO, MBE.

Brigadier Michael Hunter died unexpectedly during the night of 10th November 1981 at his London home, leaving his wife Elizabeth and two sons, **Simon** and **Charles** to whom we offer our deepest sympathy. At his funeral The Colonel-in-Chief was represented by The Colonel of The Regiment and many members of the Regiment attended.

Michael Hunter was born in 1913 and was educated at Marlborough College and Sandhurst. He joined 2nd Wiltshires in 1933 where he proved a lively Subaltern, much addicted to the social life. He moved to the 1st Battalion in India a couple of years later. His aptitude at drill and weapon training and general ability caused him to be made Adjutant at the very early age of 25, a duty which he carried out with an assurance which marked the rest of his career.

He returned to the United Kingdom early in 1940 and attended the Staff College in 1942 after holding a Staff Appointment in Northern Ireland. Then, as GS02 HQ 78 Infantry Division he went to North Africa and on to Italy, where he was to spend the remainder of the War except for a short period in Greece at the end. The award of the MBE, in 1944 followed a tour as Company Commander in 5th Northhamptons.

An outstanding period for **Michael Hunter** was his command of 1st East Surreys, which resulted in him being awarded the DSO in December 1945 by which time he was AA and QMG HQ 4th Infantry Division.

After the war he held several staff appointments and attended at the Joint Services Staff College. In 1951 he joined 1st Wiltshires in Hong Kong and became 2nd In Command being made a Brevet Lieutenant Colonel in 1953.

Two years in the Military Secretary's Branch intervened before **Michael** returned to 1st Wiltshires as Commanding Officer and was responsible for operations against EOKA in the Kyrenia area of Cyprus. In early 1959 he was appointed Colonel Programmes Division SHAPE on promotion, but sadly by this time he had suffered a heart attack which was to debar him from the further advancement which otherwise would surely have come to him.

He ended his army career as Defence Attaché in Brussels, when he was appointed a CVO by The Queen and also was decorated by The King

of the Belgians. He retained a close association with Belgium thereafter. Following retirement in June 1968 as an Honorary Brigadier, **Michael** spent ten years doing valuable work with the Officers' Association in London. He was Colonel of the Regiment from 1969 to 1976.

That, very briefly, was his career. But what of the man himself? His was a complex character. He was by no means a typical soldier, if there is one, but from the start he had found not just a job, but a vocation. He had strong likes and dislikes, guided by the high standards he set himself and others in the field of duty and social behaviour and these affected his personal relationships with whatever rank. To those of whom he disapproved he could be formidable and almost unrelenting. However he always championed those he considered merited it and there are many of all ranks who can vouch for his extreme kindness, something which he usually strove to hide.

Once you were his friend, and he did not give close friendship lightly, he was steadfast and a wonderful and generous companion. He possessed great charm, courtesy and a sometimes caustic wit. A feature of **Michael** in his later years was his ability to get on with the young. Once he approved there was no age barrier. He was highly educated, interested in the classics and the arts and though never a great sportsman, rode well to hounds in his day and was fond of horse racing and shooting. Whatever he did, you could be sure that **Michael** would be correctly and impeccably dressed for the occasion. Although something of a gourmet, he could still enjoy a stew turned out by a company cook and even confessed to liking bully beef.

Michael had the ability and character to rise to very high rank in the Army and it was a great disappointment that his health prevented this. However his career was still distinguished and was crowned by his term as Colonel of the Regiment. In this his outstanding qualities came to the fore. Indeed there are those who believe that it was not until he became Colonel that the Regiment really began to understand what Amalgamation meant and how it could be perfected.

Moreover there were few who either suffered misfortune or achieved success who did not hear from him in exactly the right vein.

His preparation for meetings was meticulous and his attendance at regimental functions almost unflinching. At the latter he was normally accompanied by his charming wife who loyally support-

ted him during this period, and indeed throughout their married life. Their joint hospitality and consideration were an example to all.

Michael did much for the Regiment and his friends miss him sadly. He had style.

K. C-G.

NOTICES

THE ROCKE BEQUEST

This Trust was created by the Will of the late **Colonel W. L. Rocke** who raised and commanded the 7th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment in the 1914-18 War and who died in 1927. It is for the benefit of ex-members of the 1st, 2nd and 7th Battalions of The Wiltshire Regiment, or their widows, who are in need. From the small income annuities or grants are made to deserving cases. A donation of £500 was made to the Wardrobe Appeal Fund.

The present Trustees are: **Brigadier G. Wort, CBE., DL., Lieut. Colonel L. H. Wood, OBE, Major R. G. Hoare TD, Captain W. W. R. Vallis TD, and F. W. Cooper Esq.**

At a recent meeting of the Trustees their appreciation and thanks were expressed to **Mr. T. R. Hood** who has been the Secretary of the Bequest since January 1954. The new Secretary is **Major R. C. Wilkins, MBE., TD.**, whose address for the purposes of the Bequest is: c/o **Messrs Spackman, Dale and Hood, Market Hill House, Calne, SN11 0EG.**

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP RULES FOR UNION JACK CLUB

Two important and rather revolutionary changes have just been made to the membership rules of the Union Jack Club: to allow the widows of Service and Ex-Service Other Ranks to become Temporary Honorary Members and to allow all Ex-Servicemen and women to become full members of the Club without having to fulfil a qualification. **R. Berks** in 1937. What I have so far failed to discover is why they should have linked with the Berkshires when they started life on the nucleus in three years' service which means that ex-National Servicemen are now eligible to join.

Members of the TA can also stay in the Club, at Membership rates when on duty and as Temporary Honorary Members when staying privately.

The new Club, which was built in 1975, stands close to Waterloo Station in the centre of London. It has 417 single and 63 double bedrooms in the twin-tower complex, each with hot and cold running water, fitted cupboards, and cots available for very young children. The Club has a restaurant, bars, TV rooms and games room.

For any member or ex-member of the Services staying in London it provides, at minimal cost, a self contained base at the heart of the City. Those requiring further details should contact: Union Jack Club, Sandwell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. Telephone: 01 928 6401.

BANNER FOR IJLB SHORNCLIFFE

On Tuesday 28th July, 1981 the Director of Infantry, **Major General P. F. A. Sibbald OBE**, presented a banner to the IJL Battalion. It is to be known as the Director of Infantry's Banner and will be competed for annually by the companies of the Battalion in a mixture of military and sporting events. These will include marching and shooting, drill, a skill-at-arms meeting, an assault course, patrol competition, orienteering, rugby, soccer, hockey, cricket, athletics, cross-country, novice boxing and even a tug of war. The company winning the banner will hold it for a year during which it will be senior company on formal parades.

The banner is in crimson silk lute. On one side will be the infantry bayonet with the letters "IJLB" interwoven at the top left corner. The obverse will show the Battalion badge surrounded by emblems of the Divisions of Infantry and the Royal Pioneer Corps, all of which have contributed towards the cost of the banner.

THE ARMY CADET FORCE LEAGUE — WILTSHIRE BRANCH

Since the cut-down of the Territorial Army in 1968, the ACF has been one of the few opportunities open to young citizens to give voluntary service to their Country and to develop their own characters on strong and sound lines. It is also a valuable experience for youth in the concept of Military Service and a constant, increasing and much needed source of recruits for the Regular Army.

The Wiltshire ACF is flourishing and there is great scope for expansion but it is restricted by the lack of money for some of its simplest and most fundamental needs. The 25 detachments are widely spread throughout the County and the main financial problem is in the collecting and transporting cadets so that they can take part in the various activities organised for them, parti-

cularly in the field of sport, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and weekend training.

Whilst Army Department transport is authorised for a few specific occasions, all other transport has to be hired. The Annual Travel Grant is available to pay for all adult travel to and from duty as well as for hired transport. As this Grant is limited, all ACF activities which involve the use of transport have to be carefully compared with one another and only the essential projects can be given the "go ahead", many desirable ones having to be shelved on the grounds of expense. The transport problem has been further increased by the introduction of a new Training Syllabus for the ACF in which Adventre Training in all its forms is highlighted.

This new Syllabus not only increases the transport requirements, but also demands the purchase and maintenance of expensive equipment not available from Army resources. The Annual Consolidated Grant from which all day to day running expenses of the ACF are paid is also available for the buying and maintenance of equipment. The amount available for this purpose when all running expenses are paid for is very limited. There is therefore a pressing need to raise as much additional income as possible to subsidise both the Transport and Consolidated Grants.

This financial need is common to all County Cadet Forces. Headquarters of the Army Cadet Force Association formed the Army Cadet Force League which, as a parent body encourages Counties to form their own branches whose broad aims would be: first to widen the Public Interest in the ACF and to obtain a lively body of supporters in the County and second, to enable Counties to raise money for essential ACF activities which cannot be covered by Army Funds.

This year The Wiltshire ACF will receive about £800 from The Wiltshire ACF League. Sadly in these inflationary times even this very generous grant does not go far and the Wiltshire ACF League will always welcome new members who can subscribe by Deed of Covenant, annual Bankers Order, or simply forwarding a cheque as and when they can. Further enquiries should be sent to:

The Hon. Secretary, **Lt. Col. M. A. Ormsby, MBE, MC**, c/o HQ, Wiltshire ACF, TA, Centre, Church Walk, Devizes, Wiltshire.

KING EDWARD VII's HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS

King Edward VII's Hospital, or Sister Agnes's as it is affectionately known, is run especially for

Service and ex-Service Officers, and their dependants and provides excellent medical facilities at the lowest possible cost. If you would like more details about the facilities on offer you should write to: 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR or phone 01-828 4454.

KING EDWARD VII's CONVALESCENT HOME FOR OFFICERS

Osborne House on the Isle of Wight was given to the Nation in 1902 by **HM King Edward VII** as a Convalescent Home for Officers of the armed forces and their families. Accommodation is comfortable and charges reasonable. For further information please apply to: The Secretary General, Osborne House, East Cowes, Isle of Wight PO32 6JY.

ROME 44 — THE BATTLE FOR THE ETERNAL CITY

This book by Raleigh Trevelyan, which covers World War II from Anzio to Rome has recently been published by Secker and Warburg Limited, Price £8.95 and a copy has been placed in the Regimental Library.

Letter to the Editor

From **Mr. D. H. Ardley**

Dear Sir,

For some time now I have been working on a study of the history of the London Volunteer units that made up the London Regiment. One of these, the 10th London (Hackney), became affiliated to the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1929 and and then became the 5th (Hackney) Battalion, of two Companies of 7th Essex Regt. and were affiliated to Rifle Brigade in 1916! Can any of your readers throw any light on this?

Yours truly,

D. H. Ardley.

Editor's Note: Can anyone help? We can find nothing in the archives and believe it may come from the close association which was formed between The Royal Berkshires and the 2/10th London Battalion during the first World War in France.

Next Issue of The Journal

The next issue of the Journal will be published in April 1983. All contributions must be sent to the Editor at RHQ. by the 15th January, 1983.



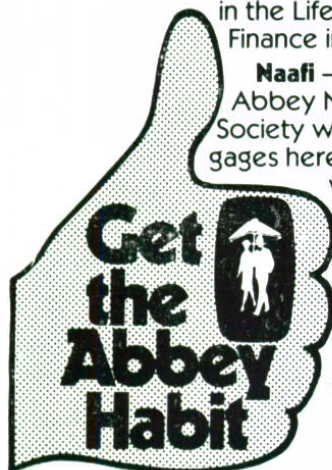
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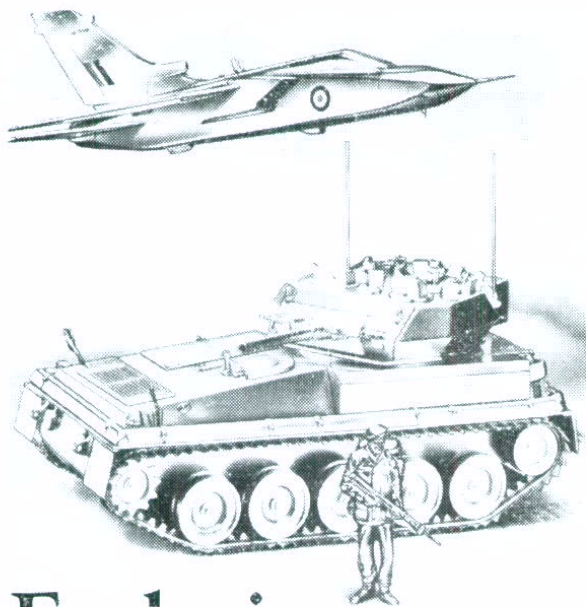
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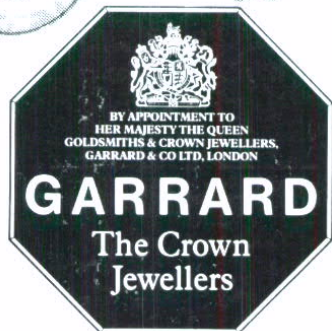
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