

The Journal of the

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S



ROYAL REGIMENT

(BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)



Regulation issue

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The Journal of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)

Battle Honours:—

"Louisburg", "St. Lucia 1778", "Egmont-op-Zee", "Copenhagen", "Duoro", "Talavera", "Albuhera", "Queenstown", "Vittoria", "Pyrenees", "Nivelle", "Nive", "Orthes", "Peninsula", "New Zealand", "Ferozeshah", "Sobraon", "Alma", "Inkerman", "Sevastopol", "Pekin 1860", "Kandahar 1880", "Afghanistan 1879–80", "Egypt 1882", "Tofrek", "Suakin 1885", "South Africa 1879, 1899–1902".

The Great War—28 Battalions—"Mons", "Le Cateau", "Retreat from Mons", "Marne 1914", "Aisne 1914, 1918", "La Bassée 1914", "Messines 1914, 1917, 1918", "Armentières 1914", "Ypres 1914, 1917", "Langemarck 1914, 1917", "Gheluvelt", "Nonne Bosschen", "Neuve Chapelle", "Aubers", "Festubert 1915", "Loos", "Somme 1916, 1918", "Albert 1916, 1918", "Bazentin", "Delville Wood", "Pozières", "Flers-Courcelette", "Morval", "Thiepval", "Le Transloy", "Ancre Heights", "Ancre 1916, 1918", "Arras 1917, 1918", "Scarpe 1917, 1918", "Arleux", "Pilkem", "Menin Road", "Polygon Wood", "Broodseinde", "Poelcappelle", "Passchendaele", "Cambrai 1917, 1918", "St. Quentin", "Bapaume 1918", "Rosières", "Avre", "Villers Bretonneux", "Lys", "Hazebrouck", "Bailleul", "Kemmel", "Béthune", "Scherpenberg", "Amiens", "Hindenburg Line", "Havrincourt", "Epéhy", "Canal du Nord", "St. Quentin Canal", "Beaurevoir", "Selle", "Valenciennes", "Sambre", "France and Flanders 1914–1918", "Piave", "Vittorio Veneto", "Italy 1917–1918", "Dorian 1917, 1918", "Macedonia 1915–1918", "Suvla", "Saria Bair", "Gallipoli 1915–1916", "Gaza", "Nebi Samwil", "Jerusalem", "Megiddo", "Sharon", "Palestine 1917–1918", "Tigris 1916", "Kut al Amara 1917", "Baghdad", "Mesopotamia 1916–1918".

The Second World War—"Dyle", "Defence of Arras", "St. Omer-La Bassée", "Ypres-Comines Canal", "Dunkirk 1940", "Normandy Landing", "Odon", "Caen", "Hill 112", "Bourguibus Ridge", "Maltot", "Mont Pincon", "La Varinière", "Seine 1944", "Nederrijn", "Roer", "Rhineland", "Cleve", "Goch", "Xanten", "Rhine", "Bremen", "North-West Europe 1940, 1944–1945", "Solarino", "Simeto Bridgehead", "Pursuit to Messina", "Sicily 1943", "Monte Camino", "Calabritto", "Garigliano Crossing", "Minturno", "Damiano", "Anzio", "Carroceto", "Rome", "Advance to Tiber", "Italy 1943–1945", "Middle East 1942", "Donbaik", "North Arakan", "Point 551", "Mayu Tunnels", "Ngakyedauk Pass", "Kohima", "Mao Songsang", "Shwebo", "Kyaukmyaung Bridgehead", "Mandalay", "Fort Dufferin", "Rangoon Road", "Toungoo", "Burma 1942–1945".

The Battle Honours shown in heavy type above are borne on The Colours.

Colonel-in-Chief

FIELD MARSHAL H.R.H. THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., K.T., O.M., G.B.E.

Colonel of the Regiment

MAJOR GENERAL D. T. CRABTREE C.B.

Regimental Headquarters and Museum

Regimental Secretary:	Lieutenant Colonel B. R. Hobbs, O.B.E.
Assistant Regimental Secretary:	Major R. F. Groves
Museum Curator:	Major J. J. Price

1st Battalion

Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel W. A. Mackereth

TA

1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment	(Rifle Volunteers)	
	HQ Company	Devizes
2nd Battalion The Wessex Regiment	(Volunteers)	
	B Company	Reading
	C (Royal Berkshire) Company	Maidenhead
	D Company	Reading

Alliances

Canadian Armed Forces:	The Algonquin Regiment The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
The New Zealand Army:	7th Battalion (Wellington (CWO) and Hawkes Bay), Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
Pakistan Army:	13th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment

Affiliation

H.M.S. Vernon



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EDITORIAL

This Jubilee year edition of the Journal includes an account of the Regiment's formation parade which took place on 9th June 1959 at Albany Barracks on the Isle of Wight. For those readers who were not present, the address given by the Colonel in Chief on that historic day is also reproduced. These stirring words provided the foundation upon which the Regiment's high reputation has been built. It can rightly be said that all those who have served in the Regiment since its formation have made their own special contribution towards ensuring that the Regiment has grown "into a fighting unit in the very highest traditions of the British Army."

Also included in this edition is a photograph of the present Colours which were presented to the 1st Battalion by the Colonel in Chief at the formation parade. New Colours are normally presented every twenty-one years but because the Battalion's commitments have prevented the ceremony taking place during the past three years we are fortunate that the presentation of new Colours will now take place in our Jubilee year and almost exactly twenty-

five years to the day of the formation of the Regiment. Details about the ceremony will be found elsewhere in the Journal. No decision has yet been made on the laying up of the present Colours.

We are all grateful that the 1st Battalion had a successful and safe tour in Northern Ireland during the summer months of 1983. It is good to have them stationed in England again, albeit for brief spells between their frequent short overseas training and operational commitments.

The Colonel of the Regiment has had a busy year representing the Regiment at County and Regimental functions, details of which are included in the Regimental Notes.

Once again our thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition of the Journal, particularly those who have written articles for the Miscellany Section. The Journal is now being printed once a year in January. Contributions should therefore be at RHQ by 1st October. A happy and successful 1984.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

In 1984 the Regiment celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. Everyone who has served in the Regiment can look back with deserved pride at the achievements and success since 1959. No regiment has earned a better professional reputation and I have been most pleased to see how professional conduct has been well balanced by a light touch and a sense of humour. To all of you, both past and present members of the Regiment I send my warmest congratulations on this happy event and my best wishes for continued success in the years ahead. I hope that I shall have an opportunity of seeing as many of you as possible at Canterbury on 8th June 1984 when the Colonel in Chief plans to present new Colours to the 1st Battalion.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT

Saturday 9th June 1984 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. It was on this day in 1959 that the former Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment amalgamated at Albany Barracks on the Isle of Wight. The occasion was marked by a ceremonial parade and the presentation of new Colours by the Colonel in Chief. Over two thousand people witnessed the ceremony, many of whom were brought to the Isle of Wight by the Carisbrooke Castle, a passenger ferry ship which was specially chartered for the occasion.

Since 1959 the 1st Battalion has built up a formidable reputation during service which has taken it to Malta, Germany, Cyprus, Belize, Berlin and Northern Ireland. During this time the Regiment has had five Colonels of the Regiment and the 1st Battalion eleven Commanding Officers. In looking back over these twenty-five years and forward to the next twenty-five it is fitting to remind ourselves of the words of the Colonel in Chief when he addressed the 1st Battalion on the 9th June 1959:

"There is one emotion which is always present whenever anything is changed. Regret at losing something old and familiar. Even if the change is recognised to be inevitable and even when the old is known to be bad there has always been and there always will be a sense of regret at its passing.

The Duke of Cambridge as Commander-in-Chief of the Army is supposed to have said on one occasion, "Gentlemen, I am against any change even if it can be proved for the better". However much we may disagree, I think we all have a sneaking sympathy for a man who admitted that his sense of regret was greater than his sense of improvement.

Regret has its place in today's ceremony because who can fail to regret the passing of two

gallant regiments with long and courageous histories?

There is, however, this consolation: nothing can rub out their history, their triumphs and defeats; their courage and devoted service are facts which can never be removed from the record.

Change may bring regret but at the same time it is both a challenge and a stimulant. It is only a very mean spirit which does not rise to the opportunities of change.

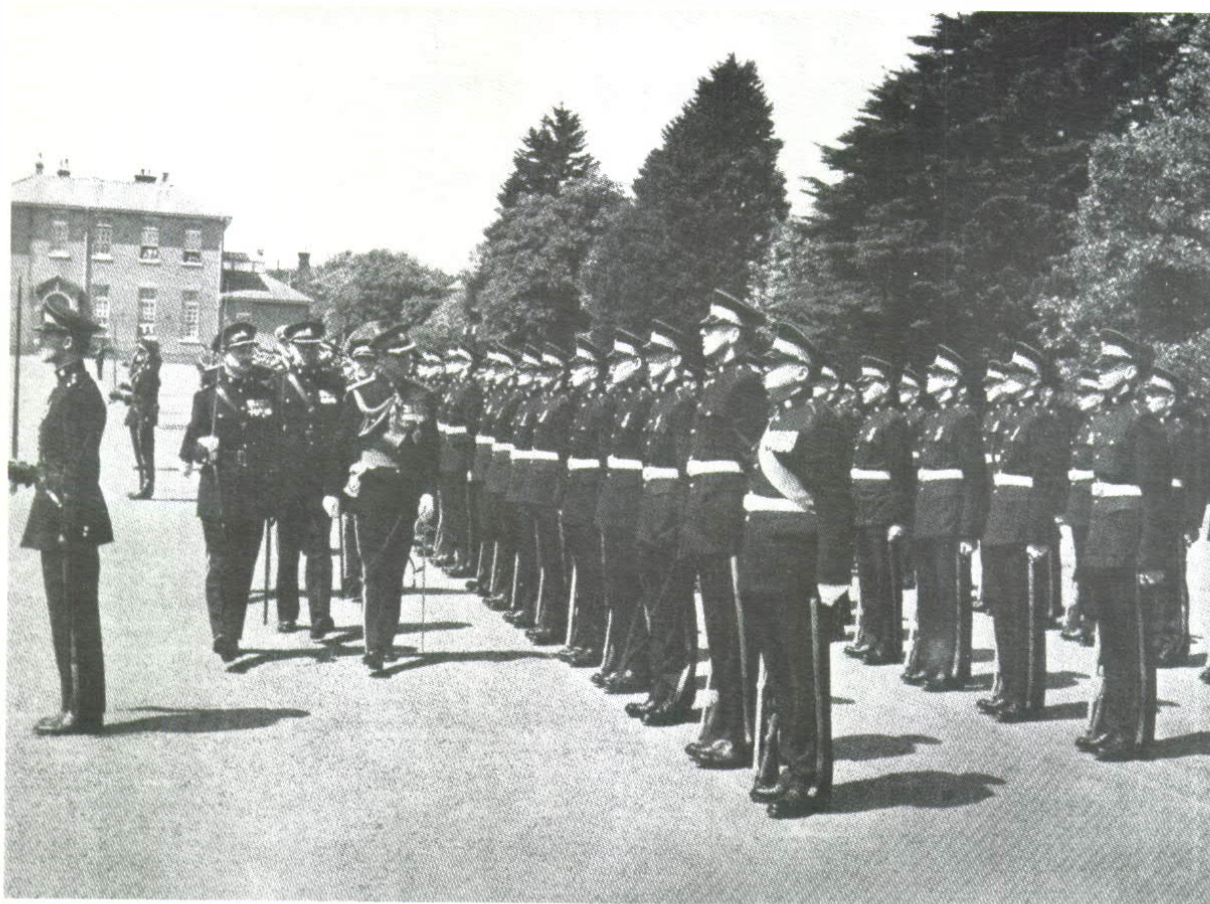
In forming this new Regiment every one of you has a chance to put something more into it than loyalty and obedience to tradition. Each one of you has a chance to create new traditions and to help constructively in building a Regiment that can live up to and indeed surpass the standards of both its predecessors.

You have plenty to build upon. Your counties are neighbours. Both regiments have had Royal connections. Both regiments saw service in China and both had a particularly close association with the Royal Navy and the sea.

I can see no reason why the new Regiment should not grow into a fighting unit in the very highest traditions of the British Army and I tell you all here and now that I consider it a very great honour to me that your name should be The Duke Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and that I should have the privilege of being your Colonel in Chief. I am entirely confident that the honour of a proud title is in good hands and that you will cherish these new Colours as a reminder of your duty to the Queen and to the country.

Finally, I look to the retired officers and old comrades to give their full and loyal support to the new Regiment both in the critical months ahead and at all times in the future.

Good luck and God bless you all!"



The Colonel-in-Chief inspecting the 1st Battalion on the 9th June, 1959.

PARADE STATE

Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Woolnough, M.C.

Adjutant:

Captain W. G. R. Turner

Second-in-Command:

Major F. H. B. Boshell, D.S.O., M.B.E.

Regimental Sergeant-Major:

W.O. I. L. Hodges

Queen's Colour:

Lieutenant J. N. Morris

Colour Party:

Regimental Colour:

Lieutenant J. B. Shears

No. 1 Guard:

Major D. J. Savill
Captain J. B. Hyslop
2/Lieutenant A. B. Cole
C.S.M. M. Hawe

No. 2 Guard

Captain B. R. Hobbs
Lieutenant J. A. H. Macmillan
2/Lieutenant R. I. Goodhart
C.S.M. D. Mortimer

No. 3 Guard

Major A. H. Fraser
Captain C. J. Edwards
Lieutenant M. A. Draper
C.S.M. D. Brown

No. 4 Guard

Major F. J. Stone
Captain J. M. Hartland
Lieutenant C. G. P. Aylin
C.S.M. C. Clacey

Quartermaster:

Major C. J. Barber

Bandmaster:

W.O.I. G. A. Hale

Drum-Major:

Colour Sergeant W. Choules

Chaplains on Parade:

The service was conducted by:

The Venerable Archdeacon V. J. Pike, C.B., C.B.E., D.D., Chaplain to the Queen, Chaplain-General to the Forces.

The Chaplain-General was attended by:

The Reverend W. D. C. Williams, O.B.E., B.A., Q.H.C., Assistant Chaplain-General, Southern Command.

REGIMENTAL GAZETTE

OFFICERS' LOCATIONS AS AT 1 JANUARY 1984

Colonel of the Regiment

Major General D. T. Crabtree CB psct, pse, ptsc Director General Weapons (A) MOD

Colonel

W. G. R. Turner MBE nde pse
D. A. Jones pse pse(o)
M. R. Vernon-Powell pse ph pl
J. D. Redding pse
G. Coxon MBE ode(us) pse

MOD (DAR)
MOD (OR)
Comdt JATE
DCOS HQ NE District & HQ 2nd Inf Div
DACOS HQ BAOR

Lieutenant Colonel

L. C. Tremellen nde pse
W. A. Mackereth pse
A. J. Rose pse

Attached HQ School of Infantry
Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
CRLS HQ SE District

Major

J. B. Hyslop
J. P. Ward sq
D. C. Murray pse
C. G. P. Aylin
T. M. A. Daly pse ph
N. R. West sq
A. C. Kenway pse
R. D. O. Foster
C. J. Parslow
M. J. Cornwell
S. W. J. Saunders BSc, BA pse
D. J. A. Stone pse

School of Electronic Engineering
DOA Germany
1 RRW
HQ BAOR (Pending retirement July 1984)
School of Infantry (for MOD March 1984)
Trg Major 2 WESSEX
21SAS(V)
School of Infantry (For ID&D July 1984)
BRITCON UNFICYP (For 1st Battalion February 1984)
HQ POW Div (For 1R HAMPS December 1984)
HQ Northern Ireland (For 1st Battalion February 1984)
1st Battalion (For Sennelager Training Centre
February 1984)
1st Battalion (For HQ BF ANTWERP January 1984)
1st Battalion
1 DTU Warminster
1st Battalion
1st Battalion

R. K. Tittley BA
A. E. G. Westlake MBE BA
A. Briard aic
R. B. Paddison
A. P. B. Lake pse

Captain

B. R. F. Franklin BSc
N. J. Walker
P. E. O'R-B Davidson-Houston BSc (Eng) (A Major)
A. N. Coates
S. E. Bowkett B.A.

SO3 HQ6 Armd Bde
SO3 5 Inf Bde HQ (For 1st Battalion September 1984)
Sultan of Oman's Land Forces (For Staff September 1984)
SO3 HQ 39 Bde
Depot LICHFIELD (For Adjutant Depot CRICKHOWELL
June 1984)

S. G. Cook
S. A. Durant
J. C. Wort BSc

Adjutant 1st Battalion
Adjutant 1 WESSEX (RV) (For Staff August 1984)
1st Battalion (For Adjutant 1 WESSEX (RV) July 1984)

Lieutenant

S. C. D. Baynham BA (A Capt)
P. C. Tomlinson (A Capt)

1st Battalion
1st Battalion (For Instructor WRAC College
January 1984)
1st Battalion
1st Battalion
1st Battalion
1st Battalion
1st Battalion
Depot LICHFIELD (For 1st Battalion June 1984)
1st Battalion
1st Battalion

R. N. Wardle (A Capt)
J. M. C. Rylands (A Capt)
N. M. Smith BA (A Capt)
K. T. Haugh (A Capt)
P. J. King BA
G. P. Barlow
F. D. F. Drury BSc
R. Allan BSc (Econ)

2nd Lieutenant

J. Marsh BA
A. C. White
J. Tomlinson

RMA Sandhurst (For 1st Battalion April 1984)
1st Battalion (For Depot CRICKHOWELL October 1984)
Cadetship University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Quartermasters

Major (QM) J. H. Peters MBE	QM (Tech) School of Infantry
Captain (QM) W. R. Stafford	QM 1 WESSEX (RV)
Captain (QM) D. J. I. Leadbetter	QM 1st Battalion
Captain (QM) P. D. Stacey	QM 2 MERCIAN
Captain (QM) S. J. Venus	QM (Tech) 1st Battalion

Special Regular Commission**Major**

W. V. Holmes	1st Battalion (For 263 GL Section March 1984)
J. L. Silvester	Depot CRICKHOWELL

Captain

A. F. R. Steevenson	SO3 HQ 6 Armd Bde (For 1st Battalion April 1984)
---------------------------	--

Lieutenant

J. J. Edmonds	1st Battalion
T. D. O'Hare	1st Battalion (For Depot LICHFIELD April 1984)
R. Davis	Depot CRICKHOWELL (For 1st Battalion October 1984)

2nd Lieutenant

F.D. Chedham	1st Battalion
S. D. Gray	1st Battalion

Short Service Commission**Captain**

T. J. Freelove	1st Battalion
----------------------	---------------

Lieutenant

C. G. Higgs	1st Battalion
E. A. Millard (A Capt)	1st Battalion

2nd Lieutenant

R. D. Higgs	1st Battalion
P. Dennis	1st Battalion
M. J. Smith	1st Battalion

Officers Serving with 1st Battalion from other Regiments/Corps

Major R. J. Pook psc D&D	2IC
Captain J. G. I. D. Baileau-Goad RWF	
Captain I. M. Stanley aic RHAMPS	
Lieutenant A. D. Thornell D&D	
Captain J. R. Henderson RAMC	RMO
Captain K. L. F. Beale BEM RAPC	Paymaster

University Bursary Holders

C. P. McCarthy	University of London
W. H. C. Wilson	Exeter University
M. J. Lister	Hull University
G. J. H. Brown	Brunel University
D. Charles	Cardiff University
R. C. Toyne	Kent University
C. J. S. Perkins	Salford University

Army Scholars

P. R. Smallwood	Christ's Hospital
P. R. Flavell	Bournemouth School
N. J. Walker	King Edward's School, Bath

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.1 Nother	Bandmaster 1st Battalion	W.O.2	
W.O.1 Wiggins	Sennelager Trg Centre	W.O.2 Habgood	1 WESSEX
W.O.1 Hicks	RSM 1st Battalion	W.O.2 Luckwell	1st Battalion
W.O.1 Bailey	1 MERCIAN	W.O.2 Flay	Depot Crickhowell
W.O.1 Hobbs	Depot Crickhowell	W.O.2 Minty	1 WESSEX
W.O.1 Mullings	1 WESSEX	W.O.2 Cole	1st Battalion
W.O.1 Sherman	SMF Mauritius	W.O.2 Turner	1st Battalion
		W.O.2 Fielding	School of Infantry
		W.O.2 Long	BAAT LESOTHO
		W.O.2 Morgan	NITE

W.O.2 Mehrlich 1st Battalion
W.O.2 Fedrick 1 WESSEX
W.O.2 Bryant 1st Battalion
W.O.2 Hoare BEM 1st Battalion
W.O.2 Godwin 1st Battalion
W.O.2 Smith 51 1st Battalion
W.O.2 Hollister 1st Battalion

C/SGT

C/Sgt. Pearce 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Coleman 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Pinnell BEM. Depot Lichfield
C/Sgt. Lawrence Depot Lichfield
C/Sgt. Beet 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Keegan 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Fielding 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Brame 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Cox SOLF
C/Sgt. Paz STANOC Centre Larkhill
C/Sgt. Dobie 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Haines 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Merritt 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Carpenter 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Choules AAC Chepstow
C/Sgt. Hiscock 2 WESSEX
C/Sgt. Walters QGM 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Gardner 1 MERCIAN
C/Sgt. Baker 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Luker RMA Sandhurst
C/Sgt. Watts 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. North 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Navarro 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Trench 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Coupland 2 WESSEX
C/Sgt. Samson 1 WESSEX
C/Sgt. Curtin 2 WESSEX
C/Sgt. Duran 1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Hole 2 WESSEX
C/Sgt. Coyle SWW Netheravon

SGT.

Sgt. Waters 2 MERCIAN
Sgt. Bungay 1st Battalion
Sgt. Scully 1st Battalion
Sgt. White 1st Battalion
Sgt. Baines 1st Battalion
Sgt. Kerr 1st Battalion
Sgt. Searle 22 SAS
Sgt. Griffin 1st Battalion
Sgt. Dean 1st Battalion
Sgt. Le Strange 1st Battalion
Sgt. Williams IJLB Shorncliffe

Sgt. Mellers 1st Battalion
Sgt. Povey 1st Battalion
Sgt. Nimmo 1st Battalion
Sgt. Rose 1st Battalion
Sgt. Gardiner 1st Battalion
Sgt. Evans 1 WESSEX
Sgt. Burlow 1st Battalion
Sgt. Watts 1 WESSEX
Sgt. Harrill RLT
Sgt. Chitty Depot Lichfield
Sgt. McLeod 1st Battalion
Sgt. Tadhunter 1st Battalion
Sgt. Chapman RMA Sandhurst
Sgt. Moloney 1st Battalion
Sgt. Wilmot Depot Lichfield
Sgt. Latham 1st Battalion
Sgt. Fennell 1st Battalion
Sgt. Ficke 1 RRW
Sgt. Traveller 1st Battalion
Sgt. Trappe 1st Battalion
Sgt. Snee ACIO Swindon
Sgt. Porter 15 CTT
Sgt. Ward 1st Battalion
Sgt. Maynard 1st Battalion
Sgt. McIntyre 92 1st Battalion
Sgt. Shervington 1st Battalion
Sgt. Wise ACIO Bournemouth
Sgt. Batty 1st Battalion
Sgt. Cox 1st Battalion
Sgt. Gill 1st Battalion
Sgt. Browne ACIO Reading
Sgt. Christian 1st Battalion
Sgt. Hall ACIO Reading
Sgt. Gibbs 1st Battalion
Sgt. Henwood 1st Battalion
Sgt. Proctor HQ POW Div
Sgt. Walker 1 Regt AAC
Sgt. Higgs 1st Battalion
Sgt. Butler 1st Battalion
Sgt. Barber Princess Marina College
Sgt. Tait 1st Battalion

LONG SERVICE LIST

W.O.2 Turner SSO BIELEFELD
W.O.2 Green SSO MUNSTER
W.O.2 Perkins ACIO SALISBURY
W.O.2 Wright ACIO BOURNEMOUTH
W.O.2 Whitfield SSO KREFELD
W.O.2 Watton HQ EPISCOPI GARRISON
W.O.2 Carter MBE. 10 CTT STRENSALL
Cpl Barnes RAEC Centre BEACONSFIELD

Honours and Awards

Congratulations to the following who were honoured during 1983:

CB

Major General D. T. Crabtree

OBE

Colonel K. T. Hathaway who served in the Regiment until his transfer to AAC

LS and GC Medal

CSgt. D. J. A. Beet
CSgt. J. C. Dobie
CSgt. D. R. Gardner
Sgt. E. P. Griffin
Sgt. P. R. Waters

Promotions

We congratulate Major A. C. Kenway on his selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1984 and to Command the 1st Battalion in January 1985.

We congratulate the following on their promotion during 1983:

Major

Captain A. P. B. Lake
Captain J. L. Silvester

Commissions

We welcome the following officers who were commissioned into the Regiment during 1983:

2/Lieut S. D. Gray
2/Lieut P. Dennis
2/Lieut M. J. Smith

Retirements

The following officers retired from the Army during 1983. We thank them most warmly for their services to the Regiment and wish them the best of good fortune for the future.

Colonel D. C. Munn MA
Major R. T. E. W. Welsh
Major R. M. C. Wilson
Major P. Bradley
Major (QM) P. Martin MBE
Major (QM) J. A. Barrow MBE

University Awards

The following has been selected for the University Award shown:

Bursary

C. J. S. Perkins Salford University

Degrees

The following officers were awarded the University Degree shown at the end of the 1983 Academic year:

Lieutenant P. J. King BA
2/Lieut J. Marsh BA

Regimental Calendar 1984

16 and 23 March	Regimental Committee and Trustee meetings	19 June – 23 July	1st Battalion on exercise in CANADA
13 April	Officers Dinner at Wadham College, Oxford	28–29 July	The Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA Reunion at Reading
3–4 May	Regimental Golf Meeting. Tidworth Golf Club	7 September	Officers Cocktail Party at the Wardrobe
8 June	Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion at Howe Barracks, Canterbury	8 September	Regimental Association Reunion at the Wardrobe
9 June	25th Anniversary of formation of the Regiment	19 and 26 October	Regimental Committee and Trustee meetings
16–17 June	The Wiltshire Regiment OCA Reunion at Devizes	December	1st Battalion departs for tour of duty with UNFICYP

REGIMENTAL NOTES

Colonel in Chief

The Colonel in Chief attended the Prince of Wales's Division massed Bands and Drums display on Horse Guards on the 7th June. He was met on arrival by Major General and Mrs Crabtree and then watched the ceremony from the Household Division Major General's office.

The Colonel of the Regiment's Diary

Major General D. T. Crabtree has carried out the following duties on behalf of the Regiment during the period December 1982 to December 1983:

- Took the salute at the Ferozeshah parade
- Paid courtesy calls on the Mayors of the Freedom Towns
- Attended the Massed Bands ceremony on Horse Guards
- Visited the 1st Battalion during its N. Ireland tour
- Inspecting Officer at a passing out parade at the Depot LICHFIELD
- Inspecting Officer at the annual Divisions parade HMS VERNON
- Attended Trustee and Regimental Committee meetings at the Wardrobe and Colonel of the Regiment meetings at HQ Prince of Wales's Division.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion is still based at Howe Barracks, Canterbury. The Battalion successfully completed an unaccompanied tour of duty in Northern Ireland from June to October. During 1984 the Battalion will participate in Exercise POND JUMP (WEST) in CANADA from 19th June to 23rd July, and has been warned for a tour of duty with the British Contingent to the United Nations in CYPRUS from December.

Major A. Kenway has been selected to command the Battalion from the end of 1984.

Presentation of New Colours

It is planned for the 1st Battalion to receive new Colours on Friday 8th June at Howe Barracks, Canterbury. The venue had to be changed from Windsor Castle because of insurmountable administrative problems. Major A. Westlake has been appointed Project Officer for the event and a Project Office will be set up at Howe Barracks from January 1984. Details for attendance at the ceremony will be sent to all members of the Regiment not serving with the 1st Battalion, subscribers to the Officers Subscription Fund, Branches of the Regimental Association and the Old Comrades Associations of the two former

Regiments. It is intended to organise coaches from the major towns in the two Counties to Canterbury on the day of the event. No accommodation is available at Howe Barracks and those wishing to make an overnight stay will have to make their own arrangements. A list of hotels and Boarding Houses in the Canterbury area will be sent out with the attendance details.

Regimental Christmas Card

The Regimental Committee, after seeing the proposed design for the 1983 Regimental Christmas Card, decided not to proceed with it. The Committee has agreed that the design for the 1984 Christmas Card will be a suitable picture of the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion.

Officers Regimental Dinner

The 1983 Officers Regimental Dinner was held at Wadham College, Oxford on Friday 15th April. The Colonel of the Regiment presided, Captain J. D. W. Husband OBE RN, Captain H. M. S. Vernon and Mr M. St. J. Parker MA, Headmaster of Abingdon School were guests and 75 officers attended. Once again there was an excellent attendance by officers of the 1st Battalion who managed to get away from a very busy period of work up training for the Northern Ireland tour.

The Regimental Committee has given further consideration to the venue of the dinner but after discussion it was agreed that it will continue to be held at Wadham College, if possible at a time when the Colonel in Chief could attend, and that other possible venues in the two Counties would be investigated. The date of the 1984 dinner is 13th April.

Officers Cocktail Party

The Officers Cocktail Party was held on Friday 10th June at the Wardrobe. Major General and Mrs Crabtree received 130 officers, their wives and guests. There was a supper party at the Red Lion after the Party which was attended by 50 officers and their wives. The RHQ staff are particularly grateful for the help and support they receive from members of the Regiment living locally in organising this party. In particular Mrs Jane Wilson for doing the flowers, Major John Peters for organising the tentage and Mr Dunscombe for organising the drink and the staff.

Oil Paintings

It is proposed to produce coloured prints of the oil paintings which were painted for the 1st Battalion by Peter Archer of the Battle of Maiwand and the Battle of Ferozeshah if there is sufficient demand

to justify production. The size of each print will be 24" x 18" approximately and the cost about £4 - £4.50 which will include postage. For a signed print by the artist there will be an additional cost of £1. Both paintings are reproduced in black and white along with an order form on page 69. Those wishing to order prints should return the order form to RHQ by 29th February.

Private A. E. Monger

The following letter was received by the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion from the Assistant Chief Constable of the Thames Valley Police:

"I am writing to inform you of the praiseworthy action taken by the above named at the scene of a serious assault in Slough during the early hours of Sunday 27th February 1983.

Private Monger was a witness to a serious assault which resulted in a man receiving several knife wounds to his bowels, groin and leg. Following the assault Private Monger approached the injured person, noticed the severity of his injuries and immediately attempted to stem the serious loss of blood by applying pressure and a compress to an open wound. A police officer arrived very shortly afterwards and was able to apply a ligature to the leg, thus completely stopping the flow of blood. It was the opinion of the Surgical Registrar who treated the injured person that "His condition was in extremis and I would estimate that he was three minutes away from irreversible brain damage. As his condition has been deteriorating since the incident of the stabbing any attempt to staunch the bleeding would have saved his life."

It certainly appears to me that but for the prompt action taken by Private Monger and one of my officers the injured person would undoubtedly have died as a result of his injuries. I would be grateful if you would convey my appreciation to Private Monger for his action on this occasion."

The Colonel of the Regiment adds his appreciation to Private Monger for his most commendable action.

Visit to Louisbourg

Brigadier George Wort and his wife Helen, visited Canada in 1983. Included in their visit was a trip to the fortress at Louisbourg and a trip to the Brock Memorial at Queenstown. At Louisbourg, Brigadier Wort presented the fortress superintendent with copies of a photo enlargement of the Louisbourg medal, a copy of Brigadier Tom Gibson's History of the Wiltshire Regiment and a 1983 copy of the Regimental Journal.



A Trio of Bandmasters

The three Bandmasters to the 1st Battalion since the formation of the Regiment met at the 1983 Regimental Association Reunion which was held at the Wardrobe. The photograph shows left to right, Mr N. A. Borlase ARCM, Bandmaster 1971-79, Mr R. C. Nother, the present Bandmaster and Mr R. Hibbs MSM, Bandmaster 1959-71.

Old Soldiers

There are still, happily, more than a few survivors of the 1914-18 War amongst the Old Comrades of our two former Regiments, but, because of their advancing age we regrettably see less of them as the years pass. It was therefore with great pleasure that we welcomed ex Sergeant W. Sprules MM, who came to visit RHQ recently, Mr Sprules enlisted in "Kitchener's Army" on 6th August 1914, and served with 5th Wiltshires in the Dardanelles in 1915, taking part in the initial landing at Suvla Bay, and the subsequent intense fighting until, badly wounded, he was evacuated and in due course returned to England. In 1916 he joined 1st Wiltshires and fought in the Somme battle, and at Thiepval, Ypres, Messines Ridge and Passchendaele through 1917 and 1918, and in March of that year was with the Battalion when, with many others, it was almost decimated in the final great German Spring Offensive, and he was present during the



action for his part in which Capt. (later Lt. Col.) R. J. J. Hayward MC was awarded the Victoria Cross. Sgt. Sprules was captured, but within two months had escaped. Mr Sprules, now confined to a wheelchair, travelled to Salisbury with Lt. Col. Tony Carter, and after an appreciative tour of the Museum, joined us for drinks and lunch in the Regimental Room, appropriately within sight of the portrait of the late Lt. Col. R. J. J. Hayward VC MC. Mr Sprules, no doubt, will forgive us for observing that he still has a tremendous amount of "spark". He left us in no doubt that he enjoyed his day here, and so did we. It was a pleasure to meet him.

Regimental Golfing Society

The 1983 Meeting was held on the Tidworth Club's Course on the 9th and 10th of June, and there was a surprisingly high number of entrants despite the absence of the Battalion in Northern Ireland, and the General Election on the first day of the Meeting. The results were:

Stableford Singles	
1st James Cup	Mr Mills
2nd Shorncliffe Cup	WO2 Flay
Stableford Foursomes Challenge Cup	
Mr Yiend and CSgt Turaga	
Scratch Medal	
1st Gillson Trophy	Cpl Kenrick
2nd Silver & Bone Beaker	Mr Yiend
Handicap Medal	
1st Gillson Bowl	CSgt Turaga
2nd Gamble Cup	Cpl Kenrick
Education Cup (Best nett score off handicap between 19 and 24)	Major Langham

The Wardrobe Holding Charity

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the following bequests:

Estate of the late Major F. R. E. Turner – £50
Estate of the late Major C. A. Prest – £1000

The Dragon Club, Royal Berkshire Regiment Luncheon Club

Thanks to Colonel Boshell a most enjoyable lunch was held in Camberley on 4th September 1983. Some fifty members and their guests attended. The Dragon Club Committee are considering an earlier date for next year – possibly in August 1984. Those interested will be informed of the details in due course.

The 68 Club

Through the hospitality of Nancy and Dick Cooke the 37th Reunion took place at their charming house in the Cotswolds. There were present: Michael Barton, Andy Borelli, John Briscoe, Ivor Davies, John Forster, Norman Golledge, John Metcalf and of course Dick Cooke. After such an excellent lunch it is to be feared that Nancy had little choice but to bow to popular pressure and allow us to go there in 1984.

OFFICERS MESS PLACE MATS

From the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion

After 24 years' hard service the Mess place mats are showing signs of age and stress. Not only have they had a bewildering array of food and drink spilled upon them, but they have been accidentally washed, dropped and literally been used by Cavalry officers, Battalion bachelors and nameless guests as missiles, frisbees and ducks and drakes.

The impending Presentation of New Colours provided the spur to prod the Mess into action. A decision was reached to choose something more durable, yet equally pleasing aesthetically. Pewter is certainly long lasting and from examples we have seen, looks particularly fine on the dining table. It

was decided to retain the present design, HRH The Colonel in Chief's Cypher, which would be engraved in the centre of a nine inch disc of pewter with two engraved rings near the outer edge. In order to pay for the mats it was decided to appeal to all Regimental Officers who have served since Amalgamation Day.

The response has been magnificent. At a time when demands are constantly being made on people's generosity, it is really gratifying to see how much interest and encouragement has been shown in the scheme. The names of all those who have so kindly given a mat will be engraved around the lower edge of the disc. We must mention that one officer has kindly donated a mat for Nigel Sutton and Geoffrey Mawle, who both died on Active Service. Indeed some officers have ordered mats for their own use, which is really gratifying. Thank you all for your support.

The 99th 1939-45 Annual Officers Reunion

32 members and wives met at Longdon Hall, Tewkesbury, on 13th August 1983 for the seventh annual Reunion. Our hosts, Robin and Pat Unwin, provided a delightful lunch and with perfect weather, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We welcomed two members to their first reunion, Sammy McClintock who made the journey from Ulster, and Phil and Doris Palmer. For the first time since the war, all four of the 99th Adjutants were together – George Woolnough, Ted Earley, Pat Weldon and Phil Palmer. Dr John Essex reported that he had seen Norman Chadwick, who

had suffered several falls; and a message from Eric Hefford, who is not in the best of health, was received with much pleasure. It was agreed that the 1984 reunion will be held on 11th August at the home of Frank and Frances Clarke at Milstead, some six miles east of Maidstone.

The Prince of Wales's Division Memorial Chapel

A Prince of Wales's Division Memorial Chapel is being established in the North Transept of the Garrison Church in Whittington Barracks. The Chapel comprises:

- a. An altar which is to be located against the West wall of the North Transept.
- b. Nine oak panels, each panel bearing one of the Regimental Crests of the nine Regiments of the Division.
- c. A central panel set within the nine Regimental panels which will consist of:
 - (1) An insert to take the existing brass memorial plaque which commemorates those soldiers of the Division who have been killed as a result of Active Service in Northern Ireland.
 - (2) A memorial bookstand emblazoned with The Prince of Wales's Division crest.
 - (3) A Divisional Book of Remembrance which is to be permanently situated on the Memorial Bookstand.

The Memorial Chapel will be dedicated to all those serving officers, NCOs and soldiers whose parent Regiment at the time of death was one of the nine Regiments of The Prince of Wales's Division.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Curator: Major J. J. Price

“Swings and Roundabouts”

Spring '83 has taken its place in the weatherman's record book as the wettest since records began in 1900. Wet days gave way to more wet days bringing rain with monotonous regularity and with hardly a break in the clouds to give a promise of better days to come.

And yet, it was a good time for Museums! Tourists who had left sunnier climes for a “real English spring” flocked to this Cathedral City and were observed running for cover when, for the umpteenth time each day, the heavens opened. It was human nature that the Curators of the attractions in The Close each offered up a silent prayer, individually of course, to their respective deities, to direct the running footsteps to their particular edifice. The power of prayer was proved, and turnstiles clicked and clicked (figuratively speaking) whilst the Curator rubbed his dried palms with glee as hoped-for “targets” were met and passed with hardly a thought for the weather-ruined holidays of the tourists.

There was one particular period when every other visitor, it seemed, originated from “Down Under” and whose South Western Territories back home, after a particularly long drought were now being devastated by forest fires of untold dimensions. They revelled in the rain and wallowed in it, to them, sheer luxury.

May and June passed and then unbelievably, July went on record as the hottest since 1901. Clouds were strangers in a brilliant blue sky, the like of which had not been seen over so long a period in the memory of even the oldest Close residents. The lawns lost their verdant green, turned yellow and withered, and the heat became oppressive.

In the Cathedral Close the few tourists who were around perspired and sought the coolness of the trees which themselves were shedding premature leaves, and the Regimental Museum was shunned as if it were a hospice for contagious diseases.

Meanwhile attendance figures were juggled and the Curator produced percentages and graphs to prove that the business was still viable.

And then, as July gave way to August and the heat continued unabated, the tourists suddenly realised – it seemed – that relief from the sun could be found in the cool peaceful atmosphere of an Olde English building, such as the Wardrobe, and the word spread and in they came thankful for the respite from the heat, and once more the turnstiles clicked.

Attendance figures rose spectacularly and on one memorable hot day when the streets of the town adjoining the Market Place reached an impasse with the throng of people, the number of visitors to the Museum reached almost three hundred.

As this is written early, gale force winds and rain are once more with us and still the Museum is attracting its share of custom. The figures for the year currently stand at 11,621 and have exceeded those of 1982 by about 30%.

So – what have we learned after two years in the “Trade”? A great deal obviously and will continue to do so and we are grateful for the advice and ideas which have been put to us and which have been or will be implemented. But by far the greatest lesson is the sheer unpredictability of our weather and people and that it is a case of “Swings and Roundabouts” always; NB it's raining again!!

We are indebted to the 1st Battalion for providing two Pioneers to repair the old Coach House and Stables which will become a much needed store. Our project for 1984 is to build a patio and to open the garden for visitors to the Museum. This will provide an additional attraction during the summer. Now that we have lost the services of the young ladies from the Youth Opportunities Scheme there is a need for volunteers to run the Museum desk, particularly during the months of June to September, but anyone wishing to assist at anytime throughout the year would be most welcome.

We have the sterling support of the wives of members of RHQ staff, and Betty, the wife of Major John Peters, who freely gave up several hours each week throughout the 1983 season, and we are most grateful to them.

The duties are not arduous, but require “a presence” at the desk to take the admission fee and sell items from the Museum Shop. There is no requirement to answer questions on the History of the Regiment as someone from RHQ is normally available.

The Museum is open between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. If you are interested and can devote one or two hours on any day on a regular or casual basis (and we can be flexible to meet your needs) in 1984 please contact the Curator, Jack Price, here at the Museum – we shall be very pleased to hear from you.

HISTORICAL TIT BITS

Dr Watson at MAIWAND

The following is an extract from a letter received from Lieut Comd G. S. Stavert MBE MA RN who gave a special presentation of the Battle of Maiwand at the centenary celebrations of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma. The celebrations included a Trooping of Colours by a Special Detachment, 66th Berkshire Regiment, Afghan Buffet, Commemorative Toasts which included Colonel Galbraith and the 66th Berkshire Regiment and awards for Afghan and British elegance in dress. Entertainment was provided by the Kabul Quartet.

"I was visiting your attractive Museum the other day and admiring among others the excellent Maiwand display, and I wondered if you would be interested in the enclosed Souvenir programme of one of the Maiwand centenary celebrations held three years ago in (of all places) the United States, and which I was privileged to attend.

Maiwand is not a common name in English history books, and the connection between this distant battle and the mid-western city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, may not be apparent at first sight. The answer is provided in the name of the immortal fictional detective Sherlock Holmes, or rather, of his friend and colleague Dr John Watson. In 'A Study in Scarlet', the first of Arthur Conan Doyle's Holmes adventures published in 1887, Dr Watson, the narrator, describes how as a newly joined Army Surgeon he was posted to Afghanistan:

'I . . . succeeded in reaching Candahar in safety, where I found my regiment, and at once entered upon my new duties. . . I was removed from my brigade and attached to the Berkshires, with whom I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery. I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghezis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly, who threw me across a packhorse, and succeeded in bringing me safely to the British lines.'

We might well suppose that this is based upon the experience of Surgeon-Major A. F. Preston MB, the Berkshires' (other) Medical Officer, who was himself wounded at Maiwand and rescued in a similar manner, and whose own account of the incident is included in Shadbolt's history of the Second Afghan War."



The White Horse of BLOEMFONTEIN

When the Wiltshire Regiment was stationed at Bloemfontein in S. Africa their remount camp was situated below the eastern slopes of Naval Hill. In memory of the famous prehistoric white horse on a hill slope in their home county, they decorated the side of the hill with a similar figure and the words "For Remounts", all done with white washed rocks. The photograph shows the White Horse as it is today.



Royal Berkshire Regiment Cemetery Extension

A letter has been received from a Mr Kenneth Heselwood in Belgium about an extension to the Royal Berkshire Regiment World War I cemetery at Armentiers, Flanders. He kindly enclosed a photograph of the extension which is reproduced for information.

Lt Robert George Davis Tosswill

An article appeared in a recent edition of the "Africana Notes and News" about an album of watercolours which were painted by Lt R. G. D. Tosswill, 99th Regiment. The water colours are mounted and titled and consist of ten scenes of Cape Town and vicinity dated 1867-1869, fourteen

Eastern Cape and Natal scenes 1865-1872 and twenty-seven Far Eastern views of Hong Kong, Kowloon, Canton, Nagasaki, Yokohama and Singapore done between 1863 and 1865. The Regimental archives were able to provide the author of the article with the information that Tosswill joined the 99th Regiment in 1861 when eighteen, and with a photograph of him in 1872 when a Major.

Colonel Whitty – 66th Regiment

The following is an extract from the Daily Express printed in Dublin on 21st December 1894:

“Col Whitty, appointed by Chang Chih Teng to reorganise the Nankin Army, is eldest surviving son of Mrs Whitty of Ardnagreina, Kingstown, widow of the late Rev Wm Whitty, Cronnellsford Co Carlow. Col Whitty was in HM 66 Berkshire Regt for several years and afterwards in the Turkish Contingent Force under General Baker Pasha where he was made Colonel having been in several engagements.

He was killed by a tiger in May 1897.”

150 Years Ago 1834

49th Regiment of Foot

The Regiment was stationed in India at Fort William where it remained before marching to Bazaribagh. This was a quiet period in the Regiment's history with an annual death roll of over twenty through conditions of Service.

66th Regiment of Foot

The early part of the year found the 66th in Toronto, Canada returning in May to its old quarters in Kinston with detachments in Fort George. During 1834 Kinston suffered an outbreak of Cholera which carried off 300 of the local population. The 66th registered eight cases of which one soldier and two children died.

62nd Regiment of Foot

In the preceding year the Regiment received orders to march from Bangalore to relieve the 45th Regiment at Masulipatam which lay 400 miles to the NE and which had the reputation of being the most unhealthy station in the Madras Command. A plea by the Commanding Officer to make the second half of the journey from Madras by sea to avoid the districts infested with Cholera and famine was rejected and on 18th February the 62nd, about 500 strong, set out at the start of a most disastrous period which was to last two years.

On 1st March the Regiment halted at Chittoor where Cholera was raging and claimed its first

victim, the wife of a soldier, Mrs Steven Shipway, who died two days later. Twelve days afterwards, with large numbers of half starved natives carrying the sick slung in blankets between sticks, the Regiment reached Nellore. Nellore was near the sea and the Regiment stayed for five days and received additional medical aid before resuming the march. The Cholera which had abated now returned and on the 26th March the Regiment once again camped by the sea, almost on the beach at Ramapatam, and finally arrived at Masulipatam on 13th April.

The 62nd had buried nearly a quarter of their number on the journey and of those remaining only 100 were fit for duty.

On 21st May the usual hot and violent winds set in and for the next three days fifty men a day were admitted to hospital, principally with apoplexy and sunstroke. Within days the Regiment was reduced to three officers and fifty-four men fit for duty.

The C in C India ordered a Medical Committee of Investigation which, when it convened in August, found the only fit men for duty in the Regiment were two subalterns.

The Committee recommended a sea trip for over 200 of the 62nd who had sufficiently recovered and these embarked on a chartered transport, the Abberton (600 tons) for a six weeks convalescence cruise in the Bay of Bengal.

Large numbers of men suffering from the effects of Cholera and Dysentery in crowded conditions on a small ship with minimum sanitary conditions were unlikely to regain their health by sailing through tropical seas. Eleven men died during the voyage and most of the remainder were re-admitted to hospital on their return suffering from Dropsy and Scurvy from which many more died.

Better health was enjoyed in the early part of 1834 but the June rains brought with them violent attacks of fever, ague and dysentery. The hospital was crowded and part of the Barracks had to be turned into wards whilst deaths averaged seven a day.

Following a further report to the C in C India the Regiment was ordered to Moulmeim in Burma, and Masulipatam ceased to be a military station.

On 8th September 1834 the Regiment embarked in the ships “Swallow”, “Alexander” and “Princess”. Only fifteen men appeared on parade, the remainder being hospital cases.

In sixteen months at Masulipatam the total number of deaths came to 3 officers, 187 R/F and 115 women and children. During the ten day voyage across the Bay of Bengal a further 24 men, women and children died and there were none strong enough to act as Pall Bearers.

(Extract taken from The Wiltshire Regiment by Colonel N. C. E. Kenrick DSO).

99th Regiment of Foot

The Regiment, formed in Glasgow in 1824, sailed from Portsmouth to Mauritius in the following January where they were stationed for the next twelve years. In 1832 the Regiment received permission from Her Majesty to be styled "The Lanarkshire Regiment".

Museum Acquisitions

The following is a selection of acquisitions recently received into the Museum on behalf of the Museum Trustees:

History of The Royal Berkshire Regiment by Gordon Blight – Mrs M. Martin
Sword and Scabbard of Major J. Wilder – Mrs J. Wilder
Silver topped cane bearing crest of Royal Berkshire Regt. – Mr F. Stelling
Book, The North Dvina 1919 – Mr P. Mack Jr.
Group of 3 medals of L/C Bailey R. Berks – Mrs M. O. Jones
Diary of Major R. P. Harvey, R. Berks 1915 – Mrs R. H. S. Woodward
Account of Gallipoli by Capt. J. Greaney 5 Wilts – Lt. Col. D. M. Greaney
Photographs Wiltshire Rifle Volunteers – Mr F. R. Higgs
Group of 3 medals and NOK Plaque Pte. A. Smith – Mr P. J. H. Smith
Book, "And We Shall Shock Them" – Hodder & Stoughton
7 Silver Shooting Spoons, Silver Cigarette Case, 7 Miniature Shooting Cups, Tankard etc of ex CSM W. Yate, R. Berks – Miss R Yate

Group of 6 Medals Sgt. A. E. Martin MM Wilts – Mr T. Martin
Group of 3 Medals Pte. G. D. Tuttle, R. Berks – Mr T. Martin
Group of 3 Medals Pte. T. Tuttle, R. Berks – Mr T. Martin
Afghanistan Medal Pte G. Tuttle, R. Berks – Mr T. Martin
Trench Periscope – Mr G. Hampton
2 Medals Lt. Col. Thomas Ffrench – Mr D. P. M. Ffrench
Group of 4 medals L/C Bealing MM– Mr F. Saddler
Group of 4 Medals Lt. Col. Francis loaned by Mrs R. E. Vanderpump
AB50 of Alfred Burton Present at Tofrek – In Pensioner Burton
Diary of 2/Lt. C. E. Morris R. Berks 1917 – Mr C. C. Morris
Book "Riflemen Form" – Ogilby Trust
Album – History of 33rd Corps in Burma and Historical Documents – Capt (Retd) F. J. Studley
A Collection of War Verses – Mr M. T. Kerkhoff
Framed photograph Razmak Camp – Mrs Lewis
Group of 3 Medals Major C. Nugent, R. Berks, Binoculars, Maps, photographs and Militaria – Mr C. Nugent
Framed Print of German Formation Signs, Boat Station instructions – Lt. Col. T. Ottowell
Swagger Cane Pte. Notley, R. Berks – Maj A. C. E. Notley
Two Booklets "Fortress Louisberg" – Brig. G. Wort
Six Framed Prints, 2 Royal Warrants – Col. K. G. Comerford-Green
Swagger Cane H. P. Legge, R. Berks – H. P. Legge
Group of 5 Medals C. S. Stinton, R. Berks – Mrs C. S. Stinton

1st BATTALION

Diary

The Diary notes for the last Regimental Journal reported that the 1st Battalion was 'bursting a blood vessel' with a very full programme for the last few weeks in Osnabruck. I am pleased to report that we all survived the pressure and arrived safely in Canterbury in early January. A Mechanised battalion tour in BAOR is in effect twice the duration of a tour of duty elsewhere. Clearly during this time people became settled, especially the families, so it was with a certain amount of regret that we packed our MFO boxes and crates of tax free purchases and prepared to move to the 'green and pleasant land'.

We can all feel a considerable sense of achievement for a very successful BAOR tour. Letters of farewell from our Divisional and Brigade Commanders reflected the high regard in which we are held for our professional approach in all

departments. In the field or on training we could be relied upon to only accept and maintain the highest standards. Our good reputation for appearance and discipline when off duty was the envy of other major units and much to the credit of the young soldiers who had never been abroad before.

The Battalion certainly left its mark on the sporting front. A number of units in Germany will be pleased that a major competitor has been removed!

Unlike most other units who concentrate on one or two particular sports our policy has always been to give even the most obscure sports a chance. As later articles will show we have been particularly successful with Boxing, (BAOR champions), 22 shooting (BAOR champions), Judo (BAOR runners up), Skiing (Infantry Cup winners), Infantry Hockey (BAOR champions). Our Swimming and Shooting teams received divisional honours.

By the middle of January the Battalion was complete in our new home, Howe Barracks, formerly regarded as strictly a Queens Division posting. The camp, although covering quite a large area with its own training area, is somewhat limited in accommodation; however a major rebuild programme is well in hand. New soldiers' living accommodation is a top priority and will be in a similar form to that in Osnabruck, 4 man self contained flats, a considerable improvement on the cramped 10 man barrack room conditions at present. Our families are spread all over South East from Chatham to Dover; this clearly makes development of a community spirit difficult especially during long periods of separation. However the Wives Club is well supported on organised events and our Thrift Shop is beginning to pick up on trade.

We all took block leave in late January and February to recharge our batteries and prepare for the busy year ahead. During late February and early March we saw the return of a number of SNCOs after their postings away. Adjustments were made to the Battalion Orbat for N Ireland and a considerable amount of internal postings had to be completed. F(Sphinx) Battery of 7 RHA, who served with us in Osnabruck and have a long history of affiliations with the Regiment as far back as the Battle of Ferozeshah, sent two of their young NCOs, LBdrs Franks and Clarke, to serve with us on our N Ireland tour.

On the 7th March RSM Hicks arrived to relieve RSM Venus who had been appointed to a Commission. Due Ceremony was exercised with the Sergeants towing the outgoing RSM by Land



Handover of Mercer Barracks. Lt Col W. A. Mackereth hands over to CO 1 Green Howards Lt Col Marchant Smith.

Editor's note: The 66th Regiment which later became the 2nd Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment was formed from the 2/19 Regiment which later became the Green Howards.

Rover from the Sergeants' to the Officers' Mess. The CO met the escort half way and after signing for the live body of one now 'surplus' RSM, instructed the Officers to tow Lt. Venus to the Officers' Mess.

On the 17th March the Battalion team boxed in the UK Army Novice Boxing Finals against 3 RRF. Our boxing team confirmed the Battalion's very high reputation in the sport by a spirited win, 5 bouts to 4, making us UK Team novice boxing champions. Later in March N Ireland training started in earnest with individual training on the specialist weapons and equipment we have to use in this role. During April and May the pace was stepped up, forming individuals into teams to practice drills and procedures for each of the many

incidents the terrorist can set up for us.

On the 12th May the Officers said farewell to two long serving Regimental characters, Maj's Peter Martin and Jack Barrow, who leave the Regular Army to become Permanent Staff Officers for the TA. They are a pair of true characters who have an enormous wealth of interesting anecdotes and experience. They will be sadly missed by all of their fellow officers and comrades in the Regiment.

The Annual Report on a Unit was conducted this year by General Sir RICHARD TRANT KCB, the Commander of SE District, and five of his staff officers. A high standard was achieved with very little preparation possible, due to N Ireland training and only a very short time to prepare the barracks.



Miss Duke of Edinburgh Julie Rose with Cpl. Evans, Ptes. McDonald, Monger, Curtis. A Rose amongst thorns perhaps.



The Commanding Officer leads the Battalion to Church through the Canterbury Town centre.



The Colour Party Marching the Colours from the Cathedral.

The Battalion said farewell to Canterbury in fine style with a full Battalion and families church service in the Cathedral. We do not have the Freedom of the City so we were unable to march with Colours flying and the Regimental Band leading. However, we marched down with four Companies, each 100 strong and the Drums Platoon front line drummer to keep the pace. The

spectacle was greatly appreciated by the many holiday makers visiting the City that day.

Although the Battalion was dressed in Combat Kit a high standard of turnout and bearing was shown. The Colours were on parade during the service and were blessed by the canon of the Cathedral, Canon INGRAM HILL.

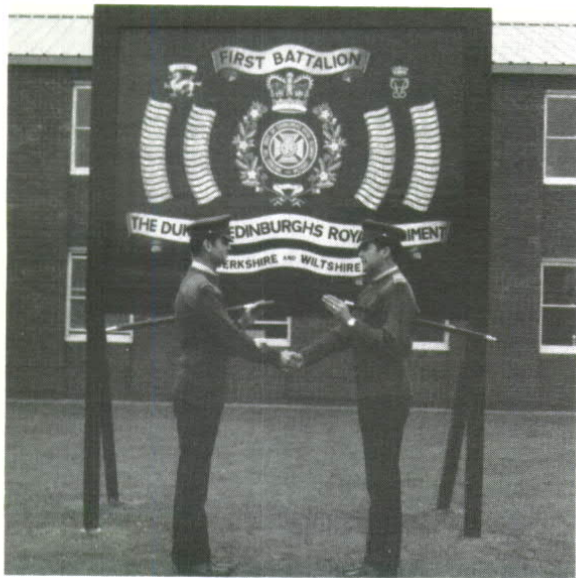
After the service the Battalion marched back up the hill to Howe Barracks to prepare for a long weekend prior to deployment.

The main body moved to South Armagh over the period 4th/5th June assuming Command from 40 Cdo. RM. The change was instantaneous with some of our patrols going straight out on operations.



Helicopters fly into Bessbrook Mill at the start of the tour.

As these notes are produced we have completed fifty percent of our tour. We have been fortunate to have had a few successes with terrorist arrests and finds on the plus side. On the minus side we have had Crossmaglen mortared twice and one explosion on a cordon operation. Fortunately we have had only two minor casualties. We remain poised and well prepared to react to any incident.



RSM Hicks, on the left, taking over RSM of the 1st Battalion from RSM Venus.

The Regimental Sergeant Major

WO1 (RSM) R. G. Hicks assumed the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion on 7th March 1983.

He enlisted into the Army in March 1963 and completed basic training at the Wessex Brigade Depot, then at Honiton, he then joined the

Battalion in Malta and was posted to C Company. In the early part of his career he served with the Battalion in Malta, Minden and Catterick and on numerous short tours from Catterick including Canada, Malaysia and Belize where he was promoted to Sergeant.

After 12 months with the Battalion in Berlin WO1(RSM) Hicks was posted to ACIO Reading in July 1972. He returned to the fold in Ballykinler and was again posted to C Company, this time as platoon commander. He gained promotion to Colour Sergeant when the Battalion moved to Shoeburyness and when we took over the role of Infantry Demonstration Battalion in 1976 he took his platoon to Brecon where he was promoted to Warrant Officer. One year later he moved to Netheravon and gained the distinction of becoming the very first MILAN Platoon Commander in the British Army. When the Battalion moved to BAOR he took over the appointment of CSM D Company and in 1980 he was posted to 2 WESSEX, on promotion to WO1, where he assumed the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major.

A keen sportsman, WO1(RSM) Hicks has represented the Battalion at Football, Cricket and Skiing, he was captain of the successful downhill skiing team when the Battalion won the Infantry Cup in 1972.

He is married and we all wish him, his wife Anne and their three sons, a most happy and successful tour.

THE FIJIAN

In April 1962 whilst the Battalion was serving in Tidworth in the wet and dreary conditions of Salisbury Plain, we were graced with six subdued and apprehensive raw recruits straight from basic training at Honiton. They were Ptes Baleimatuku, Ravu, Turaga, Qarau, Conivalagi and Raidani. After completing continuation training they were posted to their respective companies.

The Fijians soon settled in to the battalion way of life and began to excel in the soldiering and sporting fields.

In December 1962 the Battalion arrived in Malta after a troopship move from Southampton, where the Fijians were at home on the sea and enjoying the rising temperature. Needless to say, shortly after arriving the local brew (screch) was sampled and vast quantities were consumed.

On the sporting fields the Fijians came to the forefront, being featured in all sporting events throughout the battalion. There was no finer sight than seeing Joe Ravu gliding through the water like a 'Black Shark' ready to strike, or Les Turaga emerging from the scrum with all the finesse of a



From left to right, The Three Wise Men, CSgt. Baleimatuku, Sgt. Ravu, CSgt. Turaga and WO1 (RSM) J. Venus.

'Wild Boar', and Bali gracing the boxing ring like a hungry 'Grizzly Bear'.

The end of the Malta tour saw the departure of Nick Raidani, who later joined the Fijian Army. During the tour in Minden the first Fijians were promoted to the Sergeants Mess, also we welcomed Jim Koroivodi to the Battalion, swelling our numbers back to six.

Whilst in Catterick we said farewell to Sam Qarau to the Cavalry, plus Conivalagi and Koroivodi to civilian life. During this period Joe Ravu was posted to the Wessex Depot as a training sergeant, Les Turaga completing two tours in sunny Belize and Bali was married whilst in Belize (but only after one tour).

The ensuing years saw Turaga completing tours at Junior Soldiers in Rhyll and 2 WESSEX (TA) at Reading. Bali completing a tour at Depot Lichfield, first as a training sergeant, then as a CQMS. Both gaining deserved promotion during this period to Colour Sergeant.

Sports trophies are still being won, however the pace has slowed somewhat, with boxing gloves being exchanged for golf balls and rugby balls for squash balls. The Regimental Golf Meeting will not be the same again without these 'honest bandits'.

During the latter years of their service CSgt Les Turaga has been the mainstay in Training Wing, responsible for NCOs and Upgrading Cadres, also preparing NCOs for external cadres and Bisley training, and he is still a member of the Bisley Team. CSgt Baleimatuku remains a stalwart of the Quartermaster's Department and to gain membership of that exclusive department, your golf handicap must be twelve or below! Sgt Joe Ravu now holds the record for the longest serving Provost Sergeant (without a silver cane). Even the most junior soldier has him firmly embedded on his

sighting list, with the recommendation to avoid at all costs.

To mark the end of an era both Colour Sergeants were honored on their last Ferozeshah Parade by being selected to carry the Colours. The Queens Colour being carried by CSgt Turaga and the Regimental Colour carried by CSgt Baleimatuku. The Commanding Officer could not have entrusted the safe guarding of the Colours to two more loyal and dedicated Colour Sergeants.

On the 19th July 1983 the Fijians and their families were invited as guests of HRH Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, where the Queen Mother presented a medallion and a scroll to mark their distinguished service with the British Army.

It would be wrong not to mention the wives and families who have played such an important part in battalion activities and life style. They will all be sadly missed by all the many friends they have made during the past years.

All three families are departing to Fiji in November to start a new life a la 'Fijian style'. For anyone wishing to sample the 'Fijian Punch' to which we have become accustomed, or the sounds of the 'Pacific Rumba', details will be available from the Fijian Tourist Board for long weekends or R and R.

No previous groups of individuals have made such an impact on the Battalion as these colourful characters have done over the past twenty two years.

They and their families have been a credit to the Battalion and good ambassadors for their country. From all the past and present members of the Battalion we wish them all a happy, healthy and succesful retirement. Thankyou for everything, "BON VOYAGE".

NORTHERN IRELAND TRAINING 1983

No sooner had the Battalion arrived in Canterbury than it was time to start Northern Ireland (NI) Training. This was not the ideal arrangement but all ranks quickly knuckled down to the task, and by early March 1983, individual training was well advanced. A series of short specialist cadres were run by outside agencies to prepare company instructors for their forthcoming tasks. Certain individuals had also had to sacrifice part of their Block Leave to attend specialist courses.

The overall structure of the training was detailed by Battalion Headquarters in late 1982 and the policy was contained in the Commanding Officer's Training Directive which was issued to companies before Block Leave started.

As a result the company commanders prepared their own directives and detailed programmes to achieve the objectives laid down by the Commanding Officer. The first 4 weeks were a concentrated session of basic individual training with a strong NI flavour designed to prepare the ground for the later training.

In Week 5 all ranks attended the NI Training Presentation which was very well laid on by the Northern Ireland Training Advisory Team (NITAT). This presentation brought all ranks up to date with the situation in our TAOR and provided the firm starting point for the next 4 weeks of Team Training. Shortly after the NITAT Presentation the Battalion R Group crossed the water to carry out



All these rounds and nothing to fire at . . . ! Pte "Alf" Curtis.

the detailed reconnaissance of the TAOR. Our task was made easier by the very helpful assistance and advice that we received from 40 Commando Royal Marines, the unit we were to relieve in due course.

At the same time as the Team Training started in earnest, (Week 6), the Second in Command programmed a Buzzard Cadre. For the uninitiated it should be explained that Buzzard is the appointment title for Helicopter Operations and such operations are the key to successful, day-to-day Joint RUC/Military operations in South Armagh. Consequently it was necessary to appoint a Helicopter Operations Officer to be course trained along with a number of other SNCOs. There was the further problem of training internally the Company Buzzard teams.

To do this a 3 day Buzzard Cadre was run by the Operations Officer (Capt. J. Boileau Goad) and Buzzard (Capt. E. A. Millard). Planning for this Cadre had to be started back in BAOR but it was well worth it as we gained tremendous benefit from the theoretical/practical instruction and from the use of the WESSEX, LYNX and GAZELLE helicopters that were made available for use by companies.

The remainder of the month's Team Training was used by companies for concentrated practice by the 4 man fire teams and 3 team multiple patrols of

all the NI operational drills and procedures. These skills are many and varied but centre on the basic infantry skills which apply to any theatre of operations. The emphasis was on Skill at Arms, Shooting, Fitness and Alertness for all ranks. For fire team minor tactics the requirement was for good selection of routes, good fire and manoeuvre and finally slick immediate action drills for contact situations. Throughout there had to be concentration on detailed planning and for sound tactical appreciation of the many civil, police and military problems that the soldiers would be faced with. At an early stage the JNCOs were educated on the implications of RUC Primacy and the need for very good Police/Military cooperation at all levels.

After the completion of the first 2 months training the next major event was the CPTA Training Package for a fortnight in late April. Here we were very fortunate to be close to the ranges and to the specialist advisers who were of great assistance in both the planning and execution phase. The facilities offered were many and varied allowing all companies to practise and test on the basic skills, in particular COIN battle shooting, and team drills in many differing and very realistic situations. For the training the Battalion moved complete to CPTA to the hatted accommodation at Lydd. During our stay we were very pleased to welcome the District Commander, Lieutenant General Sir Richard Trant KCB, who came to inspect our training, as well as the 2nd Infantry Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. T. P. Hume.

We returned at the end of this fortnight confident in the level of our basic NI training and ready for the final week's culmination of our tactical training prior to the start of deployment in late May.

The climax of training was to be the Commanding Officer's Rural Exercise, Ex RURAL DUKE, at STANTA for a week in mid-May. This was designed by the 2IC and OC NITAT as the Battalion work-up exercise prior to final deployment to South Armagh.

For this exercise there was a lot of coordination to be achieved for a very concentrated 5 day exercise culminating in a live firing battle inoculation shoot for all multiple patrols. We were most fortunate to receive tremendous support and facilities from many other units and agencies who all contributed to a most realistic exercise. As an example of the level of support received the following list of attachments is of interest:

4 x helicopters, enemy company of 110 all ranks from 2 LI, total of 12 helicopter crewmen, 10 x umpire staff, 3 x RUC, 2 x specialist agency advisers (ATO & RESA), 8 x signals advisers/umpires.



Ready for anything! L. Cpl. Moyes on rural patrol.



Waiting for the helicopters! Pte. Pullen.



Discussion in the field: L. Cpl. Spence and Cpl. McIntyre.

For the exercise itself the four rifle companies were realistically deployed to Stanford training camps representing their Security Force (SF) bases in NI. A and B Companies were in individual locations whilst the remainder of the Battalion was located in Wretham Camp which was also the base for all the umpires and advisors. Ex RURAL DUKE ran from 1800 hours on the Sunday evening for a total of four days which constituted the dry training tactical phase. Throughout this period the companies were faced with a continual series of incidents designed to test all aspects of their preparedness for operational duty.

Whilst never completely realistic the scenarios provided the best possible opportunity for all ranks to practice their skills against a very professional CIVPOP from 2 LI. Throughout we were grateful for the advice of the three RUC officers who continually reminded us of the Police policy for countering terrorism in the TAOR.

Perhaps the most amusing and confusing day came on the Thursday when a real visit by our Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. T. P. Hume, and an exercise VIP visit became entwined to the

surprise of all concerned. Nevertheless it gave us a very useful practice at handling senior visitors which is an ongoing problem for the Battalion throughout its Tour. They were problems specifically designed to keep the Adjutant busy and away from the Squash Court.

After the conclusion of the tactical exercise the Battalion quickly changed tack to prepare for a final day's live firing to put all platoons on their toes before deployment. An early start was required in order to get everyone through the M79 Range and the multiple patrol, live firing shoot.

The shoot itself was a live firing and manoeuvre exercise, for 3 x fire teams which incorporated a live overhead effects gun which gave some degree of battle inoculation and allowed the soldiers to practise once again locating the enemy by fire.

And so after a long final day the Battalion was able to drive back to Barracks confident after a good week's work. The training had been well managed and executed by all concerned and we hope to reap the benefits during the 4½ months of the Tour itself.



Capt. John Rylands enjoying a joke with Miss Duke of Edinburgh during NI training at Stanford.

A COMPANY "A CROSS WORD"

Crossmaglen (or "Cross" as it is known locally in South Armagh) is a sleepy market village lying in the south-west corner of the county of Armagh in the province of Northern Ireland. Its 1900 residents earn a living from farming, shop-keeping, local service industries and (in some cases) from involvement in cross-border smuggling. A number of the citizens of this village at the extreme limit of the United Kingdom are also involved to varying degrees in terrorism: with considerable success measured in terms of Security Forces casualties in the Crossmaglen tactical area of responsibility (TAOR) since 1970! From June to October 1983 Crossmaglen was "home" for the 150 men of A Company : tasked with countering terrorism in the most notorious military "patch" within the "bandit country" of South Armagh. Just as 1982 had been "The year of BATUS" for A Company, so 1983 proved to be "The year of Crossmaglen". . .!

Individual Training for OP BANNER began on 21st February, with the Company being reinforced gradually to achieve its final NCO organization by mid-March. The in-flow of PTE soldiers was slower and the six fire team organization for each platoon was not achieved finally until well into the Team Training period, during April. By the end of April (just before the NITAT range package at Cinque Ports Training Area (CPTA), Lydd) the Company was reinforced by the addition of the Anti-tank Platoon to produce its planned operational deployed organization of four platoons.

Apart from the Anti-tank Platoon complete we welcomed a total of 45 soldiers to A Company between January and May 1983, including:

Captain Simon Fordham, Captain Nick Smith, CSgt Alan Trench, Sgt Rick Cridland, Sgt Gerry Decarteret, Cpl Dave Allen, Cpl Taffy Davies, Cpl Mark Evans, Cpl John Parks, Cpl Steve Proberts, Cpl Franklin Stanley, Cpl Alan Hiscock, LCpl Robert Petherick, LCpl "Lippy" Lerpiniere, LCpl Bill Spence, LCpl Arthur Traveller, LCpl Tony Fisher, LCpl Martin Luke, LCpl Colin Latham, LCpl "Madmax" Maxwell, LBdr "Frankie" Franks (on loan from Sphinx Battery 7SRHA, Osnabruck!), LCpl "Simmo" Simpson, LCpl Joe Barter, LCpl "Geordie" Moyes and Ptes Brown 68 and 09, Hingston, Keel, Monger, Lanfear, Dobroczynski, Clarke, Excel, Salmon, Smith 29, McDonald, Parsons, Mee, Turner, Cannon, Newton, Kerr, Cutting, Gardyne and McCauley.

Following the relatively early reconnaissance to Northern Ireland by Major Stone and Captain Haugh, training received the specific emphasis

necessary to prepare the Company for its allotted task in Crossmaglen. The skills of patrolling, cordon, search, endurance and weapon training received particular attention and led into a series of Company-level rural exercises (EX ROLLING STONE 1 to 3) on the very good CPTA training facilities. However, even in such a concentrated period of training, the Company still found time for a most successful summer Bar-B-Q in mid-May. This was very well attended the number of girl-friends present reflecting the main advantage to the single soldier of serving in England!

Almost before we realized it the training was over; the various advance parties were in Crossmaglen and the time had come for A Company to deploy to Northern Ireland!

The tour to date (August) has proved relatively uneventful: only two mortar attacks on the Base; an attempted major shooting incident, two bombings and a double murder (apart of course from the minor "aggro", unexplained explosions and confrontations that are an inevitable part of everyday life peace-keeping in South Armagh). . .! But now for the details.

A grey and white tipper truck crawls slowly up the Dundalk Rd. towards the village; to the south the pot-holed road stretches away into the heat haze that merges with the low cloud settling on the green hills of the Irish Free State, some 2000 metres away. The village is generally quiet, but no more so on this the 22nd June 1983 than any other Wednesday.

At the Lismore Estate, a moderately well-maintained housing area of white and grey council houses, the truck turns left: another delivery of building materials under the tarpaulin no doubt. Building supplies move through and into Crossmaglen on virtually every working day. The truck reaches its destination at the northern end of the estate and men begin removal of the protective tarpaulin.

The peace of the day is gradually disturbed by a new sound: overriding the normal sound of cars and of construction workers' power tools. The sound of an approaching helicopter (a Wessex) is heard; the engine throb increases as it nears the Base. An underslung load of incoming stores is attached below the aircraft. The helicopter begins its descent into the Base.

Suddenly the noise of the rotors pales into insignificance as ten thudding detonations followed shortly by 3 or 4 ear-shattering explosions rent the air. In a split second the bottom half of sangar 3

disappears in a shower of corrugated iron and breeze-blocks; a 10 foot hole appears in the Base security wall. The time is 1150hrs.

At the sound of the first explosion the Wessex pilot takes off at high speed, shedding his load of sandbags and uniform items over one end of the village square before flying north to the base at Bessbrook.

Crossmaglen RUC/Army base is under mortar attack! Reaction in the Base is fast: "Contact, mortars, wait out" is sent to the Battalion HQ by the Operations Officer, Captain 'Barney' Haugh. Troops are dispatched to locate unexploded bombs and ascertain whether the No 3 sangar sentry PTE Noden (ATk P1) requires urgent medical aid. Luckily he has suffered no more than a shrapnel wound to his arm and remains at his post, reporting on his condition and ensuring no premature rescue attempt. Just as well in view of the unexploded bombs lying at the Base of his sangar!

Now troops are deploying: Captain Nick Smith (OC 2Pl) with his patrol multiple has confirmed the location of the baseplate . . . the grey and white tipper truck with its actual "load" of 10 mortar tubes now revealed clearly. Lieutenant Chris "Apres Ski" Higgs (OC 1 Pl) and his multiple have deployed with a Saracen APC to recover the helicopter's jettisoned load; Lieutenant Fred Chedham (OC 3 Pl) is preparing to deploy his platoon as the cordon for the follow-up and clearance operation.

Within a couple of hours 3 Platoon's cordon is secure, nearby houses have been evacuated and the specialist agencies are streaming into the Incident Control Point for briefing by Major David Stone OC A Company It might have been day 3 or 4 at Rype Village, but on 22nd June 1983 it was for real; it was Crossmaglen, South Armagh.

Many details of the incident are necessarily subject to security classification, including the



Crossmaglen 22nd June 1983. The terrorist mortar vehicle at the firing point.



Crossmaglen RUC/Army base. The result of the mortar attack on the base 22nd June: Sangar number 3.

clearance details. However, suffice it to say that the reaction to the attack and the subsequent clearance (including 3 arrests) went very well. Particular credit is due to No 3 Sangar sentry PTE Noden, whose calmness despite his wound was commendable. Of note also was the speed of insertion and tactical effectiveness of 3 Pl's cordon, which facilitated the early evacuation of the houses in the danger area by 2 Platoon with the RUC and the completion of the entire clearance by last light. A Company had received its baptism of fire in South Armagh!

During the few days leading up to the weekend 9th/10th July the Company Intelligence Section received increasing indications that a major shooting incident had been planned by the terrorists to take place on 9th or 10th July. The details of the Company response to this intelligence must necessarily remain unreported. However, suffice it to say that it was learnt some time later that the combined overt and covert operations mounted to counter this threat had in fact deterred the planned attack and forced a postponement of it for a number of weeks; with a possible re-direction of the terrorist operation to an area other than Crossmaglen: the A Company "target" having proved an unattractive attack option in both the short and the longer term due to the way in which the Company was operating in the area of the town.

Wednesday 13th July 1983 began as any other. Volleyball was in progress, the ATk Pl was deployed on the Border in support of the RUC and 3 Pl was deployed on its long-term patrol tasks about the town area. By 0900hrs the sun was already high in a cloudless sky, with temperatures hitting 24 degrees centigrade. In the Officers' Mess OC 2 Pl was into his second cup of coffee; OC 1 Pl was preparing for another day sun-bathing and the



22nd June 1983: Maj. Stone (OC A Coy) and LCpl. Edwards (Swift Comd) at the final command post for the mortar attack clearance.

Company Operations Officer was presumed still to be asleep! The peace and tranquility was not to last however!

Suddenly a telephone call from "9" : simultaneously the XMG station SGT rushed into the Ops Room. . . . "2 bodies have been discovered in a car north-east of Crossmaglen, the police wish to begin their investigations as soon as possible: can you mount the necessary operation to allow this?"

Within 2 hours five fire teams of C Company had been placed under command A Company, the ATk Pl was redeployed and the OC's plan implemented with an initial fly-in of 1 Pl as cordon and VCP troops; followed soon after by the C Company element, the ICP party and the various agencies. Within 2½ hours the clearance operation had begun.

As always, for security reasons the details of the clearance procedures must remain unreported. However, the comment of the RUC Assistant Divisional Commander sums up the success of the police/military operation very succinctly:

"This is one of the best joint operations I have seen; with many very good examples and lessons on the right way to do the job with a minimum of men; all of those that are here being used to the best purpose".

Once the car had been cleared the police investigation and forensic tasks could be carried out. The 2 bodies had apparently sustained extensive gunshot head wounds and provided a grim reminder of what is all too frequent an occurrence in Northern Ireland today. Irrespective of the background of the victims or of the possible circumstances of the shooting, the scene by a minor road in South Armagh on a hot day in July brought home to all those involved in the operation the actual role of the military in support of the RUC :

to create an environment in which it is difficult for such incidents to occur.

Once the bodies had been removed the car involved was driven to Newry for further RUC action. A Company accomplished a rapid fly-out using 3 Wessex. The Company was complete in Crossmaglen and on its normal tasks again by 1930 hours.

On the night of 22nd July, 3 Pl were conducting a three fire team foot patrol south of the road, running from Eire through Northern Ireland to Eire, known as the Concession Rd. The time was 2159hrs and the light was fading fast. Suddenly a large explosion shattered the silence of the evening and a brilliant flash illuminated the patrol for a split-second. Smoke poured from the area of an old earthworks fort known as the Drumboy, some 250 metres from CPL Davies' fire team! Subsequent analysis of the incident led to the conclusion that the 3 Pl patrol had indeed been the target of a command detonated explosive attack, but that its use of ground and choice of the less than obvious route and fire positions had caused the terrorists to misappreciate the patrol's location and detonate the large explosive ambush device at the wrong time. A lucky escape, but a further indication of the unwillingness of the Crossmaglen terrorists to make a close contact with A Company in order to give their operations a better chance of inflicting casualties.

Friday 29th July will long be remembered by SGT Moloney (and the rest of A Company!) as the day on which he almost shot a terrorist! It all began with a 1 Pl ambush laid near a farm to the South-east of Crossmaglen and with the mission of capturing a specific terrorist gunman. At about 1600hrs on the third day of the ambush the wanted man appeared and drove up to the farm. As soon as he entered the house SGT Moloney moved in. However, the terrorist emerged from the farm again as soon as he had entered. He saw the advancing patrol some 150 metres away and leaped into his car. SGT Moloney ordered him to halt but he accelerated away from the patrol. As he moved off the terrorist thrust a pistol out of the window and clearly was about to fire at the patrol. Although still 100 metres from the car and sprinting up the road SGT Moloney engaged immediately with one round; LCPL Murtagh also engaged with 2 more shortly afterwards. The first shot obviously persuaded the gunman that it would be better to live to fight another day (probably very far distant!) as he accelerated away rapidly, weaving as he went. A Garda interception of the man (by now without weapon!) some 15 minutes later confirmed his identity. . . . but he was not of course wanted in Eire for crimes committed in Northern Ireland. So near and yet so far! However, it is unlikely that that

gunman will venture north of the Border again for a considerable time to come. . . .

However, whereas the gunman may be deterred, the IRA mortar team clearly was not: as events beginning on the evening 1st August were to prove! Just after 2200 hours an enormous explosion broke the evening silence. The Base had been mortared from a firing point about 150 metres away. The attack was unsuccessful in that no SF casualties or damage to Base resulted; all the bombs landed short again and caused considerable damage to the houses of Crossmaglen below the flight path. Following a reconnaissance by ATO he decided to delay clearance until next day. This operation began after first light and proceeded well until just after the establishment of a final Incident Control Point (ICP) relatively close to the truck on which the mortar tubes were mounted. Suddenly a derelict building some 15 metres away disintegrated with a roar in a cascade of masonry and bricks: an explosive charge had been set to cause casualties to the SF carrying out the clearance operation. Fortunately this "come on" device resulted in no more than a Royal Engineer with a minor flesh wound to his leg; however, the problems and dangers of such clearance operations were brought home to all in the ICP: not least the officer commanding the clearance (Captain John Rylands, OC ATk Pl).

That serious casualties did not result from this explosion is due principally to the fact that the blast was directed out of the front of the derelict rather than to the side (in which area the ICP were located).



2nd August: A clearance in progress (the building with the small porch blew up about 10 minutes later!)

Despite the temporary delay this bomb caused to the clearance operation, the task was completed successfully by late afternoon of 2nd August. However, it would be wrong to think that this incident and the subsequent clearance were all that the Company was doing on 1st-2nd August

Since the mid-1970s the market square in Crossmaglen has been dominated by a military sangar sited close to the joint RUC and military SF Base. This sangar was constructed originally to enhance aspects of the Base security and that of patrols in the town: it was named Baruki Sangar after one of the soldiers who lost his life at the hands of terrorists in this traditional stronghold of the provisional IRA. Although the original sangar had proved adequate for many years, it was decided in July that a complete rebuild including considerable protective and operating efficiency enhancements should take place. So it was that the plan for OP JOUST was made and implemented between 1st-3rd August. The operation was commanded and controlled by CO 1 DERR with the engineer work executed by elements of 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE. Other units involved to varying degrees included 1RHF, 1 D and D and 10 UDR.

1st August dawned bright and warm but soon the sun was obscured by dark clouds and down came the rain: timed perfectly to coincide with the initial deployment of A Company 1 DERR at Crossmaglen and later of A Company 1 RHF, B Company 1 D and D and F Company 10 UDR. The remainder of the day was devoted to tasks preparing for the rebuild in Crossmaglen and to the securing of a route stretching from Newtonhamilton in the north to Crossmaglen in the south.

On the evening of Day 1 of OP JOUST the unsuccessful terrorist mortar attack was mounted against the SF Base at Crossmaglen. The consequent clearance requirements necessitated some minor changes to the RE route clearance organisation, although the movement, construction and route security aspects of the operation remained unaffected.

Day 2 was allocated to the demolition of the old sangar and construction of its replacement: brought in prefabricated sections from Antrim during the morning in a convoy of assorted RE primemovers. With the original Baruki observation post reduced to a pile of breeze blocks, "wriggly tin", splintered wood and various pieces of jagged metal and girders, the construction of the "New Baruki" began. A mobile crane was used to move the armoured walls into place on the upper platform. The Sappers of 33 Fd Sqn RE worked non-stop to complete the task in record time.

All that remained to be done on Day 3, the 3rd of August, was to retrieve the convoy and RE equipment from Crossmaglen. This was achieved by 1000 hours. This done, the non - 1 DERR troops allocated to OP JOUST began to disperse to their various unit base locations.

OP JOUST achieved more than the simple reconstruction of an item of military "hardware". Quite apart from the satisfaction gained by the units involved in having come together at short-notice to mount what was judged a most successful and vital complex operation, the activities of 1st-3rd August provided yet again concrete evidence of the increasing inability of the terrorists in South Armagh in recent months to affect or limit Security Forces movement and



Urban patrol Crossmaglen. Ptes. Amas and Bowler (2 Pl).



Teamwork! Pte. Powell 27, Cpl. Parks and LCpl Moyes (All 2 Pl) with "Snapper" and "Rucsac".



Infantry Commander South Armagh! Lt. Higgs (OC 1 Pl).



A "chat up" at a vehicle check point: LCpl. Roberts (Int).



Holding the baby? Pte Kerr (Coy HQ Signals Det).



"Is anybody there . . .?" LCpl. Pocock sends a SITREP.

operations in that area: a not insignificant step forward in the campaign in Northern Ireland.

And so the tour continues. At the time of writing "R and R" is well under way and the end of a fascinating and very challenging tour of active service is in sight.

The return to Canterbury at the beginning of October will mark the end of an era for the Company which has enjoyed for 2 years one of the most hectic and demanding but satisfying training and operational periods achievable for some years: Canada (BATUS) and Exercise MEDICINE MAN in 1982 and Crossmaglen (OP BANNER) in 1983. The Company will undergo a one hundred per cent change in almost all ranks above CPL by the end of January 1984, with WO2 'Fred' Fedrick, CSGT Alan Trench, SGT Dennis Moloney, SGT 'Jimmy' Curtin and SGT 'Herbie' Coyle all moving on to "better things" by November. In early 1983 Lieutenant Joe Edmonds left 2 Pl to join the OP BANNER Buzzard organisation, and his successor Captain Smith returns to the Mortar Platoon on the Company's return to England. Captain Haugh

moves to be RSO in November after 10 months as Company Operations Officer and 2IC. Major Stone departs early in 1984 to be OC Mechanized Infantry Tactical Training Wing in Sennelager at the end of his 2 years as OC A Company.

Change is therefore very much in the air; as we look forward to Ferozeshah, the Presentation of New Colours, Canada and Cyprus in 1984 there is little chance of boredom setting in! However, despite the impending changes in people and tasks in A Company and the exciting year ahead, there is little doubt that for some considerable time to come the memories and experiences of OP BANNER 83 will continue to be recounted by those members of the Battalion fortunate enough to have experienced at first hand a tour of duty in the TAOR reputed to be the most challenging in Northern Ireland: Crossmaglen, South Armagh. A Company has been fortunate indeed to experience this unique opportunity to apply its professional skills in this, the best-known and most infamous active service TAOR in Northern Ireland.

B COMPANY

"But why" I asked (more like whined, actually) "do Company second-in-commands have to write the Journal notes? Or, more especially, me in particular?"

"There are three good reasons" explained my OC, patiently, with only a hint of demoniacal rage in his voice and a look that would have discouraged Hitler from invading Poland. "The first is that you are in a unique position to view the whole, whereas our poor underpaid, overworked and unappreciated platoon commanders are obsessed with their platoons – that is not all they are obsessed with, but we will not go into that now – and cannot see the wood for the trees. The second, is that I used to have to write them as a second-in-command, so why should you not suffer? And the third" here he paused for dramatic effect "is R.H.I.P."

Rank Has Its Privileges (R.H.I.P.) or "I'm a Major. You're a Captain. If you don't write those Journal notes, your life won't be worth living" is the corner stone of the Army system and cannot be argued against; so, here I am, scribbling away trying to fill my allotted wordage. No great problem. I simply get the platoon commanders to write Journal notes on each platoon and compile them, minus spelling mistakes and plus punctuation, into an article. But I still have to write an introduction.

I don't know why I bother though. The only people who ever read these things are those who hope to see their name in print; and they give up if that has not happened in the first two lines. Honestly, I could use this space to write about the sex life of a Himalayan butterfly and no one would care; except, of course, a celibate Himalayan butterfly who would be interested to know what he has been missing.



Pte. McGauley (Int) on patrol: Lismore Estate Crossmaglen.



Impromptu 'O' Group in the square, Crossmaglen. Sgt. Curtin (2 Pl), Cpl. Carpenter (1 Pl) and LCpl Mellam (2 Pl).

4 Platoon

All the Team Leaders, less Sgt. McLeod, were deported to N Ireland on 30th May. The bulk of the Platoon enjoyed a few days' leave back in England whilst the Platoon Commander and NCOs became acquainted with our TAOR. (Tactical Area of Responsibility)

The majority of the Company arrived in N Ireland on 4th June. It was a joyous occasion. We were glad to see familiar faces and the Marines were happy to say goodbye to Forkhill. All the members of 4 Platoon settled in quickly and worked hard, the platoon being credited with the two major successes of the first half of B Company's Tour.

The first happened on 30th June when C/S 21A and 21B were tasked to assist the RUC in the investigation of a Post Office robbery at Drumintee, a small village in the centre of our TAOR. When they arrived, they established VCPs around the general area whilst the RUC went into the Post Office. After some 20 minutes, the senior team leader decided to alter the position of his troops on the ground. One of them was ordered over a dry stone wall and, whilst climbing over it, looked down, went rather pale and turned instantly religious. Vibrating like a woodpecker's beak, he managed to convince his NCO that he had seen something untoward. His NCO, waiting till he was covered by cars passing the wall, went over to investigate. He, too, turned pale and instantly religious. What he could see, and what the first soldier had seen, was a milk churn bomb built into the wall. Fighting the urge to scream "Run away, Run away", this particular NCO displayed good command and control and informed the Company Ops Room of what he had found. He was ordered to evacuate and cordon the area. Then, and only



A quick briefing in the Square, Crossmaglen: Cpl. Evans (2 Pl) and Cpl. Carpenter (1 Pl).

then, did he run down the road screaming "Run away! Run away!"

The bomb disposal expert (FELIX) was already occupied with a Proxy bomb in Newry and was not immediately available. The Platoon under the command of the Platoon Commander, was flown out to reinforce the cordon and stayed overnight. The device was cleared the next day and found to consist of 100 lbs of home made explosive.

Hot on the heels of this success came 4 Pl's capture of a terrorist. Part of the Platoon was carrying out Border Operations on the night of 15/16 July when it stopped a known terrorist driving North. He was recognised by one of the soldiers but still tried to bluff by giving a false name. Unfortunately for him, the man whose name he had given had been stopped not 5 minutes before. The platoon handed him over to the RUC who took him away for questioning and, later, served an Exclusion Order on him.

So there we have it; two successes in 2 months. With another 2 months left, I reckon that we may yet find the Cruise Missile that the IRA are sourced, by A Coy Int, to be planning to use on Crossmaglen.

5 Platoon

Having been posted back to England, what could be more welcome than a month's Leave? With families settled and the children installed in school, training began sedately for NI. For the first 3 months leading to NI, each platoon underwent its own training. This was an ideal time to get to know Canterbury and the local inhabitants before the training began in earnest.

With the Tour in mind, the emphasis was on shooting skills and patrolling. By the time the NITAT package was presented, we had all settled

down; in some cases, with the local girls.

For the remainder of April and May, the Platoon was busy putting into practice all that had been taught by NITAT. As with all tactics, there are always different ways of doing things and many a discussion ensued during the forthcoming months.

The first real test of our progress came when we started a 2 week exercise held at Hythe & Lydd, consisting mainly of range work and shooting in an urban environment; some would say not relevant to us at all. However, the few days spent in the countryside proved useful. With a week to recover from this, we were off on to our final Rural Ex at Stanford. There the type of countryside spoiled us, really, as we got used to patrolling without having to cross any sort of obstacles (the terrain resembling the flatness of the prairies) or climbing any hills. This week proved the most beneficial of all and we learnt more in that one week, seeking advice from the RUC and Marines, then we did in the whole of our training period.

With a successful exercise under our belt, we ventured across the water to Forkhill, South Armagh. For 5 Pl the Tour has been fairly quiet, with the little action that has occurred being hoarded by 4 Pl. 5 Pl have not been able to get their teeth into anything. Needless to say our turn will probably come. But, for the the moment, we are patrolling this beautiful countryside lurking like panthers and moving stealthily over the ground.

Operationally, we have been mainly supporting the RUC in VCPs & house calls, i.e providing the muscle. On the military side, we have been observing undesirable people and lurking along that thorn-in-our-side, the railway.

We still hope to have a quiet time awaiting the day when we return to civilisation or, failing that, Canterbury.

6 Platoon

After the Autumn manoeuvres of 1982, the Platoon was split as preparations to move back to England began. Lt O'Hare returned from Exercise Long Look with some very strange terms and habits. His Australian Exchange Officer, 2Lt Mick Moon, didn't seem to want to leave Europe, but he was believed to have been seen close to his unit in Sydney two months after he was meant to have caught his flight home. He thought it was extremely cruel of Sgt Gardiner to keep his "Diggers" under the APC seats! After a month's leave the platoon managed to form up completely about a week after the remainder of the Company as some members had developed "back ache" in the last week of leave. Taking some newcomers under our wing, the Platoon began training for the NI Tour. Fortunately, there was no need for Lt O'Hare to use his map on the runs. Cpl Owens and LCpl

Stevens joined the platoon after an 18 month tour away from the 1st Battalion, and Cpl Stanyer joined from the Mortar Platoon.

Virtually everyone in the Platoon had to attend one sort of specialist training course and so the Platoon was sent to the four winds to learn their additional skills. Pte Rickard attended a Sniper Cadre where he learnt how to shoot "well aimed shots". LCpl Stevens was then able to use him to shoot the enemy out of his arcs in the direction of the Platoon Commander's cut-off group.

At Lydd, we learnt that if you want to be in the centre of an incident, then attach yourself to Cpl Vincent and 23A; they were involved in everything that the NITAT team laid on.

All too quickly the deployment date came closer and closer until we found ourselves on a church parade before the final weekend off until R & R. After a silent sermon and blessing, we went away to do whatever we wouldn't be able to do in the next four months.

After the tour, the platoon will be scattered to the four winds. Lt O'Hare tries his hand as a male Assistant Adjutant (is there ever such a thing?), Sgt Gardiner is promoted and the mortar and anti-tank platoons will claim their men back. Then a new era of "Six Supermen" will take over under the command of a new (brand new) Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant.

C/SP COMPANY

The period has been one of considerable turbulence for the Company and some dissatisfaction. We have had to contend with the move from BAOR to UK and preparation for the OP BANNER tour. This inevitably hit the Support element rather hard. Many members of the Mortar and Anti Tank Platoons, being the more experienced soldiers of the Battalion, were selected for the Close Observation Platoon. The Anti Tank Platoon (-) were then attached to A Company to re-inforce CROSSMAGLEN. The balance of the Mortar Platoon was then disbanded and posted to rifle companies as individual re-inforcements.

This left a very reduced Company Headquarters commanding 2 platoons, 8 Platoon and the Corps of Drums.

The training period was successful and hard, though the intensity of training has not been matched by that of real operations.

The Company has not had its own tactical area of responsibility. One platoon has taken on the task of Airborne Reaction Force, the other, varied tasks in support of the other companies. As a result they have been involved in all the incidents happening throughout the Battalion area. Newry and the areas

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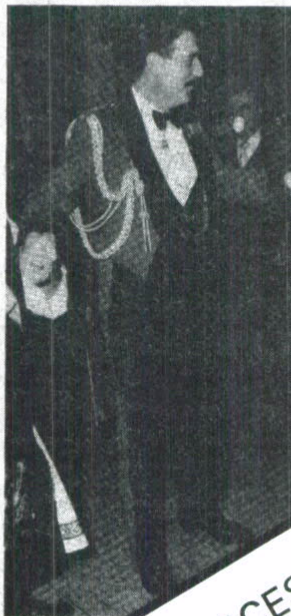
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TOP AWARD



NEARLY 60 BFG personnel past and present have been named in the New Year's Honours list. Commander-in-Chief General Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen is honoured as Knight Grand Cross. Colonel Colin Carrington late Royal Corps of Transport is appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Group Captain Kenneth Hunter OBE, RAF at HQ RAF Germany is appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Honours list for Germany is as follows but does not include awards to civilian members of BFG as these are not notified through a central agency.

New Year's Honours List BAOR
Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath as Knight Grand Cross: General Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen, late Scots Guards, Commander-in-Chief.

Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire as Commander: Colonel Colin Edward George Carrington, late Royal Corps of Transport, formerly Deputy Chief of Headquarters in the Division.

See Army News 1000 for full list.

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Cpl Tucker (C Coy) and his fire team during NI training.

of 2 and 3 UDR. This has given the platoons very wide experience but little, alas, for the company as a company.

On return to UK the priorities will be the re-forming and re-training of Support Company. It appears that this will consist of the Mortar, Anti Tank, Reconnaissance and Assault Pioneer Platoons. Mortar and Anti Tank cadres will be carried out, the Corps of Drums' dual role as assault pioneers and a Reconnaissance Platoon formed. After a year away from all those skills a great deal of work will have to be done to regain the high standards of the end of the tour in Osnabruck, but Canada and Cyprus will be invaluable training experience.

The only fear is that the Support title may be superseded by "Heavy Weapons Company".

-8- The Duke of Edinburgh's-Platoon

Our tour in OSNABRUCK ended on the highest of notes when we won the inter platoon challenge competition and were presented with the fine trophy as the first winners of the new competition. The presentation was made by the Colonel-in-Chief in person. Sgt Coupland, the platoon commander, left, and local C/Sgt McIntyre stepped up to take over for the tour in Northern Ireland.

After spending four weeks on leave on return from Osnabruck, the platoon was quickly formed into 4 man teams, for the preparation for Northern Ireland training. We started out with a bang, "fitness training", which took its toll on more than one overweight body. With the help of "PTI Carl Newton", the platoon was quickly re-shaped ready for the other tasks that lay ahead.

After several weeks of training in camp, we were still trying to explain to Fodey that **there is** a difference between a typewriter and an LMG, and to Swift who still thinks that R & R stands for

Range Rover. But after the little problems were sorted out we did our first exercise, with SGT Stanley being placed in close arrest for murder by "killing" an innocent civilian who just happened to walk into his ambush. This training exercise put the platoon in good stead for the next phase, LYDD.

We started with range work, which was very beneficial to CSgt McIntyre and unbeneficial to the rest of the platoon's potential "Bisley Shots". The only danger to the platoon was LCpl Tuck and his Bedford. After getting an excellent report from Rype village our next stop was the three day Rural exercise. No one was looking forward to this after hearing the reports sent back from the other companies who had already completed it. The only worry to the platoon was CSgt 'Mac' who spent most of his time picking wild flowers and pressing them into his book.

Well, the training was over and we ended up in Bessbrook after a long weekend. On his first patrol LCpl 'Betty' Wardall thought he was a '**Gung Ho Marine**' and could win the war by himself. This was noted, so he was placed under the eye of Sgt 'GSM' Stanley. Within the first week of the tour the platoon struck lucky, by finding a weapon hide.



OC C Coy on joint RUC/Army operations in South Armagh.

Unfortunately no one else in the Battalion would believe it, so for this reason the callsign of Taff's patrol will remain anonymous.

So far during the tour the platoon has been involved in a wide variety of incidents, including the potentially lethal, but in fact very long and boring 2 days, spent cordoning a hijacked tanker with 7 tonnes of LPG outside Newry RUC Station, followed immediately by assistance to B Coy in their milk churn bomb clearance.

We have operated throughout the Battalion area but have missed not having our own "patch".

We would like to congratulate Sgt Stanley and Cpl Truman on **eventually** completing THIRTY days in Northern Ireland, so qualifying for a medal. Secondly, Rumour has it that the platoon is being disbanded on the return to Canterbury because it wouldn't be fair to win the Duke of Edinburgh's Shield for two years on the trot. Rather than being disbanded, we have decided to "split up" voluntarily so as to give the remainder of the Battalion a chance.

The Corps of Drums

The period has been a busy one. We finished our tour in BAOR with the Forozeshah Parade, moved to Canterbury and began training for Northern Ireland. This has meant that little musical training has been done and many of the 'new boys' have yet to be on parade.

Due to these commitments, the Corps of Drums was not ready to perform as a complete corps when the Battalion marched from Howe Barracks to Canterbury Cathedral prior to departure for Northern Ireland. Therefore we had the somewhat peculiar situation whereby the Battalion marched down in column of route, in combat clothing, whilst the Drum Major, three side drummers and a bass drummer marched in the centre in full ceremonial dress. The clash in dress looked "different". LCpl Adcock, on bass drum, was really glad to see the back of St Martin's Hill.

After successful training, the Corps of Drums has had a varied tour, giving much valuable experience to junior commanders. Flutes, bugles and drumsticks have been brought, in an effort to maintain some musical training as well, but there has been little time for it.

Because of the lack of time available for our "drumming" side of life whilst in a rifle platoon, it has been decided to make the Corps of Drums the Battalion's assault pioneer platoon. Looking through past Regimental Journals, one can see that this has been a matter of distaste with other Drum Majors. Weighing the situation up with the fact that we are no longer the defence platoon or reserve platoon as has been the case in the past, this would appear to be the best solution to maintain

sufficient practice, so enabling the Battalion to maintain a good quality Corps of Drums.

We say farewell to Cpl "Jim" Callcut and his wife Jenny, who leave us in November on a posting to Crickhowell. May their time away be a happy one and we wish them the best of luck.

We also say welcome to the following junior drummers: Caswell, Choules (another one, related), Davies, Fitchett, Holder, Mathews, Ormandy, Rawlings and Ryder, who all joined us in Canterbury on our return from Germany.

Milan Platoon

From November 1982 to January 1983 the platoon was largely occupied with the handover to 1 Green Howards, which after a lot of hard work was successfully achieved. The advance party under Sgt Nimmo took over the platoon's new weapons – CONBATS (what the hell are they?).

After block leave the platoon reassembled and, having lost some of its members to COP, commenced individual Northern Ireland training. Special mention must be made of Cpl Mallinson and Cpl Hall for their hard and patient work in instructing the platoon in the considerable mysteries of PADS, Armalites, M79 and LMG which most of the platoon had never seen before.

The intense fitness and SAA Training went on until March when we began fire team training for the tour. March also witnessed a change in command – farewell to Capt Tomlinson who went to D Coy as 2IC and welcome to Capt Rylands from the Depot via Netheravon.

After the recce of S. Armagh, the platoon was moved to A Company, boosting them to 4 platoons which was considered necessary for Crossmaglen.

With A Company under command, the platoon carried out the NI training package exercising at Lydd and Stanford. The platoon deployed to Crossmaglen on 4th June.

Up to date the platoon has had a busy and interesting tour, apart from the routine work the platoon has been involved, in some way or another, in every major incident in XMG TAOR. Pte Noddy Noden was injured in the arm during the first mortar attack. Happily apart from an envious 'battle scar' he is fully recovered. Capt Rylands was on the receiving end of a booby trapped derelict during the clearance operation following the second mortar attack. His ears have not recovered!

After post NI leave the platoon will take delivery of the new Milan systems and do a refresher cadre culminating in live firing at Netheravon early in December. Next year the platoon will be going to Canada with the Battalion and then in September to Germany for a major BAOR Exercise.

The platoon would like to say farewell to the following and thank them for their hard work: Capt

Tomlinson (to D Coy as 2IC), CSgt Lawrence (to Depot Lichfield), Sgt Waters (to Mercian TAVR, Nottingham), CSgt Coyle (to Support Weapons Wing Netheravon as Milan Instructor), Cpl Mallinson (to Depot Lichfield) Cpl Shead (to civvy street), Cpl Ellis (to 1 WFR), LCpl Armour (to civvy street) Pte Minns (to 1 Green Howards).

The platoon would also like to congratulate the following:

LCpl Carey on his promotion, Sgt Coyle, Cpl Mallinson and Cpl Hall on passing the SNCO Milan Course. Well done also to Ptes Norden and Harris for representing the Battalion at Judo and LCpl Maxwell and Pte Ledgister for their Boxing achievements.

D COMPANY

Every day is an eventful day in D Company Headquarters. Not a day passes when there hasn't been something to laugh or cry about. We have been likened to that endearing platoon from Walmington-on-Sea because it is surprising how the staff resemble the characters in that platoon. Our leader is a caricature of Captain Mainwaring, he wears glasses, is portly and pompous but extremely likeable. Like Captain Mainwaring he also has a number one enemy in the form of Cpl Goffey, our Molar Minor. All it takes to get him really stropky is a little green note in blue writing from the "leader".

Godfrey in Dad's Army was a soft, cuddly character, old and seasoned but no doubt a really bad lad in the "Old Days". CSgt Les Watts is the Company Headquarters equivalent. Although a big man, he sports a nice soft middle which more than makes up for his aggressive reputation. Sgt Watson is represented by WO2 Mehrlich, the Company Headquarters' Mum, described as having a rather rough exterior, a heart of gold and a wonderful way with words, (his favourite phrases are unfortunately unprintable), and Pte Pike by someone known as Simonowski. He gets the hardest time of all but if anyone can handle Captain Mainwaring it's Pike.

Leaving Dad's Army we have had the dubious "pleasure" of having to put up with "Thack the Lad" from Yorkshire – a man not averse to giving a little self-praise now and then. Thack's buddy is LCpl Grant, another distinguished character. He is known as the Mad Clipper and works deftly, swiftly and with nauseating ease so long as you want a Skinhead 1-4.

LCpl Des South has spent most of the last year in Company Headquarters and we do not know how we have all survived. A fortunate injury has spared us a month of mind-bending wisecracks. The only

man not to suffer has been Fred Ponting. Rumour has it that he is on a different wavelength to Des.

During our tour in NI we have had some useful attachments to Company Headquarters. They were headed by CSgt "Sit ups, Press ups" Brame and included LCpl "Bald Pigeon" Kordowski, LCpl "Love Letters" Hunt, LCpl "Smile a lot" Shannon, LCpl "Looee" Collins and finally Pte "Yesyama" Payne.



Pte Kiely on rural patrol in South Armagh.

10 Platoon

Numerically, the prefix may have been debatable at times but for heart, class and sheer enthusiasm there can be no argument. Ten months for the "big ten" have meant a number of changes and whilst contortionism was not mentioned in the training directive, the practice of "being flexible" has resulted in circus enquiries. Who mentioned clowns in Battalion Headquarters?

The Platoon has been sorry to lose LCpls Goodwin, Spence, Smart and Blaber, and more recently LCPL Telfer, and the old man – Ossie Osbourne – who has finally left the Army. We wish the 'O' the very best of luck in civvy street and thank him for his sterling and always humorous work for the Platoon. We welcome Cpl "I have got hair" Goodrick-Meech (G-M), Cpl Chapman and



Miss Julie Rose with 10 Pl, 1 DERR.

LCpl Dobie as JNCOs, as well as Ptes Rix, "Florence" Nightingale, "Sweetheart" Darling, "Officer Dibble" Sharp, the "Wolf" Hassett and the "Quiet One" Lloyd, to swell the ranks. They have stepped into a well-established Platoon, adopting the ethos of this professional team of trained killers prepared to work hard and play hard and give it YAHOO whenever the time is right!

The time has been right on a number of occasions and the hard work and highlights of training have been interspersed, not infrequently, by the Platoon getting together for a bout of high spirits.

On our return to the UK Pte "Chick – the fledgling" Allen boxed for the Battalion right through the Inter Army Novices Championships – what a boy! The boss made a fleeting nail/neck biting appearance vs 3 PARA but realised training the Platoon was a lot safer.

A period of hard training followed, highlighted by slightly unrealistic but challenging bobbing and weaving sessions in "Mac's City" during the CPTA package. Northern Ireland was a new experience for most of the Platoon, but with the "Old Sweats" like Pte "Daddy" Robbo Robertson, Cpls Ball and "I am leaving" Hardy advising the younger men, the Platoon continues to thrive and survive. We pray that holds out! The tour has seen the youths grow into men as they have handled the pressure of work, celibacy and discipline with a sensibly philosophical resignation. The morale has been consistently high and the Platoon has just handled the Bessbrook car bomb unscathed and with flying colours – Well Done!

The tour has shown the Platoon operating from the border sub-aqua regions of Newtown-Hamilton to the jungle undergrowth of GNAT wood above the Newry river. Sgt Henwood, the romantic Cpl "Peanuts" Ball and LCpl ("I'm not paranoid – stop picking on me") White have been the closest to destroying an aggressive crow scarer so far. Cpl Goodrick-Meech with his team also came close and

at the time they included the much admired and quoted sniper, Pte Harry Horton of Wroughton, who was responsible for the Swindon Evening Advertiser publishing the nickname of our home: "The Bessbrook State Penitentiary". It seems a little inappropriate since rumour has it that we spend fractionally more time outside than our rivals at the sharp end.

As the Platoon finishes its R & R we must congratulate Pte "Clandy" Carr on his birthday, Pte "Piggy" Porter on his R & R marriage, and Pte "Ock" Marshall for buying a box of matches, and wish Pte "Does anyone want to buy a boogie box or anything else I own" Fisher 21 good luck in his bankruptcy case.

It only remains for the Platoon to welcome and wish good luck to Mr (Grinner) Gray as the new Platoon Commander and for the old one to say Adios Amigos (or Dougal 432 for those in the know!) and thank you for an excellent 18 months – one could never forget the "Big Ten".

11 Platoon

1983 started as a year of change with the move from Osnabruck to Canterbury. With the move, and Northern Ireland training, came the inevitable changes to the Platoon orbat, and our return to Canterbury gives us the prospect of yet more. Eleven platoon has said goodbye to Lt Smith, Sgt Wilmot, Cpl Wolfenden and "Dalboy" Leather – we wish them well with their new jobs. New arrivals to the platoon have included Lt Thornell, Lt King, Cpl Foster, and Lepls Gray, Bastin, Davis and Morse.

Perhaps the biggest lesson of the year has been the discovery that an operational tour of duty in South Armagh is not as eventful or exciting as the memories of those who served in Londonderry would have us believe. The action-packed training in late spring at Stanford, Riot City, Hythe and Lydd, whilst preparing us for any eventuality, neglected to impress upon the Platoon the fact that much of our work was to be routine and, of course, uneventful.

Patrolling out of Bessbrook Mill (which in places was rather dark and satanic – the Officers' Mess in particular came close to reaching the temperatures required by Satys!), the Platoon operated mostly in the countryside south of Newry. Beautiful (and for this we have the weather to thank, for much of the ground turns boggy with rain), and sparsely populated, the Platoon soon came to know the area well. It included a stretch of border and one of the busiest crossing points – the Dublin-Belfast road. Maps soon became unnecessary, except for precise location fixing. In the four months in South Newry, the farmer's boys soon mastered the frequent encounters with electric fences, crow scarers,

ravenous insects, curious bulls and friendly horses (not Shergar, alas). Unfriendly sows were best left alone – as many will testify!

The return to Canterbury sees the weddings of Cpl Dollimore, Lcpls Clucas and Spurway and it would appear that Bastin – conscientious objector to marriage – is engaged. Congratulations and best wishes to them – and the hope that, together with the Platoon, there will be a period to settle down fully and work together in a more peaceful environment.

12 Platoon

Callsign 43 – 12 Platoon has spent all its time since leaving Osnabruck either preparing for, or being, in South Armagh. NITAT training passed off fairly smoothly, despite the introduction of a new platoon commander, and the collective efforts of everybody at one stage or another. The fact that it bore no connection or deliberate resemblance to reality is not relevant possibly a week in Snowdonia National Park followed by five days on the South Circular road would go down better!

The Platoon has worked well in most ways, and very well in others. There has been a fairly limited turnover of faces in this period, there have been some newcomers, all of whom have been made welcome in the most inimitable style – whatever that means. This has continued during our stay in Bessbrook, where the workload has been heavy, but the response has been first-class in every way. The sight of Pte Hauxwell on the Dublin Road, or Cpl Irving on Flagstaff are not easily forgotten and that of Sgt Shervington managing to find Lcpl Gayle is not easily remembered. Having discussed it at some length however, the Platoon seems agreed that the most easily remembered sight is that of the boss, balanced on barbed wire, about to fall over – and everyone knowing it!

Pte Andrews' return from R & R was also a day to recall – especially when he described his antics in Cheltenham, which most people had already heard of in one form or another. He did at least not come back about to be married, as most of the Platoon seem to have done. However, rumours from 43C that their platoon commander is about to be married are unfounded, and certainly not to a cattle-fence from Clontigora.

The experience of Ireland has provided a transition phase from Germany to England and the air portable role we now have. Many lessons new and old have had to be taken in at all levels, and the NCOs have been invaluable in this and, as always, in almost every other matter or problem. There will be more to learn in the near future, not least by their platoon commander – but as the Gloria – soon to be sorely missed – of 43C always say – “always look on the bright side of life”.

OFFICERS' MESS

For living-in Officers the move to Canterbury meant a higher standard of accommodation, albeit there was less of it, as the Officers Mess in Howe Barracks was intended to accommodate the staff of a small Depot, not an Infantry Battalion. This has meant that it has been virtually impossible to accommodate guests in the Mess, and a number of the junior Officers are living in tastefully decorated broom cupboards. One fortunate young gentleman has a spacious room complete with bar, regrettably not equipped to CES. The white haired and distinguished OC HQ Coy, known as BLOMES to his friends, selflessly volunteered to vacate his extensive suite of rooms in the Mess in order to accommodate the odd dozen or so subalterns. This offer was declined out of consideration for local landladies who would otherwise have had the grizzled veteran as a tenant.

We welcomed Sgt Le Strange as Mess CSgt and we have all learned to appreciate his efficient and calm running of the Mess. It is as well that he has these qualities, as we launched into a vigorous round of functions as soon as we arrived in the UK. One week after we were complete in Howe Barracks, and two days before Block Leave, we hosted a large number of Officers from 3 PARA after our Boxing Team had commenced their series of victories.

During leave, John Boileau-Goad renounced his freedom in a local church and held his reception in the Mess. This established the Mess as the fashionable place to hold wedding receptions, and Capt Nick Smith did likewise some weeks later. Both occasions were most enjoyable and we wish both couples much happiness in their future married lives.

Having come from the land of plenty to a country where wine is subject to punitive taxation we were faced with the problem of where to obtain cheap but drinkable wine. Luckily, a group of the more intellectual officers, lead by Captains Wort, Tomlinson and Wardle had established cordial relations via Rugby and beer with a local cultural spot known as The Miller's Arms. The management of this unique establishment came to our rescue and organised a wine tasting in the Mess, which is vaguely remembered as being most convivial.

The social highlight of our first few months in Canterbury was our welcoming cocktail party. Some 100 guests were entertained, including the Mayor of Canterbury, and the evening turned out to be relaxed and enjoyable.

With the pressures imposed by Northern Ireland Training we were only able to hold one Guest Night, but it was memorable in that we dined out Majors Peter Martin and Jack Barrow. Both have

made a tremendous impact on the Regiment during their long service, and will long be remembered by all who have been privileged to serve with them.

The final social function before departing to South Armagh was a Brigade Ball held in the magnificent setting of Dover Castle. Although the weather was uncooperative it was a marvellous evening and greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

The Mess has become fragmented with the move to South Armagh, as both A and B Companies are in detached Company locations. However, a modest level of entertainment has been maintained, the most exclusive feature of which being the percentage celebration parties held by B Company in Forkhill, invitations to which are highly sought after. We look forward to getting back together as a Mess in Canterbury where we intend holding a fancy dress party shortly after our return.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The end of 1982 saw yet another busy phase for the Mess with the preparations for leaving BAOR. The usual Christmas activities took place, with the Christmas Draw well organised.

The 1982 Ferozeshah Parade and Ball were held on 20th December with four guards on parade 'somewhat reduced' due to the many commitments. The Inspecting Officer was the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General D. T. Crabtree CB.

The departure from BAOR was a time of mixed feelings, leaving friends and the metal monsters (which had become part of our life-style) for the peace and tranquility of the UK (who's kidding who). Shortly after our arrival in the UK the Battalion departed on a month's leave. This was touch and go at one stage due to the water strike, which successfully 'dampened' the Battalion spirit. However, all was well in the end and the inevitable flood to familiar territory, to the West, went ahead.

March saw the changeover of the Regimental Sergeant Major with WO1 (RSM) John Venus departing to the Officers' Mess and WO1 (RSM) Rod Hicks' arrival into the hot seat. A Ladies Dinner Night was held to dine out WO1 John and Rita Venus, followed two weeks later by a Regimental Dinner to dine in WO1 (RSM) Rod Hicks.

WO1 (RSM) John Venus was towed in the traditional manner from the WO and Sgts' Mess to the Officers' Mess where WO1 (RSM) Rod Hicks handed over the live but worn body of Lieutenant Venus to the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. W. A. Mackereth.

We wish WO1 (RSM) Rod and Anne Hicks a happy and successful tour.

With the Northern Ireland tour from June to October the Battalion was kept busy with pre Northern Ireland training. Mess social life was kept as near normal as possible, but with the dates of the long overdue Mess rebuild being brought forward with each passing day, this proved to be impossible in the end. However, we are assured that at the end of the operational tour the rebuild will be completed.

A major highlight prior to departing for South Armagh was the farewell to the Fijians. This took the form of a Ladies Dinner Night followed by a Fijian flavoured disco. A total of 187 members and their ladies were seated. Invitations were extended to all members of the Mess, including those serving away from the Battalion, which on the night ensured that all points of the compass were covered, with guests coming from as far afield as Germany. The evening proved to be a resounding success and will remain a talking point for many years to come. On behalf of past and present Mess members we wish CSgt Les and Debbie Turaga, CSgt Ballie and Julie Baleimatuku and Sgt Joe and Una Ravu and their families a healthy, wealthy and happy retirement and thank them for everything.

There have been many comings and goings, far too numerous to mention. However, we wish all those who have departed a happy and successful tour and to those who have returned to the fold 'Welcome Back'.

Finally we congratulate the following on their promotions:

WO2 Bob Hollister

CSgt Alan Trench

CSgt Jimmy Curtin

CSgt Herbie Coyle

CSgt Chief Duran

CSgt John Coupland

Sgt Bob Tait

The Mess has started a scrapbook and we are desperately short of Photographs. All Mess Members are requested to dig into their bottom drawers and send any photographs of military, social or general interest, to the PMC. All photographs will be returned in the same condition as received. We look forward in anticipation of a good response, from members both past and present.

CORPORALS' MESS

Nineteen-eighty-three has yet again been a busy year. After returning from BAOR the Battalion took a well earned block leave. On its return, training started in earnest for our operational tour in Northern Ireland.

Before our departure to Northern Ireland the Mess managed to organise several functions which were well attended. One of these being a Club Night to welcome WO1 (RSM) Hicks and his good lady. It took the form of a set meal followed by a disco in the Corporals' Mess. Another memorable evening which springs to mind was the Carribean Night. This was attended by the Fijians (which added colour to the evening). We were entertained by a Steel Band, which made the Fijians feel at home, which of course they will be by now. The Mess wishes them all a fond farewell.

The Mess now has a thriving Darts Team, undefeated to date. During a recent darts match held against Chartham British Legion Club. A swagger stick was presented to the Mess by Mrs Pat Clark. The swagger stick had been awarded to her brother, Mr Cyril Binfield, for being the best recruit in 1936, soon after he joined the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment. Mr Binfield played the clarinet with the Regimental Band stationed at Shorncliffe Camp, Folkestone. He later went to India with the Band where he served for seven years. During the war he became a stretcher bearer and was transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps, finally being demobbed in 1946. He died in 1982 at the age of 62. The Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. W. A. Mackereth, was in attendance to receive this fine gift on behalf of the Corporals' Mess.

As well as enjoying ourselves in the Mess, there have been many comings and goings, far too many to mention them all. Members of the Mess will be well warned to keep within the law, due to the fact that Cpl 'Andy' Taylor (81), will be taking up his new position as a police constable with Kent Constabulary.

The Metropolitan Area will be covered by Cpl 'Charlie' Mason who is soon to become one of the boys in blue.

We shortly say farewell to Cpl 'Tich' Shaw, posted to IDT Warminster. PSA found the task of lowering the bar too difficult. The Mess is now looking for a new barman. Applicants for this job should be over 4'6" tall. Joking apart, Tich has done a tremendous job working long hours without complaint. We would like to wish Tich and his wife every success on posting, as well as all those leaving on postings, promotions and discharges.

Finally, plans are now in full swing to organise the Christmas Draw which hopefully will be as successful as last year's.

REGIMENTAL BAND

With our final engagement, the annual Ferozeshah Parade and Ball, behind us, we packed our boxes and departed from the dwindling LOA of BAOR for a tour in expensive Canterbury.



The RMO (Capt. Sheila Warnock) conducting the Regimental Band in a Bessbrook Mill concert.

Like all well organised campers, we sent for the local tourist guide to see what delights our new home had in store. The advertising media tell us that Kent is the garden of England. They are absolutely right, nothing can compare with the English back garden quite like the Hythe Training Area.

Having arrived in England it wasn't long before we made our first trip back across the channel to accompany the British Trade Delegation to a Fair in Lille, France. Life has been very hectic back in England, with the Band performing at many contrasting engagements. To save the boredom of a diary of events, it is sufficient to mention only two, which are both classed as being in the same category. The pinnacle of engagements from this list was a Garden Party held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. Amongst the eight thousand people attending were Major and Mrs Kenway. The other engagement was the Dover Tattoo. This is a local show, utilizing the Army talents available from the camps in this area, held in Fort Burgoyne, Dover. This Tattoo was held in Folkestone until 1981, then moved for financial reasons to its present location. Why not make a note of it in your diary for next year? We have.

Now for a subject close to our hearts. In the present economic climate the government has decided to save more of our money under the guise of defence cuts by reducing our Bands. Over the past two years the media have extemporised on this topic to such a pitch, that should we choose to believe them, we would all be looking for other employment. For the benefit of Military Band enthusiasts and using the media of this Journal, I would like to outline some of the salient points affecting our Regimental Band.

First let me say that this is nothing new. It has been planned for many years, but the important

point is that we, as a named band, are not going to be axed, but will continue to support our Battalion. Sadly we will be reduced in numbers, from an establishment of twenty eight at present to twenty one plus Bandmaster by 31st March 1985. This reduction will be taken up largely by natural wastage, followed by some voluntary redundancies. Providing our life style is unaffected then we shall still be able to function, though not on such a large scale as previously; the thought of 1812 with antiphonal trumpets is now just an unachievable dream.

The future of this Regimental Band up until 1987 should be secure in its new form. A closing thought from the pen of Nietzsche for our more literary readers – "Without music life would be a mistake". A further thought by an ex Bandsman – "Life is just a bowl of cherries".

FOOTBALL

With another season gone by things have started to look up, due mainly to a shake-up in the coaching and the motivation of the squad. The season was interrupted by the move back to Canterbury, but this did little to quell the players' enthusiasm.

This season has seen a change in Football Officer, WO1 (RSM) RG Hicks replacing Lt J Venus. A lot of old faces still remain in the squad, young and old alike, creating a well balanced, effective team: WO2 Bryant, Sgt McIntyre (player/coach), Sgt Richardson, Cpls Tait 54 (Capt), Tait 81, Truman and Kirkland, LCpls Lynch, Goodman, Murtach and Peake, Ptes Noonan, Smith 21 and guest appearances by Cpl Proberts, Ptes Mann, Panting and Saunders.

Training was stepped up, producing sweat and tears, and was done in the players' own time, at

FOOTBALL SQUAD 1982-83



CPL Spud Tait

(2nd Row) 1. CPL Pete Murtach WO2 Mick Bryant CPL Alex Kirkland Sgt Steve McIntyre
 1. CPL Bob Lynch Pte Tone Humphries PTE Glenn Noonan (Player Coach)

(Front Row) CPL Steve Proberts 1. CPL Sean Goodman CPL Pete Tait (Capt) RSM Hicks 1. CPL Steve Peake PTE Steve Smith
 (Football Officer) CPL Martyn Truman

0600hrs in the mornings and 1700hrs in the evening. Proper training sessions were run by the coach with the emphasis on team work and basic skills.

As was reported in the last Journal Notes, we beat the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards 1-0 after extra time in the Army Challenge Cup. The next round put us up against the 1st Battalion Irish Guards, from Munster. Everything in the build-up was right, the match was going our way, and we were winning with minutes to go, but a lack of commitment and concentration saw us coming out losers 1-2. In the Infantry Cup we had two bites of the cherry, losing 0-1 to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers from Berlin, and then winning against the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment in the UK Competition. This proved to be a bruising game, with very little skill on show. After a real slog, we came out winners 2-1. In the next round we drew the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders at home and lost 1-2 in the most one-sided game the Battalion has played. One nil down in the first half, Sgt McIntyre got one back early in the second half, but despite constant pressure, we were unable to score. A rare counter attack by the opposition and a slip-up by our back four saw the visitors winning 1-2.

Throughout the season we played a lot of friendly matches, the hardest one being against 1 KINGS (The Infantry Champions). Once again we were winning, with five minutes left, but eventually came out losers 1-2, due to an own goal in the final minute. On and off the field team spirit was high, with the squad all buying their own tracksuits and waterproofs. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col W. A. Mackereth, presented the awards after the players had selected the winners.

Awards were made to the following:

Players' Player – Cpl Pete Tait (Capt)
Runner-up – LCpl Steve Peake
3rd Place – Pte Smudge Smith
Most Improved Player – WO2 Mick Bryant
(it's never too late)
Runner-up – Cpl Ian Tait
Football Officer's Player of the Season – Sgt McIntyre

We are looking forward to the 1983/4 season, to improve on last year's performance. We hope to raise a good second XI to add depth to our side.

RUGBY

The Battalion started the season with very high hopes that were soon dashed for various reasons.

The rugby squad was the strongest the Battalion had seen for many years (although during Lt 'Farren' Drury's training sessions it was hard to believe). The season started very well with some fine results in the Army Cup where we progressed

to the quarter finals, to be beaten by 1 KOSB, whom we had beaten in a similar situation two years previously.

Rugby was then put in abeyance for the move back to UK, confident in the knowledge that we were still in the UK leg of the Army Cup. What could have been our most successful season then ended up being one of our most disastrous, when we had to pull out of all rugby fixtures because key players could not be released from training to represent the Battalion.

It is with much regret that, instead of being able to write a great citation for the 1st Battalion's most successful rugby season, I have to write an epitaph.

Next season, having already seen the posting of Capt 'Nigel' Walker and Capt 'Alan' Coates, we also lose of Capt 'Jon' Wort, Capt 'Russ' Wardle, Capt 'Pat' – I can also ski' Tomlinson and Sgt 'Dennis' Maloney. As I sit here, with a tear in my eye, projecting myself forward to next season, I wish Lt 'Farren' Drury all the luck in the world and pray that Barry John, who sits on the right hand of God, smiles graciously on him and gives him all the support and good fortune he requires.

BOXING

The boxing standard over the last three years has been extremely good, this in the main resulting from being Army finalists in the year 80/81.

Although our team was virtually unchanged for the 81/82 season, we were beaten early on in the Divisional contest. This, we believe, made the team that more determined to do well in the 82/83 boxing competition.

Early on we decided to enter teams in both the Novice and Intermediate competitions, even though we knew it was going to be difficult to achieve the necessary training time due to the Arms Plot move to Canterbury.

It was eventually agreed by the Commanding Officer that the team would return to Canterbury as part of the Advance Party. The Boxing Officer was OC Advance and Sgt Richardson, the second trainer, also travelled, with his instructions for the six-week training (compiled by WO2 Mehrlich) clutched to his chest.

Training commenced immediately on arrival at Canterbury, in readiness to meet opponents in the first round of both competitions. However, early in December, we learned that there had been a number of withdrawals, and our first round in the Novice competition was on 19th January 1983.

In fact the first round was the South East District Final versus 3 PARA, and it proved to be a very hard fight, with the Battalion being eventual winners by 6 bouts to 3.

The next round was a Zone Final, which was boxed on 17th February 1983 against the finalists of Eastern District, 3 ROYAL ANGLIAN.

In this particular round the Battalion won by 7 bouts to 2, but it was not anywhere near as easy as the result suggests.

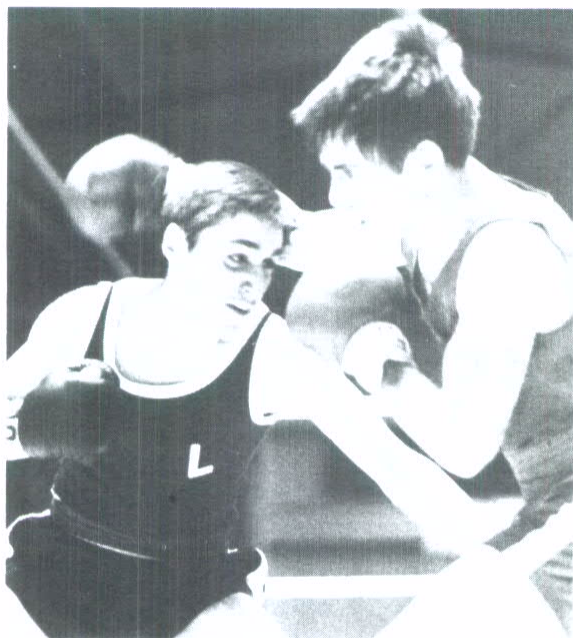
Next on our agenda was the UK Semi Final of the Intermediate Competition, which took place 5 days after the Novice Competition, our opponents being 2 SG in a contest which we lost by 5 bouts to 4.

We were not too distressed at having lost, as our teams were losing manpower and we were having to pool our resources at this stage. Had we had to continue in both competitions, it is felt that we would have not been able to field our best team in either.

The Battalion was now in the UK Final and had only to beat 3 RRF to be the UK Champions. This was achieved at Bassingbourne on 23rd March 1983, where we won 5 bouts to 4.

The Army Final was held on 21st April 1983 at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, a report on which can be found elsewhere in the Journal.

The Battalion boxing teams have been a credit to us, and the supporters a credit to the boxers. There are many individuals who have made the whole season a success and thanks go to them, all the boxers and spectators, and also to those who were responsible for the administration.



Pte Agostino & Gnr Garwell, the Army Final, Bantamweight.

ARMY BOXING FINAL

The Battalion had convincingly beaten 3 PARA, 3 ROYAL ANGLIAN and 3 RRF on the way to the UK Final, and were extremely confident of being the eventual winners of the Army title. But our dreams were shattered by a boxing bombardment by 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The first bout between bantamweight Pte Agostino and Gnr Garwell was close, but Agostino got the verdict on a majority decision. Garwell went down in the first but was more the victim of a slip than a punch, and came back to make a real scrap of it.

Featherweight Gnr Catherine equalised by working hard for a majority points win over Pte Tindill, who was a much taller man with a long reach.



Pte Tindall & Gnr Catherine, the Army Final, Featherweight.

LCpl Maxwell was knocked out by Gnr Mulholland in the opening minute of the first round, to give 50 Msl a 2-1 lead.

Gnr Nicholas outreached his light-welter opponent and put Pte Allen down with a bone crunching straight right in the second round. As soon as Allen was back on his feet, Nicholas tore into him again. Allen went down under a flurry of punches and the referee stepped in to prevent further damage.

The light-middleweight was a very hard bout between Pte Davies and Gnr Teasdale. Teasdale's combination punches, together with his relentless advance, forced Davies to take standing counts in the first and second rounds. A stray punch from Davies in the third almost floored the referee; however, he managed to stay on his feet and shortly after had to step in and stop the bout to save Davies from further punishment.

Pte Coombs fought L/Bdr Johnson in the middleweight bout. Coombs had been honed down from heavyweight for this particular contest, and although he lasted the whole three rounds, he was unable to get in the big punch and was convincingly beaten by Johnson.

At this stage 50 Missile Regiment were the Army Champions, but there were still some good bouts to follow.

The light-heavyweight bout was between Cpl Gayle and Gnr Brooks. Gayle was put down in the first round, but he fought back, and his superior fitness eventually paid off as he fought Brooks to a standstill, and he thoroughly deserved his unanimous points victory.

A rough, untidy, slugging match followed between heavyweight Pte Ledgister and Gnr Beerdsall, but again it was the superior fitness of Ledgister which eventually won the bout for the home team.

The final bout of the evening was yet another victory for 50 Missile Regiment, when Gnr Howard beat Pte McGauley unanimously in a hard-fought contest.

Although the final result was disappointing as far as the Battalion was concerned, the boxing was entertaining and all the boxers fought with great courage and spirit.

Such an event cannot be held without a great deal of organisation and administration. The whole evening was a great success and our thanks to the boxers, officials and organisers must be recorded.



NOVICE BOXING SQUAD 1982/3

CROSS COUNTRY

All good things must come to an end sometime or other; and so it was with the Battalion cross country team finishing its running in Germany. For most of us, running finished at the end of November, with our teams only being able to compete in three out of the nine Westphalia League races and one Divisional race.

As with the beginning of most seasons and all sports, old faces were gone and new ones were there to replace them. It was with much sadness that Major Alan Kenway (Manager/Coach) was posted out. To the cross country team this was as great a loss as was Bob Paisley to the Liverpool Football team, Major Kenway having been the guiding hand over the last three seasons and well-known "nasty" course "setter". Others, such as LCpl Dickor, REME (Posted), Pte Clay (now Mr) and Cpl Vincent (injured), were also missed.

The season got off to a late start this year because of Exercise Quarter Final, which took up most of October. However, we started with a Divisional Race at Bunde. This year the race contained some new teams and a much higher standard of runner. Unfortunately the 'A' Team (no, not that mercenary bunch on TV), comprising 2Lt R. Higgs (newly appointed Capt), Sgt Porter, Cpl C. Chapman, Cpl Smith, LCpl Hamill (REME), Pte Poolman, Pte Knight and Pte Harris came 7th. Our B Team finished not far behind in 11th place. Leading the way were veteran LCpl Wragg, old man Pte Davies and newcomer Pte Barker. It was obvious at this point that the intense ski training, now full time, was having a slightly adverse effect on the team, the majority of whom were reluctantly taking part. It seems that cross country and langlaufing are interchangeable sports, requiring the same fitness and stamina, more so on skis. And so we saw the likes of 2Lt Higgs, Cpl Chapman, LCpl Harris, LCpl Hamill & Pte Knight plodding the hills and forests around Osnabruck the day before league races.

The first league race took place about a week after the Divisional race, with the 'A' Team being placed 4th behind 7RHA (winners since the League began), 2LI and 35RE.

By the second league race fitness was on the up; however, we still only managed 4th place, again beaten by the same opposition. It was pleasing to note that, even during the hectic months of October and November (with Ex Quarter Final and PRE commitments), the majority of runners continued training in their own time. Our final race took place a week later and two days before the departure of the ski team to the slopes of Switzerland. The benefits of the full time ski training finally emerged and promoted us to 3rd place.

In the four years the Battalion has been in Germany we have finished each season in 2nd, 2nd & 3rd places and now have the pleasure of letting the Green Howards replace us in the League.

With the ski team's departure for the Alps and the advance party crossing the Channel, the cross country season came to a close. However, for those runners back in England, the season continued on an individual basis. Cpl Smith became a member of the White Horse Hamers in the hope of becoming a Berkshire County runner, and only narrowly missed out. Perhaps next year! While for the bold and old "vets", such as LCpl Wragg & Pte Poolman, marathon running provided a new lease of life, both taking part in the London Marathon.

It would be delightful to see a Regimental team taking part in this renowned race, which provides the climax to the running season.

ORIENTEERING 82/83

During the Summer/Autumn 1982 much of the time between exercises and other commitments was spent preparing for the 1 (BR) Corps Relays, held on Achmer training area. The preparation included runs and navigation exercises on the 'Ponyhof' orienteering map, and competing in Divisional and Garrison events, such as the team relays held on the Garrison sports day. That event was a good opportunity to practice relay techniques and select the final teams for the Corps event.

We finally entered 3x3 man teams. The opposition included top civilian (German) and R.A.F. clubs, running as guests. Our 'B' team unfortunately was disqualified, due to one wrongly stamped checkpoint, but the 'A' and 'C' teams did well despite the lack of experience. The 'A' team finished 13th fastest of the Army units taking part, but were the fastest Infantry team of the day. The 'C' team were placed 21st. Some very fast individual times were turned in by our runners, especially Sgt. Higgs and Cpl. Burgess, both within 10 minutes of the fastest individual runner of the day.

Although several members of the Battalion did manage to run in a couple of league events after the relays, it proved impossible to enter anything in large numbers, due to the move to U.K. On arrival in Canterbury, we found that events in S.E. District were few and far between. The Battalion team was however entered in the District Championships held at Aldershot in March. Although we were unable to train or prepare thoroughly, all those who ran turned in reasonable times, and most of us gained valuable experience from the very demanding courses.

Because of commitments to other sports, mainly cross-country, and due to the pressure of work, it has not always been easy for the team members to

train or get the time even to compete. But several members of the Battalion have regularly gone out of their way to make time to orienteer for the team, including: Sgt. Higgs, Cpl. Chapman, Cpl. Vincent, Cpl. Burgess, L/Cpl. Mellam, L/Cpl. Harris, L/Cpl. Weaving, L/Cpl. Crawford, Pte. Davis 02, and Pte. Poolman.

Most of these are likely to form the nucleus of the team on return to Canterbury, but anyone who is interested in taking part in orienteering can contact the Orienteering Officer or Sgt. Christian.

JUDO

Once again the Battalion has improved in Judo, but has been somewhat hampered by the move to England, the N Ireland tour and normal commitments. A successful inter-company competition was won (once again) by C/SP Coy. An individual open competition was won by LCPL HAMILTON.

Before leaving BAOR the Battalion was very successful at the BAOR Novice Championships, with PTE DICK winning the heavy-weight section and PTE SMITH being the runner-up in the lightweight competition.

Unfortunately post-BAOR leave coincided with the Army Individual and Novice team finals. Therefore, only the "warriors" made their way to the competitions. This meant that the Novice team championships are best not mentioned, but the Army Individuals were more successful, with CAPT WARDLE winning the Novice heavy-weight championship.

The Battalion looked on course for Gold in the Army Team championships, with LCpl Hamilton beating two Dan grades (Black belts), no mean feat for a Brown belt, and Capt Wardle hanging on to his unbeaten record (and being very careful about who he fights!). However, due to the disqualification of LCpl Hamilton on a technicality after he had won his fight, we eventually went out at the semi-final stage. It was interesting to note that 1 DERR was the only Infantry unit competing, and the only team not criticised for lack of aggression.

So things look good for 1984 competitions, but all players will have to train hard and, most importantly, show the enthusiasm and commitment needed if major honours are to be won.

THE ARMY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

I do not wish to give a detailed account of each of our races throughout the championships; the detailed summary below outlines adequately how we fared. Two races, however, deserve special mention, both being the 4 x 10 km races in the Divisional and Army meetings.

Pte Jerry Knight gave us a wonderful start in the 1st leg of the race in Axams. Our main opponents were 94 Loc Regiment and 2 Div RCT, both of whom had British Olympic skiers in their teams. Jerry came in first. He was absolutely exhausted, but our morale was high and we felt we now had a damn good chance of beating those two highly-rated teams. LCpl Nick Wardall skied the second leg and kept our lead. At this stage it started to rain a little and this meant a change of wax. LCpl Ginge Hammill went off with a "Dukes special" mixture which worked wonders, and he managed to increase his lead to one of three minutes. However, Captain Tomlinson did not have enough time to put on the same wax and, despite skiing his guts out, he was overtaken in a very thrilling finish with Bdr Marshall (British team), who skied three minutes faster than anyone else in the competition and won the race by 9 seconds, which is not a lot considering the race was over 40 km.

We had a similar race in the Army Championships, Knight again giving us a fantastic start. He came in second behind SGT Wood (APTC), the UK Biathlon Champion, and rated amongst the top 20 Biathletes in Europe. Although we could not maintain the second position, we finished very closely behind 94 Locating Regiment (again!!) in sixth place.

There is no doubt that the Battalion lived up to, if not surpassed, its reputation as a skiing Battalion. No-one any longer says "The Dukes of who?" they all know who we are and it is a very satisfying feeling. But all sports have their frustrations and skiing, with the cold and variable weather, coupled with the problems associated with having to exert oneself over long periods, with little protective clothing, leaves one prone to flu and colds. Unfortunately this year the bug hit us very badly and our performances in later races in the Army Championships were badly affected. It was only with a determination to win and to make our training worthwhile, that we attained our final 7th position at Zwiesel, and this in some appalling weather conditions.

THE DOWNHILL TEAM

After three hard consecutive years of training, the downhill ski team finally achieved victory. We won, as a joint effort with the langlauf team, the Infantry Cup (Princess Marina).

Early in November the team started fitness training in preparation for skiing on some of the most testing ski runs in the world. We arrived in Switzerland on 20th November and spent the following weeks in the small mountain ski resort of Andermatt. The novice langlauf team was also co-located in Andermatt but in separate accommodation (they tended to get a little sweaty and smelly). We trained hard each day, and we normally took the first lift up and the last one of the day down. We concentrated throughout on technique and our Instructress bullied us through constant and continuous slalom runs, and forced us downhill faster than we would normally dare. We couldn't be shown up by a woman!! Mind you, we had to keep close to really benefit from the fact that she led us down – sturdy girl!

By late December we had completed a strenuous training programme and unfortunately at this stage had to select a team of five out of the seven man squad.

The choice was not easy, and LCpl Gorrod and Pte Spurway were the unlucky ones to draw the short straw.

On January 12th we met up with the langlaufers at Axams in Austria, where a week of competitive racing was about to begin. The Divisional races took place on the same slopes that were used for the 1979 Olympics, and there were three events: Slalom, Giant Slalom and Downhill. By the third day of the competition we realised that the team had a very good chance of qualifying for the Army Championships, something that had eluded us for the last four years. Everything depended on the last race, – the Downhill.

Fortunately Cpl Ball, our top skier, produced a magnificent run along with Pte West, whose strength tended to be in the Slalom events in which he had become something of an expert. Consistent runs by Lt Higgs, LCpl Sanderson and myself gave the team a good enough result for us to qualify with the langlauf team for the Army Championships.

The Army Championships were something of an eye opener for most members of the team. All the courses were set at Olympic standards and to say that we found them testing is something of an understatement. The Downhill run claimed four broken legs in warm-up practices alone, and the Slalom courses confused the best of Britain's skiers. We did, however, manage to produce a performance good enough to assist the langlauf team in winning the Princess Marina Infantry Cup, which we had not done for four years.

REGIMENTAL LIAISON TEAM

At the time of writing the Summer season is drawing to a close, and once again it has been an extremely busy period, with plenty of shows and town visits to keep us on our toes. The Team this year consisted of:

Sgt (Mr Sheen) Harrill
Cpl (Claims) Arnold
LCpl (Happy) Lewis
LCpl (Squash) Gallagher
Pte (I'm not fat) Morag
Pte (Guardsman) Rose

Our first show of the year was at Badminton Horse Trials, and the highlight was the visit paid by The Colonel in Chief. He spoke to all members of the team and signed our visitors' book. He was then introduced to the Divisional Recruiting Team and the Glosters RLT, and from there HRH returned to the Horse Trials. The other highlight at Badminton was being set up next to Peter Dominic's (the wine merchants) who gave us a crate or two for our evening entertainment ('hic').

Berkshire ACF Summer Camp

The team would like to thank the Berkshire ACF for their hospitality at the Summer Camp at Shorncliffe. We hope we shall be able to run the Junior Leaders' course again next year.

Wiltshire ACF

We would like to apologise to the Wiltshire ACF for not being able to spend more than 3 days down at Okehampton Camp, and we look forward to a full Summer Camp next year.

Team Equipment

Because of the age and state of our caravan, it is hoped that sufficient funds will be raised to purchase another during the winter months, and if anyone has any good designs for it, please send them on. We would like to thank the PRI for donating at great expense '6' T Shirts, which are in full time use, and we hope that the PRI won't run at a loss this year.

General

There are due to be a few changes in personnel next year and we can assure anyone who comes on the team of a very busy time. We would also like to make it clear to the Battalion that, although we are not dodging bullets or square bashing, we are working extremely hard promoting the Battalion's good name within our recruiting area. In closing, we would like to say a fond farewell to Major Welsh, who was DIV RO Wessex for four years and did an excellent job. We only hope he can get used to wearing civvies now.

DEPOT LICHFIELD

After a period of transition in 1982, Depot Lichfield has now taken on the task of training Adult Recruits for all nine Regiments of The Prince of Wales's Division, with Junior Soldiers being trained at Crickhowell. Consequently the Depot is once again working on a very full training programme; in addition to eight Regular Recruit Platoons, each up to 50 strong, we also run numerous TA courses, and Divisional Skill at Arms Courses. Depot achievements during 1983 include winning the Minor Units Championship at Bisley.

The Regiment is well represented in both the Training Companies. Sgt 'Snowy' Cox arrived from JSB Taunton to join Sgt Wilmot, Cpl Reading and Cpl Shinnick in A Coy. Captain Bowkett is well on his way to his first million on the proceeds from B Company Shop; he handed over as 2IC at the end of the year. Lt Barlow, now newly married, runs Salamanca Platoon and welcomed the Colonel of the Regiment as Inspecting Officer at his Platoons' Passing Out Parade on 9th September. Cpl Rogers,

Cpl Burgess and Cpl Herbert labour on at the sharp end as recruit section commanders. The latter is due to return to the 1st Bn shortly.

HQ Company also has a second DERR contingent, led by CSgt A. J. Pinnell BEM, who has been trying to revive interest in Tug of War at the Depot. Pte 'JR' Ewings has joined the staff of the WOs and Sgts Mess to refresh the parts that others cannot reach, and LCpl Pethick keeps us all in line as a member of the Depot Provost Staff. CSgt Lawrence runs the G1198 stores with typical DERR efficiency and discovered an unsuspected talent for shooting as a member of the winning team in the Depot Skill at Arms meeting. Also in the QM's Department is Cpl 'Eddie' Edwards. He thought his career had taken a dramatic leap forward when he saw himself promoted to Captain in the local newspaper. He was featured because of his assistance in a charity Fun Run. Three months later his feet are firmly back on the ground again.

Sgt 'Twiggy' Heal handed over the onerous task

of running the MT to Sgt Chitty in November. The MT remains very much a DERR enclave, with Cpl 'Esso' Essery, Pte 'Billy' Smart and LCpl 'Danny' Bowden there as well. Pte Smart recently passed his HGV 1 and Cpl Bowden entered the 1983 Lorry Driver of the Year Competition. He did very well against stiff opposition to come third in the West Midlands Regional Heat.

Not strictly part of the Depot, Maj Cornwell and Sgt Proctor, serving with HQ The Prince of Wales's Division, both join in the social and sporting life of the Depot. Maj Cornwell took the Hockey Team as far as the semi-finals of the Infantry Cup, ably assisted by CSgt Pinnell BEM, Cpl Hickman and Cpl Shinnick. Lt Barlow, Cpl Reading and Sgt Cox have represented the Depot at Rugby and reached the semi-finals of the Minor Units Championship. Capt Bowkett and Cpl Burgess are both in the Depot Orienteering Team and reached the UKLF Orienteering Championships. Last but not least on the sports scene, Cpl Herbert plays soccer for the Depot.

Sadly, 1983 also saw the departure from both the Depot and the Army of Maj Peter Martin MBE. His shooting expertise and enthusiasm will be missed, but perhaps we shall be able to persuade him to help out in future. He and Margaret will continue to live locally as he took up his new post in September, as Permanent Staff Administrative Officer with C Coy 3 WFR in DERBY.



The Colonel of the Regiment presenting the Gale Cup to the most outstanding recruit at the Passing out Parade on 9th September 1983.

MISCELLANY

At the Depot, The Royal Berkshire Reg 1932 (continued)

I must tell you more about the Royal Berkshire Regimental Depot before passing onto the 2nd Battalion (66th) at Shorncliffe in 1932-34. You probably know that under what was called the "CARDWELL system", each Infantry regiment of the line had two battalions, one serving at home and one abroad. Service with the Army of the Rhine after the 1914-18 war, up to 1928, counted as home service, just as it does now. The 1st Battalion (49th) were in DINAPUR, INDIA in 1932. Regular drafts were sent out from the 2nd Battalion. The home-coming drafts always finished up at the Regimental Depot. The most newly joined recruits met the old sweats, who had completed their engagement of 7 years with the colours and were due to go into "Civvy Street" with a commitment for 5 years on the Regular Army Reserve.

So in the depths of winter with snow on the ground, these old(er) soldiers, newly arrived from very hot climates, shivered onto parade, waiting for their Civvy Suits to be issued from the QM Stores. To us new recruits they looked dark skinned and old for their age, though in their early twenties most of them. Needless to say we heard hair-raising stories of overseas service. Cobras in the latrines, scorpions in kit bags, and white ants which ate the soles of your boots overnight, just leaving rows of hobnails they had eaten round. Lurid stories of the bazaar and beyond in dark alleys of oriental cities. Enough horror to make us want to buy ourselves out at £20, which was the price in those days! It's more expensive now.

But in contrast, I remember some much older soldiers paying a fleeting visit to the Depot. They were some of the "Boys of The Old Brigade" from The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who had served in the 49th and 66th. They had come for TOFREK

Day. After various celebrations, including visits to the Depot Sergeants' Mess, they attached themselves to recruit squads for legitimate yarn spinning about their long service, which for some went back to the South African war and even earlier. One particular individual of this party of Old Soldiers decided to bed down in the huge Victorian coal box, the size of a normal bath, in our barrack room. I suppose he felt very tired after over-celebrating and chose to doss down in the warmest place he could find, but not without blankets being laid on the coal dust which was usually issued each Saturday morning. So he came to no harm and was cleaned up the next morning ready for his return to London. Now about that coal dust – coal fatigues took place on Saturday mornings. Deliveries by recruit fatigue men were made to every part of the barracks. The married quarters involved deliveries along narrow verandahs and sometimes we were told to put the coal in the bath! At that time not all quarters had what were called "slipper baths". Galvanised bath tubs were not uncommon and were seen hanging on an outside wall for use in the kitchen when required.

Domestic fatigues were a curse in the Army between the wars. Every day there were thousands of men on fatigues – potato peeling, scrubbing out,

washing up, etc. Now many of these chores are done with labour-saving machinery or by the employment of local civilian labour.

Shortly after I arrived at the Reading Depot in 1932, I was on Officers' Mess fatigues, scrubbing a long passage on my hand and knees. The C.O. came along with his dog. I stood up and to attention, being careful not to slip up on the soap. The dog lingered and lifted its leg on my cloth. "Never mind mate" said an Old Soldier mess waiter, who saw my predicament, "that was the great, great grandson of Bobby of the Berkshires and it's an honour to be pissed on by him".

I learned all about Bobby later in Regimental history, when we visited the Museum, then in the Depot. The spears captured at SUAKIM (1885) had to be cleaned and oiled up by recruit fatigue parties from time to time. Horrible weapons with barbed tines. I expect they are now in the Wardrobe. I must go and have a look sometime, and pay my respects to that now very old dog.

If you wish to comment on anything I have said so far, please write to the Editor.

(In my last contribution the title date should have read 1932, and Major EAGER's name was spelt wrongly.)

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ON BEING A SOLDIER AND A WRITER

BY

BRIGADIER T.A. GIBSON CBE

This somewhat pretentious and pompous title covers a talk I've given locally when trapped to be a guest speaker by various bodies such as the Tocumwal Lions and Apex Clubs and the Cobram Arts Council in this South-West Riverina region of New South Wales (though, strictly speaking, in case anybody looks up a *very* large scale map of Australia, Cobram is just across the Murray River, the interstate border, in Victoria; however, despite the very physical presence of the Murray, the local view of political boundaries about here is fairly broad brush as we mainly get Victorian newspapers and TV, the Riverina wheat trains lumber south to the port of Geelong and chaps who enlisted in the 1939-45 contest all went into Victorian units).

My transition or metamorphosis from the disciplined, ordered military life to late developer novelist was surprisingly painless. Indeed, background training in military writing gives a sound grounding for professional writing of any kind. The old Staff College catchery of 'be clear, concise and objective' is as worthy a dictum as ever

and prevents gushing into 'purple prose', of being seduced into the pitfalls of superlatives, cloying adjectives and over-writing generally. While a cliché is acceptable in dialogue and in fact, enhances its realism as most of us speak, or at least use frequently, clichés and colloquialisms, it is curious how a cliché grates and even offends in the normal narrative text, with the result that it is usually damned as a sign of loose writing.

Sometime ago, my good friend, that devotee of Rudyard Kipling, Jack Price, told me that in collating back numbers of the regimental journal, ancient and modern, at RHQ, he reckoned that I was probably top of the contributors' league. I've always been attracted to writing and, having been interested in my profession, I also managed to get a few articles published in various military journals; if pen and sword together could earn a few bob for the impoverished subaltern or captain, that was even better! Probably the zenith of this long article-writing phase was achieving several acceptances from the prestigious Blackwood's Magazine of Edinburgh, who paid very handsomely in guineas. One Blackwood's article I fondly remember was *Gumtrees and Beni Ulid*, an account of a recce I and Jack Price, as Bn 2IC and QM, did from Malta for battalion training in Tripolitana about Tarhuna

circa 1963. Next year Jack and I were again on a recce in North Africa, this time for company training in Cyrenaica, and with us were Gary ('Lofty') Graham, OC B Coy, and RQMS Ray Marsh. One night when we were camped on Derna beach, we were hit by a freak storm. By reason of good luck or guile or blatant use of seniority, my bivvy, and also Jack's, were sited on higher ground and I still recall with a distinct guilt-feeling huddling selfishly and drily in my bedding roll, while Lofty and Marsh were washed away by small instant rivers to the sea. I'll allow Jack Price to give his own version of that calamity!

I didn't get into the book writing game until 1969 when, through the thoughtful agency of John Sellers, a London publisher, Leo Cooper, asked me to do the history of the Wiltshires for a series of new, glossy, slimline regimental histories that he was bringing out, called Famous Regiments (Freddie Myatt's *The Royal Berkshire Regiment* is a companion volume). The editor of this series, incidentally, was Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks and it amused me to read in his autobiography, *A Full Life*, that after the final battles of El Alamein, he called on the commander of 9 Australian Division, Lt Gen Sir Leslie Morshead, to congratulate him on how splendidly the Australians had fought and how decisively they had contributed to the victory. In what he, Horrocks, describes as the understatement of all time, Morshead, after hearing all this fulsome praise, remarked quietly: "Thank you, General, the boys were interested."

Later, in 1972, the same publisher asked me to do *The Maori Wars* for another series he was producing, campaigns of the Victorian era. Though I must confess that I've never been to New Zealand to this day, this did interest me. I was then a colonel commanding the new mechanised training area at Suffield, Alberta, that imaginative major project which I'm very proud to have started up and which I'm gratified to see, from the Journal and the Regiment's forays there, is still flourishing strongly. In Canada I had become interested in the Plains Indians – the Blackfoot, the Sioux, the North Cheyenne etc – so much so that after lengthy intercession with the Canadian military bureaucracy and the Department of Indian Affairs, I had the battle group camp named after the great chief of the Blackfoot confederacy, Crowfoot, who had signed the original treaty with the British Crown and so averted the bloodshed that was to mark the American West. The confrontation of the Maoris with European immigrants, after land settlement in the early days of New Zealand in the last century, was very similar to the experience of the Plains Indians, at least south of the Canadian border. The mutual weakness of these native peoples was inter-tribal rivalry and warfare, with

the result that there was no common front against the real menace, European settlement on their lands. Once defeated, both races degenerated with a falling birthrate and hitting the spirit trail in more ways than one with drink, until at the turn of the century, a new self-respect brought about greatly by education came along and their birthrates picked up.

Though *The Maori Wars* did reasonably well, especially in New Zealand, there's no money in military history to justify all the time spent in research, unless you break into bigtime modern controversial stuff, such as *The Desert Generals* by Corelli Barnett of some years back. I was determined to turn ultimately to fiction which always was the real ambition.

What of writing as an occupation? Probably many of us have a secret desire to write. Also, possibly we've all said at one time or another, thinking of past experiences in life: 'I could write a book – if only I had the time.' Perhaps regrettably, one of the main mechanics of writing a book – assuming you've got a theme or basis for it, can write grammatical English and have a certain feel for words – depends on your making the time. It's no use saying to oneself – well, next weekend I'll lock myself in a room and have a real good bash at it, inspiration will come. The secret is to plug away doing a bit each day, even if it's only a couple of paragraphs. I wrote *The Wiltshire Regiment* when I was commanding 1 DERR at Minden in the rather hectic military scene of BAOR (I can almost hear many saying: 'so that's what he did with his time – thank God for the Regiment his 2IC, Lofty Graham, hadn't been lost at sea during that storm at Derna back in '64!'). But I found it almost therapeutic to switch off from the cares and responsibilities of the day for an hour or so each evening – where possible! – and do some writing. It was J.B. Priestley, playwright and author, who called his autobiography *I Had The Time*. In other words, he made the time.

However, the demands on your time even as a professional writer are considerable, for it's not merely a case of reporting to your typewriter and after a set period, saluting smartly and falling out. Subconsciously you're almost always thinking back to how the story line is developing, how the present characters are coming along, who needs to be introduced to keep your story and theme rolling along. You never quite attain that excellent bit of Army philosophy 'on parade, on parade – off parade, off parade'. Sir Victor Pritchett, a longtime President of the Society of Authors, puts all this time commitment succinctly in an article he contributed to the Society magazine and which he called *Spare Time*. I quote an excerpt:

A writer, like all intellectual or creative workers, lives in two kinds of time – the clock time of his prose factory and the vitally necessary unending time of reflection; without the latter the work that clocks-in will be dead and automatic. That indispensable reflective time has also to be bought nowadays and at a high price.

What is this time? In his young days Keats had a famous definition. He invented the term “negative capability”. All writers have positive capability; they can fill their page, good, bad or indifferent. They assert their mind or self of the moment; but in order to reach that moment they have, like the actor, to annul the self, in order to become other characters, to become new selves. A writer must have the capacity to become passive and lost in doubt in order to be open to new suggestion. He must alternate between clocking-in and clocking-off. It is this mysterious phase that is less and less possible in contemporary life. Yet in simple terms what writers call “spare time” is hard to get. Only a tiny minority of authors can live on the money they earn from their books; the rest must have salaried jobs or turn to journalism in order to survive two new enemies: inflation and heavy taxation.

Writing, as Sir Victor also clearly alludes there, is a hard, financial struggle, rather like a farmer contending with semi-permanent drought conditions (at least in Australia!), and this is especially so in the field of hardback fiction. Unless you’re really amongst the big names, you need another source of income to take the strain between those infrequent and sometimes not-too-fat royalty cheques. In my case, it’s my pension. But – and perhaps this is the real issue – like painting, pottery, sculpting and other creative art forms, it can be very rewarding and satisfying in the pure, unmaterialistic sense.

You can’t possibly have a writer writing without plugging – or, as we say out here, skiting about – his own books! My first novel, published the year I retired, 1981, was *The Last Crusader*, heavily historical, as it was set in the Third Crusade in Palestine and the Welsh Marches of that era. It’s now out of print, rather sunk without trace. I’m afraid, in the elephant’s burial ground of most first novels, partly because I don’t think it ever achieved a single review. Unfortunately, my publisher, Robert Hale of Clerkenwell Green, to whom I’m still loyal as he gave me my first break and leg in the fiction door, does not believe in advertising and publicity and this in an age when you have to market every commodity, not just toothpaste, washing powders and motor cars but even books too.

My second, *A Soldier of India*, in 1982, was a considerable breakthrough as it was distributed also in USA and Australia and got favourable reviews there. I wrote this during my last appointment in the Army 1977-81 as Commander British Military Advisory Team Bangladesh, starting up and running a Staff College for the

Bangladesh Army Forces. At the risk of over-kill, perhaps I could let its jacket blurb (which, I must warn you, the author writes!) tell what it’s about:

A Soldier of India is set in that traumatic period for the British Raj, the Mutiny. Jhansi, then a small state recently annexed by the British, is dominated by the enigmatic, forceful personality of the Rani, a young, embittered widow. When mutiny breaks out in the cantonment in June, 1857, culminating in a massacre that the British were never to forget or forgive, how much – if at all – is the Rani involved with the mutinous sepoys? Into this bloody tragedy are drawn Martin Lalor, an officer of an Irish regiment who is not unaffected by current political and economic troubles in Ireland, and Alicia Wentworth, a young Englishwoman visiting India for the first time with her father, a Director of the East India Company. *A Soldier of India* graphically and movingly depicts the fears, hardships, bloodshed, loves and hatreds of those historic days when British mastery of the fabulous Indian sub-continent trembled and wavered on the brink of disaster, and how the lives of the three central characters, consequently, were scarred irrevocably.

A Soldier of India is still soldiering on. It also got meagre review coverage in UK but did score well with *The Times Literary Supplement* which ended its review: “An excellent novel which combines high adventure with a thoughtful examination of the meaning of loyalty.” What has been particularly heart-warming is that Robert Hale has just informed me that the New South Wales Institute for the Blind has applied for the rights (free, of course) to make it up into cassettes for its members. There is also a possibility that it will be translated into Italian by a Milan publishing house. I’ve gone all pro-Italian as a result and now wish I’d had Martin Lalor devouring pizza madly or at least singing *O Sole Mio* in his bath.

My third novel, *A Wild Hope*, came out from Hale last November. Again, the jacket blurb:

A Wild Hope is set in troubled Northern Ireland. Into the town of Ballykella, County Armagh, comes an Australian of Irish extraction, Tim Madden, ostensibly on a working tour of Ireland. Nearly penniless, he gets a job with a merchant, an oldtime IRA veteran, and soon becomes accepted into the Catholic community through his friendship with the Carey family and his sporting prowess. Despite his fervent espousal for the cause of a united Ireland, Mairead Carey, secretary to the leading local Sin Feiner, remains suspicious that Madden is not all he purports to be and the growing attraction between them heightens into a conflict of emotions and loyalties. Two savage confrontations with a UVF hard man take Madden to the fringe of the IRA active service unit operating in the area and to a denouement that severely tests Mairead’s love for him. Against a background of political and military intrigue, *A Wild Hope* vividly but objectively explores how the atmosphere of ever-threatening violence and ingrained religious prejudices in Northern Ireland affects the lives of ordinary people, both Protestant and Catholic.

I like to think (or perhaps hope!) it's a tightly-told tale but as I mentioned in a recent letter to Lt Col Bill Mackereth, I also hope that the several-times-over N.I. veterans in the Battalion won't laugh too loudly.

Currently I've almost finished a fourth epic, heavily Australian orientated and with title still not firm, set in the 1939-45 conflict, about two Aussie country chaps who join up at the outbreak of war and go through the Middle East and New Guinea together as mates. It's becoming so long that in size it's at least looking like the *Down Under War and Peace*, though not with all those confusing Russian

characters – just a lot of confusing Aussie ones.

All this has rather developed into a shameless PR exercise for Tom Gibson's books. I'll try to excuse myself by quoting Hilaire Belloc, writer, poet and man of letters, who wrote:

When I am dead, I hope it may be said:

His sins were scarlet, but his books were read.

(To be fair to the author he was asked if he would write this article, hoping it will be an inspiration to all the contributors and would-be contributors to the Journal! Editor)

AN EPISODE IN PALESTINE

by

Lt Col T.R.M. Ottowell

In 1937 the 2nd Bn The Wiltshire Regiment was involved in anti-insurgency operations in the British Mandate of Palestine (now Israel) and was stationed in a place called Sarafand El Amar. The Insurgents on this occasion were Palestine Arabs, ably led by one Fawzi El Kawkaji, and "encouraged" by Messrs. Hitler and Mussolini.

While stationed in Sarafand, the Battalion drew its fresh milk supply from a village called Wilhelma – good milk, but the men of the Battalion preferred tinned milk in their tea! The peculiarity about Wilhelma was that it was a typical German village, as you would find in the Rhineland, Saxony or Bavaria. The houses were very German in their construction and the population was also very German – not German-Jewish! Their ancestors had settled in this part of the old Ottoman Empire long before the 1st World War and had set up small farming communities in the fertile parts of Palestine, of which Wilhelma was one.

One day during a lull in the operations, one of the villagers approached the Battalion Football Officer – then Lieut D. Doggrell (now Lieut. Colonel (retd.)) – suggesting a Football Match between Wilhelma and the Battalion. This suggestion was followed up and we arranged for the match to be played at Wilhelma. As I played football and spoke German, I was detailed off as Captain of the Battalion team. "What should we take with us apart from lemons for half-time and tea and sandwiches for after the match?" asked Lieut. Doggrell. "The Band" I suggested. The Band were duly taken with us and they, poor chaps, had the hardest time of us all. They played before the match, at half-time and at the end of the match. And as a special gesture to our hosts, the programme consisted mainly of martial music, which was well received. The Band had hoped that

this would be the end of things, but "oh dear no!", the villagers, who had turned out in force for the match, specially asked for the Band to play in the Village Hall so that they could hold a dance – to include, of course, the Battalion team and Supporters. In the interests of good relations the Band 'obliged' and played marches and waltzes till late into the night, while the villagers danced and stomped around – and freely partook of our meagre ration of tea and sandwiches! (thinking these were part of the "service"!).

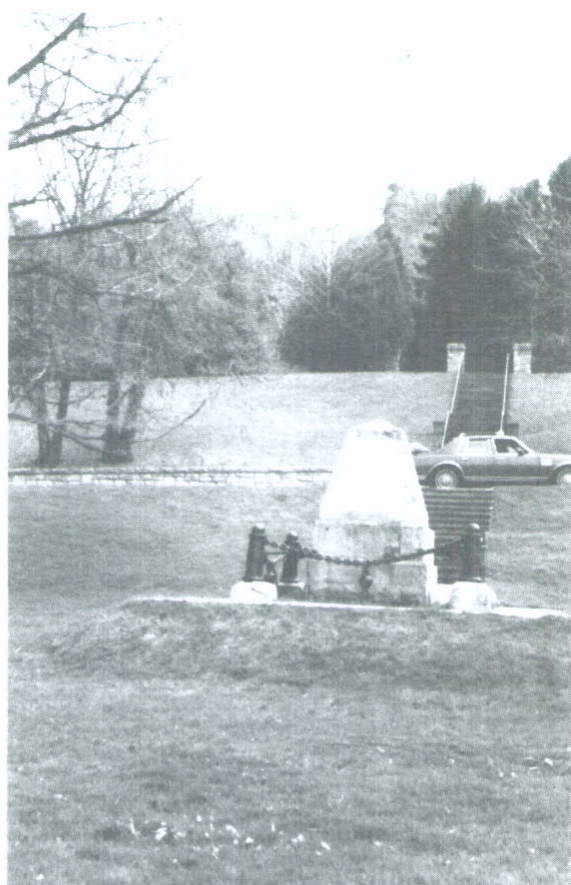
The Football match itself was secondary to the Band entertainment. It had however been a good game, played in a sporting spirit and "diplomatically" ending in a draw. At the finish we gave our customary "three cheers" to which the German team replied with three "Sieg Heils" and with arms raised in the Nazi salute. It was not until this happened that the thought of the international political situation came to mind. Here we were as a Battalion trying to keep order in a country which was not part of the British Empire (only temporarily in British care as a Mandate), where Jews and Arabs were at each other's throats, and where Germans, supporting the new Nazi Regime in their homeland, were living in comparative freedom, and trying to be friendly towards us. From discussions with some of the members of the opposing team, it was discovered that all young men, who were fit and eligible for military service, had to answer the 'call-up' in the Fatherland – and they were looking forward to it! In the classroom of the Village School where we changed before and after the match, there hung two large forbidding pictures, one of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the other of Adolf Hitler (glowering down at us!). Another interesting fact was that at the entrance to the Village of Wilhelma, close to the main road, there was a memorial to Soldiers of an Indian Army Formation who had given their lives fighting for the British Empire in the Palestine Campaign of 1917 during the 1st World War.

A VISIT TO QUEENSTON HEIGHTS, ONTARIO AND LOUISBOURG, NOVA SCOTIA

by Brigadier G. Wort CBE DL

In 1983 Helen and I had already planned to visit our daughter in Pittsburgh PA, but we later decided to include part of Canada as well as the States, and if possible to visit the Brock Monument at Queenston Heights and the old fortress at Louisbourg.

We flew by Wardair to Toronto, and this airline proved an excellent choice as regards cost, service and food. From then on through Avis we had planned to use self-drive hire cars for the rest of our trip. However, we soon found that this was 'not on' as unlike in other parts of the world a heavy drop-off charge, over and above the normal hire charges, was made unless you returned the car to its home garage town. This applied both in the States and Canada.



Brock Memorial with the plinth marking the spot where Major General Sir Isaac Brock fell.

After a few days in Toronto we took a Greyhound coach to Niagara and were delighted to obtain Senior Citizen rates! From there we visited the Monument to General Brock, which was only some eight miles away. The Monument has been the subject of several Journal articles so I will not go into any great detail. It stands in lovely park surroundings and being April when we were there we had the whole place to ourselves. There are 235 narrow steps to the top of the Monument – it was perhaps fortunate that it was not open to the public till mid-May! From the Heights there are wonderful views overlooking the little village of Queenston and the Niagara River.

Queenston itself is an attractive village and on its edge and just below the escarpment there is a stone marking the spot where General Brock fell, and nearby there is an effigy of his horse 'Albert'.

From Niagara we took another Greyhound coach to Pittsburgh. This was a great success and of course cheap! We found Pittsburgh a most interesting place and quite different from what we had imagined. There was even a dinosaur gallery in the Museum of Natural History. After ten pleasant days we flew on to Boston. The hire car business was out on account of the drop-off charge and it was too complicated to get there by Greyhound coach.

Obviously there is a great deal to see in Boston, but we were especially pleased to be taken to Lexington and Concord, about twenty miles away. Here we were able to see these attractive towns and the Statue of the Minuteman and the Old North Bridge (the Rude Bridge of the Concord Hymn) recalling the events of 1775 between the British and the American patriots.

For those interested in food I should have mentioned that by now we were very much in the land of clam chowder, lobster, oysters and seafood generally, to say nothing of Bloody Marys!

From Boston it was just over an hour's flight by Air Canada to Saint John in New Brunswick. The city has an interesting history and a population of approximately 86,000. Saint John was about to celebrate its Bicentenary and the Prince and Princess of Wales were due to visit the city in June for the festivities. The preparations for the occasion were causing much excitement.

The next evening we had a half hour's flight to Halifax which is the capital of Nova Scotia and was founded in 1749. We spent two happy days there and then flew on to Sydney, Nova Scotia – only a 35 minute flight.

The main reason for coming here was to use it as a base for our visit to Louisbourg which is on the coast of Cape Breton Island 23 miles south of Sydney. We also knew that the Island itself is very beautiful. The Fortress at Louisbourg dates from



Fortress of Louisbourg.

1719 and was built by the French. At its peak it comprised a town, a port and a fort of some 50 acres, but after its final capture from the French in 1758, all the inhabitants were evacuated and the Fortress was completely destroyed by the British in 1760 and left to decay.

Fortunately just before leaving England I had discovered that the Fortress was no longer the ruin we had expected to find and that part of it had been re-built. In fact it is said to be the largest reconstruction project ever undertaken by the Canadian Government. I had also found out that the Fortress would not be open to the public till June, so I was able to make the necessary arrangements for our visit in May.

As will be remembered, four Companies of The 62nd Foot, acting as marines, took part in the capture of the Fortress, which was France's last great stronghold on the Atlantic Coast. A key figure in the siege was Brigadier-General James Wolfe, then 31 years of age. I had always been intrigued by Louisbourg and its history since I joined The Wiltshire Regiment, perhaps because it was our first Battle Honour. It was in fact 152 years before it was officially awarded. I also have a Louisbourg 1758 medal in my collection. So having visited the Ferozeshah monument five years before, it was exciting to know that at last I would see Louisbourg also.

At Sydney we hired a car and soon set off for Louisbourg. The site of the Fortress is close to the small town of that name and both are contained in the largest National Historic Park in Canada, covering approximately twenty square miles. However we soon found out that the Fortress does not come under the town or indeed Sydney but is administered and run entirely by Parks Canada.

When we arrived we were met by Mr T. McCalmont, one of their senior officials, and he looked after us and opened up the rooms and

buildings for us. He proved to be a fund of knowledge and was clearly a great enthusiast about the whole massive Fortress project and its history. Strangely enough he came from Niagara and so was well versed in the history of the Brock Monument.

It is normally pretty cold and often misty on this coast but we were lucky — it was a lovely warm clear day! We spent five and a half hours looking round the Fortress itself without a stop — we wished we had brought a tape-recorder with us. Our tour included visiting the extensive fortifications, the Chapel, which is quite beautiful, and the houses & gardens — it was fascinating. Work had started in 1961 and one fifth of the old fortified town has now been painstakingly restored to how it looked under the French in 1744. It is astounding what has been achieved with such meticulous care — the site was just grassy rubble when the work started. Many of the pictures, details of plans and other items came from France as well as from Britain and the States. When the season starts the Fortress is visited by many people; a figure of 150,000 a year was mentioned. At that time there are guides dressed in authentic French 1744 costumes as soldiers, servants, government officials and so on.

Later on we visited some of the unrestored sites outside the walls, and Kennington Cove where a cairn marks Wolfe's landing place in 1758. The inscription on it reads: —

“WOLFE'S LANDING

Here, 8th June, 1758, the men of Brigadier General James Wolfe's Brigade, after having been repulsed with heavy loss by the French troops entrenched westward, made their gallant and successful landing.

This began the operations which ended on 26th July by the capitulation of Louisbourg.”

This is repeated below in French.

We also visited Lighthouse Point where we know The 62nd Foot were entrenched and helped with the guns. At the Lighthouse there is a plaque which reads: —

“On this site was erected by France in 1731, the first lighthouse tower constructed of fireproof materials in North America.

Near here the British erected batteries to silence the defensive works erected by France on the island opposite the entrance. In 1745 these batteries were commanded by Lt. Col John Gorham. In 1758 by Brigadier General James Wolfe.”

This is repeated below in French.

The 1745 reference concerns the taking of the Fortress by 4,000 New Englanders before the fortifications were really finished. Three years later the Fortress was returned to France.

Before leaving Louisbourg I presented the Superintendent of The Fortress of Louisbourg

National Park with copies of a photo enlargement of my Louisbourg medal, a copy of Gibson's History of The Wiltshire Regiment (this contains a photograph of the Fortress) and a copy of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Journal, thus showing that the successor Regiment still has "Louisbourg" as its first Battle Honour.

Although what we found at Louisbourg was quite different from what we had originally imagined, it was a very exciting visit and we were most impressed at the size of the re-construction and the great care that has been taken to get the detail correct. In addition we certainly learnt a great deal about the history of Canada at that time and the importance of Louisbourg.

Whilst we were staying in Sydney we were also able to explore some of Cape Breton Island. This included driving round the Cabot Trail. It is one of

the most beautiful drives in North America and the round trip from Baddeck is about 181 miles. At Baddeck we were very impressed by the Alexander Graham Bell museum.

After leaving Sydney and Louisbourg we went on to Quebec City, just as The 62nd Foot had done in 1759 to take part in that siege – we went by air! We spent five days in Canada's oldest city.

From there we hired a car and made our way first to Montreal. Here in the Chateau Ramezay Museum there is an excellent Louisbourg print of 1758 by an Officer of 35th Foot at the time of the Battle. Then on to Ottawa, Perth and finally back to Toronto where of course we had to pay a large drop-off charge on the car! We had driven 1,058 km since Quebec and it had been well worth it. From Toronto we flew back to England by Wardair and again it was a most comfortable and pleasant flight.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Major R.F. Groves

Branches have been maintaining their customary level of activity during the year, and this will be recounted as usual in the Association's Annual Report in March. The highlight of the year has been the Annual Reunion in July. This was held in the Wardrobe's garden, which provided an admirable setting for such a family gathering as this. Moreover, the occasion was enhanced by the weather, which was about as hot as one could imagine for an English summer. About a hundred seventy members were present, the majority arriving early enough to expose the bar caterer's quite unrealistic assessment of the Regimental thirst in such high temperatures. Happily his reaction and footwork were quick enough to retrieve the situation before tongues turned black and tempers frayed.

Meanwhile the Regimental Band, sited as an act of compassion in the shade of the huge copper beech which is the main feature of the Wardrobe garden, toiled manfully and perspired. The intervals between numbers lengthened, as a matter of survival in that heat no doubt, but the Band stuck to it and gave us an enjoyable programme of music throughout the afternoon. The Regimental Band is very much part of the occasion, and we are grateful to the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion for making it available, and to the Bandmaster and members of the band for doing so well on one of the hottest days of a notably hot summer.

We were glad to have with us Major General Crabtree, Colonel of the Regiment and President of the Association, and Brigadier Ballantine, Chairman of the Association. It was a pity that the Battalion was away in Northern Ireland. As we all know, in the eyes of the Rear Party it is always the members of the Main Body, wherever they may be, who have it good, whilst they in the Rear Party become care-worn and haggard with the strains and stresses of holding the fort in the Battalion's absence. It was therefore a most pleasant surprise to hear that Captain Terry Freelove was coming with a mini bus load from Canterbury, and on the day they made up in exuberance for what they lacked in numbers. They had come a long way, and their presence contributed much to the success of the Reunion: it was good to see them. Since the highlight of the Regimental programme for next year will be the Presentation of New Colours early in the summer, we have provisionally planned the 1984 Reunion for early September, and details will as usual be published in the Annual Report in March.

Something of a landmark in the Association's history was passed in July when Lt Col George Woolnough stood down after ten years as Chairman of the Executive Committee, in which time he had devoted a great deal of time and effort to its affairs, never missing a Committee Meeting, and always prepared to dash off and investigate some sad case which had been put to us. To mark the occasion the Executive Committee invited him as their guest of honour at a privately subscribed dinner in the Wardrobe in September, when Brig Ballantine presided over a memorable evening. The new Chairman of the Executive Committee is Col Fladgate, no stranger to the Association, having played the major part some years ago in setting up its structure and administrative arrangements as we now know them. We welcome him to the Committee.

Our efforts (through Mr Haines) to revive the Swindon Branch appear to have foundered. He has spent much time and energy in attempting to make contact with the large number of ex members of the Regiment who live in or near Swindon, but the response has not been good. At Devizes, in contrast, a new Branch has opened – the first addition for some years. It is an encouraging and, one hopes, significant sign that the new Branch's first tentative steps were taken hand in hand with the members of The Wiltshire Regiment OCA's Devizes Branch. That is not to suggest that all has been plain sailing, or that no mutual problems will arise, but as two of the three new Branch Committee Members are also OCA Members no doubt any early difficulties will be happily resolved. We welcome the new Branch and wish them well.

Branch Secretaries are:

Bristol: Mr D. Briggs, 61 Shaldon Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9NN.

Exeter: Mr J. Dudman, 5 Lower Kings Avenue, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6JT.

Reading: Mr D. Smith, 38 Hawkedon Way, "Foxdales", Lower Ealing, Reading

Salisbury: Mr J. Dunford, Brambles, Vicarage Road, Redlynch, Salisbury.

Trowbridge: Mr D.C. Le Quelenec, 108 Merlin Way, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol.

Gloucester: Mr K. Holder, 60 Rosebery Avenue, Gloucester.

Devizes: Mr J. Normington, 61 Eastleigh Road, Devizes.

THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

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

Reading Branch

The members of The Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA Reading Branch send greetings to The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, both past and serving members. Many of us find it difficult to realise that the amalgamation took place a quarter of a century ago. Naturally we have several members who were serving at the time, two in particular, John Allen of the Officers Mess and "Lofty" Allcock. Our monthly meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month in The Dragon Club at Brock Barracks at 8 pm. We would like to assure past and serving members that they would be more than welcome guests and look forward to some of them dropping in from time to time. We boast a thriving branch and regularly hold such functions as bingo, dinners and dances. Our main dinner of the year is the Tofrek Dinner which we endeavour, whenever possible, to hold on the date nearest to Tofrek Day.

Midland Branch

Our five meetings each year at the B.U.S. Club, Birmingham, have been very well attended and, considering the age of the members and transport difficulties, show considerable spirit on the part of the old-timers. We were saddened by the loss of our well-respected Treasurer, Mr S. Stinton. He was a great chap and kept our accounts in the best of order. He has been replaced by Mr G. Ellis, who we know will do his best to maintain the high standards set by Sid.

Regretfully, we lost another old friend, Mr Bill Clinton, who joined up in 1928.

We had a splendid time during the weekend of the Reunion, due we feel sure to the untiring efforts of Major Savill and his staff. We are also more than grateful to Jock Povey from the USA, for his generosity in paying for a good night out for our ladies at The George Hotel. Our little band made a very brave show at the Service of Remembrance at The Hall of Memory in Birmingham, led by Colonel L. J. L. Hill MC, our President.

Windsor Branch

In addition to all our members having attended the July Reunion at Brock Barracks, Reading, we have also had a very good attendance at our monthly meetings in Windsor throughout the year. A social evening was thoroughly enjoyed by members and their friends during Christmas week, including an excellent curry supper served by one of our members, Fred Deacon. Two dances were organised, one in June and one in September. Both of these evenings were a great success, with Fred once again coming up trumps with an extra special "Ploughman's Supper". We are more than sorry to have to report that our President, Major Moss, has not enjoyed the best of health this summer, but we are glad to say that he now appears to be on the mend, and one and all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Joint Secretaries: Major R. F. Groves and Major H. V. Avery

The OCA took stock of its financial situation towards the end of last year, and thanks to an encouraging response from Members to the President's Appeal, was able to realise its assets and reinvest the proceeds in a way which should protect its capital base in future years. The highlight of the year, as always, has been the

Annual Reunion at Devizes in June, when the turnout was well up to the 250-300 average of recent years. The dates for next year had to be planned with a view to leaving a reasonable gap between the Reunion and the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion early in June. The Reunion will therefore be held on 16th and 17th June at Devizes.

1st BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (RIFLE VOLUNTEERS) HQ COMPANY (WILTSHIRE)

OC: Major G. D. McMeeken

After Annual Camp in Germany during September 1982, the Battalion returned to England and weekend soldiering for the winter. For Headquarter Company this meant range work to ensure that all passed their APWT and Grade Boards for the eligible as well as the normal job of looking after the Battalion in the field.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that the title 'Headquarters Company' is slightly misleading. The Company includes Mortars, Reconnaissance, MILAN and Assault Pioneers as well as the Corps of Drums, the Signals Platoon, MT and the other usual 'Headquarter' departments. This means that Company locations are spread between Gloucester and Andover, and the Company strength is about 280 men and one lady (who is one of two RMOs, as well as married to the Adjutant). Full-time specialist support is provided by the Regular PSIs at each platoon location, normally of Sergeant or Colour Sergeant rank. It is these PSIs who make the Company work by instructing at weekends and doing all the jobs during the week that have to be done – often there is nobody else to do them. Thus the PSIs divide their time between administering the platoon weapons and equipment, booking courses, attending Battalion briefings, maintaining vehicles, preparing for weekend training, taking messages, and occasionally seeing their wives. The fact that they remain so cheerful for so much of the time while carrying out this peculiar and vital task is a credit to them and their parent Regiments.

For the first half of the year 1983, the Company continued with its training on the ranges, in the field (normally Salisbury Plain), and in Barracks. The Battalion went to Annual Camp at Thetford in July, other than the Mortar Platoon who participated at a Mortar Concentration at Otterburn with great success. Thetford was remarkable for the hot weather (which raised a sweat on the brow of some during the Tickle Fitness Test) and the attachment of an 120 strong A Company of 1/33 Infantry IOWA National Guard. It was very enjoyable having them with the Company – both British and Americans benefited from the visit. Certainly we were sorry to see them go.

Since Camp, the company has had a Watermanship Weekend at Wyke Regis (in high gales) and the usual weekends on the Ranges practicing shooting skills. At the moment the Reconnaissance Platoon is unpacking and de-greasing a number of FOX which have recently arrived. This is a significant addition to the Battalion's operational capability. The Mortar Platoon carries out regular live firing on the Plain while the Swindon Platoon practices GPMG(SF) shoots in preparation for future competitions. At the time of writing the MILAN Platoon is in Cornwall at a Concentration.

Looking to the future, the main event of next year will be Exercise BOLD GANNET in September, part of Exercise LIONHEART. The hope is that it will be as interesting and exciting as Exercise CRUSADER in 1981.



Major General M. Walsh CB DSO, Honorary Colonel 1 WESSEX, talking to Pte. Saunders after a free fall jump.



Dishevelled Adjutant, ex Bond Guard.

A fair number of serving and retired members of DERR are with the Battalion. Captain Jimmy Durant continues as Adjutant; Captain Bill Stafford is in the process of taking over as Quartermaster having just left 1 DERR. WO2 Peter Habgood is about to leave the Army, having spent the last 3 years as Chief Clerk; WO2 Norman Minty is still with D Company at Bournemouth and was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal last year; Sgt Dennis Watts is now the MT PSI, having arrived in January of this year, and is intent on producing an MT Rally Team; Sgt Terry Evans has also recently arrived and spends his days re-arranging stores and shelving as QPSI for the Company. Stalwart of the Mortar Platoon at Andover is CSgt Jack Samson.

Captain Jack Barrow has just taken up the post of Permanent Staff Administration Officer at E Company in Exeter. Two other ex-members of 1 DERR with the Headquarter Company are Sgt Peter Tuckwell and LCpl Robert Palfrey, both

serving usefully and busily in the Signals Platoon. Various others are, we hope, going to join in the near future (including we hear, young 'Mitch' Mortimer!).



LCpl. Palfrey

2nd BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

Keeping pace with the changes in a Territorial Battalion is no easy task for although the Regiment gets together at weekends, drill nights and Annual Camp, there is during that time very little opportunity for reflection. Now that Annual Camp has just finished, those in Battalion Headquarters are able to draw a slight breath in order to prepare for winter training and the Christmas festivities.

The Recruit Training Company, a role that was assumed by B Company, is now in full swing and the first intake passed out at the beginning of October after completing their annual camp at St Martin's Plain, Folkestone, making use of the excellent ranges provided at Hythe and Lydd.

Shooting teams were entered for both the South East District Skill-at-Arms Meeting and Bisley. At the former, Pte Woodford, A Company, came runner-up for the Young Soldier Trophy and WOII Robb won the TA Individual Rifle Trophy. At Bisley WOII Robb obtained 12th place in the top 50. A Company won the Champion Company Trophy at the Battalion Skill-at-Arms Meeting, held in September.

Annual Camp was this year held in Warcop, Cumbria, and was based almost entirely on field firing. The Signals Platoon carried out an exercise in Scotland and the WRAC went hill walking and rock climbing. The weather was kind, the facilities were excellent and the period was greatly enjoyed by all ranks.

As a finale to camp and as part of the celebrations of 75th anniversary of the TA, the Battalion marched through Portsmouth, Newbury, Basingstoke and Reading, all within the space of 3 days and with only 5 previous drill periods. A fitting end to a memorable 2 weeks.

A Battalion exercise has taken place at the rate of one a month. A Platoon is currently in Scotland as enemy on the intervention exercise, Winged Victory, and members of C Company took part in the Nijmegen marches. Sadly for D Company, their task to provide security for the International Air Tattoo at Greenham Common was cancelled at the last moment. Members of the Battalion have been away on all manner of courses and internal cadres have been run for Signals, HEV, Mining and Wiring, Methods of Instruction and Coaching.

Sport has not been neglected. A Company reached the semi-final of the Territorial Army Football Cup, being beaten by 124 (Lowland Field) Squadron RE. The Battalion will be providing teams for the South East District TA Sports Weekend in December.

Personalities have changed with remarkable speed. Amongst the permanent staff, Adjutants changed in April and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel E.G. Churcher, hands over to Lieutenant Colonel R.D. Hanscomb in November. Colour Sergeants Hole and Curtin relieve Dobie and Fielding, who hopefully return to the fold

much refreshed but wiser after their 2 year sojourn with 2 Wessex.

The future shows recruiting and retention improving and the expectation of spending September 1984 at Annual Camp, as enemy on Exercise LIONHEART in BAOR.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A SECOND KIND

(CSgt Fielding reflects on his second tour with the TA.)

To those amongst the readers of this compulsorily produced article who have neither had an extra terrestrial experience nor, come to that, any contact with the Part Time Professionals, the Territorial Army, read on. I would like to make it clear that this is my second close encounter so I speak with considerable knowledge.

I am at present serving with the 2nd Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers). This Home Defence Regiment is part of 5 Infantry Brigade, of Falklands fame. The Regimental cap badge is the Wessex Wyvern, made famous during the second world war by the 43rd Wessex Division. This Wyvern was later worn by all units of the Wessex Brigade, of which the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment was a constituent unit.

The structure of the Regiment is somewhat different from the norm. It consists of Battalion Headquarters, three rifle companies, A, C and D, and a training company. These companies are spread over a large area of Berkshire and Hampshire. There are Company HQs at Maidenhead and Portsmouth and Platoon locations at Newbury, Basingstoke and Slough, not forgetting Battalion Headquarters in Brock Barracks, Reading.

Each Rifle Company has a full time working staff of 5, comprising an administrative officer, usually an ex regular with the rank of Captain (PSAO), the regular NCO instructor (PSI), an ex regular SNCO

(NRPS), a civilian clerk and a driver/storeman. This team performs the daily tasks of a company, which include planning training and providing all the logistical support that a Company requires if it is to perform its tasks when on exercise at the weekend.

I, however, am in HQ Company. This is a mixed blessing in that I do not have a PSAO. However, neither do I have any NRPS or civilian backup. There are just two PSIs, one for the Mortar Platoon and one for the Signals Platoon. We in effect perform all the tasks already mentioned which means that life can get pretty hectic at times. However, at this point I must mention the TA personnel themselves, whom one must admire, for, when most people put their feet up on a Friday evening, they don webbing and complete a full weekend's training. In HQ Company especially the valuable contribution they make must not be underestimated.

A PSI's job is one that requires a large degree of tolerance and an in-depth understanding of the part-time soldier and his problems, many of which are unknown to the regular serviceman.

The job does have its brighter side and many rays of sunshine filter through. They vary from watching one's opposite number weeding the rose garden in camp to witnessing the Regular RSM being captured by orange forces on exercise. Another satisfying aspect is overseeing my Signals Platoon line laying, weapon training and partaking in physical exercise. At this juncture I must add that the Signals Platoon is 95% TA WRAC.

These girls represent without doubt the backbone of the Battalion, being highly proficient in their trade and also very reliable attenders.

As you may have gathered, the PSI's job is a full and varied one in which it is possible to broaden one's horizons and meet people in the actual world – "Civvy Street". There are drawbacks as in every job, like the RSM's gardening fatigue. He's heading this way now armed with a broom – "Beam me up Mr Spock – **now please**".

THE INFANTRY JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION

Since the last Journal, Peninsula Company (Prince of Wales's Division Regiments) has had a complete turnover with the three senior Platoons passing out.

We said goodbye to Junior Leader Lewis and Junior Leader McLeod, from 20 Platoon, in May and to Junior Leader Cook in August.

With two new Platoons we had a big intake of Regimentally badged Junior Leaders, namely

Junior Leaders Cluning, Gilbert, Jones, Hayes, Freemantle, Smith, Wort and Lamb (whose father used to be a Colour Sergeant in the Battalion). During the past six months there have been several changes in the training syllabus. There is now a three week battle camp, and more tactics in the one year training programme.

The Battalion Fullbore Shooting Team won the Junior Army SAA meeting at Bisley again this

year, with several members of P Company included in the team. With the new Platoons the Company is now quite full. There are two Platoons of thirty-one and one of fifty-four. However, the sizes of Platoons dwindle during the first term, with Junior Leaders opting out, some with medical problems or some just deciding that army life is not for them.

I would like to thank RHQ for the Regimental Journals and also the Regimental history books, which they very kindly sent. Also thanks to the Battalion for allowing us to come and watch the boxing against 3 PARA, which the juniors thoroughly enjoyed.

ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

County Commandant Lieut Colonel J. W. Isaacs MBE TD

Major John Hyslop, at present in his last posting as Company Commander at The School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield, near Reading, recently organised a weekend for 96 cadets from sixteen detachments in Berkshire affiliated to The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). These ACF units competed on the assault course, and at drill. They fired the Stirling machine gun on the 30m Range and carried out adventure training by the lake. They were also tested in fieldcraft, skill at arms, command tasks and map and compass bearings.

The winners at the end of the day (seen in the



Cippenham detachment East Berkshire winners of the R.E.M.E. association ACF Cup. Major Tom O'Connell the officer commanding East Berkshire ACF is standing (centre).

photographs) were the Cippenham detachment, with Aldermaston their nearest rivals.

The cadets swam in the Garrison pool, watched a film show and on Sunday morning competed in a six-a-side knock-out soccer competition for a brand new REME Association Shield. After a very exciting final, the winners were Maidenhead - 2, Woodley - 1.

Brigadier Andrew MacLauchlan, the Garrison Commander, presented the cup, shield and trophies before the cadets had lunch and returned home to their areas in Berkshire.



Brigadier Andrew MacLauchlan, Garrison Commander REME Arborfield presenting the R.E.M.E. Association Six-a-side soccer shield to Cadet Lance Corporal Dance of Maidenhead. Major John Hyslop looks on.

WILTSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

County Commandant: Colonel B. R. Hobbs OBE

1983 has seen many changes in key appointments. Colonel Hobbs took over as Commandant from Brigadier Paley in October and at the same time Lieutenant Colonel Lynch assumed the appointment of Deputy Commandant vice Lieutenant Colonel Hyslop. Captain Whitmarsh

now Commands B (Salisbury) Coy. Late regular soldiers to join us include SMI J. Mellin (D & D and SASC), SMI J. Stott (ROAC) and SMI A. Gurr (16/51.) who will take over as RSM from RSM Kirby in December.

At the end of October our strength was 32

officers, 68 adult instructors and 724 cadets, organised into a County Headquarters based in Devizes, and four Companies based as follows: A Company Swindon, B Company Salisbury, C Company Chippenham and D Company Devizes. In all there are 25 platoons of which four have a strength of over 40 cadets. Not all platoons are well recruited and those at Downton, Westbury, Mere and Ludgershall are dangerously near the mark where they could be closed if recruiting does not pick up. It is good to report the considerable increase in the strength of the Pewsey Platoon which proves that a well led and motivated platoon can survive in small country communities.

During 1983 Lord Lieutenant's Certificates were awarded to SMI Byrne (Trowbridge), SMI Dowdell (Liden) and Mrs Judy Hyslop of County Headquarters. All have given sterling service. Cadet Sgt Sullivan (Walcot) was appointed the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for 1983 and for 1984 Cadet Cpl Leach (Liden) and Cadet Cpl Burke (Chippenham) have been appointed. Officer promotions to Captain include T. Nield (County HQ), Mrs D. E. Hyslop (County HQ), K. Griffin (Chippenham) P. H. Dobson (Swindon) and S. R. Mayo (Corsham but now Salisbury).

The highlight of the training year is Annual Camp which in 1983 took place at Okehampton. Over 300 cadets attended and carried out a variety of military exercises and adventure training skills. In 1984 the Camp will be in August and we look forward to returning to Penhale in Cornwall.

In June a most successful Open Day was held at

Tilshead and this, linked with a Fun Run, which took the form of a relay joining all 25 platoons in the county, raised £1500, which subsidised the cadets' contribution towards Annual Camp costs. Readers may not be aware that a cadet has to pay for his rations at Camp and our charge of £22 for 12 days at Okehampton compares very favourably with other counties who charge up to £40. The Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Brassey, supported an appeal on behalf of the ACF League during the year and over 40 individuals and businesses generously contributed. The ACF League was formed to provide the necessities not normally available through MOD sources and it has provided money to purchase air rifles and adventure training kit in the past. All cadets contribute to the League on joining and each adult pays an annual subscription. 1 DERR and the Third Militia Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment Trust Fund also make contributions and we are most grateful to them.

On the sporting front Cadet Curren (Bulford) became the ACF National Cross-Country Champion and Cadet Grant (Marlborough) represented the South West Region at Rugby. Our athletics meeting coincided with an early summer cloudburst at Tidworth and had to be abandoned. We are currently both the Senior and Junior Regional Soccer Champions and look forward to defending these trophies in March. Finally, we would welcome back any ex-cadet who is visiting Wiltshire and we look forward to consolidating our links with the County Regiment. We feel confident that this will happen under our new Commandant.

ABINGDON SCHOOL CCF

1983 has been an excellent year for this Contingent. After a recent change to an entirely voluntary system of recruitment, our numbers now stand at 120 in the Army Section and 60 in the RAF Section. More than 80% of those eligible for entry joined us in September – a most encouraging figure in view of the many other options open to the boys. The purchase of an FFR long-wheelbase Land Rover, minibus, climbing and canoeing equipment has greatly added to our technical and adventure training facilities. With the help of 16 CTT an increasing number of cadets are becoming proficient earlier.

In April 26 cadets and 7 officers attended an Adventure Training Camp where all cadets had experience of hiking, abseiling, rock climbing and white-water canoeing, all with the help of professional instructors. At this stage it seems more than likely that numbers will compel us to hold two such camps in 1984. Our Annual Summer Camp

this year at St Martin's Plain, Folkestone, was attended by 71 cadets and 8 officers. This was very much enjoyed by all those who attended – in particular the excellent demonstrations and tuitions in fieldcraft given by the Milan Platoon of The Royal Hampshire Regiment. At this camp we managed to win the SE District Orienteering Trophies for both individual and team orienteering. Following this, five cadets went on to attend the CCF Orienteering Course at 22 Locating Battery RA. We are all looking forward with eager anticipation to the ACF CCF Orienteering championships at the end of October.

Summer camp invariably injects extra enthusiasm into all our activities and we anticipate taking 100 cadets to the West Country in Summer 1984. As a keen and growing Contingent we are very anxious to foster our relations with the Regiment.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

We congratulate the following:

- Captain and Mrs A. N. Coates – Daughter Astrid Isabelle born 2.12.82.
Major and Mrs M. J. Cornwell – Daughter Hannah Elizabeth born 22.3.83.
Pte. & Mrs R. Bowler – Daughter Natasha Leigh born 25.7.82.
Pte. & Mrs A. Carr – Son Daniel John born 26.11.82.
Pte. & Mrs D. Chambers – Daughter Helen Louise born 2.12.82.
LCpl. & Mrs B. Johnson – Son Stewart James Gordon born 20.12.82.
Pte. & Mrs D. Oxspring – Son Michael Patrick born 29.12.82.
Pte. & Mrs E. Ledgister – Son Gordon Leroy born 3.1.83.
Pte. & Mrs M. McGuire – Daughter Rachel Lorraine born 16.1.83.
Pte. & Mrs V. McCormack – Son Robert James born 23.1.83.
Bdsm. & Mrs A. Dunford – Son Johnathan Mark born 27.1.83.
Sgt. & Mrs P. McLeod – Son Robert Gerald born 31.1.83.
WO2 & Mrs A. M. Turner – Son Jonathan Michael born 5.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs A. Western – Son Brett Andrew born 5.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs J. Cahill – Daughter Haley born 9.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs E. Deakes – Son Russell Jonathan born 10.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs C. Humphreys – Daughter Carolyn Vanessa born 13.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs S. Hamilton – Daughter Deborah Louise born 17.2.83.
LCpl. & Mrs M. Barlow – Daughter Faye Louise born 21.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs S. G. Harris – Son Marvin William born 24.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs P. Carr – Son Russell Lee born 27.2.83.
Pte. & Mrs G. Ward – Son Stephen Thomas born 16.3.83.
LCpl. & Mrs M. Cartwright – Son Jamie Mark born 24.3.83.
Cpl. & Mrs M. Davies – Son Aaron John born 29.3.83.
LCPL. & Mrs L. Devlin – Son Larry Dean born 1.4.83.
Pte. & Mrs V. Ballard – Daughter Toni May born 5.4.83.
Pte. & Mrs R. Hingston – Daughter Amanda Lee born 18.4.83.
Sgt. & Mrs R. E. Hall – Daughter Gemma Andrea born 26.4.83.
Pte & Mrs J. Zak – Son Michael Paul born 4.5.83.
Pte & Mrs G. F. Robertson – Daughter Suzanne Tania born 16.5.83.
Sgt. & Mrs R. Wise – Son Lee Richard born 18.6.83.
LCpl. & Mrs P. McNeill – Son Craig Stanley born 26.7.83.
LCpl & Mrs P. Dennison – Son Anthony James Patrick born 31.7.83.
Pte & Mrs R. Panting – Son Christopher Timothy born 14.8.83.
Sgt. & Mrs G. Williams – Daughter Joanne born 21.8.83.
Pte. & Mrs N. Angliss – Daughter Michelle born 8.9.83.
Cpl. & Mrs G. G. Mills – Son Ryan Douglas Arthur born 13.9.83.
Cpl. & Mrs R. Hickman – Son Clive Aaron born 16.10.83.
LCpl. & Mrs P. Legg – Son Danny Del born 10.10.83.
LCpl. & Mrs P. Hume – Son Mathew Alan born 22.10.83.
Pte. & Mrs R. Newton – Daughter Kimberley Louisa born 29.10.83.
Pte. & Mrs K. Wigley – Daughter Kelly Ann born 31.10.83.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following:

- Major S. W. J. Saunders to Heather Margret Kell at Hillsborough, County Down on 29.1.83.
Captain N. M. Smith – to Anne Martin at Canterbury on 16.4.83.
Lieut. G. P. Barlow – to Estelle Gerrett at Raleigh, Essex on 16.9.83.
Captain K. T. Haugh – to Sarah Peters at Shrewton on 15.10.83.

Captain J. C. Wort – to Suzan Harradine at Camberley on 22.10.83.

Pte. Oldham P. – to Ulrike Maria Feldmeier at the Parish Church, Saint George, Stockport on 18.12.82.

Pte. Blaber B. – to Maxine Elizabeth Day at the Registry Office, Birmingham on 13.1.83.

Pte. Smith P. – to Tracy Anne Allsop at the Parish Church, Fazeley, Staffs. on 15.1.83.

Pte. Moyes C. – to Julie Anne Hallett at the Registry Office, Devizes on 15.1.83.

LCpl. Hamilton D. – to Sharon Hamilton at the Parish Church, Woodbury, Devon on 5.2.83.

Pte. Newton R. – to Anita Julie Hillman at the Parish Chapel, Little-Cum-Exmouth, Devon on 5.2.83.

Pte. Clements R – to Lynn Patricia Roughley at Lichfield Registry Office on 5.2.83.

LCpl. Stevens J. – to Belinda Jane Campbell at the Parish Church, Trowbridge, Wiltshire on 12.2.83.

Pte. Barraclough R. – to Linda Jennifer Vessey at St. Barnabas Church, Barnetby, Le Wold, North Humberside on 12.2.83.

Pte. Carpenter P. – to Judith Bradley at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 12.3.83.

Pte. Dyer, D. – to Mary Elizabeth Barraclough at the Registry Office, Colderdale, Halifax on 2.4.83.

Cpl. Mills G. – to Andrea Elizabeth Erna Christoffer at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 16.4.83.

Pte. Guy J. – to Janet Ann Passfield at the Registry Office, Swindon on 7.5.83.

Pte. Brailey M. – to Julie Archer at the Registry Office, Bath on 7.5.83.

Pte. Vickery K. – to Lesley Kay Dagger at the Registry Office, Swindon on 23.5.83.

Pte. Arthurs P. – to Corrine Elizabeth Hibbert at the Parish Church, Tiverton on 28.5.83.

Pte. Lilley G. – to Jill Roughley at the Registry Office, Lichfield on 28.5.83.

Bdsm. Costena D. – to Ann Chamberlain at Crickhowell on 23.7.83.

Pte. Porter A. – to Julie Anne Ward at the Parish Church, Atherstone, Warwickshire on 30.7.83.

Cpl. Jones L. – to Pamela Jane Gardner at the Parish Church, Leominster on 8.10.83.

Pte. Langdon K. – to Karen Pauline Hunt at St. John's Church, Ickham, Nr. Canterbury on 15.10.83.

Pte. Lealman P. – to Jeanette Marjorie Mackenzie at St. Martin's Church, Canterbury on 15.10.83.

Pte. Atkins R. – to Suzanne Lange at All Saints Church, Westbury on 22.10.83.

Cpl. Tuckwell H. – to Karyn Cynthis Torgerson at Caroline, Alberta, Canada on 22.10.83.

Pte. Hauxwell J. – to Jill Anne Dunn at Newbury Registry Office on 22.10.83.

LCpl. Clucas W. – to Isabel Martin Mora at the Parish Church, Martin De La Jara, Seville, Spain on 23.10.83.

LCpl. Dollimore T. – to Heather Lawrence at the Parish Church, Radbourne Cheney on 29.10.83.

Pte. Loveridge M. – to Ednith Elisabeth Schnier at Swindon Registry Office on 29.10.83.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of the following:

Major J. W. Harrowing on 9th November 1983. Joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment and subsequently transferred to The Wiltshire Regiment. RSM 2nd Battalion and 4th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment. QM 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment. Retired DERR 31st March 1968.

THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT O.C.A.

5.7.83 Brigadier P. H. C. Hayward CBE of Roughton, Norwich.

12.4.83 Colonel J. E. Gabain OBE TD of Goring-on-Thames

12.10.83 Captain D. J. Footman CMG MC. Served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment 1914-18. MC 1916. Foreign Office 1919-53. Fellow of St. Anthony's College Oxford 1953-63.

14.5.83 Major (QM) A. J. Holmes QM 4/6 Royal Berkshire Regiment (TA).

17.12.80 Mr J. J. Carter of Taplow, Maidenhead. Served with 1/4th Bn. 1914-1919.

2.12.81 Mr R. Denton of Headington, Oxford. Served with 4th Bn. B.E.F. 1940.

30.6.83 Mr E. W. Drake of Spencers Wood, Reading.

11.6.83 Mr C. H. Edwards of Shirehampton, Bristol. Enlisted 1922 in 2nd Bn.

2.82 Mr C. W. Graves, D.C.M., of Cambridge. Served 1916-19 with 6th and 2nd Bns.

5.7.83 Mr J. Haunts of Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Aged 98.

5.7.83 Mr W. J. Humphries of Aldbourne, Marlborough.

5.7.83 Mr E. C. Jones of Worle Nr. Weston-super-Mare. Served with Regt. from 26.1.32 to 4.12.38 and 1.7.39 to 18.12.45 with 1st Bn in Burma.

2.83 Mr J. Leonard of Kidderminster.
 2.9.82 Mr D. Moody of Baddesley Nr. Southampton. 1st and 2nd Bns.
 3.2.83 Mr T. W. Prior of Reading. 4/6th Bn.
 3.2.83 Mr F. Sherwood of South Ascot.
 9.83 Mr H. C. Spencer of N. Kensington, London 1st Bn.

THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT OCA

6.3.83 Major C. A. Prest of Broadchalke aged 90 years. Served with 1st and 2/4 Bns.
 31.10.83 Captain (QM) A. H. Vallis of Worthing aged 79 years. Served with 1st, 2nd and 4th Bns the latter as RSM.
 30.5.83 Captain E. R. Evans of Melksham aged 75 years. Served with 2nd Bn.
 22.5.83 Captain A. Whitbread of New Milton aged 67 years. Served with 2nd Bn.
 4.9.83 Lt. T. E. Drury of Selby aged 62 years. Commissioned into 2nd Bn 1939.
 12.6.83 Mr J. Blake of Salisbury. Served with 4th Bn.
 5.83 Mr F. P. Cook of Lyneham aged 85 years. Served with 1/4 and 2/4 Bns.
 27.10.83 Mr F. W. Elloway of Warminster.
 15.9.83 Mr A. Goodship of Enford aged 74 years. Served with 1st Bn. POW in Japan.
 29.5.83 Mr A. C. Hunt (Mick) of London. Bandsman 2nd Bn.
 26.3.83 Mr C. H. Hinton of Devizes. Served with 4th Bn.
 7.6.83 Mr W. Hayward of Birmingham aged 74 years. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.
 7.6.83 Mr M. Hudd of Southampton aged 69 years. Served with 1st, 2nd and 4th Bns.
 6.9.83 Mr J. P. Lush of Middle Wallop. Served with 2nd Bn.
 10.10.83 Mr E. Norris of Warminster.
 5.83 Mr C. F. Oram of Shrewton aged 77 years. Served with 1st, 2nd and 4th Bns.
 6.10.83 Mr J. Potheary of Melksham aged 86 years. Served with 1st and 2/4 Bns.
 6.8.83 Mr E. W. Shergold of Wilton aged 75 years. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.
 31.5.83 Mr W. Williams of Marlborough aged 74 years.

OBITUARY

We apologise to Mrs A. P. Aveline and her family for the embarrassment caused by the printing errors in Brigadier A. P. Aveline's Obituary notice which appeared in the last issue of the Journal. In the second line his decorations should have read CBE MC and in the penultimate line, it should have read "only son".

BRIGADIER P. H. C. HAYWARD CBE 1909-1983

"Pat" Hayward joined the 2nd Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment from Sandhurst in 1929. He was Adjutant in Palestine and Egypt and was later seconded to Malaya. When the Japanese invasion started Pat was Brigade Major of the Federated Malay States Volunteers and, when Singapore fell, he led a party across the Malacca Straits to Sumatra and thence to India and the 2nd Battalion. In 1944 he was 2nd in Command of 1 Royal Scots at Kohima and commanded them in the closing stages of that campaign. Later he returned to the UK to prepare 6 Royal Berkshire for service in the Far East, a project forestalled by VJ Day. Instead Pat went to Palestine to command 4 Parachute and, after a brief spell of staff work, took command of 4/6 Royal Berkshire (TA). In 1955 he was promoted Brigadier commanding the Ghana Infantry Brigade. He was made CBE in 1958.

All his life he remained a 66th man content to be with troops for most of his 29 years service. He commanded no less than five battalions with a style, even an appearance, both patriarchal and Kiplingesque. He knew his soldiers by name and by number and preferred the older customs and expressions. Servants were never batmen and Colours were always carried by Ensigns. He drew to him all those who mattered most and a large number who mattered less, though they mattered to him. These gave him their lasting loyalty as he gave them his. Indeed his own loyalties went downwards as much as upwards, often to his own disadvantage.

After retiring Pat was made Editor of the British Army Review and thus became associated with the RUSI of which he became a Vice President, earning the respect and affection of his distinguished colleagues. He also revealed a talent for writing and his numerous articles and reviews were in an elegant and scholarly style.

In 1947 Pat married Diana, daughter of Major General and Mrs Fullbrook-Leggatt, also of the Regiment. Her gentle humour, unassuming courage and well-stocked mind perfectly complemented her husband's qualities.

JLRM



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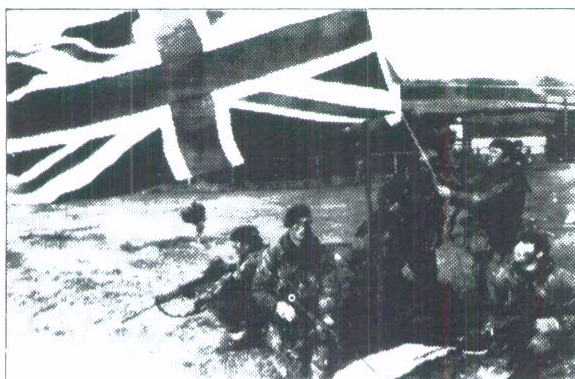


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NOTICES

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service and works in co-operation with the Manpower Services Commission. Our purpose is to help Servicemen and women to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. We also take a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use our services as often as they wish.

The Association has 40 Branches throughout the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers, who are ex-Regulars themselves, maintain close contact with local employers. Our services are free.

During the period 1st April 1982 – 31st March 1983 the Association assisted 9,316 men and women with their resettlement and placed 3,489 in employment. Of those placed in jobs, 1,616 were men and women from the Army and 6 were from your Regiment.

Addresses and telephone numbers of Branches can be obtained from Corps/Regimental Associations, Post Offices, Job centres or local telephone directories.

ARMY BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY (ABWS)

Membership of the ABWS is open to any serving and ex service member of the Army, to civilians employed by the Army, and to members of their families. Members of the TA are particularly welcome. It maintains representatives worldwide and within the counties of Britain and on most training areas where it makes a significant contribution to conservation programmes. The Society produces a quarterly bulletin and an annual journal which contains articles on a wide variety of ornithological subjects of interest to the serviceman. It also has a large selection of books, journals, slides and tapes that are available for loan to members. If you are interested write to:

The Secretary
Army Bird Watching Society
Defence Lands 3
MOD Tolworth Tower
SURBITON
Surrey KT6 7DR

BOOK REVIEW

THE BRITISH INFANTRY 1660-1945

Frederick Myatt

Blandford Press 1983 Price £6.95

In the past, due to our particular system, the British Infantry has usually been regarded as a collection of highly individual regiments, and its history has been recorded on that basis. In this, his twelfth and latest book, the author sets out to consider it as a cohesive fighting Arm; his view is that regimental differences, although important in their own sphere, are essentially superficial and do not affect the fundamental uniformity of armament, organisation, technical doctrine, and purpose, without which units could not act together effectively. In spite of this approach, the development of the regimental system is also well covered.

This is not in essence a history of the British Infantry (which could hardly be compressed into a single volume) but an account of its evolution, and as such should be of interest to all infantrymen and others with a feeling for military history. The foreword is by Major General P. Sibbald CB OBE who until recently was Director of Infantry.

(Editor's note: Frederick Myatt served in The Royal Berkshire Regiment and retired from the Army in 1969. Until recently he was responsible for the Small Arms Museum at the School of Infantry.)

Commandos in Greece

Earlier this year Volume VI of the Winston Churchill biography by Dr Martin Gilbert was published. It covers the period 1939-1941 and is called "Finest Hour".

On pages 1014 and 1104 with footnote 2, this book contains allegations about 50 Middle East Commando at Castelorizzo which are totally untrue.

These allegations were strongly challenged by the Middle East Commandos Historical Research Group, in that what had been said was a serious deviation from historical fact.

Dr Martin Gilbert has apologised by writing to the "Times" newspaper and has promised that there will be an amendment in any re-print of this book. This book is a very important one and will certainly be widely read throughout English speaking countries.

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Printed by Anchor General Printers Ltd, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, Wilts.
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