

*The Journal of the*

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S



ROYAL REGIMENT

(BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)







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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", "Pikem", "Menin Road", "Polygon Wood", "Broodseinde", "Poelcappelle", "Passchendaele", "Cambrai 1917, 1918", "St. Quentin", "Bapaume 1918", "Rosières", "Avre", "Villers Bretonneux", "Lys", "Hazeubrouck", "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", "Rhine", "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 A. C. Kenway

## 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



# THE OFFICERS MESS 1st BATTALION

on the occasion of the Presentation of New Colours - 8th June 1984



Capt. N. M. Smith, Capt. K. L. F. Beale, B.E.M., Capt. E. A. Millard, Lt. J. J. Edmonds, Lt. R. Allen, 2Lt F. J. Chedham,  
Capt. S. C. D. Baynham, 2Lt. J. Marsh.

2Lt. A. L. White, 2Lt. P. Dennis, Capt. K. T. Haugh, Capt. (Q.M.) D. J. I. Leadbetter, Capt. (O.M.) S. J. Venus.

Lt. R. D. Higgs, Capt. A. D. Thornell, Capt. T. J. Freelove, Capt. J. M. C. Rylands, Capt. J. R. Henderson,

2Lt. M. J. Smith, 2Lt. S. D. Gray, Lt. P. J. King.

Capt. J. G. I. D. Boileau-Goad, Capt. A. F. R. Stevenson, Maj. R. B. Paddison, Maj. S. W. J. Saunders, Maj. R. J. Pook,

Maj.-Gen. D. T. Crabtree, C.B., The Colonel-in-Chief, Lt.-Col. W. A. Mackereth, Capt. S. G. Cook, Maj. C. J. Parslow,

Maj. A. E. G. Westlake, M.B.E., Capt. I. M. Stanley.



# EDITORIAL

A casual glance at the 1st Battalion's Diary of Events for 1984 shows that it must have been one of the busiest years since the Regiment's formation in 1959. This is borne out by the articles in this edition of the Journal which include the Presentation of New Colours by the Colonel in Chief on 8 June, the deployment to Canada nine days after the parade for a six week training exercise, the KAPE tour of Berkshire and Wiltshire in September and London Public Duties in October. To these activities we should add B Coy's deployment to Belize in January, participation in the BAOR Exercise LIONHEART, a tour of duty at Greenham Common, and the move to Cyprus in December for a six month tour of duty with the UN Force. Who said that peace time soldiering was dull and uninteresting?

Needless to say the 1st Battalion carried out all these activities with great aplomb and did much to enhance their already high reputation for efficiency and esprit de corps. These qualities were clearly demonstrated at the Presentation of New Colours parade which took place almost twenty-five years to the day since the formation of the Regiment and proved a most moving and proud occasion for all those privileged to attend. The Battalion put on a magnificent parade which will long be remembered. It was the first time that the Regiment had carried out Public Duties in London and the occasion, which included the State Visit of President and Madame

Mitterand, proved a fitting climax to Lieutenant Colonel Bill Mackereth's tour as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. He handed over to Lieutenant Colonel Alan Kenway on 26 November.

Unfortunately 1984 had its sad moments and it is with great sorrow that we report the deaths during the year of Brigadier George Wort, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Speers, Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence Wood and Major The Duke of Somerset. All of them made a great contribution to the Regiment's affairs, both as serving and retired officers and will be sorely missed.

1985 marks the centenary of one of the Regiment's most famous battle honours, the Battle of Tofrek, which took place on 22 March 1885 in the Sudan. It was the magnificent courage and bravery of the 49th Regiment at the battle which earned the Regiment its Royal title. A full account of the battle appears in this edition of the Journal and the occasion will be marked by an Exhibition of Tofrek Memorabilia at the Reading Museum for four weeks from 22 March and a special reunion to be held at Brock Barracks, Reading on 21 July.

Once again our thanks to all those who have sent in contributions for this edition. The time spent on researching and preparing articles is fully appreciated and we are most grateful that we have been able to put together an interesting and historical account of the Regiment's activities in 1984.

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# REGIMENTAL GAZETTE

## OFFICERS' LOCATIONS AS AT 1 JANUARY 1985

### Colonel of the Regiment Major General D.T. Crabtree CB

#### Brigadier

W.G.R. Turner CBE ndc psc ..... Divisional Brigadier HQ POW Div

#### Colonel

D. A. Jones psc psc(a) ..... MOD(OR)  
M.R. Vernon-Powell psc ph pl ..... Comdt JATE (pending retirement May 1985)  
J.D. Redding psc ..... Comdt RHEINDAHLEN Garrison  
G. Coxon MBE odc(us) psc ..... DACOS HQ BAOR

#### Lieutenant Colonel

L.C. Tremellen ndc psc ..... Attached HQ School of Infantry  
V.H. Ridley MBE QGM ..... MOD (DM(A))  
W.A. Mackereth psc ph (A Col) ..... MOD (DM(A))  
A.J. Rose psc ..... Housing Commandant HQ SE District  
A.C. Kenway psc ..... Commanding Officer 1st Battalion

#### Major

J.B. Hyslop ..... School of Electronic Engineering  
J.P. Ward sq ..... DOAO Germany  
D.C. Murray psc ..... SSO Hounslow and Feltham Station  
T.M.A. Daly psc ph ..... HQ Northag (BAE)  
N.R. West sq ..... Trg Major 2 WESSEX  
C.J. Parslow sq ..... 1st Battalion  
M.J. Cornwell ..... 1 R HAMPS  
S.W.J. Saunders BSc BA psc ..... 1st Battalion  
D.J.A. Stone psc ..... ITTW Sennelager Training Centre  
R.K. Tittley BA ..... Int Centre ASHFORD  
A.E.G. Westlake MBE BA ..... MOD (DAMA)  
A. Briard aic ..... 1 DTU Warminster  
R.B. Paddison ..... 1st Battalion  
A.P.B. Lake psc (BE) ..... 1st Battalion  
B.R.F. Franklin BSc ..... SO3 HQ6 Airmobile Bde (For 1st Battalion  
October 1985)  
N.J. Walker ..... 1st Battalion  
A.N. Coates ..... SO3 HQ 39 Bde (For 1 STAFFORDS March 1985)

#### Captain

P.E. O'R-B Davidson-Houston Bsc(Eng) ..... SO3 HQ NE District/HQ 2nd Division  
S.E. Bowkett BA ..... Adjut Depot CRICKHOWELL (For Staff July 1985)  
S.G. Cook ..... Adjut 1st Battalion  
S.A. Durant ..... SO3 HQ UKLF  
J.C. Wort BSc ..... Adjutant 1 WESSEX (RV)  
P.C. Tomlinson ..... RMA Sandhurst (Instructor WRAC College)  
R.N. Wardle ..... SOF OMAN  
F.D.F. Drury BSc ..... 1st Battalion  
J.M.C. Rylands ..... 1st Battalion  
N.M. Smith BA ..... 1st Battalion

**Lieutenant**

K.T. Haugh (A Capt) .....	1st Battalion
A.D. Thornell (A Capt) .....	1st Battalion
G.P. Barlow (A Capt) .....	1st Battalion
P.J. King BA .....	1st Battalion
R. Allan BSc .....	1st Battalion
J. Marsh BA .....	1st Battalion

**2nd Lieutenant**

A.C. White .....	Depot CRICKHOWELL
J. Tomlinson .....	Cadetship University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**Quartermasters**

Major (QM) J.H. Peters MBE .....	QM School of Infantry Netheravon
Captain (QM) W.R. Stafford .....	QM 1 WESSIX (RV)
Captain (QM) D.J.I. Leadbetter .....	QM 1st Battalion (For Depot CRICKHOWELL July 1985)
Captain (QM) P.D. Stacey .....	QM 2 MERCIAN (for 1st Battalion July 1985)
Captain (QM) S.J. Venus .....	QM (Tech) 1st Battalion

**Special Regular Commission****Major**

W.V. Holmes .....	Pending retirement January 1985
J.L. Silvester .....	Depot CRICKHOWELL (For Staff July 1985)

**Captain**

A.F.R. Steevenson (A Major) .....	1st Battalion
-----------------------------------	---------------

**Lieutenant**

J.J. Edmonds .....	1st Battalion
T.D. O'Hare .....	Depot LICHFIELD
R. Davis .....	1st Battalion

**2nd Lieutenant**

F.D. Chedham .....	1st Battalion (For Depot LICHFIELD October 1985)
S.D. Gray .....	1st Battalion

**Short Service Commission****Captain**

T.J. Freelove .....	1st Battalion (For Depot LICHFIELD July 1985)
E.A. Millard .....	1st Battalion

**Lieutenant**

R.D. Higgs .....	AAC Centre
C.S. Biddulph .....	1st Battalion
A. Hobbs .....	1st Battalion

**2nd Lieutenant**

P. Dennis .....	1st Battalion
M.J. Smith .....	1st Battalion
C.A. Heald .....	1st Battalion
M.J. Lister .....	RMA Sandhurst SGC
C.P. McCarthy .....	RMA Sandhurst SGC
W.H.C. Wilson .....	RMA Sandhurst SGC

**Officers Serving with 1st Battalion from other Regiments/Corps**

Captain I.M. Stanley BSc (Hons) aic RHAMPS	
Captain K.L.F. Beale BEM RAPC .....	Paymaster



### University Bursary Holders

G.J.H. Brown .....	Brunel University
D. Charles .....	Cardiff University
R.C. Toyne .....	Kent University
C.J.S. Perkins .....	Salford University
M.A. Minashi .....	Essex University
J.D. Gilchrist .....	Oxford University
P.R. Smallwood .....	Oxford Polytechnic
F.R. Flavell .....	Bath University

### Army Scholars

S. Langton .....	Bearwood College
C.N. Jaques .....	Kings School Worcester

### Warrant Officers and Sergeants

#### W.O.1

W.O.1 Nother	Bandmaster 1st Battalion	C/Sgt. Samson	1 WESSEX (RV)
W.O.1 Hicks	RSM 1st Battalion	C/Sgt. Gardiner	1st Battalion
W.O.1 Bailey	30 CTT	C/Sgt. Ficke	1 RRW
W.O.1 Mullings	RSM 1 WESSEX (RV)	C/Sgt. Trench	1 TTW Sennelager Training Centre
W.O.1 Sherman	BATT Mauritius (For RSM 1st Battalion March 1985)	C/Sgt. Kerr	Div RO
		C/Sgt. Lestrangle	1st Battalion
W.O. 1 Luckwell	4 RRW	C/Sgt. Curtin	2 WESSEX (V)
		C/Sgt. McLeod	1st Battalion
		C/Sgt. Tadhunter	1st Battalion
		C/Sgt. Chapman	RMA Sandhurst
		C/Sgt. Moloney	2 WESSEX (V)
		C/Sgt. Coyle	School of Infantry Netheravon
		C/Sgt. Hole	2 WESSEX (V)

#### W.O.2

W.O.2 Flay	Depot LICHFIELD
W.O.2 Minty	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Turner	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Fielding	School of Infantry
W.O.2 Long	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Morgan	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Mehrlich	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Fedricks	1 WESSEX (RV)
W.O.2 Godwin	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Hoare BEM	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Hollister	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Bryant	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Beet	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Paz	1st Battalion
W.O.2 Merritt	1st Battalion Band
W.O.2 Carpenter	11 UDR

#### SGT.

		Sgt. Scully	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Waters	1 MERCIAN
		Sgt. White	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Baines	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Bartlett	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Griffin	Princess Marina College REME
		Sgt. Dean	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Williams	IJLB
		Sgt. Mellers	Depot CRICKHOWELL
		Sgt. Povey	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Nimmo	RIT
		Sgt. Evans	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Burlow	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Fennell	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Watts	1 WESSEX (RV)
		Sgt. Harrill	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Chitty	Depot LICHFIELD
		Sgt. Wilmot	Depot LICHFIELD
		Sgt. Traveller	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Trappe	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Snee	ACIO Swindon
		Sgt. Porter	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Ward	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Wareing	1st Battalion Band
		Sgt. Maynard	1st Battalion
		Sgt. McIntyre	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Wise	ACIO Salisbury
		Sgt. Batty	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Cox	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Gill	1st Battalion
		Sgt. Browne	ACIO Newbury
		Sgt. Christian	1st Battalion
C/Sgt. Coleman	1 WESSEX (RV)		
C/Sgt. Lawrence	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Keegan	HQ N. Ireland		
C/Sgt. Fielding	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Brame	HQ N. Ireland		
C/Sgt. Cox	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Dobie	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Choules	Army Apprentices College Chepstow		
C/Sgt. Hiscock	2 WESSEX (V)		
C/Sgt. Walters OEM	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Gardner	1 MERCIAN		
C/Sgt. Baker	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Luker	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Duran	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Coupland	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. North	1st Battalion		
C/Sgt. Watts	Depot LICHFIELD		
C/Sgt. Scarle	22 SAS		

Sgt. Gibbs	1st Battalion
Sgt. Henwood	1st Battalion
Sgt. Higgs	HQ N. Ireland
Sgt. Barber	1st Battalion
Sgt. Tait	1st Battalion
Sgt. Decarteret	4 RRW
Sgt. Butler	ACIO Reading
Sgt. Stanley	DLB
Sgt. Giddy	1st Battalion
Sgt. Nicholson	1st Battalion
Sgt. Fisher	1st Battalion
Sgt. Truman	1st Battalion
Sgt. Eley	1 Regt AAC
Sgt. Bordessa	1st Battalion Band
Sgt. Grant	1st Battalion Band
Sgt. Little	ACIO Bath
Sgt. Vincent	1st Battalion

Sgt. Stanley	1st Battalion
Sgt. Hedges	HQ BFEI
Sgt. Gibbs	1st Battalion
Sgt. Parks	1st Battalion
Sgt. Herbert	1st Battalion
Sgt. Evans	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 MBE	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 1984:

##### CBE

Brigadier W.G.R. Turner MBE

##### MBE

W.O.2 W.G. Wright

##### LS and GC Medal

C.Sgt. C.L. Watts

#### Mentioned in Despatches

Lieutenant Colonel W.A. Mackereth  
Major D.J.A. Stone  
Lieutenant C.G. Higgs  
Sgt. P.W. McLeod  
Cpl. A.B. McIntyre  
Pte. G.N. Noden

#### Promotions

We congratulate the following on their promotions during 1984:

##### Brigadier

Colonel W.G.R. Turner CBE

##### Lieutenant Colonel

Major A.C. Kenway

##### Major

Captain B.R.F. Franklin Bsc.  
Captain N.J. Walker  
Captain A.N. Coates

##### Captain

Lieutenant (A Capt) P.C. Tomlinson  
Lieutenant (A Capt) R.N. Wardle  
Lieutenant F.D.F. Drury BSc.  
Lieutenant (A Capt) J.M.C. Rylands  
Lieutenant (A Capt) N.M. Smith BA  
Lieutenant (A Capt) E.A. Millard

##### Lieutenant

2/Lieutenant J. Marsh BA  
2/Lieutenant R.D. Higgs  
2/Lieutenant C.S. Biddulph

We congratulate Lieutenant Colonel W.A. Mackereth on his selection for promotion to Colonel in 1985.

#### Commissions

We welcome the following officers who were commissioned into the Regiment during 1984:

Lieutenant J. Marsh BA  
Lieutenant C.S. Biddulph  
2/Lieutenant C.A. Heald  
2/Lieutenant M.J. Lister  
2/Lieutenant C.P. McCarthy  
2/Lieutenant W.H.C. Wilson

We congratulate the following Warrant Officers on their selection for a Commission in the Regiment on the dates shown:

W.O.1 A. Hobbs January 1985  
W.O.1 R.G. Hicks During 1985/86  
W.O.1 P.J. Mullings During 1985/86

We congratulate W.O.1 D.T. Wiggins on his appointment to a commission in the Staffordshire Regiment and thank him most warmly for his services to the Regiment.

## Retirements

The following officers retired from the Army during 1984. We thank them most warmly for their services to the Regiment and wish them the best of good fortune for the future:

Lieutenant Colonel J.W.A. Fleming OBE PARA (formerly served with R BERKS and DERR)  
Major C.G.P. Aylin  
Major R.D.O. Foster  
Lieutenant C.G. Higgs

## Transfers

We welcome back to the Regiment Lieutenant Colonel V.H. Ridley MBE OGM who was transferred from WFR to DERR on 9 June 1984.

Captain S.C.D. Baynham BA has transferred to the the Intelligence Corps.

We thank him most warmly for his services to the Regiment and wish him the best of good fortune in his future career with his new Corps.

## Appointments

We congratulate W.O.1 Sherman on his selection as RSM 1st Battalion in March 1985.

## University Awards

The following have been selected for a University Bursary Award:

M.A. Minashi	Exeter University
J.D. Gilchrist	Oxford University
P.R. Smallwood	Oxford Polytechnic
P.R. Flavell	Bath University

## Regimental Calendar 1985

8 and 15 March	Regimental Committee and Trustees Meetings	12 July	Officers Dinner at Wadham College, OXFORD
22 March	The Battle of Tofrek Centenary Exhibition opens at READING Museum	20 July	The Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA Reunion at READING
1-2 June	The Wiltshire Regiment OCA Reunion at DEVIZES	21 July	Special Tofrek Reunion at Brock Barracks, READING
6-7 June	Regimental Golf Meeting, Tidworth Golf Club	30 August	1st Battalion Officers Regimental Ball CANTERBURY
mid June	1st Battalion returns to CANTERBURY from UN tour in CYPRUS	7 September	WOs and Sgts Dinner at WILTON
21 June	Officers Cocktail Party at the Wardrobe	18 and 25 October	Regimental Committee and Trustees Meetings
		December	1st Battalion depart CANTERBURY for N.IRELAND



# REGIMENTAL NOTES

## Colonel in Chief

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presented New Colours to the 1st Battalion at Howe Barracks, Canterbury on Friday 8 June 1984. He was met on arrival at Howe Barracks by the Lord Lieutenant for Kent Robin Leigh-Pemberton Esq and the Colonel of the Regiment.

His Royal Highness was represented by the Colonel of the Regiment at the Memorial Service for Brigadier G. Wort CBE DL which was held in St. James Church Devises on 16 October 1984.

## The Colonel of the Regiment's Diary 1984

Major General D.T. Crabtree has carried out the following duties on behalf of the Regiment during the period December 1983 to December 1984:

Accompanied Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Howlett KBE MC, GOC SE District, the Inspecting Officer at the 1983 Ferozeshah parade.

Took the salute at the dress rehearsal for the Presentation of New Colours.

Attended a number of Civic and social functions in the Freedom Towns.

Hosted two luncheons at RHQ for Civic Dignitaries, Industrialists and Local Government leaders from Berkshire and Wiltshire.

Attended Potential Officer Selection Boards at RMA Sandhurst.

Visited the Depot LICHFIELD and the Depot CRICKHOWELL.

Hosted Receptions at Reading and Salisbury during the KAPE tour of Berkshire and Wiltshire by the 1st Battalion.

Attended social functions at the Officers Mess, St. James Palace during the period the 1st Battalion carried out Public Duties.

## 1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion is still based at Howe Barracks, Canterbury but is due to move to Aldergrove in Northern Ireland in December 1985 for two years as a resident Battalion. 1984 has been a particularly busy and varied year. The Battalion was presented with New Colours in June, participated in Exercise POND JUMP (WEST) in CANADA and exercise LIONHEART in Germany, carried out a KAPE tour of Berkshire and Wiltshire and a four week tour of public duties in London and left for a six month tour with the United Nations in Cyprus in December. Details of all these activities are included in the 1st Battalion notes.

In March they boxed the 1st Battalion The Green Jackets in the Army Boxing Association UK finals and came out very worthy winners by 8 bouts to 1.

## Colonel W. A. Mackereth

Colonel Bill Mackereth handed over Command of the 1st Battalion on 26 November 1984 and has gone to Director of Manning at Stanmore as Colonel AG2. We take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the Regiment and to congratulate him on his achievements during his tour of Command. Our thanks also go to his wife Anne and the Wives Club for their loyal support. We wish Bill and Anne the best of good fortune for the future.

## Battle of Tofrek Centenary 22 March 1985

The 22nd March 1985 marks the centenary of the Battle of Tofrek. An account of the battle appears elsewhere in this Journal. The Colonel of the Regiment set up a small committee, under the Chairmanship of Colonel Boshell which included representatives from all parts of the Regiment, to consider how best the Regiment could celebrate the centenary. The Committee's report was considered by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Regimental Committee at their October meeting and the following was agreed:

1. An exhibition of Tofrek memorabilia to be held at the Reading Museum for four weeks from 22 March 1985.
2. A special Tofrek Reunion to be held at Brock Barracks, Reading on Sunday 21 July from 1100 - 1600. The Reunion to be a joint one attended by members of the two former Regiments' OCAs and the Regimental Association. The outline programme to be:
  - a. Drumhead Service at the Cenotaph
  - b. March Past
  - c. Luncheon
  - d. Static displays
  - e. 1st Battalion Band and Drums display

Details of both these events will be sent out by RHQ. The 1st Battalion hope to organise a visit to the Tofrek Battlefield from Cyprus. Major Anthony Lake is organising a party of 12 to go via Alexandria to Suakin and then overland by vehicle to arrive at Tofrek on 22 March 1985. At the time of writing the Sudanese Authorities have given verbal assurance that the visit may take place but no other details are firm.

## Regimental Dress

Wearing of the Stable Belt.

The Regimental Committee agreed at their March meeting to a request from the 1st Battalion that the Regimental Dress Regulations be changed to permit the wearing of the Stable Belt with the pullover when worn with Barrack Dress.



### Regimental Buttons.

It has been confirmed that the Regimental pattern buttons will be available from March 1985.

### Prints of Oil Paintings

RHQ was unable to proceed with the production of prints as advertised in the 1984 issue of the Journal because the overall response did not make the venture commercially viable. However a firm was found who were prepared to produce smaller prints at a very favourable price. These are now available from RHO. The size is 390mm by 296mm which includes a 40mm white border. The cost is £1.50 per print or £4 for a set of three, (The Battles of Tofrek, Maiwand and Ferozeshah). Please add 50 pence to your order to cover the cost of postage and packing. Cheques should be made out to "DERR Museum Fund".

### 100 Club

Most readers will know that the cost of converting the Wardrobe was almost double that anticipated because of the doubling of VAT and the high rate of inflation over the period of restoration. As a result

loans of £25,000 still remain to be repaid. These loans are being steadily reduced from the income obtained from the admission fees paid by the public, but after allowing for running costs there is little money left for other things. As a way of raising extra income for the improvement, marketing and publicity of the Museum the Wardrobe 100 Club was started in 1984. Details were sent out with the 1984 Journal and as a result one "100 Club" was formed. Members pay a minimum of £12 per year with the opportunity of winning £100 in four quarterly draws. This means that during 1984, £800 went to the Wardrobe Holding Charity and £400 was distributed in prizes as follows:

March	£100 : Captain N.J. Walker
June	£100 : Major C.J. Parslow
September	£100 : Major J. Ready
December	£100 : Mrs. P. Wilkinson

The aim now is to form at least one other Club. Details including a Banker's Order form are included with this Journal.

### 40th Anniversary of D Day

Unfortunately Brigadier K.P. Smith who commanded one of the assault brigades in 3 Division during the Normandy invasion was unable to go to France for the 40th Anniversary celebrations. He is one of the few surviving Commanders from that day and at 86 claims to be the oldest living Royal Berkshire officer. We were pleased to see him at RHO recently when he spent a nostalgic hour or two looking around the Museum.



*Captain Nigel Walker showing the Bde Comd how he spent his 100 Club winnings.*



*Berniere-sur-Mer, 875357 Sgt. Lemon J.M. walking up the beach-1984.*





*Rue-de-Royal Berkshires.*

Brigadier K.P. has recently written a book about his military experiences called "Adventures of an Ancient Warrior" details of which are included with this copy of the Journal.

RHQ has heard from Mr. John McGregor Lemon of Bristol who served with the 5th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment and who took part in the initial assault on the beaches as part of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, that he was invited to France for the celebrations. His letter describes in graphic detail how he went in with the second wave of Landing Craft, how the beachhead was established and the subsequent actions in which the 5th Battalion was involved. The photographs show Mr. McGregor Lemon on the beach where he landed and in the village of Berniere-Sur-Mer pointing out the street sign "Rue de Royal Berkshire".

#### **Infantry Tactical Training Wing 1st British Corps.**

Founder members of "ITTW" (as this brand-new Infantry unit has come to be known in BAOR) are Major David Stone, the Officer Commanding, and WO2 Alan Trench, the Wing Sergeant Major; both of whom have since been putting their joint wealth of experience in "matters mechanized" and of BAOR to good use; thereby continuing the DERR tradition for mechanized warfare expertise established in Minden in the mid-60s and maintained subsequently through Berlin, Warminster and Osnabruck. Of



course it is a sheer coincidence that WO2 Trench was COMS A Company in 1983 at the same time OC A Company was one Major Stone ..... who said the Army wasn't flexible.....!

#### **Regimental Chapel - Salisbury Cathedral**

The Colonel of the Regiment has held discussions with the Dean of Salisbury Cathedral on the possibility of the Regiment having its own Chapel in the Cathedral. The Dean was very sympathetic to the idea and has agreed to it in principle. The Colonel of the Regiment has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Colonel M.R. Vernon-Powell and consisting of an officer from the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Woolnough and the Regimental Secretary to consider the proposal in detail with the Cathedral authorities. The Colonel of the Regiment is hopeful that arrangements will be sufficiently advanced for the old 1st Battalion Colours to be laid up in the Chapel before the 1st Battalion departs for Aldergrove at the end of 1985.

#### **The Prince of Wales's Division Memorial Chapel**

The Chapel was dedicated by the Chaplain General before the Colonel Commandant's meeting with Colonels of Regiments on Thursday 13 December.

#### **Officers Regimental Dinner**

The 1984 Officers Dinner was held at Wadham College, Oxford on Friday 13th April. The Colonel of the Regiment presided. Major General C.T. Shortis CBE and A.O.H. Quick Esq., Headmaster of Bradfield College were guests and 77 officers attended. The 1985 Dinner will be held at Wadham College on Friday 12th July. Officers should note the change to July from April due to the College re-arranging its Summer Camp commitments. It is hoped that July will prove to be a popular month to hold the Dinner.

#### **The Sergeants (Past and Present) Dinner Club**

The inaugural dinner of the Sergeants (Past and Present) Dinner Club was held in the UKLF



Sergeants Mess at Wilton on Saturday 13th October. 84 members attended and the guests were the Colonel of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, the Regimental Secretary and Lieutenant Colonel Woolnough the first Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. Unfortunately Mr. Les Hodges, the first RSM was unable to attend because of illness.

The Club was the idea of Major J.A. Barrow MBE who having obtained a favourable response from the RSM of the 1st Battalion and other senior Warrant Officers of the Regiment received the full support of the Colonel of the Regiment for the venture. A meeting was held before the dinner and a copy of the Minutes has been sent to all members of the Club with a list of those who attended the inaugural dinner. Members should note that the Club rules covering membership have been amended and it now includes past and present members of the Sergeants Mess of the Regiment and past members of the Sergeants Messes of the former Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments. Any one reading these notes who feels that he is eligible and who wishes to join should get in touch with Major J.A. Barrow MBE, 26 Ladysmith Road, Lipson, Plymouth. The next dinner will be held on Saturday 7th September at the Sergeants Mess HQ UKLF Wilton.

#### **Officers Cocktail Party**

The Officers' Cocktail Party was held on Friday 7th September at the Wardrobe. Major General and Mrs. Crabtree received 105 officers, their wives and guests. We were particularly pleased to see many of our Officers' widows who were able to attend. The usual buffet supper was held at the Red Lion after the party which was attended by 45 Officers and their wives. Once again our thanks go to Major John Peters and Mr. Dunscombe for their help and assistance in organising the party. The date for the 1985 party is Friday 21st June.

#### **13th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment**

The 13th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment is allied to the Regiment. The 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment and 8th Battalion 12th Frontier Force Regiment served together in India and Burma in 98 Indian Infantry Brigade of 19th Indian (Dagger) Division. The Battalions fought together at Mandalay and the Iwawaddy crossing. The alliance was strengthened in 1966 when at Buckingham Palace, the then President of Pakistan (General Ayub Khan) presented a piece of silver to the Regiment in the presence of the Colonel in Chief.

#### **Golf**

The Annual Regimental Meeting was held in fair weather at Tidworth, as usual, in the first week of May. The results were:

#### **Stableford Singles**

Winner: WO1 Hobbs James Cup  
 Runner-up: Mr. Yiend Shorncliffe Cup

#### **Stableford Foursomes**

Winner: Major General Crabtree  
 WO1 Hobbs

#### **Scratch Medal**

Winner: Major Ingles Gillson Trophy  
 Runner-up: Major General Crabtree  
 Silver Bone Beaker

#### **Scratch Medal**

Winner: Major Ingles Gillson Trophy  
 Runner-up: Major General Crabtree  
 Silver Bone Beaker

#### **Handicap Medal**

Winner: Major Ingles Gillson Bowl  
 Runner-up: Major General Crabtree  
 Gamble Cup

#### **Education Cup**

(Best score off a Handicap between 19 and 24)  
 Major Bennett

#### **Officers Ball**

The Officers of the 1st Battalion will be holding a "Brandywine" Ball on Friday 30th August 1985. The actual location is not yet known but it will be in the Canterbury area. Costs will be kept to a minimum and details will be sent out by the 1st Battalion to those officers on the subscription list and those at ERE nearer the date.

#### **Dragon Club (The Royal Berkshire Regiment Officers Luncheon Club)**

The Dragon Club was originally a Regimental Club of The Royal Berkshire Regiment which provided a luncheon tent at Ascot Races. It ceased to function in the early 1920s, but was revived in 1946 as a dining club for Regular Active and Retired Officers of the 49th and 66th of Foot. The constitution was changed in 1960 to include ALL officers of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and all officers who have held a commission in The Royal Berkshire Regiment prior to amalgamation are eligible for membership. Widows and wives may also join as individuals. The Club is a private club, and its rules and finances are matters for its members only. The constitution was changed again to form a Luncheon Club to which guests may be invited (male or female). The annual subscription is £1.05 for all those wishing to join. In addition a charge is made to those attending the Luncheon.

The late Lt. Col. E.F. Eagar left a sum of money to The Club in his will and some Regimental silver was purchased with the sum of money. This silver is the property of the Club.

The 1984 Luncheon was held at the Staff College, Camberley on 2nd September and 63 members and their friends attended. It is hoped that the 1985 Luncheon will also be at the Staff College on Sunday 1st September.

Those wishing to join the Club should contact Major W.G. Cockcroft, 6 Kiln Gardens, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire.

#### **1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment**

The 38th annual reunion of the 68 Club again took place in the hospitable home of Nancy and Dick Cooke at Shipton-under-Wychwood. There were present: Michael Barton, Andy Borrelli, John Briscoe, Arthur Buckham, Dick Cooke, Ivor Davies, John Forster, Norman Golledge, John Metcalf and Geoff Williams.

Nancy has most kindly invited us to go there in 1985 for a special Tofrek reunion. The club consists of people who were in action with the First Battalion during the last war and 68 was the number on our vehicles in Burma.

#### **The 99th 1939-45 Annual Officers Reunion**

Frank and Francis Clarke were hosts to 32 members at their home, Milsted Manor in Kent, for the 1984 Annual Reunion. The Elizabethan manor, the garden and lawns made an ideal venue, and with a

perfect day and splendid lunch, the reunion was a notable success. There were no new members to welcome, but a few who had missed one or two previous reunions came to this one; ill health or accidents were the main reasons for absence. On view were photographs taken by Bob Lucas during the last year of the war.

It was decided to hold the 1985 Reunion in the Wardrobe on Saturday 10 August. Due to the generosity of members there is sufficient capital in the Reunion Club Fund to open a Bank Account, which reflects the confidence of members in the future of the Reunion. Our only problem now is to find those other officers who served with the 2nd Bn, The Wiltshire Regiment during the Second World War, who do not know about the Reunion. This report ends on a sad note: Norman Chadwick, who was the Battalion Padre with one unique record of serving with the Battalion from mobilisation in 1939 until after the end of hostilities, died on 21 August after a long period of poor health.

#### **Obituary**

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths in 1984 of Brigadier G. Wort CBE DL, Lieutenant Colonel C.L. Speers, Lieutenant Colonel L. Wood OBE and Major, The Duke of Somerset DL. Their obituaries will be found on page 64.



# REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Curator: Major J.J. Price

## It Takes All Sorts.....A View from the Museum Admissions Desk

It was Sunday morning and except for the tolling of the Church bells calling the faithful to Service, the town was quiet and peaceful. The silence of the morning within the Cathedral Close was disturbed only by the tyres of the Curator's car as it crunched the gravel of the Museum car park. The driver, not yet fully alert but warned by some sixth sense of an impending catastrophe, swung the wheel of the car and just avoided a member of the Cathedral Close Special Constabulary, also indulging in the serenity of the morning. A second figure wearing an anxious expression accompanied the upholder of secular authority, who it transpired was seeking to establish the whereabouts of a dog. A simple case of "canine absenteeism," the constable opined, until, "he of the anxious expression" pointed out that in fact it had been present in Afghanistan with a Dr. Watson 100 years previous and was now believed to be in the Cathedral Close.

The constable's expression conveyed his innermost thoughts that the enquirer had not only lost a dog but his "marbles" as well. The situation obviously called for the utmost tact and delicacy and with a knowing look he turned to the Curator for assistance. The Curator confirmed that indeed "the dog" was in the Museum (a tribute to a long deceased taxi-driver's skill) at which the upholder of the law, believing his problem had increased by 100%, and that he now had two "marble seekers" to contend with, gave an inarticulate groan of despair and disappeared in the direction of the Cloisters, shaking his head in disbelief.

It transpired that, "he of the anxious look" was an American visitor and a prominent member of his local Sherlock Holmes Society back home in the States. Directed to the Museum's Maiwand display, the centre piece of which was his canine absentee, "Bobbie", he remained gazing at the object of his pilgrimage throughout the remainder of the morning. Periodic visits by the now somewhat concerned Curator found the member of the SHS (USA) talking quietly to the object of his affection - "crooning" would be a more apt description - "Just wait till I tell the folks back home I've seen Bobbie....."

Sherlock Holmes buffs will have little difficulty recalling Dr. Watson's claim to have been wounded whilst serving with the 66th at Maiwand and it is thought Conan Doyle based his fictitious character on the real-life Surgeon Major Preston of the Army

Medical Department, who indeed had medical charge of the 66th and was present at the battle of Girishk and Maiwand. Wounded in the latter battle whilst attending a wounded soldier, Surgeon Major Preston survived and was present in Khardahar throughout the siege. Present at the Battle of Maiwand and depicted in "The Stand of the Last Eleven", Bobbie the pet of a Sgt. Kelly was also wounded and survived the siege of Khardahar, returning to England the following year to be given the Campaign Medal by HM Queen Victoria. It was this tangible link with the events of one hundred years ago and the mythical heroes of his beloved Society which the visitor - and an increasing number of his Countrymen since - travel so far to see. A testimony to the good name of the Museum abroad.

Not all visitors are so single-minded of purpose. "Say, are these the Cloisters?" or "What is a shilling?" - and "Is 50p half a pound?" are some of the many questions one deals with.

There are three Museums within the Cathedral Close and mistakes are understandable although it is mind boggling when customers having traversed our collection of Militaria ask to be directed to the room "housing the needlework and embroidery display!!"

"Hi", he exclaimed as he studied the History of the Regiment on the board inside the Museum entrance, "If this is Salisbury (SIC), how come The Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment? Why not the Duke of Salisbury?..... and where is Edinburgh anyhow?"

The obviously "well-heeled" mature couple enter, laden with cameras, light meters, brochures etc. and produce a sheaf of plastic cards, purchased in the US and guaranteeing free entry into every establishment in the UK open to visitors. When it was politely pointed out that the cards were not valid for this establishment the lady turned to what appeared to be her long-suffering spouse and exclaimed in a loud voice - "Ripped off again - ELMER" - and departed.

"Pliss" asked the Finnish tourist after studying the Crimea Display, "What is a Inkerman".

Of the thousands of visitors we have welcomed to the Museum there has been but one dissenting voice and that of a little old lady, (Giles grandmother type, complete with brolly) who would easily qualify for entry in the Guinness Book of Records for the speed with which she completed the Museum circuit. Literally moments after paying admission she stood before the desk for the second time and enquired in a shrill voice, "Is that all?"

Manning the desk is akin to "standing under the clock



at Waterloo", and given time one sees and meets every type of individual and only the lack of space precludes the telling of many "stories". Without doubt though, nothing surpasses the pleasure and mutual recognition of long forgotten friends visiting the Museum after many years away from the Regiment, nor the all too short time spent, reliving shared experiences of the past and the inevitable question "What happened to...?"

A great deal of thought and expense goes into attracting visitors to our premises and it behoves us to give them polite and efficient service coupled with value for money, thus gaining the good will of a satisfied customer, likely to commend their experiences to others. But there arises from time to time a problem of which every Curator is aware - that of persuading your recently attracted visitor to vacate the premises without undue pressure or unseemly haste, or resorting to advancing the hands of the Museum clock as closing time approaches. The problem was highlighted in a recent paper on the subject of Museums and is worthy of further thought and study.

Looking back as the season nears its end, we can reflect on another good year, with a good attendance but the figures still not attaining those dreamt of targets leaving us with unfulfilled hope and the promise of joys to come when they do materialise.

We are grateful to the many who have entrusted into our care the cherished military possessions of their families and are proud to take them into our trust on their behalf.

Finally and most important our heartfelt thanks to the ladies who give up so much of their time to assist us by operating the Museum Desk throughout the Summer months - we are most grateful.

## HISTORICAL TITBITS

### Dr. Watson at MAIWAND

Readers will have seen the extract from the letter received from Lieut. Comd. G.S. Stavert, MBE MA RN in the last issue of the Journal about Dr. Watson at Maiwand. The following article on the same subject was written by Dr. Hampton R. Bates MD of Richmond, Virginia, USA and was published in the Virginia Medical in November 1976:

"Among the most celebrated of literary mysteries is the location of the wound that John H. Watson MD sustained on July 27 1880, while serving with British forces at the Battle of Maiwand. The British withdrew after a day of fierce fighting, taking the wounded physician with them. Watson was invalided home on half-pay and achieved considerably more success as the partner and Boswell of Sherlock Holmes. The battle is an historical event of the Second Afghan War, and

true believers in the Holmes-Watson saga have no doubts that Watson was there. However, like all fundamentalists, they encounter knotty problems trying to reconcile seeming inconsistencies in the written record.

The initial description of the wound was concise and clear. Watson wrote that he "was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery" (*A study in Scarlet*). We know that the left shoulder was injured because Holmes on first meeting Watson noticed the "stiff and unnatural" carriage of the left arm.

In a later report the good doctor seemingly contradicted himself with the statement that the bullet had passed through his leg, which "ached wearily at every change in the weather" (*The Sign of Four*). In the same adventure Holmes twice referred to his friend's injured leg. Another reference was non-committal as to location: Watson wrote of discomfort caused by the Afghan bullet which he had brought back in one of his limbs (*The Noble Bachelor*).

Dr. Edward J. Van Lier published an ingenious explanation for Dr. Watson's apparent uncertainty.<sup>1</sup> He suggested that the injured artery became stenotic and the resulting "subclavian steal" on occasion reduced Watson's cerebral blood flow to the point that he forgot the site of his injury. This scholarly thesis by a well known physician and physiologist cannot be dismissed lightly. However, I think the weight of evidence is against it.

W.S. Baring-Gould reviewed the problem in detail and summarised many theories including those of several physicians.<sup>2</sup> Drs. Roland Hammond, John Dardess, J.W. Sovine, Reginald Fitts, Vernon Pennell, Julian Wolff and Samuel R. Meaker applied their medical and anatomical knowledge and produced much interesting and agreeable material. Dr. Sovine came close to the truth as I see it. He suggested that Dr. Watson, bedding over a patient, was hit on the shoulder by a bullet that ricocheted downward under the skin of the chest, abdomen and leg before coming to rest in the calf muscles.

My own solution rests on literal interpretation of Watson's words and my experience with gunshot wounds. The bullet ricocheted from a bone in the shoulder after grazing the subclavian artery and then left the body at an acute angle to enter the leg, where it remained. The large exit wound caused by the tumbling missile allowed detailed inspection of the bullet path by a fellow medical officer, so that we know how closely the artery escaped rupture and how nearly the literary world lost the irreplaceable Watson. The shoulder wound was dressed hastily on the battlefield and



was filled with good granulation tissue by the time Watson reached the base hospital. The shoulder required no further treatment, and the leg wound was so well healed that extraction of the bullet was not attempted. Thus our hero was left with a scarred, temporarily stiff shoulder and a barometric leg.

I do not think other commentators have noted that a large exit wound must have been present to account for our knowledge of the status of the subclavian artery. A battlefield surgeon in 1880 would not have exposed a major artery by choice and Watson's wound did not require heroic treatment.

This singular affair of the Jezail bullet was conceived by Conan Doyle to give his readers the pleasure and challenge of using deductive reasoning. When Holmes said, "Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms," Watson could have replied, "A bullet in the body is liable to take the strangest path," and thereby have aborted nearly a century of speculation about his wound."

#### **Acknowledgement**

The author acknowledges with appreciation the correspondence of Drs. John D. Archer, Hill Barton, E.J. Van Liere and Joe Sovine.

**References** <sup>1</sup>Van Liere EJ: Dr. John H. Watson and the subclavian steal. *Arch Intern Med* 118:245, 1966.  
<sup>2</sup>Baring-Gould WS: *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Vol 1. New York: Clarkson N. Potter Inc. 1967, p606.

A final word on the subject, from the RAMC Historical Museum.

#### **Alexander Francis Preston**

He was commissioned as Assistant Surgeon on 30th September 1863 and attached to the 27 Regiment of Foot on 13th February 1866 - the Royal Regiment of Artillery on 20th July 1867 - Army Medical Department as Surgeon Major on 28th April 1876. He retired on half pay on 16th October 1881 and returned to full pay on 4th May 1882 as a Brigade Surgeon and promoted to Brigade Surgeon Lieut. Colonel on 30th November 1886 - Surgeon Colonel on 28th March 1892 - Surgeon Major General and afterwards Surgeon General on 30th March 1896 and retired on 23rd May 1902.

He held the appointment of Director General (Temp) from 3rd June 1901 until 1st December 1901.

He served in Afghan where he was wounded, from 1878 until 1880. He was made King's Honorary Physician in 1901.

Born on 23rd May 1842 - Died 24th July 1907. He served during the Second Afghan War in Medical charge of the 66 Regiment taking part in the advance

to Kandahar and subsequently with General Burrow's Brigade to the Halmand. He was present also at the action of Girishk and the battle of Maiwand in which he was severely wounded whilst attending a disabled man in the front line of fire. He was in Kandahar throughout the Siege. (Mentioned in Despatches).

#### **THE PLEDGE**

##### **99th Regiment 1840**

"The Regimental system as prevailing in the 99th with its guidance, was absent, and the Company Commanders were, for the most part, Captains invalided home with diseased livers. They spent much time in drinking a strong and fiery port known as "Old Bin" of which the Mess had 600 dozen bottles. An expert's judgement on the "Old Bin" was "Brick it up for twenty years, and then take a further opinion" (600 x 12 = 7200 bottles!)

##### **99th Regiment 1887**

"I am one of the "Nines" 2nd Wilts, No 1477 enlisted on 30th March 1886, and was discharged after the South African War.

I often think of some of our officers and comrades of those happy days, and wonder if many of them are still living.

Colonel Haynes was my Company Officer, who afterwards commanded the Battalion at Portsmouth on our return from India in 1896. I can recall Major de la Peer Beresford, who was Editor of "The Nines" in 1897 (I was a sub-Editor or paragrapher); Capt. and Adjutant Evans; Colonel Carter, who commanded the Battalion in the South Africa campaign; Qr. Mr. Pepper, formerly RSM of the Battalion; Qr. Mr. Yardley, Serjt-Major Grant, Capt. Barnes and Bandmaster Cooke. I was with the Battalion at Peshawar, Subathu, Meean Meer, Jhansi and Mandalay, and during those years the 2nd Wilts were the pride of India. We were the best shooting Battalion in India for the years 1888-89-90, and we owned the best Individual shot in the British Army. L/Cpl. Harry Viney (I wonder if he is still alive); in the presence of Lord Roberts, in 1888, at Simla he made 104, consecutive bullseyes at 900 yards **standing**. Viney was a great favourite with the officers and sergeants and so he found no difficulty in obtaining his usual morning "eye-opener" at the back door of the Sergeant's Mess; nevertheless, we were the greatest "Drys" in India, and in 1887 the "Nines" headed the Gregson Army (now the Army Temperance Association) by 450 pledged abstainers and for the years 1890-91-92 we were the best conducted Battalion in India. Long live the "Nines" and God save the King.

Your obedient servant,  
JOHN THATCHER



### **Around the Mulberry Bush**

Is it possible that a silken thread once connected The Wardrobe with the Stewart Kings?

In the late 16th or early 17th centuries the silk worn by Royalty was wholly produced by silk worms which owed their existence to the Mulberry leaf on which they thrived. The production of silk in England was negligible and consequently the finished product was imported into the country. To encourage the making of English silk, in the year 1609 James I established a Mulberry Garden on the site of the present Buckingham Palace and Gardens.

The Mulberry Garden fell into a state of neglect and later a house which became GORING HOUSE was built upon part of it and by CROMWELL'S day the remainder of the garden had become a place of public entertainment.

SAMUEL PEPYS records in his diary a visit to it for the first time in May 1668 when he found it full of "a rascally, whoring, roguing sort of people", and never went again. It closed down as a public resort sometime in the 1670s and possibly in 1674 when Goring House burned to the ground.

.....In the garden of the Regimental Headquarters, standing in the shade of a magnificent Copper Beech, is the gnarled remains of a Mulberry Tree which, despite its appearance produces a remarkable crop of fruit each year. A member of the local Clergy being shown around the Museum last year told the story that originally it was one of six hundred Mulberry trees brought from Holland in the Man-o-War "The Royal Charles" in which King Charles II returned to this country upon the restoration of the Monarchy. The newly restored King was also desirous, like his predecessor, of encouraging the production of silk in England and decreed the six hundred trees should be divided between the principal towns and cities of the country and the resultant silk produced to be rendered as a "tribute" to the Royal Household.

The City of Salisbury was presented with two trees. One was planted in the garden of KING'S HOUSE and the other in the garden of the Canon of Salisbury's residence known as THE WARDROBE, and it is the remains of that tree which we see here every day - over three hundred years later.

### **Salisbury Cathedral Clock**

Whilst the story of the famous medieval clock of Salisbury Cathedral is quite well known, the story of the present clock, which has chimed the quarters and hours over the Close since 1884, is not well known.

In 1790 the Bell Tower was pulled down by Wyatt and the medieval clock, which had chimed the hours since 1386 was moved to the first stage of the central tower of the Cathedral itself, together with its bell.

It was in 1882, according to the Minutes of the Dean and Chapter of 18th July of that year, that a

letter was received from the Officers of the 1st Wiltshire Regiment offering £180 towards a memorial in the Cathedral. The Dean and Chapter gratefully accepted the offer and suggested that a clock would be a most suitable gift.

The fact that the clock was indeed given by the Wiltshire Regiment is commemorated by a plaque in the north-west corner of the North Transept and reads as follows:

"The Clock in this tower is the gift of the Officers past and present and the non-commissioned Officers, drummers and privates who served in the 62nd Wiltshire Regiment.

To the Glory of God in memory of their comrades Major and Brevet Lt. Col. G. Hay, Captain J.M. Theobald, Lt. A. Goding, Lt. A.L. Dennie, Lt. G.G. Brittal, Lt. G. Lake, Surgeon M.J. Scott MB and of 17 Sergeants, Corporals and Drummers and 248 Privates who died in India and Aden during the years 1868-1882."

The 62nd Regiment of Foot received the title of "Wiltshire Regiment" in 1782 and almost one hundred years later, in the year 1881 became "The 1st Battalion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment" having amalgamated with the 99th (Duke of Edinburgh's) under the Cardwell Reforms.

Unfortunately those archives of the Wiltshire Regiment which have survived from earlier days make no reference to the gift of the clock. The years 1868 to 1882 were, however, years of foreign service and great hardship for the Regiment, mainly in India, where they suffered heavily from the Cholera epidemic. It is possible that the memorial gift was primarily to commemorate the 13 years and 87 days of continuous foreign service, during which many comrades were lost, but also to establish a firm link between Salisbury Cathedral and "The 1st Battalion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment" as it became in 1881.

It seems most likely that the chimes of the present clock were first heard in the Close during 1884 since the Minutes of the Dean and Chapter record the fact that the bill of Messrs. Taylor & Co., Bell Founders of Loughborough, amounting to £238.12s.4d for the four new bells for the chimes, was duly presented. It was ordered that the same should be paid out of the Chimes Subscription Fund.

It is pleasing to think that, in this centenary year of the clock given by the Wiltshire Regiment, the links with Salisbury should be even stronger by virtue of the fine Museum in the Close of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, being the amalgamation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment with The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

### **Footnote from the Regimental History**

On 31st December 1868 the 62nd Regiment embarked on HMITS "SERAPHIS" and sailed the



following day for the East Indies via Malta and Alexandria where they disembarked and crossed the Suez Isthmus by train before re-embarking to continue their voyage in HMITS "EUPHRATES" finally reaching Bombay on 2nd February 1869. The Regiment was quartered in Dum Dum, Cawnpore and Delhi before moving to Chokrata and Morar and during this period of service suffered heavily from the Cholera epidemic. The first three fatal casualties occurred in the barracks occupied by the band on 29th July 1869 and by the 9th of the following month the death roll had risen dramatically having claimed the lives of 49 soldiers, 3 women and 12 children before the epidemic abated to return in succeeding years. On 4th January 1877 the Regiment left Delhi by Route March and arrived at their destination Chokrata between 4th and 8th March having been detained at Kalsi, only 25 miles from their destination for 27 days, the pass being blocked by heavy snow and quite impassable.

Between 6th and 16th May 1978 Cholera claimed the lives of the Commanding Officer, Lieut Colonel Hay and Lt. Goding and 14 men whilst stationed at Morar and Lt. Brittal shot himself with a revolver whilst suffering temporary insanity produced by the fever. The names of these three Officers are inscribed on the Memorial Tablet in the Cathedral as is that of Lt. G. Lake who died the following year on 17th August 1879 at Morar.

The Regiment was placed under orders to move to Aden where it disembarked on 20th November 1880 and after a comparatively short stay of three months sailed for England and reached Spithead on 26th March 1881 after 13 years and 87 days continuous foreign service.

### Museum Acquisitions

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

Group of Seven Medals and miniatures Col. Jack Houghton-Brown WILTS - Mrs. J. Houghton Brown  
Group of Five Medals Sgt. P. Ambler Wilts Regt. - Mrs. E. Ambler  
Two Medals Sgt. H.R. Holdsworth R. Berks Regt. - Mrs Holdsworth  
Reports and Narratives of Officers engaged in the Battle of Maiwand - Col. J.L.R. Metcalf  
Group of Three Medals Pte. W. Tuck Wilts Regt. - Mrs. W. Guppy  
Group of Four Medals Sgt. A. Luty R. Berks Regt. - Mrs. J. Luty  
Book "The British Infantry 1660-1945" - Maj. F. Myatt  
Group of Three Medals Sgt. P. Powell R. Berks Regt. together with uniform and militaria - Mr. W. Powell  
Book "A Wiltshire Portrait" - David Burnett  
Two Medals Pte. Gregory R. Berks Regt. - Mrs. L.C. Gregory

Log Book for the German Guns based at Calais - F.L. Cox  
Group of Four Medals Capt. A.F.C. Whitbread Wilts Regt. - Mr. D. Chetwynd  
Framed Embroidered Colours Wilts Regt. - Mrs. A.E. Short  
Silk embroidered Flags of Nations & Wilts Regt. Badge - M. Corfield  
Framed photograph of The Louisberg Medal, obverse and reverse with description - Brig G. Wort  
Colours of the 99th Regt. - St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh  
Book "The 66th Berkshire Regt." - Brig. K.P. Smith  
Victory Medal Pte. J. Hatherall Wilts Regt. - Mr. L.C. Gregory  
Two Medals C.A. Mortimer Wilts Regt. - Mrs. A. Mortimer  
Crimea Medal with Three Bars Daniel Hinson 49th Regt. - Mr. L.V. Hinson  
Four Bound Volumes of "The China Dragon" - Lt. Col. W.B.E. Brown  
Leather Belt and accoutrements - 19 Vol Bn. R. Berks Regt. - AMOT  
Group of Five Medals, Sports Medals and photographs Sgt. A. Jeffries Wilts Regt. - Capt. A.C. Jeffries  
A Silver Inkstand and a Framed Mounted Collection of Twenty-four Medals and Cross Belt Plate of 66th Regt., the collection of the late Lt. Col Verey, R. Berks Regt. - Mrs. P. Verey  
EOKA Flag - Cyprus 1955 - Mr. I.S. Mason  
Flag of the GOC 43 Wessex Div. last flown in Celle 1946 - P.M. Headley-Prole  
Wooden cased Mantle Clock 1887 - Miss B. Walker  
Group of Five Medals Cpl. Pride R. Berks Regt. - Mrs. C. Pride  
Group of Three Medals Cpl. Ivemy R. Berks Regt. - Mrs. J.A. Whatley  
Group of Five Medals CSM Burrows R. Berks Regt. with NOK Plaque, Badges and Six Temperance Medals - Mrs. I.M. Burrows  
Group of Four Medals Capt. S.F. Terry Wilts Regt. - Mr. E.W. Terry  
Group of Four Medals Pte. D. Miles R. Berks Regt. - Miss K. Lawson  
Book "Adventures of An Ancient Warrior" - Brig. K.P. Smith  
"One Man's View" Narrative - Burma 1944 - Maj. J.J. Forster  
A Pewter Button of 66th Regt. found on St. Helena - Curator Jamestown Museum, St. Helena via Col. D. Salt  
Group of Four Medals plus American Purple Heart and Twelve Shooting Medals - Mrs. E. Larkham  
Book "Battlefields of Britain" - Publishers  
Framed NOK Plaque and letter Sgt. Powell - Mr. W. Powell  
Group of Six Medals Lt. Col. H.G.G. Niven R. Berks Regt. - Col. J.L.R. Metcalf



# 1st BATTALION



## The Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel A.C. Kenway who assumed command of the 1st Battalion on 26th November joined the Regiment in Malta from the RMAS in September 1964. He commanded the Recce Platoon in Minden from 1966-68 and then left the Battalion to be an instructor at the IJLB Shorncliffe. A three year attachment to the SAS followed during which he served in Belize, other South American countries and Dhofar before he rejoined the 1st Battalion to be 21C of D Coy in Berlin and Ballykinler. He commanded B Coy as an acting Major in Shoeburyness before attending the Staff College in 1977. His successful completion of the Staff course was followed by a Staff appointment with HQ Wales. He was appointed the Officer Commanding A Coy from 1980-82 whilst the 1st Battalion was stationed in Osnabruck and for the last two years has been the Training Major with 21 SAS. He is very keen on fitness training and competed in the 1984 London Marathon. He was awarded 1st Battalion Colours for X Country, Swimming, Rugby and Rowing. He is married and we wish him, his wife Sue, and their two sons a most happy and successful time during his tour of Command.

## Diary

From peace-keeping in South Armagh the Battalion immediately went on duty at Greenham Common. After four weeks post Northern Ireland leave the entire Battalion deployed to what has become probably the most famous airfield in the United Kingdom. The Battalion was given a sector of the perimeter fence to patrol to ensure that no demonstrators got onto the airfield. During the days that Cruise missiles arrived at Greenham Common parts of the Battalion had to guard the aircraft which carried the missiles in from the United States. This first tour at Greenham Common was marked by two events. Firstly the construction of the largest barbed wire fence most of us had ever seen or want to see. Secondly the long hours spent watching them (the Women) watching us watching them.

Not to be deterred by a few nights out on a cold and windy airfield the Battalion returned to barracks and a cold and windy parade square just in time to prepare for the Ferozeshah Parade. On a wet 21st of December the Battalion was on parade and inspected by Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Howlett KBE MC the GOC South East District.

The start of 1984 saw B Company flying to Belize for a two week exercise and in February two companies, Battalion Headquarters and the echelon deploying for another spell of guard duty at Greenham Common. By now the tented camp had been replaced by portacabins. We were the first Battalion to be able to use such luxuries, however the perimeter track, where the patrolling was carried out resembled something from the Somme battlefield. The mud was inches deep. The number of women had decreased and no one was sorry when it was our turn to leave.

A practice deployment to Gatwick and six weeks on Spearhead duty took the Battalion up to the brigade exercise on Salisbury Plain. From a base in Westdown Camp most of the Battalion managed to get onto the ranges and pass the Annual Personal Weapons Test, the Combat Fitness Test, the NBC test and every other test of which you can think. There was an unusual Annual Inspection which saw some odd groupings of soldiers marching around and around Salisbury Plain. The chiefs were in three groups and the Indians in another nine. The day all ended with a very jolly assault course competition and lots of prizes.

There is no doubt that the highlight of 1984 was the Presentation of Colours by the Colonel in Chief. Rehearsals started in earnest immediately after the brigade exercise and on the day, everyone was rewarded for the hours of practice and hard work they



had put in. The weather was fine and sunny and the Parade immaculate. A detailed account of the day is to be found at the end of this diary.

No sooner had the Colours been presented to the Battalion than the Second-in-Command led the Advance Party off to Canada. Literally after a three day gap the Battalion embarked, or rather emplaned, on its next major commitment, five weeks in Canada on Exercise Pond Jump West at Camp Wainwright. The time in Canada provided the most concentrated period of training the Battalion has had for some time. Indeed it was the first time it had operated as an infantry battalion in a conventional setting for some eight years. The opportunities for both military and adventurous training were grabbed with both hands. Most soldiers went for seven or ten days into the Rockies on various expeditions which included hill walking, fishing, canoeing and rock climbing. There were live firing exercises at company level and blank firing exercises at company and battalion level. On Exercise Pond Jump West the Battalion was supported by 8 Commando Battery RA and a flight from 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron. The Battalion's return from Canada was followed by summer leave and in turn a KAPE Tour. D. Company were responsible for showing the new Colours to the towns and cities of Berkshire and

Wiltshire of which the Regiment has the Freedom.

The Army's largest exercise in 1984 was Exercise Lionheart which involved most of 1(BR) Corps and much of the Regular Army based in Great Britain and the TA. The Battalion provided the umpire teams for 15 Infantry Brigade when it deployed from North East England to BAOR and fought as one of the Blue Force Brigades.

Both the Milan Platoon and the Band also deployed on Exercise Lionheart. The Milan Platoon attached for some time to 5 QUEENS (V) our next door neighbours in Canterbury and the Band to 3 Div. Field Ambulance.

For the first time ever the Battalion this year has the privilege of providing the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace and St. James Palace, and the Tower of London Guard. At the time of writing, rehearsals for the ceremony of Guard Mounting at Buckingham Palace are well under way. Greatcoats have been fitted, boots polished, No 2 Dresses tailored and everything prepared for the first Guard Mount in October.

As 1984 draws to a close there is talk of Cyprus; something called "The Line"; the UN; adventurous training with perhaps some skiing and water sports. It already looks as if 1985 will give us plenty to do and enjoy.

### **The Oldest Private Soldier in the Army?**

PTE. JOCK PEET completed 22 years service in the rank of Private in August 1984. In 1962 aged 20 he was employed painting gas tanks in Barnstaple, Devon, when he decided to enlist. A Gunner recruiting Sgt. tried hard to persuade him not to join the Infantry but to no avail. JOCK would have joined the Highland Light Infantry but the regiment had been amalgamated to form the Royal Highland Fusiliers so he joined the Devon and Dorsets instead! After completing his recruit training in Honiton he was posted to 1 DERR then stationed in Malta. He spent four years as a rifleman in 2 Platoon in Malta and Minden then joined the Mortar Platoon (3 inch) commanded at the time by Lt. C.J. Parslow. He spent a year in the Mortars before going back to A Company as a rifleman and subsequently as a storeman. In Berlin he became RSM Pinchen's Silverman until the Battalion moved to Ballykinler when he returned to A Company as Storeman. At Warminster he again became RSM's Silverman a position he retained under four RSM's.

Pte. Peel will be remembered for his good humour, loyalty and utter trustworthiness. He has set something of a record by completing 22 years of nearly unbroken service in the Battalion in the rank of Private. This Battalion "Character" will be missed by many friends he has made during his long service.



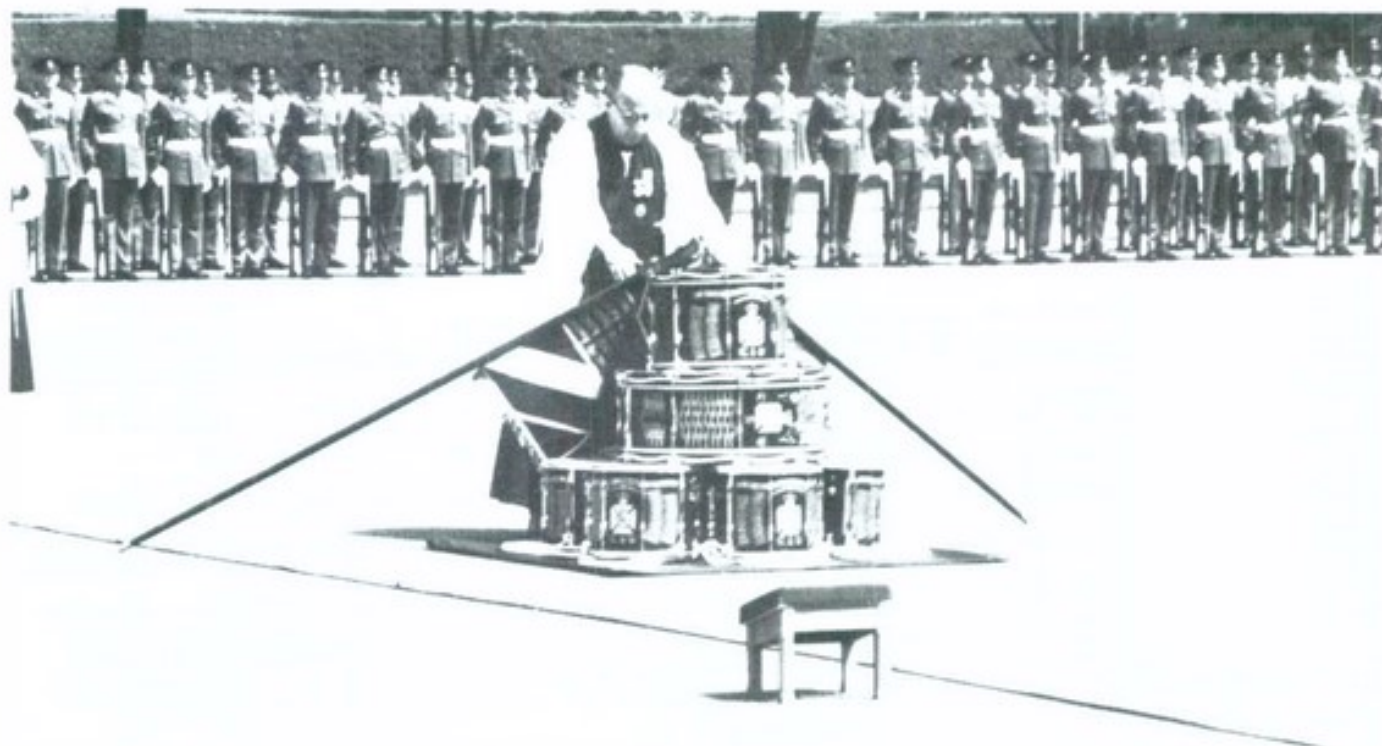




*The Colonel in Chief talking to the RSM.*



*The Inspection.*



*The Consecration of the New Colours.*



## THE PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

The Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion took place at Howe Barracks on Friday 8th June. The day was fine and sunny and the spectator stands full as the Battalion, led by the Band and Drums in scarlet uniform marched onto the parade ground. The Colonel in Chief arrived by helicopter just before 11 a.m. and was met by the Lord Lieutenant for Kent, and the Colonel of the Regiment. After being received with a Royal Salute, His Royal Highness inspected the Battalion. The Band and Drums trooped in slow and quick time across the parade ground and then No 1 Guard escorted the Old Colours while they were trooped through the ranks for the last time. The Colours were slow marched off parade to "Auld Lang Syne" with the parade at the "Present Arms" and with all the spectators standing. It was a moving moment, especially for those present who had witnessed the presentation of the Colours by the Colonel in Chief twenty-five years earlier at

Newport, Isle of Wight when the Regiment was formed.

The consecration of the New Colours by the Chaplain General followed and the Colours were then presented to the two subalterns entrusted with their care by the Colonel in Chief.

In his address to the Battalion His Royal Highness said:

"It is almost exactly 25 years to the day since I presented the Old Colours to the Regiment newly formed by the amalgamation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment and the Royal Berkshire Regiment. I said then that there was 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!

Considering the long and distinguished records of both previous regiments, Battalions from both



*The Colonel in Chief presents the Regimental Colour to 2/Lt P. Dennis.*



*The Colonel in Chief talking to a group of old comrades.*



*The Colonel in Chief talking to a group of soldiers and their wives.*





*No 4 Guard commanded by Major Saunders.*



*The March Past.*





*The Old Colours marched off Parade for the last time.*

regiments took part in the Normandy battles of 40 years ago, I think surpass may have been asking the impossible, but there can be no doubt at all that you have fully lived up to their high standards. You have certainly had to contend with situations well outside their experience. Cyprus, Belize, Northern Ireland, firemans duties and Greenham Common may not have been quite as dangerous as outright war but they demand the same discipline, commitment and self control. I believe that the Regiment can look back with considerable satisfaction on your first 25 years and I hope that these new Colours, which I have just presented on

behalf of the Queen, will take you through the trials and triumphs and occasional vicissitudes of the next 25 years with equal success."

The Commanding Officer gave the following reply: "Sir, it is my privilege, on behalf of the Battalion, to thank you most warmly for presenting the Colours today in the name of Her Majesty the Queen. We would ask you, Sir, to convey to Her Majesty our humble duty and assurance that we will guard, honour and protect our Colours wherever we may serve."

The Battalion received the New Colours with a Royal Salute and then marched past in slow and quick time. The parade concluded with three cheers and a final Royal Salute to the Colonel in Chief.

Luncheon was served to all guests who attended. His Royal Highness honoured the Officers with his presence at Luncheon in the Officers Mess Tent and then visited the Sports field where the WOs/Sgts, soldiers, their families, friends and the Old Comrades were lunching. The Colonel in Chief visited all the Company tents and also the many static displays before departing at 3 p.m. A full and memorable day was rounded off by celebration parties being held in the various Messes until the early hours of the morning. A wonderful firework display was held at midnight to mark the Regiment's twenty-fifth birthday.

It was a day that lived up to everyone's expectations and will be long remembered.



*A group of Officers and their wives at the Colours Presentation Ball*

## ON PARADE

*Commanding Officer* : LIEUTENANT COLONEL W.A. MACKERETH

*Second in Command* : MAJOR J. POOK

*Adjutant* : CAPTAIN G. COOK

*Field Officers handing the New Colours to His Royal Highness*

MAJOR C.J. PARSLow

MAJOR A.P.B. LAKE

*Old Colour Party*

LIEUTENANT P.J. KING

SECOND LIEUTENANT S.D. GRAY

WOII (CSM) D. BEET

SGT G. BARTLETT

SGT R. TAIT

*New Colour Party*

SECOND LIEUTENANT A.C. WHITE

SECOND LIEUTENANT P. DENNIS

WOII (CSM) M. BRYANT

CSGT S. NORTH

CSGT P. McLEOD

*Guards:*

*No 1 Guard*

MAJOR R. B. PADDISON

CAPTAIN J.M.C. RYLANDS

LIEUTENANT R.D. HIGGS

WOII (CSM) N. MINTY

CSGT M. CARPENTER

*No 2 Guard*

MAJOR A.P.B. LAKE

CAPTAIN A.D. THORNELL

SECOND LIEUTENANT J. MARSH

WOII (CSM) M. GODWIN

CSGT T. GARDINER

*No 3 Guard*

MAJOR C.J. PARSLow

CAPTAIN N.M. SMITH

LIEUTENANT J.J. EDMONDS

WOII (CSM) R. HOLLISTER

CSGT J. DOBIE

*No 4 Guard*

MAJOR W.J. SAUNDERS

CAPTAIN K.T. HAUGH

LIEUTENANT R. ALLEN

WOII (CSM) P. MEHRLICH

CSGT C. WATTS

*Quartermaster:*

CAPTAIN D.J.I. LEADBETTER

*Regimental Sergeant Major:*

WOI R.G. HICKS

*Drum Major:*

DRUM MAJOR R.C.J. TADHUNTER

*Bandmaster:*

WOI R.C. NOTHER

*Royal Army Chaplains Department*

THE CHAPLAIN GENERAL, THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON W.F. JOHNSTON CB QHC MA

*in attendance:*

REV C.H. JOBSON QHC Senior Chaplain South East District

REV S. LOUDEN BA Roman Catholic Chaplain

REV J.C. WEBB Battalion Chaplain



## EX POND JUMP WEST - WAINWRIGHT CANADA

Just four days after the Presentation of New Colours the Battalion was on the move to Canada, to exercise on the excellent training facilities offered by the Canadian Forces Base, Wainwright. Perhaps this is what the Colonel in Chief had in mind when on leaving the officers after their photograph he was heard to say "Now you can get back to proper soldiering".

The move of the Advance Party and Main Body was via the Air Mounting Centre (AMC) at South Cerney, this in itself provided a certain amount of interest. The British Army has been moved by air since World War II but still the "movers" can't get it right. Will the canoes (for adventure training) fit in a Hercules? What constitutes Dangerous Cargo? All these questions being discussed with the soldiers sitting patiently awaiting a decision. It takes almost twice as long to go from Canterbury to be processed through South Cerney as it does to fly from Brize Norton to Edmonton in Canada. One final word on the AMC, did you know that the oil in your oil bottle (part of the weapon cleaning kit) is dangerous cargo and that you have to wash the bottle out with soapy

water so there is no trace or even a smell of oil. I wonder how much fuel a VC10 carries?

Eventually we arrived in Wainwright, and went straight into the training programme. There were basically five phases, Coy training, a Coy Battle Run, a Battalion Exercise, Adventure Training and R & R. Coy Training took various forms. Coys used the organised ranges firing all Coy weapons, then had a period of dry training to practice the Battle Drills in preparation for the Battalion organised Battle Run. During this Coy Training period most Coys managed to play some sport and to have a Bar-b-que or two. In B Coy's case they seemed to organise so many sporting competitions and Bar-b-ques it is doubtful whether they had time for anything else.

The Battle Run consisted of a live firing defensive phase and an Advance to contact. The Defensive phase saw the Coys in prepared positions dealing with a number of enemy attacks, the Coy supported 8 Bty, 29 Commando Regt. RA and our own mortars and the enemy supported by the excellent Battle Simulation of our own Assault Pioneers and our attached troop of Gurkra Engineers. Close support



*Coy 'O' Group on the Battle Run.*



*Members of our Affiliated Canadian Regiments on the Bn Exercise.*



*The Mortar Platoon looking for inspiration. Cpl Mills and Cpl Taylor in Canada.*



*Stopover at Gander on way to Edmonton.*



*"A Bridge Too Far" The Reserve Demolition Bn Exercise.*



*Lt Allen and wireless operator in Canada.*





*The MC at the Bn Concert (is it really the RSM?).*

by the artillery took on a new meaning for D Coy in particular!

This phase lasted to first light, from then on the Coys did an advance to contact with some two or three attacks again supported by the Bty and the Mortars. The sheer size of the Wainwright training area made this Battle Run a great success. It is doubtful whether there is a training area in the UK or BAOR which gives such scope to carry out these live firing exercises; in a way it was reminiscent of BATUS.

The Adventure Training, although originally greeted with a certain amount of scepticism, was eventually agreed to be a huge success. Everyone was offered a choice of canoeing, mountaineering and hill walking with all the activities having fishing as an optional extra.

The Battalion exercise, the first dismounted exercise the Battalion has completed since our days in Shoeburyness in 1975-76 practised the Battalion in most of the phases of war in just four days. A long advance to contact and the occupation of a defensive position took the first day and night. The next two



*Fellow Travellers on the Bn exercise LCPL Traveller MFC MOR PL, SGT Traveller PL SGT D Coy.*



*Pte Adelantado - takes on the enemy.*

days saw the Battalion in defence, practising the Routine in Defence and patrol activity. B Coy also practised fire fighting, a prairie blaze almost engulfing their trenches. We were then put under pressure by a strong enemy consisting of a mechanised Infantry Coy and a Squadron of Cougar armoured cars provided by the Militia Officers Training Course which fortunately was occupying Camp Wainwright at the same time as the Battalion and 8 Bty RA. This caused us to withdraw across a reserve demolition into a Battalion Concentration Area. The withdrawal across the Reserve Demolition was enlivened by the excellent Battle Simulation from our Gurkha Engineers culminating in the Bridge being blown literally in the enemy's face. In the early hours of the next morning

the Battalion crossed the Battle River by wading or by rafts constructed by the Gurkhas and the exercise culminated in a Battalion Dawn Attack. Apart from the last night and next morning when it poured with rain the whole exercise was conducted in excellent weather. Seeing the storm clouds forming and the rain heading for the Battalion Orders Group will





*Major Saunders 'Attempts' a Gurkha Dance.*

remain in a lot of people's memories, especially the sight of the Recce Platoon Commander trying to show a sketch map of the enemy position which became sodden in a few seconds. Two days work literally went down the drain.

After clearing up from the exercise the Battalion held a "Maiwand" Regimental Day on the Sunday, a church service in the morning followed by an Athletics Meeting in the afternoon. The meeting was won by D Coy. In the evening a Battalion concert was MC'd by that well known big cowboy "Big Rod Hicks". Excellent dances from the Gurkhas were spoilt when they asked all the Field Officers to take part. Sketches from all platoons made for an excellent evening. The whole day finished with a Battalion Bar-b-que.

It was then time for some R & R before returning to the UK. During this period a combined Battalion/Battery Rugby Team toured Edmonton, Calgary and Red Rock, they won some and they lost some, but by all accounts they had a good time.

Throughout the exercise, apart from the gunners and sappers mentioned earlier, we were ably



*The Gurkha Kukri Dance*

supported by a Flight of Gazelle helicopters from the Commando Brigade Air Sqn, and by individuals from IJLB, 1 WESSEX, 21 SAS(V), 10 PARA, 5 Queens and 6/7 Queens. During the exercise we were fortunate to have soldiers from our affiliated Canadian Regiment either to visit or to actually exercise with us. Algonquin Regt. soldiers were on the Militia Training Courses taking place at Wainwright and Lincoln and Welland soldiers flew in from Niagra to be attached to our Coys. We were also fortunate to have Lt. Col. Bernie Nehring the Commanding Officer of the Lincoln and Wellands visit us and subsequently return to the UK to continue his visit in Canterbury. His foresight in having his waterproof clothing at hand during the 'O' Group described earlier will also be long remembered. Our own Brigade Commander, Brigadier Michael Lee also visited us towards the end of the exercise, taking the salute at the Beating Retreat held on the Saturday after the exercise, and visiting the Adventure Training Camp in Cadomin. He also managed to get in some fishing with the Commanding Officer before returning to the UK with our Advance Party.



*Church wagon race Wainwright Stampede.*



## A FEW RAMBLINGS

Whenever I have thought about Army organised adventure training activities, it has always been with cynicism. Not about adventure training itself, you understand, but about the unwritten law of nature that makes unlikely the possibility of doing the activity of your choice. For example, some years ago I had to choose an adventure training course. My first choice was parachuting, second was climbing in Norway, third climbing in Scotland. It should be no surprise for you to learn that I was in fact sent to Gosport to get a Yacht Deck Hands Certificate. Ah! the mysteries of the Army.

There is no malice in the system though - I know this because I was responsible for sorting out D Company's adventure training choices prior to planned activities in the Rockies during Exercise Pond Jump West. You just cannot fit forty applicants into twelve canoes - someone has to go trekking.

I was with group three, an unlikely group of mountaineers (some had hoped to canoe, others just to fish), but together we managed to combine our uncertain enthusiasm and have a very enjoyable six days in the midst of the Rockies.

On the map, our route looked short and simple. On the ground it was difficult at best, impossible at worst - and full of pine trees. However the joy of spending six days in complete isolation was that you could change the route to suit yourself (the other groups found this out too!).

Base camp was established at the foot of Mt Robson, which rises to a height of 9062 feet.

Our base camp, beside a snow fed stream at about 6000 ft put us above the rain clouds that we could see soaking the valleys lower down - and the people who had chosen easier fishing treks. We had a camp fire, but no beer, earlier I'd had to explain that we couldn't pop down to a pub for a quick drink - there wasn't even a house marked anywhere on our map.

Cpl. Irving and Ptes. Begley, Swift and Watts decided quite quickly that they weren't cut out to be mountaineers - and preferred to keep the goats and deer in the valley company. However, with the help of two instructors from the External Leadership Wing of the IJLB the remainder of us attempted the climb up Mt Robson. It was only a 3000 ft or so climb, but the day was spent reconnoitering a route, and the next day the assault started at six in the morning before the snow had chance to melt and become unstable. Ptes Wright, Taylor and Worthington were novices, but in one day they became accomplished at rope work, scree scrambling, rock climbing, snow climbing, traversing (snow, rock and scree) use of an ice pick, and crossing knife like snow capped ridges.



*Pte Taylor completing a traverse around a 4000 ft cliff topped scree slope.*



*Pte Worthington trying to find LCpl Edwards to get the arms kote opened.*



*The Summit! 9062ft.*





*2Lt Gray and his expedition at the summit.*

All of us later admitted to being scared stiff - but at the time we each decided to push on with the group. All were agreed it was worth the effort - I believe this group made the highest climb of all the adventure training groups in the Battalion. The view of the Rockies from the top was, of course, fantastic.

The final three days were spent lower down the valley, and our time was occupied by abseiling and moderately successful cooking. Cpl. Irving's initiative and ability to hitch a lift led to the procurement of our evenings supply of beer which Pte. Swift gallantly saved, at the expense of a very cold soaking, from being washed away in a mountain stream.

Much has been said about Canadian beer - but after five days in all that fresh air, and after all that walking and climbing, any beer would have refreshed all our parts not normally reached.

## EX MOPAN RAMPART VIII - BELIZE

B Coy was selected to participate in Ex Mopan Rampart in Belize in January 1984. The aim of the exercise was to practice the permanent based troops in counter/insurgency operations. B Coy played the role of a leading Coy of a spearhead battalion being sent to re-inforce the troops in and around Belize, the arrival of reinforcements to be several days later. A secondary aim was to see how long it took for unacclimatised soldiers to become effective in the climate.

On arrival the Coy was given six days acclimatisation training during which CSM Minty managed to include some drill in preparation for the Colours Parade!

We then started the main exercise. 4 PL, with Lt. Andy White in Command was deployed to "Butchers Radar" to defend the RAF. 5 PL, under Command of Sgt. Gill, Lt. Robin Higgs was in command at first but he was "casevac" after 12 hours, was in reserve and co-located with Coy HQ in Williamson's Hangar on the far side of the airfield runway. 6 PL, under the Command of Lt. Tim O'Hare, was deployed along the river line in the jungle. This did not please the PL, Sgt. Tait who finally admitted he really did not like "creepy crawlies very much". It was with some relief to Sgt. Tait that 6 PL was re-deployed after 24 hours to strengthen the immediate defence of the airfield!

There was some enemy action, provided by the Gurkhas and members of the SAS, but no-one got to the airfield. The only real success was back in the base camp. CSgt. Carpenter in the early hours of the morning saw someone attaching something to a



*LCpl Mellors in Belize learning the finer arts of fishing - Has he yet received a lesson from the CO?!*





*Is Cpl West hiding his light under a bushel (for once)?!!*

telegraph pole. He challenged the intruder who made to run off so the CQMS shot him with blank. The "enemy" lost his hat in the ensuing chaos and it was one rather embarrassed SAS Sgt. who came to ask for his hat back from one beaming CQMS the next day!

After two days defending the airfield the Coy was moved out to re-inforce the resident battalion up country. During the move the heavens opened and it rained almost continuously for 72 hours. The Coy had to dig in on two hills. Twenty-four hours later it was attacked by a large enemy force. It seemed certain that the Coy HQ would be taken out when Sgt. Gill - it was that Asian blood in him - sensing his OC was in trouble led an excellent flanking attack which took the enemy completely by surprise and caused heavy casualties. Even the umpires were impressed! Having beaten the enemy back, patrols were sent out to try to locate their position. Sgt. McLeod led one such patrol and he returned to Coy HQ in the dark of night complaining that something had dropped from a tree and bitten him on the back of the neck.

Cpl. Strong, the Coy medic, wanting to get his own back on the Coy joker, told Sgt. McLeod that it was a serious bite and that he only had three hours to live - from the time of the bite! An ashen faced Sgt collapsed in the OC's chair, but it was impossible to keep faces straight for very long and Cpl. Strong had to tell him that he had been "bitten" by a leaf or twig.



*Pte Leivers and Pte Leeson carrying LCpl Kemp from 6/7 Queens in Belize.*

The final phase of the exercise was the counter-attack on the enemy position. This involved a night march, followed by a river crossing, followed by the attack itself - up a very, very steep hill. Nothing was too much for Battling Bravo and at 0815 hours, or thereabouts, over the top we went. It took about an hour to secure the various hills before the Reserve Coy, an Engineer Sqn., moved through us to take out the final enemy position. The sun now reappeared and everyone began to dry out on the hilltops.

After the inevitable clean up the Coy had 4 days R & R. Most soldiers went to stay on one of the local islands, the Platoon Commanders spent their time in Miami whilst the OC and CSM went revisiting old haunts in Belize City from their tour of Honduras in 1970. Old sweats! The Coy returned to Canterbury to show off their suntans saying it had been a good, worthwhile period of training.

**Lessons learnt in Belize:**

Pte Taylor - Keep a close watch on your cheque book.

Cpl. Strong - Don't dye your hair green - it's very difficult to wash out.

Sgt. McLeod - Don't play spoof against Capt. Stanley.

Sgt. Tait - Don't play spoof against anybody.

CSM Minty - Don't get landrovers "on the cheap" through Sgt. Stanley.

## PUBLIC DUTIES FOR THE FARMER'S BOYS

by Captain J.M.C. Rylands

The Battalion was asked in February whether it would be available in October to send a Company to London to do Public Duties for three weeks. A rare privilege, a chance to shine and an ideal opportunity to show London that the Farmer's Boys can turn their hand to anything, so of course we accepted.

Most of September was taken up with drill. The composite Public Duties Company had to learn a few movements peculiar to Guard Mounting. The soldiers learnt sentry drill and the officers learnt what the RSM described as "Slack Officer Drill" ie. the art of patrolling in pairs on the Palace forecourt in the





*The Guard returning to Wellington Barracks.*

unfamiliar Household Division manner. It should be noted that the RSM, when using the word "slack", was referring to the method of drill, not to the officers - well usually anyway! The Household Division sent down a Drill Sergeant to help us iron out the anomalies of the Changing of the Guard procedure and on 8th October the Public Duties Company moved up to Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow.

During a 48 hour Guard the Company would be split into 3 detachments; the Buckingham Palace Detachment, the St. James' Palace Detachment (which together constituted The Queen's Guard) and the Tower of London Detachment.

We first mounted guard on 9th October taking over from 1st Bn. Grenadier Guards. The march from Wellington Barracks to Buckingham Palace forecourt was a nerve-wracking business considering that the crowds were ten deep on either side lining the route and most were frantically taking pictures. Our nervousness was mixed with great pride. Marching along with the Colour at the fore, the Band playing and everyone watching (and even some applauding) was an occasion to swell everyone's regimental heart. Once inside the forecourt the actual ceremony of the Changing of the Guard took place. To the uninitiated it is a complicated parade with all the sentries at Buckingham Palace and at St. James' Palace having to change around, the Guardrooms taken over and the orders read - all as a drill movement! That done the old guard march back to Wellington Barracks and the new guard, now called The Queen's Guard, divide to the two detachments. The St. James' Palace

detachment march off down the Mall to Friary Court and the Buckingham Palace detachment march off to the guardroom. At the same time the Tower of London detachment takes over the Tower including the Jewel House from the off going guard. The main difference for the Tower of London guard is that they have a more tactical flavour to their duties. During our guard spells there were two major alerts in the Jewel House. This has interesting consequences for all sorts of people. Steel doors come down automatically and seal all the tourists inside, grim faced soldiers run out in all orders of dress and undress brandishing rifles and leap into bushes and Lt. Edmonds puts down his glass of port, switches off his video and rings the Governor to find out what is going on!

Alerts and interrupted video films apart, the Tower detachment earned themselves a very good reputation for thoroughness and enthusiasm in their duties, particularly in the nightly ceremony of the keys. So seriously did the Farmer's Boys carry out their duties that RSM Hicks, who was on a "goodwill" visit, found himself locked up in the Tower for the night. Justice for all!

The actual routine of guarding the two Palaces is fairly straight forward and there was usually enough time off. However when the Queen is in residence all the guards are doubled up and the sentries carry out double sentry drill. Sentry duty was, believe it or not, a popular part of the day's events, especially for the St. James' Palace detachment. The tourists were always out in force and took a particular liking to the



farmer's boys looking very smart in their khaki uniforms and white kit. Special mention is due to the American who, testing the sharpness of a sentry's bayonet, cut his hand to the bone; to the "snowy" sergeant who sent a woman sprawling because she wouldn't get out of his way; and lastly to the fortunate soldier who came off sentry duty with a pair of panties (with written telephone number on them) hanging out of his pocket!

President Mitterand's State visit occurred during the Company's tour of duty. The rest of the Battalion came up to London to assist in the street lining. The Company in particular had to be very alert in the paying of compliments to the massive influx of Royalty. Most of the soldiers saw the Queen and many other royal personages. Major Lake, as Captain of the Queen's Guard, was fortunate enough to be invited by the Lord Chamberlain to the Palace to meet the Queen, the Colonel in Chief and Monsieur and Madam Mitterand.

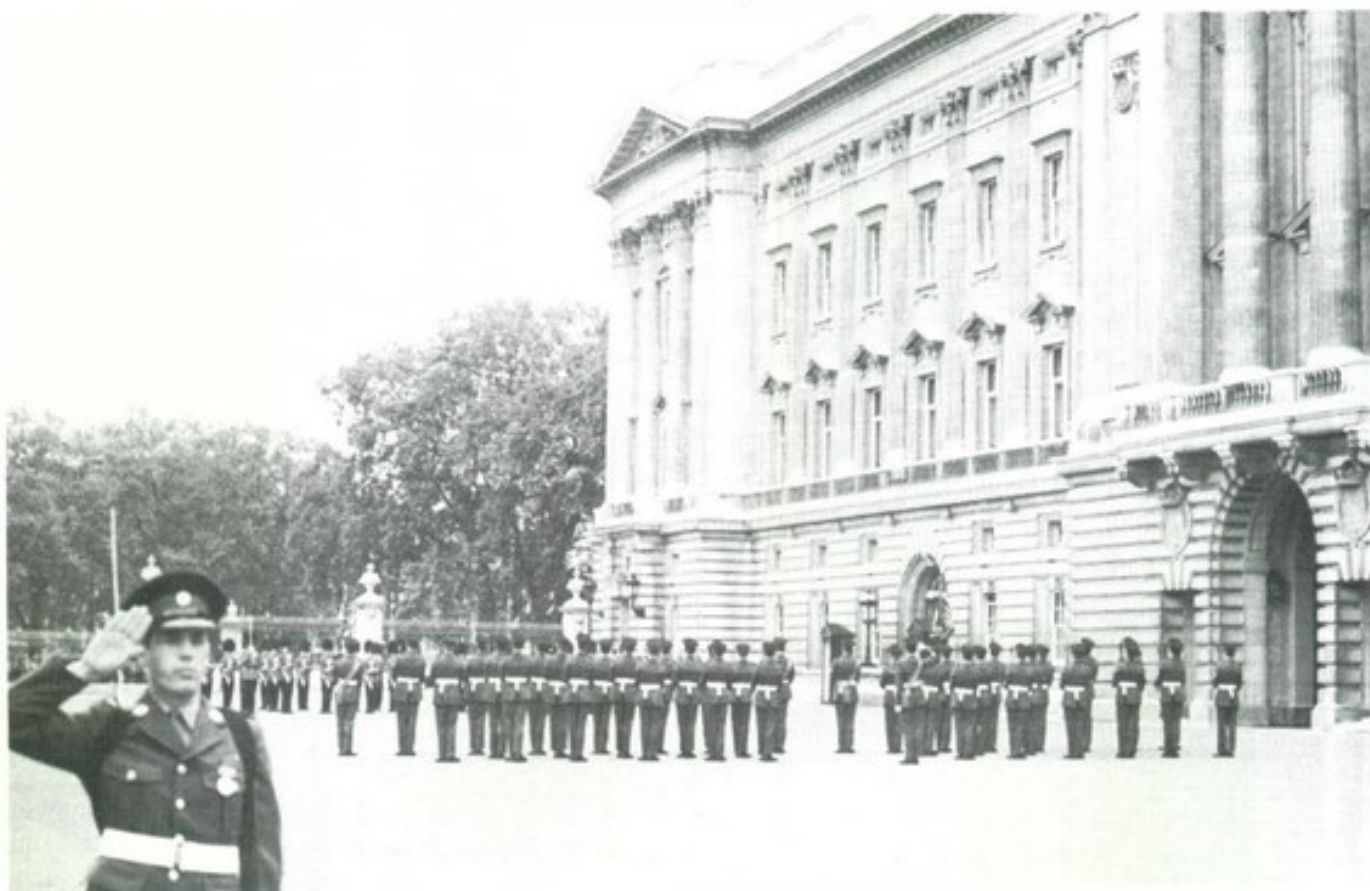
In conclusion it was a great honour to be chosen to do Duties for three weeks and the Regiment made an extremely good name for itself. Although everyone enjoyed it we all agreed that we wouldn't want to do it for a living. The Farmer's Boys rose to the occasion splendidly and showed all London exactly how the job should be done.



*The St. James's Palace sentries marching to their duties.*



*Cpl Goddard changing sentries at St. James's Palace.*



*Guard mounting in the Forecourt of Buckingham Palace.*



## KAPE 1984

The Battalion took the opportunity of sending a KAPE (Keeping the Army in the Public Eye) Team on tour in Berkshire and Wiltshire for the first week in September. The last KAPE tour in Berkshire and Wiltshire was during 1980, a time lag almost too long if the Regiment is to maintain its strong links with the two Counties. The KAPE Tour was in effect a series of Marches culminating in a Beating Retreat in some of the towns of which the Regiment has the Freedom.

The programme was as follows:

Monday 3 September	NEWBURY
Tuesday 4 September	READING
Wednesday 5 September	SWINDON and WALLINGFORD
Thursday 6 September	ABINGDON
Friday 7 September	DEVIZES
Saturday 8 September	SALISBURY

Unfortunately time prevented the Team from visiting Maidenhead and Windsor. The Team consisted of D Company providing an Escort for the Colours, the Band and Corps of Drums, a display team from the Recce, Mortar and Anti-Tank Platoons and the Regimental Information Team which is normally based at Devizes. Prior to the Tour a lot of effort was put into its publicity. Advertisements were put in local papers, hundreds of posters were put up and TV, press and radio were all contacted. It goes without saying that no KAPE Tour is successful unless it has plenty of good publicity and the Regiment received excellent coverage after each visit. Radio Wiltshire (Swindon), Radio Oxford and Radio 210 all gave the tour wide coverage including the playing of a recording of the music from the Beating Retreat. In Swindon the Freedom March attracted ITN, BBC and Cable Television and elsewhere all the local papers reported the visits with genuine interest.

A good crowd turned up at Newbury and among the spectators were many Old Comrades sporting a Royal Berkshire Regiment tie. It was obvious that for some the visit brought back happy memories of former service and some ex Servicemen brought their medals and scrapbooks to show to the soldiers. After the Beating Retreat which was attended by the Chairman of Newbury District Council, the Band and Corps of Drums were entertained by the local British Legion Club.

At Reading the Beating Retreat took place in Forbury Gardens. The statue of the Lion which commemorates the Battle of Maiwand and pays tribute to the 66th Foot, was fitting backcloth for the occasion. The KAPE Team were grateful to 2 WESSEX for use of Brock Barracks and in particular the Officers Mess where a Reception for the civic

authorities from Newbury and Reading were held.

On the Wednesday the KAPE Team visited both Swindon and Wallingford. In Swindon many soldiers who had recently left the Regiment came to watch. Judging by the reception given to the Regiment afterwards it was obvious that Swindon always enjoys these visits.

Wallingford is at the other end of the scale, but a town with which the Regiment has always had very close ties. Although now part of Oxfordshire, Wallingford has not forgotten its past connection with Berkshire and the Regiment. For a small town it has an important historical past. It was once the seat of government and has the original mace, used as a model for the one in the House of Commons. We could not have wished for a more friendly reception or chosen a more pleasant setting for Beating Retreat than below Wallingford's delightful Town Hall.

On the next day we visited Abingdon and had a large crowd watching the Mayor take the salute by the County Hall and the Band and Corps of Drums Beat Retreat in the Market Place. The Team changed in Abingdon School, which has produced a number of officers for the Regiment including Colonel Jones, Capt. Bowkett, Lt. Marsh and Lt. Allen! The Mayor entertained the whole Guard, Band and Corps of Drums after the event and thanked everybody who took part; a gesture that was much appreciated. At Devizes, the crowd was probably the biggest of the week, not surprising in view of the strong connections that the Regiment has with this beautiful market town. The Wiltshire Regiment had its Depot at Le Marchant Barracks and now 1 WESSEX has its Headquarters and a Company based there. The Regimental Association has a strong Branch in Devizes; many present and former members of the Regiment were among the spectators, strategically placed near the Bear Hotel!

The last visit of the week was to Salisbury and naturally the march started from the RHQ and Museum in the Close and the Beating Retreat took place on the Cathedral Green. Despite earlier showers, the weather remained kind and many of those attending the Regimental Association Reunion remained to watch. Like all the other towns visited the people of Salisbury seemed very pleased to have the chance to see their County Regiment. The week's tour, although busy and too short in some ways, enabled the Regiment to renew its links with these loyal and friendly towns and for the public to view the Regiment. For those members of the Regiment who took part in the tour, it was a privilege to be made so welcome in so many different towns.



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*It's got to be Gordon's.*





*The March through Swindon.*



*Beating Retreat in Devizes market square.*



## A COMPANY

Since returning from Crossmaglen the Company has undergone almost a complete change of personalities. Major Stone handed over in January to Major Lake. CSM Godwin and Sgt. Christian joined from the COP platoon and CSgt. North from Sandhurst. Sgt. Cox arrived in December and 2/Lt. Smith in January. Platoon commanders courses and Brecon courses for three months at a time have caused turbulence and the preparation for the Colours Parade meant that training has been fragmented.

Greenham Common with C Company for a week in February will stick in people's minds for a long time as the mud did to our boots. The Company was reinforced by the Drums platoon. The following week was spent at Lydd and Hythe on the ranges, in a limited Battalion skill at arms meeting.

A trip to Sennybridge was the highlight of March, the Company spent a profitable period on field firing while Headquarters organised and ran the combined South East and South West Districts' GPMG concentration. April saw the Company sharpening up as a result of two weeks on Spearhead standby and two weeks on the 2 Infantry Brigade exercise Second Spring on Salisbury Plain. During the exercise we

were delighted to win the Brigade inter-company combat fitness test in a truly outright manner, this success being matched by a team of private soldiers from the Company, led by Pte., now LCpl. Kerr, winning the orienteering event set for the Battalion by Brigade HQ as part of the annual inspection.

After the April spell of training the run up to the 8th June parade commenced in earnest, broken only by a deployment to the home counties for a brief and novel home defence exercise. The Colours Parade was magnificent and the entire day was memorable for all ranks.

Ex Pond Jump West in Wainwright, Canada, succeeded as a welcome and wholly effective return to normality characterised by much hard working and much "hard" play. Our sequence of training provided the near ideal programme and a good time was had by all. Our sights are now firmly set on the Public Duties commitment which involves most of the Company with the Band and Drums.

Since arriving back from Canada the Company has received 23 new soldiers all of whom we welcome and we now look forward to a period of relative stability in Cyprus, albeit, sadly, without our families.

## B COMPANY

The Company had a very busy period after returning from Northern Ireland with trips to Greenham Common in November, Belize in January, Hythe and Lydd in February/March, Salisbury Plain in April/May and Canada in June/July. September saw members of the Company in Germany on Ex Lionheart, others helping out with the KAPE tour and still others propping up A Company as they prepared for a stint of Public Duties. During October we assisted D Company who were giving demonstrations at Sandhurst and went to the PTA at Stanford, to act as civilian population on an exercise. This left just a few of the Company to attend the JNCOs Cadre and do duties in Canterbury. November was surprisingly quiet and in December we depart for Cyprus where we expect to be part of the UN force in Nicosia until March.

The morale of the Company is high after our successes in Battalion competitions. It is good to write that we have not come lower than second in any competition. Our biggest success was in The Duke of Edinburgh's Platoon Competition when 5Pl took first place and 6Pl second place. Another first, which owes much to CSM Minty was our selection to be the Escort to the Colours for the Presentation of New

Colours Parade. This was indeed a great honour and the wise choice of the RSM was splendidly rewarded on the day.

Our congratulations must go to Sgt. Gill who led 5Pl to a most praiseworthy win in the Duke of Edinburgh's Competition. Sgt. Tait and 6Pl chased him very hard and the winning platoon was not known until the result of the final test was published. The whole Company put up a very good showing in this keenly contested competition and are to be congratulated.



*5 Pl practising for the Inter-Departmental boat race.*



Since November 1983 the turnover within the Company has been prolific with over 50 new arrivals. Of our departures, Major Briard has gone to Warminster, ex CSM Turner is now RQMS, Lt. O'Hare has gone to Lichfield, Lt. Higgs to learn to fly, Lt. White to Crickhowell, CSgt. (now CSM) Carpenter is in Northern Ireland, Cpls. Vincent and Herbert are now Sgts. and employed elsewhere in the Battalion, LCpls. Wardall, Stanyer, Dartnell and

Fraser are now civilians as are several private soldiers including Davis 24, Woolford, Hardy and Haywood. Lealman 72 and Morris have got married. One sad departure was that of Pte. Rickard to civilian life as a result of a most unfortunate eye accident he received in Canada. Rickard is a tremendous character who will be sorely missed by all members of the Company and we all wish him the very best in civilian life.



*The OC and CSM B Coy showing their muscle in a tree-chopping competition - or is the CSM trying to bury the hatchet?!*

## C/SP COMPANY

Always a complicated and enigmatic organisation C/Sp Company has undergone many changes in its structure during the past year. The return from NI was the main cause for these changes. The anti-tank platoon returned to the Company having done gallant service in Crossmaglen with A Company and the COP, 8PI and the fourth section of Mortars were disbanded. On the plus side under the new organisation a Reconnaissance Platoon has been formed and the Corps of Drums are being trained as Assault Pioneers.

Reorganisation completed, the different platoons have all worked hard and done well at their own thing. The Company has had its bit of wire watching

at Greenham Common and formed No 3 guard on Colours Presentation Parade. The highlight of the year was Ex Pond Jump West where all the platoons enjoyed putting the year's work to good use.

The Company, now in the capable hands of Major Nigel Walker, who has dropped in from 5 Airborne Brigade, is beginning to prepare for Cyprus. We have said farewell to Major Westlake who is in London, Major Parslow who is now Bn 21C, WOII Smith now a civvie, CSgt. Navarro and finally Captains Rylands and Smith alias "the long and the short". We welcome to the Company Capt. Thornell, Lt Davis and WOII Morgan who takes over as CSM.





*RECCE Pl in deep water yet again.*

## D COMPANY

The start of the new year brought a new OC, Major Saunders, and a new programme of forthcoming events. At the end of January the Company deployed to Stanford Training Area to act as the civilian population for 1 STAFFORDS who were about to start their final exercise before being deployed to South Armagh for four months. The Company's recent experience in that area helped to make their exercise testing and realistic.

Training periods at Hythe and Lydd followed in February. At Hythe, 11PI won the inter-platoon Shooting Shield, although Sgt. Batty, their Platoon sergeant lost the individual prize in a shoot off with LCpl. Spence. At Lydd, the Company prepared for a future spell on SPEARHEAD with Northern Ireland very much in mind. In April a large number of the Company went to Germany to watch the Battalion Boxing Team fight 1 KINGS in the Army final. The CSM, WO2 Mehrlich, had been training the team throughout their successful run and it included LCpl. Gayle's knockout probably gave more pleasure than any other bout as he won against the 1 KINGS captain and seemingly unbeatable "Mr. T", Ptes. Bastin and



*Pte White at Greenham Common.*



Jones did exceptionally well in the Army Individual championship by both reaching but losing in the finals.

Before departing to Salisbury Plain for Exercise Second Spring, the Company contested the Nines Cup. Sgt. Traveller and the OC had ensured the team would not be unprepared and our training paid off when both the 'A' and 'B' team won convincingly with Cpl. Chapman being second overall. After returning from Second Spring, preparation began in earnest for the Presentation of New Colours. The Commanding Officer nominated D Company as No. 4 Guard.

All the hard work, rehearsals in the rain and threats were rewarded on the 8th June by beautiful weather and a memorable day for all those who were lucky enough to be present, either on or off the square. Three days later as soon as the marquees were taken down, the Advance Party left for Canada.

The six week training exercise at Camp Wainwright was a much needed change after the concentrated drill for the Colours Presentation. D Company went straight from Edmonton Airport to Cadomin in the Rockies where the Battalion Adventure Training Camp was based. The Company split down into ten expeditions which specialised in either

mountaineering, trekking, abseiling or canoeing and all included some fishing. The Company was fortunate in having some excellent instructors and good weather. All the expeditions tested the soldiers in some capacity and gave everyone a chance to see how remote and beautiful the Rockies are. After a week in Cadomin, the Company moved onto Wainwright to rejoin the Battalion for training.

On returning from Canada, the Company had a well earned period of leave in August and in September left for Warminster and the start of the KAPE tour. Wherever the KAPE team travelled, many serving and ex serving members of the Regiment, came to watch. The highlight of the week was the last night at Salisbury and for many of those participating their first chance to visit the RHQ and Museum.

The Company has seen many changes over the year with CSgt. Watts leaving and Capt. Tomlinson, Capt. Wort and Capt. Wardle all failing to make the grade as Company 21C. We shortly say farewell to WO2 Mehrlich who leaves us to be RSM of the Detachment in Dhekelia during our forthcoming Cyprus Tour and wish him good luck in his new appointment. Finally we welcome Lt. Barlow as Company 21C, WO2 Beet as CSM and CSgt. Luker as the CQMS.



*10 Platoon at Greenham Common.*





*Members of the Catering Pl at Greenham Common.*



*Capt Stanley B Coy at work in Belize and Canada.*





# NOTES FROM THE MESSES

## Officers Mess

The Mess has held many functions during the year, the highlight of which was the luncheon on 8th June. There were 450 guests who included the Honorary Colonel of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and two officers from the Algonquin Regiment, the Battalion's two affiliated Regiments in Canada. In the evening a Ball was held for 260 people. At midnight there was a temporary pause while everybody watched a firework display. This was a particularly poignant moment as it marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the Regiment.

Guests of the Mess during the year have included the C in C UKLF, the GOC SE District, the Brigade Commander of 2 Brigade, the Mayor of Canterbury and the Vice Chancellor of Kent University. A less formal but important function took place on 7th April when Captain Husband RN, the Captain of HMS Vernon officially opened the Vernon Room. Much work had been done to convert a rather drab looking room into a bar with a Naval flavour so that it resembled the inside of an old ship. Captain Husband and his wife and four other members and their wives from HMS Vernon were invited to spend the weekend as guests of the Mess. On the Sunday a Treasure Hunt was organised which involved Mess cars driving around the Kent countryside following various clues. A party on 12th March was hosted by Major Holmes as he bade farewell to the Mess and a buffet lunch on 30th July was held to say farewell to Captain and Mrs. Boileau-Goad and Captain and Mrs. Baynham.

Amongst our visitors in Canada, who were all suitably entertained, were General Trant, Brigadier Lee and Lieut Colonel Bernie Nehring, the present

Commanding Officer of the Lincoln and Wellands, one of our affiliated Canadian Regiments.

There have been many comings and goings in the past year. Majors Stone, Westlake, Titley, Briard, Holmes and Sylvester have all gone to parts various, whilst Major Pook left on promotion. Captain Wort is Adj. 1 WESSEX, Captain Boileau-Goad has joined the Staff, Captain Tomlinson is instructing at RMAS, Captain Wardle is on loan service in the Oman and Captain Baynham has joined the Int. Corps. Amongst the subalterns, Lt. O'Hare is at Lichfield, Lt. White at Crickhowell, Lt. Robin Higgs is learning to fly and Lt. Chris Higgs has returned as a civilian to Jamaica. Those who have taken their places include Majors Parslow, Saunders, Paddison, Lake, Walker, and Steevenson, Captain Cook and Lts. Barlow, Davies, Marsh, Smith and Biddulph.

## WOs and Sgts Mess

With the end of the successful Northern Ireland tour and a well deserved leave period, the Mess social activities were severely hampered by the surprise move to Greenham Common. However Christmas activities got under way with the Christmas Draw and the wives Christmas Dinner on the week ending 10/11 December 1983.

The 1983 Ferozeshah Ball was held at Old Park Barracks, Dover. The principle guest was the Colonel of the Regiment, also invited were members of the Regimental Committee, all past Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Battalion since 1959. The ball was a resounding success.

The pinnacle of the year was the presentation of New Colours. Lunch was taken after the parade on the sports field in the form of a beer garden. During the lunch the RSM was sighted smiling, if this was due to the relief or the Heineken that refreshes the parts that other beers cannot reach, we will never know. On completion of the afternoon activities high tea was taken prior to the Ball in the evening. The Ball itself was an evening to be remembered with over 400 past and present members and their guests attending. The champagne breakfast was well attended. (We all now look forward to the next Ball in 25 years time.)

Shortly after the presentation of New Colours parade, we were back in Camp Wainwright in Canada after an absence of 14 years (there have not been too many changes in 14 years). Due to the training commitments, adventure training and R & R the Mess social life was restricted. The Canadian WOs and Sgts. Mess made us most welcome shortly after arriving. Prior to the departure from Canada the Beating Retreat was held followed by a Bar-b-que.



*Visit of Captains McVeaty and Kennedy of the Algonquin Regiment - Presentation from the Commanding Officer.*



All the friends we had made during the tour were invited.

This period has been the year of farewells. A number of Regimental Dinners have been held to say farewell to the following members: WO2s Dave Calladine, Brian Smith, Steve Cole, Alec Breem, CSgts. Miquel Navarro, Len Pearce, Nick Haines, Tony Pinnell, Sgts. Pete Bungay, Vic Collier, Ray Rose and Henry Clifton. We wish them well and their families all the very best for the future.

We would like to congratulate the following on their promotions: WO2 Dave Beet, CSgts. Dennis Moloney, Paul McLeod, Joe Le Strange, Trevor Gardiner, DMaj. Richard Tadhunter, Sgts. Bill Evans, Kevin Herbert, John Parks, Mark Nicholson, Richard Vincent, Graham Giddy, Gerry Decarteret, Ray Fisher, Martin Trueman and Malcolm Little.

Finally we would like to congratulate WO1 (RSM) Bill Sherman on being selected for the RSM of the 1st Battalion in March 1985, and also WO2 Fedricks on being selected for promotion to WO1 in 1985.

#### **Cpls. Mess**

1984 has been a busy year. On return from the Northern Ireland tour, plans were made for the Christmas Draw which was held in the MT Hanger on 3rd December. This was a very successful evening, most members deciding that ice was not required for their drinks.

The Mess has managed to organise several functions on a regular basis, including a football match against the WOs and Sgts. Mess, the Cpls. coming out convincing winners. Other functions included a Regimental Dinner night to say farewell to LCpl. Barry Shears and to wish him well in his future employment after 22 years service to the 1st Battalion, the Mess thank him for the presentation of a silver plate which is now displayed in the Mess.

The high point of the year was the Presentation of Colours to the Battalion. The Mess held a Ball which took the form of a Disco, a Group and a comedian. The Ball went extremely well and was well supported by Mess members both past and present. Cpl. Rory McIntyre is wondering if he is ever going to get off the Mess committee but still has a long way to go to beat Cpl. Jimmy Wright's tour as PMC. The Mess has played a number of games nights against the WOs and Sgts Mess, the Evenhill public house and the Vimy Lodge RAOB who presented us with two shields. On return from Canada we played the Officers Mess at cricket. We scored 228 for 5 off 25 overs, and then dismissed the Officers Mess for 66 all out.

Finally we would like to congratulate the following on their promotions: Sgts. Tait, Giddy, Vincent, Herbert, Evans, Little, Gibbs, Truman. We now look forward to our six months UN tour in Cyprus and hope all Mess members have a successful 1985.

## **SPORT**

#### **FOOTBALL**

The Battalion football team reformed after the NI tour, had a convincing 5-0 win over 2 Gren Guards in the first round of the Army Football Challenge Cup. The second round saw us again winning convincingly 3-0 against 3 Para. In the third round we were drawn against the Guards Depot. After 90 minutes the score was 1-1, during extra time we were awarded a penalty. Unfortunately this was missed as were many other chances. The Guards Depot came out eventual winners scoring with the last kick of the match.

The Infantry Cup, was the competition that we had set our sights on for the 1983/84 season. Unfortunately this was not to be our year. In the first round we were drawn against last years winners of the competition 2 R Irish. In the first minute of the game 2 R Irish took the lead with a well executed goal. As half time was approaching, a good build up from defence resulted in us leveling the score. The second half proved to be an exciting 45 minutes with the

Battalion winning 3-2. Our second round match was against 3 LI at home. The game was played at a ferocious pace with a gale force wind blowing. The first half honours were even. The Battalion was out played in all departments during the second half and lost a disappointing game 5-0.

Due to our geographical position at Canterbury it is not possible to play in a military league. Nevertheless we have played a considerable amount of matches against both service and civilian clubs, making many friends along the way.

The Battalion football team has lost many of its stalwarts due to retirement and discharges. We have said farewell to the following on discharge - Sgt. Richardson, Cpl. Kirkland, LCpl. Peake and Pte. Smith.

Due to the forthcoming Cyprus tour we have not entered any of the major competitions this year. However we hope to play as many matches as possible at Coy level.





*D Company's successful Nines Cup Team.*

## RUGBY

Despite the pessimism of Capt. "Wally" Wort for Moonrakers Rugby, shown in what was virtually an epitaph printed in last years' Journal, this season has turned out to be one of the best in a very long time. Not only did we win some silver but we also completed an excellent tour in Canada.

We are sad to see Capt. "Wally" Wort depart for a period with 1 Wessex (RV), he was a great asset to the Club and did much to keep it on its' feet. His pessimism was borne of frustration. The current Captain, Coach and author shared his feelings seeing great potential in the Battalion but being unable to exploit it. Enthusiasm and drive are not enough - support is necessary for success.

The Club saw the return of Maj. "Barry" Paddison at the beginning of the season and its' great expectations were not unfounded. He became Rugby Officer, instigated a Committee, and has been instrumental in our success this season. We are also able to rejoice in the return, for the new season, of Maj. "Nigel" Walker who is to continue to play and is already looking in great form. We likewise welcome a

number of new recruits. They are badly needed to replace some of the stalwarts who have recently left on either a permanent or temporary basis. Lt. (Chris) Higgs, Cpl. (Andy) Holmes, LCpl. (Ginge) Dartnell, Pte's (Curly) Haywood and (Brummy) Davis have all left the Army, whilst Lt. (Robin) Higgs has gone to the Army Air Corps and Cpl. Ellison has been posted. We have also lost Lt (Andy) White, Lt. (Harry) O'Hare, CSgt. (Dennis) Moloney, Cpl. (Fozzie) Foster and Cpl. (Dave) Tucker for up to two years. We look forward to the return of the latter group, thank them all for their efforts on and off the field and wish them luck for the future.

On the field we won the SE District Seven - aside Championships, reached the Quarter Finals of both the fifteen - a - side SE Dist. Cup and the seven - a - side "Courage" Army Finals, and had an excellent four match tour in Canada. Ten friendly games were played in England, three lost and seven won, the highlights being a hard fought 14 - 6 win against "Foxhounds" IJLB at the beginning of the season, an epic match against Kent University winning 22 - 21 and an emphatic 18 - 0 win against Depot Regt. RE.





*Stevens "A" Team. Winners SE District Championship.*

## BOXING

The Inter Company Competition did not take place at the end of 1983 so it left the Boxing Team with no new talent of note. It was decided that the Novice Team which had boxed so well over the last three years should be upgraded to Intermediate. Training commenced in early November, and with Christmas leave there was just enough time to reach peak fitness before the first contest on the 1st February against the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. The Poachers were very confident since they had the same team that reached the Army Final in 1983. With a home venue and the Battalion in fine voice the night was ours and we ran out winners by eight bouts to one.

The UK Final was against the 2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets at Tidworth. The team were accommodated with the 1st Battalion the Gloucester Regiment at Tidworth. The Final lived up to its billing and our superior fitness and aggression gave us an eight to one victory over strong opposition. Notable bouts were LCpl. Paul Tollafeld who had his seventeenth win for the Bn. Team, LCpl. Bob Lynch who ran rings around his opponent, and Pte. Paul Bryan who had a hard fight against Lt. Thompson. Pte. Ezra Ledgister had the only KO of the night.

The Team were once again in the Army Final, but this time in a new class, against the 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment who had won the BAOR side of the competition. After an exciting evening, with the Battalion Team well supported by a strong contingent from Canterbury, we lost by six bouts to three.

Although the team had finished its competition season, individuals were entered for the Army Individual Intermediate Championships. Notable successes were: Pte. Jones at Bantamweight and Pte. Bastin at Lightweight, both lost in the final. Pte.

Bryan represented the Army against the Navy in the team match and won his bout enabling the Army to win the Inter Services Championship for the first time in seven years.

## Results

2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment - UK Semi Final won eight bouts to one.

2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets - UK Final won eight bouts to one.

1st Battalion Kings Regiment - Army Final lost six bouts to three.

### 2 R ANGLIAN

LCpl. Tollafeld  
Pte. Worrall  
Pte. Bastin  
Pte. Tindill  
LCpl. Lynch  
Pte. Bryan  
LCpl. Gayle  
Pte. Coombs  
Pte. McGauley  
Pte. Allen

### 2 RGJ

LCpl. Tollafeld  
Pte. Worrall  
Pte. Bastin  
Pte. Tindill  
LCpl. Lynch  
Pte. Coombs  
LCpl. Gayle  
Pte. Ledgister  
Pte. McGauley  
Pte. Allen

### 1 KINGS

Pte. Worrall  
LCpl. Tollafeld  
Pte. Bastin  
Pte. Tindill  
Pte. McGauley  
LCpl. Lynch  
LCpl. Gayle  
Pte. Ledgister  
Pte. Allen  
Pte. Coombs



*Pte Bryan/WO2 Merhlich.*





*UKLF Winners with The Cup.*



*LCpl Lynch in action.*



*LCpl Gayle in action.*





**BN JUDO SQUAD 1984 BRONZE MEDALISTS  
UKLF FINALS**

*Back row L. to R: Pte Stock, Pte Dick, LCpl Hamilton, Pte Smith. Front Row L. to R: LCpl Flay, Pte Ball, Pte Whitehurst.*

## **JUDO**

The BN JUDO Team has had little time to train this year but managed to enter the 1984 UKLF Championships at Bulford. After last years success in the Army Championships it was hoped that the team could maintain the previous high standard. This years team consisted of LCpls' Hamilton and Flay, Ptes' Stock, Dick, Smith, Ball, and Whitehurst.

The Championships were split in two due to the small entry and this enabled our reserves to fight against the Scots Guards and 9 Ordnance Coy in the morning.

The Afternoon saw the UKLF Finals but unfortunately it did not go as we had hoped. The BN Team was defeated 4-1 by Depot Para who went on to take 1st place beating last years winner Depot RA. We ended up taking 3rd place after a hard battle against Depot RA which we lost 3-2. The BN Team

was again congratulated on its aggression during fights and was unlucky not to gain a Silver Medal.

The Battalion still has a good grounding in the Novice section and has the capability to produce some medal winners in the next few years.

## **SMALLBORE CLUB**

The 1983/84 season started off slowly with the Members scattered across the World on operational commitments preventing us from entering the Winter League. Shooting however started in earnest during January 1984 with the team getting rid of the cobwebs in their barrels. Due to postings the team suffered the loss of Major A. Briard who is now at the School of Infantry with Major (QM) J.H. Peters MBE and to our cost shooting well. Also Major W.V. Holmes departed but WO2 N. Minty and WO2 D. Morgan have returned. The following members shot throughout the season representing Army 'A' and 'B' Teams against Counties; Capt. Freelove, WO2 Minty, LCpl. Dennison, Cpl. Sutherland, Sgt. Rose, Pte. Kitchener, Pte. Speck and Capt. Beale BEM (yes the Paymaster).

Results were varied. We were second in the Unit Team Smallbore Target Rifle Championship, winners South East District and second in the NSRA Regular Army Match. In the Regular Army Individual Capt Freelove was 5th, LCpl. Dennison 6th and LCpl. Gibbs 10th.

Future events will be shooting for the 'Stag' Trophy kindly presented to the Battalion by Major (Retd) P. Martin MBE. All our thanks to Capt. Beale BEM for his support in the umpiring and signing so many cards throughout the season, a thankless task but he had a shoot in the end.

Finally a fond farewell to Sgt. Rose who has in the past given so much of his time and support to the team. We all wish him every success in civilian life, shooters never die they only fade away.



# THERE WAS AN OLD MAN IN PERU....

by  
Lt. Col. C. Tremellen

Sometimes it does pay to volunteer! I did early in 1983 and so spent the summer months in Peru in charge of a small group of soldiers administering a 60 strong archaeological expedition. Why soldiers? Well, the expedition was excavating Inca sites in a remote valley high in the Andes and our expertise was needed to run the base camp. We were living amongst the poor but colourful Indians at 7,500 feet, surrounded by the most spectacular scenery with huge mountains and rivers rushing along to join the Amazon. It was also an adventurous training exercise which, for me, included a very unconventional incident...

One unusually drizzly Saturday morning I had been spud bashing and baking bread in camp when Captain Lyn Bruce our QA nurse, announced that a pregnant "Campesino" living way up the valley was in labour and the father had come for help. Lyn was looking for someone to go with her, so I offered. Shortly after, at 12.30, we set off at a cracking pace led by the young man. We climbed up over the steep saddle and along the trail which followed the Cusi Chaca river. The Valley climbed steadily with the mountains on either side reaching up to 15,000 feet and towering almost vertically above us. The higher peaks had permanent glaciers on them. The narrow boulder-strewn track ahead cut a scar across the side of the mountain. After 4 miles hard walking, an hour later, we arrived puffing and wet at the shack. Inside several women were grouped around the 16 year-old girl who had by then been in labour over 24 hours. As a father of 3 even I could see that we were nevertheless in for a long wait.

While Lyn examined the mother I sat near the open door on an excruciatingly hard bench, in a howling draught, and took stock of my surroundings. The

house was made of mud bricks with a galvanised iron roof - up-market from the normal thatching - and the room was some 15 feet by 10. The floor was bare earth and the remnants of a fire smouldered in one corner. There was no light and no window and the only recognisable piece of furniture was the bed on which the girl was now cradled in her husband's arms. There were some crude platforms which served for a second bed and storage area and some flimsy shelves balancing on wooden stakes driven into the walls. A variety of bits of plastic sheeting were pinned to the rafters and a line supported a collection of mostly home-spun garments. The prized possessions were clearly the religious picture which formed the centrepiece of a sort of shrine on one wall and an ancient sewing machine.

Looking out through the door I could see the clouds rolling up and down the mountainside. Hens and a fine cockrel came within my view followed by pigs and a boar which spent a full minute adding his contributions to the pools of water just outside. A small boy appeared and followed suit and next two donkeys and a sad looking shaggy dog with impossibly matted coat walked past. A large brown long-tailed sheep was brought and tethered just out of sight. Minutes later Lyn, returning from next door with a pan of warm but mud coloured water, said the sheep was already killed and being skinned. I walked to the other house to investigate and found a man squatting in the middle of a smoke-filled room surrounded by scurrying guinea-pigs and watched by a toddler, deftly skinning the sheep. The celebratory feast was being prepared.

As dusk approached Lyn decided to return to camp for some instruments to assist the mother. We arrived



*Lt. Col. Tremellen by Inca Terrace Wall.*



*The Cusichaca Valley at 11,000 feet.*





*Inca ruins of Patallacta at start of Cusichaca Valley  
7,500 feet.*

back with the dark, had a quick a quick meal and set off once more. It was pitch black now. Wet and stiff we climbed the saddle with little enthusiasm and slipped and stumbled along the track which the rain had turned into a miniature stream. The going was slow and it was nearly two hours later when we wearily reached the house. The room was now lit by a single home-made paraffin lamp. The exhausted father still supported his wife who was fully clothed and remained so throughout and jumped off the bed with each contraction. There were now eight of us in the room and a continual coming and going - the goings invariably accompanied by a request to use my torch.

Soon after midnight the squatting mother, surrounded by the entire roomful, except me, and still supported by the husband, gave birth to a boy.

Those first cries were greeted with relief and excitement. According to custom the baby lay, with placenta still attached, on a filthy sheepskin on the draughty floor while the women tended to the mother. Half an hour later it was the baby's turn and the local medicine man made to cut the cord with a broken piece of pottery until Lyn persuaded him to use her scissors, but old thread was taken to tie the end. The babe was then handed to the "senior" woman who washed him so vigorously I thought his head would fall off. Next he was dressed and bound tightly in layer after layer until he was quite rigid like a little "mummy". Then there was elaborate play of sewing up his mouth, the significance of which eluded me. At last, at 1.30, he was laid beside the girl and we could relax. We were invited to stay the night but in such uncomfortable surroundings declined their hospitality and set off back to camp. The rain was now tipping down and as we groped along the almost unrecognisable track we pondered the wisdom of our decision. Soon both our torches were reduced to a mere glow. My new batteries had been drained by all the use during the evening. Using only one torch at a time we crept along, eyes straining to pick out the trail and wary of the precipitous drop to the river on our left. We tripped, stumbled and missed our path several times and I debated whether to just shelter under a rock until dawn. Eventually we reached the saddle and descended to more familiar countryside but it was nearly 4.00 am when we slithered exhausted down the steep slope and into camp.

It had been an extraordinary, unforgettable experience and was certainly an adventure, albeit of dubious training value!

## THE FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE

As nearly everyone knows, the Executive has practically nothing to do except to decide what has to be done, to tell someone to do it, to listen to the reasons why it should not be done, why it should be done by someone else, or why it should be done in a different way; to follow up to see if the thing has been done, to discover that it has not, to enquire why, to listen to excuses from the person who should have done it, to follow up again to see if the thing has been done, only to discover that it has been done incorrectly, to point out how it should have been done, to conclude that as long as it has been done, it may as well be left as it is; to wonder if it is not time to

get rid of the person who cannot do a thing right; to reflect that he probably has a wife and a large family, and that certainly his relief would be as bad if not considerably worse; to consider how much simpler and better the thing would have been done if one had done it oneself in the first place; to reflect sadly that one could have done it oneself correctly in twenty minutes, and as things turned out, one has to spend two days to find out why it has taken three weeks for someone else to do it incorrectly.

**Source Unknown.**



# THE 1ST WILTSHIRE REGT. IN FRANCE, 1916-17

by A.J.S. White CMG.OBE.

I joined the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, on the Somme in September 1916. The battle was far from over but two weeks after I arrived the battalion, which had had a long spell in the front line, was withdrawn to "rest" in a village, Gezaincourt, far behind the fighting.

The 1st Wiltshires had covered themselves with glory during the last week of August by successful attacks in the very tough Thiepval area, culminating in the repulse of the crack German corps, the Prussian Guard. The Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, said he wished to visit the battalion to congratulate them all in person.

We lined the main street of the village and I shall always remember how moved I was by the sight of that very handsome man, Sir Douglas, riding a fine charger and followed by his escort of a squadron of Lancers. Standing in front of my No 12 platoon, I was the first officer he came to. I can scarcely have looked a veteran for only in the previous year I had still been a schoolboy, but the great man stopped opposite me, bent down from his saddle and enquired how long I had been with the battalion. When I gave the disappointing reply - "Three weeks Sir", he said "Well you are very fortunate to join such a fine battalion", shook my hand and rode on.

The 1st Wiltshires, who had seen constant fighting since 1914, (their Divisional General was called "Butcher" Bainbridge because he was said to be always ready to volunteer his battalions for any dangerous action) was a much-bemedalled unit. S S Ogilvie, the acting Lieutenant Colonel, had a DSO and Bar - and a second Bar later. A barrister with a strong and lively personality and a fine leader, he had enlisted as a private at Devizes in 1914 and rose to Brigadier by the end of the war. He was a recognised authority on trench warfare and the author of one or two official pamphlets on the subject.

The Battalion's Medical Officer throughout the war, Glyn Hughes, who had been a brilliant prize-winning medical student, had a DSO and Bar and MC. He earned a second Bar to his DSO in World War II as DMS, Guards Armoured Division and rose to be Brigadier. In 1945 he was the first Englishman to enter Belsen Camp after the German retreat. In the 1960s he was the subject of a "This is Your Life" programme on television based mainly on his very fine war record, but also on his fame as a rugby footballer. (He later became President of the Barbarian and the Blackheath Clubs). Colonel Hayward VC contributed to the television programme and we saw (and heard) the Wiltshire

Regt. band playing the regimental march past on the barrack square at Devizes in his honour.

My company commander, 'Podge' Russell, had won a DSO in his early 20s. The other company commanders, Macklin (son of the Mayor of Salisbury), Browne (son of the Vicar of Highworth) and Tayler each had a MC. Several of the more senior subalterns - Hayward, Sainsbury (killed at Messines), Hill and others had MCs.

"Tom" Hayward needs special mention. He had a MC and Bar, and was to win one of the best VCs of the war in the German offensive of March 1918. He was severely wounded in the head but survived thanks to his great strength and stamina. He was well enough to be our Adjutant in Dublin in 1919 and make a lot of runs for the battalion in cricket matches in Phoenix Park. Many years later I met him at the Hurlingham Club where he was Games Manager.

Our Company Sergeant-Major, George Filor, had a DCM and later a MC. He was very brave and had gentle manners and we all had a great regard for him, and when he was commissioned in November 1916 he was much welcomed as an officer in our Company Mess. He was old enough to be my father and took me under his wing. I owe him much. After the war he held a post with the Mere District Council, of which my father was Chairman, but by that time I was away in the Indian Civil Service. Many "Other Ranks" had been decorated. My batman, Mullings (of Edington), had won a DCM, a rare decoration for a private, for saving an officer's life. We had a very fine lot of men, virtually all of them Wiltshiremen. There had of course been very heavy casualties in all the fighting and the battalion had had to be constantly replenished with large drafts from the UK. But morale was always high.

We soon moved northwards by train to Bailleul and took over a line of trenches near Armentieres in front of Ploegsteert Wood, which we were to occupy for the winter. It was very low-lying land, and we suffered more from the water and mud than from the Germans. The trenches were shallow in some places and my height of 6ft 4 was a handicap.

One visitor we had during this period was Lord Amptill, brother of the Duke of Bedford and recently Governor of Bombay, who wanted to know what life in the trenches was like. He was eager to join in everything and I was surprised to see him one morning, when I was taking my platoon in PT behind the line, standing at the back, a tall, bearded, distinguished-looking figure, waving his arms and legs in time with the rest. When we went up to the



trenches we had to restrain him from climbing out of the trench in broad daylight to see what "No Man's Land" was like. This was at a time when it was reckoned that if you showed your hand above the level of the trench it was liable to have a sniper's bullet through it. In fact we lost two officers that winter killed from exposing themselves unnecessarily to snipers - Lance Usher, son of the Rector of West Knoyle, who was at school with me, and Skyrn whom I had known as a bank clerk in Gillingham. I was present at their burials in "Plugstreet" Wood.

I managed to get back from the trenches to Bailleul on 16th January to attend an Old Marlburian Dinner. I was surprised to find that in the chair at this dinner was our General, "Butcher" Bainbridge. He was perhaps thought better of by the Army than by us for after the Armistice, when most wartime Generals were retiring or reverting to lower posts, he was appointed to command the 1st Division at Aldershot.

Once out at rest I played for the battalion at rugby. Our side included Ogilvie, a class rugby player who at 33 was still in his prime; the redoubtable Glyn Hughes; Tom Hayward who had been a leading forward for Natal against England and later for Middlesex; and Dick Tayler who had captained Sherborne.

In February a daring daylight raid on the German trenches was carried out by contingents from the Wiltshires and Cheshires, supported by the whole of the Corps Artillery. The Wiltshires had about 30 casualties on the way back but the raid was considered a success. George Filor and G.K. Wait were awarded MCs for their part in it and six Military Medals for gallantry were awarded to Wiltshire "other ranks".

By the spring I was head of the list of those due for home leave, but I never got it, for all leave was stopped for the summer offensives and I was invalided home later in the summer.

Early in June the 1st Wiltshires, though still in the 25th Division, had been placed in the 2nd Anzac Corps ready for the offensive against the Messines Ridge. Several of us officers had been left in rear because not all were needed. But on 5th June the battalion sent for two officers, N.G.B. King and myself, to replace casualties. So we set off for the line accompanied by our batmen - or "runners" as they were called in battle. Within 48 hours I was to be the only survivor of the four.

As we approached the front line, walking safely on the surface (not in a communications trench) because it was dark, we passed a dump of rockets, Verey lights and flares just as it was hit by a stray shell. There was a great explosion and then a succession of rockets and Verey lights shooting into the sky - in fact a magnificent fireworks display.

It exposed us to a brilliant light and for a long time we flattened ourselves on the ground for we were

within easy range of German guns if not their rifles. We came to no harm because the Germans could not have been expecting a target floodlit for them in this way. But I believe I was referred to sometimes later on as the officer who was blown up in a rocket dump.

On 7th June 1917, as we waited before dawn to go over the top and were enjoying a larger than usual rum ration, we were bombarded by tear gas shells. We put on our gas masks but not before our eyes were smarting and tears were streaming down our cheeks.

However, the effect did not last long. At 3.10 a.m., the 19 mines which had been laid under the ridge during the past 2 years exploded. Lloyd-George has said that the noise awakened him in Surrey. To us, a few hundred yards from some of them, their effect was appalling for the whole ground under us seemed to be giving way. (My hearing has never entirely recovered). But at 3.30 a.m. we climbed out of our trenches and advanced behind a "creeping barrage" of shells laid down by 2000 guns on a 10 mile front. It was a glorious June day and by 12 noon we had for once achieved all our objectives, having advanced two miles.

We were considered to have got off lightly enough to be left in the new line for 6 days in all. But we were occupying German reserve trenches on the far side of the ridge and being thus an easy target for the German gunners, we had to endure severe shelling. My runner Mullings was mortally wounded near me by a frightful shell wound. A sad business indeed for he was a very brave man and a very good servant.

I still have the tunic which I wore during this battle - a private's tunic because we had been ordered to discard our officer tunics in the belief that they were conspicuous and had led to the unduly high proportion of officer casualties incurred in previous offensives.

During this 6-day Battle of Messines, which was accounted a complete success, the 1st Wiltshires took 140 prisoners and had 148 casualties. Though this must have meant a loss of say 20% of our strength, it was considered a small number compared with the casualties suffered in other offensives in France.

The 1st Wiltshires continued their fine record in France until the Armistice, including particularly their magnificent resistance to the powerful German offensive of March 1918. It was in this battle that Lt. Col. Ogilvie won a rare second bar to his DSO for outstanding gallantry and leadership and Capt. Hayward won his VC for having "Displayed almost superhuman powers of endurance and consistent courage of the rarest nature."

Even at the very end the 1st Wiltshires were engaged in some heavy fighting and in the last month of the war they added to the long list of awards for gallantry, six MCs, four DCMs and nine MMs.

It may be felt that my descriptions above, referring so much to decorations for gallantry, give a



suggestion of glamour that could not have existed amid the shocking casualties and the terrible conditions which we had to endure in the trenches. It is true of course, that there was much grouching among the men in terms of very foul language and blasphemy which would be hardly credible today. But there was a more cheerful side overshadowed though it was by all the unpleasantnesses. We all appreciated the comradeship of a unit and the joy of "rest" periods by their contrast to the unpleasant periods in the trenches. There was also a fine determination to remain cheerful, reflected for instance in the way that the men sang songs on the march even when marching to the trenches. In one of my letters home (all of which have been preserved) I wrote that the men's

letters, which we officers had to censor, were very coarse and very cheerful.

It is sometimes suggested that the men must have felt bitter at what they had to put up with especially at the way in which they were constantly thrown into offensives which seemed to have such little chance of success. But we were an unquestioning generation and inclined to accept all these events as inevitable.

The conditions in France led us to have close personal relations with our men and there was much talk with them about all sorts of things. My recollection is that bitterness was very rare and that the men put the blame for their plight not on the British politicians and generals but on the Kaiser as being the principal culprit of the war.

## DEPOT THE PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION LICHFIELD

The Regiment is well represented at the Depot. Sgt. Wilmot, Cpl. Stevens and Cpl. Watson work with regular recruits in A Company and Lt. Barlow, Cpl. Burgess, Cpl. Shinnick and Cpl. Rogers in B Company. The TA Training Team is blistered onto B Company and is commanded by Lt. O'Hare. Cpl. Leonard helps out with the TA fitness programme. HQ Company has many regimental personnel within its ranks. WO2 Flay has joined as RQMS and quickly became a member of the adjacent golf club. CSgt. Lawrence has recently handed over the G1198 to CSgt. Watts. The MT remains a regimental stronghold, with Sgt. Chitty, aided by Pte. Smart, keeping the vehicles parked smartly on the MT square. Cpl. Cartwright has joined the Team as the Divisional Brigadier's driver.

The last year saw the destruction of the old Divisional Headquarters building with a new accommodation block rising out of the rubble. The Headquarters has now moved to a modern bungalow

affair which appeared behind the trees in a distant corner of the Barracks. Brigadier Turner is the new Divisional Brigadier and joins Major Cornwell in the Headquarters. Major Cornwell has managed to play in virtually every sports team the Depot has fielded and will be leaving in January for a tour with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in Berlin.

We sadly bid farewell to many staff this year. Lt. Barlow returns to the 1st Battalion having been fully qualified as an ambulance driver. CSgt. Lawrence also moves to Canterbury to rest his back in the accommodation store. Sgt. Wilmot has applied to transfer to MCTC Colchester as a porridge taster and looks forward to welcoming any visitors from the Regiment. Cpl. Leonard returns to the "front line" after being a weekend soldier for the last year with the TA Training Team. Cpl. Shinnick leaves the Army in April to settle in Staffordshire. CSgt. Purnell left earlier in the year and has moved to Swindon.

## DEPOT THE PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION CRICKHOWELL

Depot Crickhowell is situated at Cwrty-Gollen, 5 miles west of Abergavenny, known as the "Gateway to Wales". The Camp itself is close to some of the best training areas in Britain and provides a unique stepping stone for Adventure Training pursuits.

The training of a Junior Soldier at Crickhowell works on a syllabus of 42 weeks so any young man who arrives at the Depot can expect to stay virtually a full year before Passing Out. This is quite an occasion as the Junior CSM, the Best Junior Soldier of the

Intake, has the privilege of taking over the Parade after the Permanent Staff have left the square. On the last Passing Out Parade in August 1984, Junior CSM Plank who is now with the 1st Battalion led B Company off Parade. Sadly the Depot is due to close down in 1986 as part of the rationalisation of the Individual Training Organisation. All Junior Soldiers joining Regiments of the Prince of Wales's Division will be trained at Shorncliffe in Kent, the home of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion.



The "Takeover Bid" by the Regiment at the Depot continues with good representation in all departments. Major John Silvester leads the team and commands B Company. Captain Steven Bowkett is presently in the Adjutant's chair and is due to move to sunny Catterick in 1985. The third member in the Officers' Mess is Lt. Andy White who is a Platoon Commander in A Company. WO1 (RSM) Hobbs will hand over as Regimental Sergeant Major in January and all here wish him well on being commissioned into the Regiment.

The Regiment's personnel play an important role in the sporting and activities side of Depot life. Major John Silvester is an active golfer and squash and hockey player. He coaches the juniors in his Company in squash every Thursday during the Hobbies periods. Captain Steven Bowkett is the Depot Orienteering Officer and also runs the Motor Mechanics Hobby. The principal purpose of both activities seems to be to wreck perfectly roadworthy landrovers! Lt. Andy White is the Depot Football Officer and also enjoys the occasional game of rugby. WO1 Alan Hobbs could be classed as an all round sportsman adding a little maturity to any game; he represents the Depot at golf and cricket and showed his golfing prowess by winning the Regimental Open Golf Meeting in 1984. Cpl. Foster plays for the Depot rugby side, which at the time of writing is waiting to play the semi-final of the Army Minor Units Cup.

Outdoor pursuits are not confined to sport. External Leadership (Adventure Training to the uninitiated) has a high priority. The Juniors, as well as some of the permanent staff are looking forward to a skiing trip to Andorra where each Platoon will spend a full week skiing; Sgt. Mellers and LCpl. Roberts both work in the External Leadership Wing and will be busy instructing the Juniors on how to ski in February and March next year. After all the stories about EX SNOW QUEEN we expect great things from them both on the pistes of Andorra.

Most of the other members of the Regiment on the Permanent Staff can be found in the Corporals' Mess. Corporals Foster, Hignett, Wolfendon and Callcutt, the latter being in the Drums Platoon are all Section Commanders in either A or B Company. Cpl. Callcutt travels widely in Wales demonstrating his skills on the bugle. Cpl. Edgar is in the Gym but the last time he was seen he was looking very warlike, helping the last Drums Platoon on their final exercise. Last but not least Pte. Hodge, who arrived at the Depot in July has taken over as the Commanding Officer's driver.

September saw visits from the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General D.T. Crabtree CB and also the Divisional Brigadier, Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE. Both were entertained to dinner in the Officers Mess.

## THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

**Secretary: Major R.F. Groves**

In Branches much the same scale of activity continues, thanks to Branch Secretaries and their close supporters. Most Branches meet regularly, but put their main effort into one large party each year. The main Association event of the year is the Annual Reunion; this year's will be held in September. Branch Secretaries are:  
Bristol: Mr. D. Briggs, 61 Shaldon Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9NN  
Exeter: Mr. J.C. Dudman, 5 Lower Kings Avenue, Exeter EX4 6JT

Reading: Mr. D.P. Stanton, Glenesk, Fifield Road, Bray, Maidenhead SL6 2DU  
Salisbury: Mr. J.W. Dunford, Brambles, Vicarage Road, Redlynch, Salisbury  
Trowbridge: Mr. D.C. Le Quelenec, 108 Merlin Way, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol  
Devizes: Mr. J.H. Normington, 61 Eastleigh Road, Devizes



## THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Colonel H. du Pré Finch retired as President in 1983 to the great regret of all members and with many expressions of gratitude for his devoted service and splendid example. He was succeeded for a tragically brief period by the late Lieutenant-Colonel C.L. Speers whose untimely death last summer again left the office vacant. His obituary appears elsewhere in this journal. The Trustees have now asked Colonel J.L.R. Metcalf to become President and he has accepted.

The principal event of the year has been an incredible second battle for the Cenotaph at Brock. The first battle, fought in 1977, resulted in a sort of victory for us. It was not as complete as most people think but at least it resulted in the M.O.D. recognizing its responsibility, first accepted in 1921, for the maintenance of the Cenotaph and the surrounding lawn, all of which, together with the Keep and the Barrack gate became "listed". The Regimental Trustees, at their next meeting, decided that this arrangement should be examined every year to make sure that all was well. It soon appeared that all was not well and that after one cleaning nothing much else was going to be done. After many queries

and complaints by the Secretary a brief letter arrived from somewhere low down in the Property Services Agency saying that they had handed our Cenotaph over to the T.A. It is practically impossible to put bureaucratic wheels into reverse but after a year's effort we achieved it and there was new turf and clean masonry in time for last year's reunion. Best of all less geriatric eyes and minds than ours are now keeping watch and ward over what is aesthetically, sentimentally and intrinsically the Regiment's most important possession.

Scarcely had we recovered from this encounter when it was discovered, rather to our embarrassment, that the important Tofrek memorial in St. Mary's Church needed £900 spent on it. There was no noticeable rush from other bodies to foot the bill and in any case there is a certain fierce, proud satisfaction in doing it ourselves although we have no funds. The President has launched an appeal the response to which will surely be sufficient. By the time this appears in print the work will have been done but that need not stop anyone who has not done so sending a donation either to Major Cockraft or to the Secretary of the O.C.A. at Brock.

## THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

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

Although the main event of the OCA year is its Annual Reunion, held at Devizes (1/2 June this year), there are happily still several Branches which meet regularly and organise a party from time to time: Aldershot (re-formed last year), Calne, Devizes (now sharing the same hospitable TA Centre roof with the newly formed Branch of the DERR Association, which many of them have joined), London, Marlborough, Salisbury, Swindon, Warminster and the 5th Battalion. And to these, to complete the

picture, we should mention the flourishing Vly Club for old 4th Battalion Members - not formally linked to the OCA, but very much part of the family, as one would expect. There is quite a lot of activity, mostly, but not invariably, conducted at a steady pace in keeping with the general age level. It is rumoured that Rock and Roll is returning, and that would be a fine thing, but it is a reasonably safe bet that it will not figure in the Reunion programme next year.



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

OC: Major G.D. McMeeken

November marches inexorably on and the days draw in, whilst all over the world Company 21C's and Adjutants put pen to paper. The aim of this annual exercise is to produce journal notes, to inform all readers exactly what the unit has been doing over the past 12 months that hopefully makes the article worth reading.

1 Wessex continues from strength to strength and particularly HQ Company based in Devizes. Whilst it is fair to say that company headquarters still inhabits the old Wiltshire Regiment depot the specialist platoons are spread far and wide. The newly formed Recce Platoon with their lovingly tended CVR(W) FOX is located in Cheltenham. The Anti Tank Platoon with 6 MILAN firing posts share a TA Centre with the Assault Pioneer Platoon and A Coy in Gloucester. The SF Platoon with LCpl. Gray (Ex 1 DERR) are to be found in Swindon and the Mortar Platoon with CSgt. Jock Samson is based in Andover.

The Battalion has had another busy year with the training cycle returning to a major FTX abroad which this year was part of Exercise LIONHEART. The Battalion deployed 595 personnel to Denmark as part of UKMF(L) to participate in Exercise BOLD GANNET.

The beginning of the year saw CSgt. 'Martin' Wright being awarded the BEM in the new years honours for his sterling service to the Army both as a member of the RMP and as the NRPS (Non Regular Permanent Staff) Orderly Room CSgt.

The Signal Platoon confirmed their expertise at line laying by becoming the top TA team in the 1 Inf Bde line laying competition and being second overall to a team of 'professionals' from 1 Glosters. The platoon was ably helped by the expertise of Sgt. Pete Tuckwell and LCpl. Robert Palfrey, both ex-members of 1 DERR.

The first half of the year was spent in preparation for the Bn/District SAAM followed by the Bisley TASAAM during which Pte. Bull was placed first in both the Class B Rifle and the Standing Rifle. The company then turned its efforts to preparing for Exercise BOLD GANNET (a subsidiary of Exercise LIONHEART). The initial build up included a CPX (Exercise NORFOLK LURCHER) in Norfolk during which Battalion Headquarters shook out its cobwebs and dusted off Bde SOPs as well as trying to cope with the new voice procedure, in particular BATCO. Then closer to home we took part in Exercise GANNET ANTICIPATION, on Salisbury Plain, a Bde FTX which 1 Wessex used a CPX.

After weeks of packing, briefing and preparation the Battalion deployed on Exercise BOLD GANNET to Denmark involving 35,000 troops; 12,500 of them British and nearly 4,000 from the TA. The Battalion road party comprising of 96 vehicles left in 3 phases. The pre-advance, consisting of the QM in charge of 6 vehicles, travelled by RCT LSL from Marchwood to forestall the impending dock strike, which fortunately did not affect the move. The advance party and main body then travelled by luxurious DFDs vessels to Esbjerg in Jutland and by road to Finderup training area near Viborg. Meanwhile the remainder of the Battalion (424 PAX) moved to RAF aircraft in the comparative luxury of VC10's, to the Danish airforce base at Billund.

The Battalion then spent two days work-up training on Finderup training area before crossing the Great Belt in preparation for the exercise. The exercise itself started with C Coy (Dorchester) defending a reserve bridge demolition over which the covering force of 16/5 L would withdraw. Meanwhile A Coy had been detached to 1 Glosters and D Coy to the 16/5 L as part of the covering force. B and E Coy were frantically digging in to conform to commander UKLF's defensive plan and for the next 3 days the Battalion was occupied with preparing a defensive position interspersed with patrolling against an unorthodox enemy, consisting of Danish conscripts, during which time HQ Coy was busy supplying the Battalion with its required combat supplies.



*Pte Bull receiving the prize for the champion shot from Maj Gen B.M. Lane (GOC SWDIST), during the SWDIST SAAM.*



The main defensive battle took the usual course of NATO land battles and resulted in a brigade counter attack to push the 'Orange' forces back. The finale of the whole two weeks was a full 24 hours R + R spent mostly in Copenhagen.

An uneventful recovery ensued and everybody was back in their homes by the small hours of Monday morning, ready to forget that they had been 'professionals' for 2 weeks and happy once again to be civvies until next year.

Among other events the Recce Platoon achieved a B grading in their first annual field firing with the RAC at Lulworth. Much credit must be given to the two PSI's of the Platoon, who spent almost every weekend producing an accomplished recce platoon from an infantry platoon all within the space of one year.

Members of DERR serving in the Battalion include Captain Jon Wort who took over from Captain Jimmy Durant as Adjutant in time to move the Battalion to Denmark. Captain Bill Stafford continues as Quartermaster, WO2 (RSM) Pete Mullings as RSM must be congratulated on being

selected for a commission. Sgt. Dennis Watts has managed to raise a battalion rally team, as well as coping with 106 prime moves as MT PSI. CSgt. Jock Samson is soon to leave the Mortar Platoon to return to the 1st Battalion. WO2 Dave Fedrick receives a well deserved promotion and goes as Garrison RSM to Hong Kong. CSgt. Ginger Coleman is still serving as the 'Q' PSI to E Coy based in Exeter under the guiding hand of Captain Jack Barrow MBE who is the PSAO (Permanent Staff Admin. Officer). Sgt. Terry Evans has returned to the 1st Battalion and we look forward to welcoming Sgt. Kevin Batty to our ranks in the New Year.

Whilst it can be rightly claimed that old soldiers never die, they only fade away; the same cannot be said of CSgt. Mitch Mortimer who has stormed into the post of COMS HQ Coy and is trying to adapt the TA to his humour and discipline.

LCpl. Legg is in the process of joining and if anyone else from 1 DERR settling in the West Country would care to join we have almost as many ex members of the Battalion as the Regimental Association, and all are welcome.

## THE ARMY CADET FORCE IN BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE

The Army Cadet Force is a voluntary youth organisation, sponsored by the Army which participates in both military and community activities. It is not part of the Army, has no emergency or mobilisation role and membership implies no obligation to join the Services. The purpose of the ACF is to develop in its members the qualities of good citizenship and the "Spirit of Service" to Queen and Country. It seeks to achieve this purpose by:

- providing adventurous and challenging activities designed to develop powers of leadership and qualities of character valuable to civilian and soldier alike,
- stimulating an interest in the Army, its achievements and skills and its part in the national life,
- giving encouragement and training to those considering a career in the Regular Army or service in the TA.

The ACF is open to boys over 13 up to the age of 18 yrs 9 months. There is no commitment how long a Cadet stays but the training and other activities are designed to be progressive and full value is only obtained by staying 3 to 4 years. The enrolment of girls is under consideration but at present is limited to

certain special detachments on a trial basis. The Cadet is issued with the basic items of modern military clothing and equipment free of charge and includes combat trousers and the heavy wool pullover.

The Staff of the ACF is made up of Officers and Adult Instructors who are all volunteers. The officers are required to submit themselves to a selection procedure in order to be commissioned in the TAVR.

In Berkshire and Wiltshire both the County ACFs have Platoon Detachments affiliated to the Regiment. Berkshire is organised into three areas with a total of 15 Detachments of which 8 are badged DERR. Wiltshire ACF is organised on a four Company basis with a total of 25 Detachments of which 24 are badged DERR. The Regimental Information Team reinforces the Regimental connection with frequent visits to the Detachments in both Counties, particularly during the winter months to assist with training and give interest talks. It also attends the Summer Training Camp whenever possible.

During 1984 the Berkshire ACF held their Summer Camp on the Isle of Man and, blessed with fine weather, the Cadets were able to participate in water ski-ing, swimming, surfboarding, canoeing,





*Abseiling at Summer Camp.*

orienteering, mountain trekking, abseiling and a two day military exercise. Wiltshire ACF went to Penhale in Cornwall and also enjoyed fine weather. Being by the sea they were also able to take full advantage of the swimming facilities although other water activities had to be curtailed because of the dangerous sea currents in the area and the shortage of water in the reservoirs. However maximum use was made of the 30m Range, Assault Course and the excellent local training area to shoot, get fit and exercise the basic military skills of the infantry soldier.

Cadets are encouraged to assume responsibility through cadet rank and to organise and participate in fund raising activities for local charities.

It is most rewarding to see the enthusiastic response and evident pleasure the Cadets get from their military training and adventurous pursuits. Such training requires good instructors and there is a constant demand for good Officer and Adult Instructors to organise and supervise these activities. If any member of the Regiment settling in Berkshire and Wiltshire after their Regular Army or TA Service would like to have more information about joining the ACF they should contact the Cadet Executive Officer as follows:

Berkshire ACF	Wiltshire ACF
Brock Barracks	TA Centre
Reading	Church Walk
	Devizes

Why not give it serious thought? You will be helping to get the youngsters off the streets, giving them something worthwhile to do and in the long run making them better members of their local communities.



*Shooting on the 30 metre range.*



*Cdt. RSM Ford Wilts ACF inspecting his twin brothers.*



*Wiltshire Cadets arrive back at camp after a run along the coast.*



# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

We congratulate the following:

Major & Mrs. R.J. Pook - Daughter Alexandra Hannah Joy born 14.11.83  
 Capt. & Mrs. S.C.D. Baynham - Daughter Caroline Frances born 27.1.84  
 Lt. & Mrs. P.J. King - Daughter Philippa Sarah Elizabeth born 12.11.83  
 LCpl. & Mrs. R.J. Harbron - Son Ronald born 29.08.83  
 LCpl. & Mrs. G. O'Neill - Son Jamie Gary born 12.12.83  
 Cpl. & Mrs. M. Luke - Son Thomas James born 16.12.83  
 Sgt. & Mrs. K.J. Batty - Daughter Alexis born 19.12.83  
 Pte. & Mrs. E. Porter - Daughter Rachel Marie born 23.12.83  
 Sgt. & Mrs. S.R. Mellors - Daughter Fay Elizabeth Victoria born 25.12.83  
 Pte. & Mrs. R.H. Bawdon - Daughter Naomi Janie Georgina born 07.01.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. R. Nurdin - Son David Richard Michael born 15.01.84  
 LCpl. & Mrs. B.J. Wragg - Son Jamie Grange born 18.01.84  
 LCpl. & Mrs. A.J. Kordowski - Son Benjamin John born 13.02.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. D.J. Dyer - Son Richard Andrew born 23.02.84  
 LCpl. & Mrs. C.J. Hudd - Son Martin Steven born 14.04.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. R.S. Clements - Son Robert Mark born 28.05.84  
 Cpl. & Mrs. L.L. Smith - Daughter Stacey Lisa born 12.06.84  
 LCpl. & Mrs. N.L. Carey - Daughter Gemma Leanne born 24.06.84  
 Sgt. & Mrs. P.W. Gibbs - Son Christopher William born 14.07.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. S.J. Corns - Daughter Natasha Leanne born 18.07.84  
 Cfn. & Mrs. R.A. Luck - Daughter Emma Francesca Dorothy born 09.07.84  
 Sgt. & Mrs. D. Evans - Son David Mark born 20.07.84  
 Cpl. & Mrs. J.A. Essery - Son Clint Johnathan born 24.07.84

Pte. & Mrs. S.L. Hunt - Daughter Jenna born 27.07.84  
 LCpl. & Mrs. M.C. Hutchings - Son Leslie George born 31.07.84  
 LCpl. & Mrs. P.G. Brent - Son Mathew Paul born 31.07.84  
 Sgt. & Mrs. S.F. Bones - Daughter Michelle Emma born 02.08.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. D.P. Burgess - Daughter Hayley Ann born 07.08.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. M.J. Hardy - Daughter Gemma Louise born 23.08.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. C.P. Angliss - Daughter Cassandra born 26.08.84  
 Pte. & Mrs. P. Lealman - Daughter Gemma Louise born 04.09.84

## MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following:

Captain P.E. O'R-B Davidson-Houston to Miss Angelina Francesca Nelson-Sullivan at Salisbury Cathedral on 3.11.84  
 Lieut. R. Davis to Alexandra Pollock at St. Mary's Church, Great Ecclestone, Lancashire on 1.9.84  
 Lieut. J.J. Edmonds to Capt. Monica Hooper QARANC at All Saints Church, Portland on 10.11.84  
 LCpl. M.Hutchings - to Anke Lieselotte Petersohn at the Registry Office, Exeter on 16.10.83  
 LCpl. S. Hibberd - to Carol Irene Green at the Parish Church, Fareham on 29.10.83  
 LCpl. S. Hunt - to Anne Lena Arhies at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 10.12.83  
 LCpl. C. Garner - to Julie Diane Thorndycroft at St. Martin's Parish Church, Canterbury on 07.01.84  
 Pte. T. Darling - to Sharon Norma Ward at Holy Trinity Church, Theale on 14.01.84  
 Cpl. A. McIntyre - to Monquic Tracy Straton Davidson at the Parish Church of All Saints, Canterbury on 15.01.84  
 Pte. S. Imerson - to Tracey Margaret Cummings at the Parish Church, Exeter on 28.01.84  
 Pte. J. Morris - to Tracey Merrick at St. Martin's Parish Church, Canterbury on 04.02.84  
 Pte. P. Sims - to Sarah Jane Foster at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 03.03.84  
 Pte. T. Edgar - to Sharon Kim Mountfield at the Parish Church of St. Augustine, Rugeley on 24.03.84



Pte. M.J. Hardy - to Karen Susan Hughes at the Parish Church of St Nicholas, Thanington on 31.03.84

CSgt. P. Walters - to Angelika Eleanore Strigh at the Registry Office, Thanet on 02.04.84

LCpl. G. Moore - to Christina Carol Bracegirdle at the Registry Office, Dover on 05.05.84

Pte. P. Lealman - to Julie Sanderson at St. Paul's Church, Canterbury on 12.05.84

Pte. J. Gallop - to Angela Louise Etherington at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 12.05.84

Sgt. D. Gibbs - to Sandra Carole Leavesley at St Mary's Church, Beanwood, Sandwell on 12.05.84

Pte. G.N. Prosser - to Tracy Kim Long at St Mary's Church, Pinchbeck, Spalding on 19.05.84

Sgt. E. Griffin - to Sheila Joan Hudson at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 25.05.84

LCpl. R. Roberts - to Lesley Mary Hudson at the Parish Church of St Nicholas, Sturry, Canterbury on 26.05.84

LCpl. S. Pocock - to Debra Gay at the Parish Church of St Albans, Hemel Hempstead on 02.06.84

Bdsm. S.G. Protheroe - to Michelle Madeline Cooper at the Registry Office, Slough on 16.06.84

Pte. V.S.R. McCormack - to Maxine Scott at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 27.07.84

LCpl. B. Tuck - to Marion Livingstone Symington Thomson at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 28.07.84

LCpl. A.G. Coombs - to Pauline Neame at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 31.07.84

LCpl. D.J. Weaving - to Claire Louise Maynard at the Parish Church of All Saints, Canterbury on 04.08.84

CSgt. C. Fielding - to Susan Denise Ray at St Michael and All Angels, Urchfont, Devizes on 04.08.84

LCpl. F. Shannon - to Julia Sargent at St Andrews, Canterbury on 04.08.84

Pte. S.G. Cook - to Rena Alice Aitken at the Registry Office, Marlborough on 04.08.84

Pte. J.R. Langdon - to Lesley Jane Bartlett at the Holy Trinity Church, Trowbridge on 11.08.84

Pte. M. Wood - to Sarah Jane Cornhill at the Parish Church, Ilfracombe on 11.08.84

LCpl. S. Nash - to Tanya Kire Chaney at the Parish Church, Wantage on 11.08.84

LCpl. R. Bury - to Sally Ann Hall at St. Andrews Methodist Church, Undercliffe, Bradford on 11.08.84

Pte. D.J. Williams - to Wendy Diane Pollard at the Parish Church of St Mark, Exeter on 11.08.84

Pte. A.D. Dick - to Janette Christine West at the Registry Office, Chippenham on 11.08.84

Pte. N. Mathews - to Denise June Boakes at St Michael and All Angels, Harbledown on 11.08.84

Pte. A.J. Stewart - to Gail Buckley at the Registry Office, Trafford on 18.08.84

LCpl. K. Pollitt - to Helen Margaret Monger at Northington Parish Church, Winchester on 18.08.84

Cfn. A.M. McCormack - to Lynn Marr Stevenson at the Craigneuk and Belhaven Parish Church, Wishaw on 18.08.84

Pte. A.J. Osborne - to Amanda Louise McCann at the Registry Office, Canterbury on 18.08.84

Pte. P. Davies - to Lorraine Anne Purchase at the Parish Church, Swale on 25.08.84

Cpl. D. Rose - to Anne Olive Terry at the Church of St Vincent, Littlebourne, on 01.09.84

## DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of the following:

### DERR

Lieutenant Colonel D.A.M. Emms TD on 24th May 1984. Commissioned into The Royal Berkshire Regiment 24th August 1939. Transferred to DERR on amalgamation 9th June 1959. Retired 3rd September 1962.

Lieutenant Colonel C.L. Speers on 9th July 1984. Commissioned into The Royal Berkshire Regiment 2nd February 1933. Transferred to DERR on amalgamation 9th June 1959. Retired 1st July 1959 to take up post as the first Regimental Secretary (see Obituary Notices).

WO2 F.J.P. Lane on 10th November 1984. Joined The Royal Berkshire Regiment 7th June 1944. Transferred to DERR on amalgamation 9th June 1959. Retired 29th September 1966.

Mrs. Rosina Higgins on 23rd December 1984, wife of Major Leslie Higgins RAPC, who was Pay master to The Royal Berkshire Regiment and DERR on amalgamation.

### The Royal Berkshire Regiment

Brigadier A. Skeen OBE on 11th May 1984. Commissioned into The Royal Berkshire Regiment 4th February 1926. Retired 11th March 1947.

Lieutenant Colonel F.G. Kemp on 2nd August 1984. Commissioned into The Indian Army 12th April 1941. Transferred to The Royal Berkshire Regiment 19th October 1946. Transferred to RAPC 17th July 1956. Retired 7th November 1969.

Lieutenant Colonel J.B. Brierly MBE MC JP, Worcestershire Regiment on 23rd August 1984. Commanded 1st Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment into Burma during WW2.



Major R.J. Trimmer of Newbury on 1st December, 1983. Served with 4th Bn. pre-1939.

Lt. Col. H.P. Verey, T.D., D.L., on 26th January 1984. Commissioned R. Berks 1929 4th Bn. Served in Second World War. CO 4/6th Bn. 1947-49. Member of Territorial Army Association 1943-75 and Vice-Chairman 1967-74. Hon. Col. 4/6th Bn. 1964-67. Held Territorial Decoration with two bars. Made Dep. Lieutenant in 1966. President for 29 years of Twyford & Ruscombe Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Capt. A.H. Haynes on 14th March, 1984. Served with 30th Bn. 1939-45. Formerly 40th Pathans and S.L.I. Aged 88 years.

Major (QM) A.F.W. Haynes at Reading on 9th May 1984.

Eric Spurrier at Easton Lodge, Little Easton, Essex on 9th August 1984. At time of Munich crisis joined H.A.C. and on outbreak of war was Commissioned into R. Berks. Served with 1st Bn. in Far East, taking part in fighting in the Arakan. Later Adj. of Bn. and then DAQMG at Bde. HQ where he narrowly missed capture by the Japanese when HQ was over-run. At capture of Rangoon and was mentioned in Despatches.

John V. Vass of Windsor December 1983. Served with 6th Bn. 1938-39; 4th Bn. 1939-40 and 1st Bn. 1940-46.

G. Smith in December 1983. Understood to have been Manager of Portsmouth Football Club at one time.

W.H. Hill of Sonning, in December 1983. Ex-4th Bn. in First World War and fought in Italy. Member of Sonning Branch of The Royal British Legion.

E. Conington of Clapton, London on 2nd March, 1984. Ex-9th and 10th Bns.

Ernest George Wheeler of Salisbury on 4th March, 1984. Served with Regiment in Burma.

J.H. Marshall of Calcot, Reading, on 6th February 1984. (Pensioner).

G.E. Skuce of Brixton Hill, London on 17th February, 1984 (Pensioner).

F.L. Lott of Aylesbury on 15th March, 1984. (Pensioner).

D. Jacobs of Reading on 17th January, 1984 aged 72 years. Served in 2nd Bn.

E.H. Yandell on 14th April 1984. (Pensioner).

S.W. Brittain-Long (date unknown). (Pensioner).

F.J. Clarke on 10th May, 1984. (Pensioner).

J.E. Beasley of Leeds on 30th May 1984.

R.H.G. Bull of Windsor on 25th May, 1984.

S.J. Cosnett of Worcester June 1984 aged 77 years.

D. Chapman of Hastings on 15th July, 1984. Member of 1st Bn. in Burma and of Crawley, Hastings & Brighton Burma Star Association.

E.A. White of Windsor on 29th July, 1984. Ex-1st Bn. Sigs. Pln. Served from 1924-1932 and 1939-1941. Aged 78.

G.W. Eldridge on 17th July, 1984. (Pensioner).

S.A. Scott of Witney, Oxon on 6th December, 1984. Military Medal.

## The Wiltshire Regiment

Brigadier G. Wort CBE DL on 6th November 1984. Commissioned into The Wiltshire Regiment on 28th January 1932. Retired 27th September 1961. (See Obituary Notices).

Lieutenant Colonel L.H. Wood OBE on 3rd May 1984. Commissioned into The Wiltshire Regiment 30th January 1930. Retired 7th April 1959. (See Obituary Notices).

Major The Duke of Somerset DL on 15th November 1984. Commissioned into The Wiltshire Regiment 28th January 1932. Retired 3rd October 1955. (See Obituary Notices).

Lieutenant Colonel (QM) S.A.G. Cox MBE RGJ. Served as QM with 1 WILTS.

Colonel N.J. Awdry TD on 25th October 1984. Served with 4th Bn.

Major G. Read on 3rd February 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Major C. Green in August 1984. Served with 1st and 4/5 WILTS.

Captain E.L. Francis on 23rd July 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Captain K.E. Pound on 27th June 1984. Commissioned into TA 26th July 1930.

Mr. W.H. Bryant on 24th January 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. T.E. Button on 14th April 1984. Served with 4th and 6th Bns.

Mr. L. Cook on 3rd January 1984. Chairman and Standard Bearer of Marlborough Branch.

Mr. L.R. Collier on 28th October 1983. Served with 4th and 6th Bns.

Mr. L.G. Drew on 16th April 1984. Served with 5th Bn.

Mr. N. Day on 10th December 1984.

Mr. I.G. Elliott DCM on 30th March 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. K.R. Ellis on 29th April 1984. Served with 4th Bn.

Mr. W.E. Elisha on 27th June 1984. Served with 4th Bn.



Mr. A. Furnell MM on 4th September 1984. Served with 6th Bn.

Mr. R.E. Gresswell on 21st October 1983. Served with 5th Bn.

Mr. A.S. Jones on 11th January 1984. Served with 2nd Bn.

Mr. E.G. Jones on 5th August 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. A.J. Ledbury on 27th April 1984. Served with 1st Bn.

Mr. A.R. Maslin on 5th August 1984. Served with 1st and 4th Bns.

Mr. A.H. Parsons on 10th December 1983. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. W.J. Roe on 9th March 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. L.W. Sutton on 25th May 1984. Served with 2nd Bn.

Mr. W.E. Sprules MM on 6th August 1984. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns.

Mr. A.W. Titt on 29th July 1984.

Mr. J.F. Woolcock on 6th July 1984. Served with 4th Bn.

Mr. W.J. Wincott on 2nd December 1984. Served with 4th Bn.

Mr. S.E.B. Woodhouse on 3rd December 1984. Served with 4th Bn.

## OBITUARY

### BRIGADIER G. WORT CBE 1912-1984

The death of Brigadier George Wort on 6th November 1984 at the age of 72 will not only have greatly saddened his many friends both in and outside the Regiment but will have shocked them as well. As a mutual regimental friend remarked: "George Wort seemed indestructible." George's robust physique and cheerful, brisk, ebullient outlook combined to make a warm, enduring personality. He was a hard player, at work, on the sporting field and socially. He was the best type of what used to be called the pre-War officer, one who always had the interests and well-being of his men closely at heart and who could communicate and identify easily with them.

George Wort was commissioned into The Wiltshire Regiment from RMC Sandhurst in 1932. He showed early promise as a fine rugby player and probably would have been selected for Army representative teams if he had not gone abroad. In Malaya he made his impact at State rugby level and he was on secondment to 1 MALAY when war broke out in 1939. As its Adjutant, he was severely wounded

during the Japanese advance down the Peninsula in January 1942: his left arm was amputated and he was taken prisoner.

Post-war, George rarely spoke of those three years of hardship and suffering as a PW; if he did, it was invariably with affection and appreciation of lasting friendships that he had made among his fellow prisoners, British and Australians, or perhaps to recount some light anecdote, such as their effective natural nutrient to make tomato plants flourish. But it takes little imagination to realise just how grim his experiences were: disabled with only one arm, striving to survive in a trying, enervating climate among appalling conditions and under a barbarous enemy, the isolation of no mail from loved ones and of any news of the war that drove many to melancholia and near despair. Yet George emerged with no apparent mental scars and with his energy and drive unimpaired. Indeed, he was remarkable among former prisoners of the Japanese who stayed on in the post-war Army. He had retained 'a full head of steam', and noticeably so.

After repatriation and rehabilitation, he was selected to attend the Staff College, Camberley, in 1948. His fellow nominated students were mainly much-experienced, much-decorated veterans of the Desert, Italy, NW Europe and Burma, some of whom had commanded brigades in action. After having been mentally and professionally buried alive for those lost years, he had to work very hard to keep up with the stream. From Staff College, he went into the Military Secretary's Branch. With his concern for and awareness of people and their problems, this was an ideal posting but it also allowed him to conduct a quiet but determined policy campaign that officers with a disability similar to his, and who were otherwise fit, could serve at regimental duty. Success was sealed when his own next posting eventuated: he was to be Second-In-Command of 1 WILTS, then staging in UK en route from BAOR to the Malayan Emergency.

In Hong Kong, where 1 WILTS ultimately went due to the outbreak of the Korean War, George Wort was an admirable choice as Bn 21C during 1950-52 to Colonel Roger Welchman, from the Welsh Regiment, who could only have welcomed and valued his wide knowledge of regimental traditions and 'family matters'. Whatever else the Battalion in those days may have been noted for, certainly all subalterns' chinstraps took on a deeply polished hue as this aspect of sartorial military turn-out always drew the Second-in-Command's close and urgent inspection! With his typical energy and enthusiasm, George threw himself whole-heartedly into the regimental life that he loved so much, whether toiling over Nameless during a battalion exercise or being a formidable hockey goalie for HQ Company.

This regimental idyll ended with his promotion to



lieutenant-colonel and posting as AQMG Western Command. However, this staff appointment was to be brief as he soon entered another rewarding and happy phase of his career; on 1st May 1953, he assumed command of 4 WILTS (TA).

Though, again, George was the right and obvious choice, a Wiltshireman born and bred, his coming was viewed with some trepidation by the TA. He was the first Regular officer to command the Territorial battalion in time of peace. Even many of his Regular friends thought, with his drive, almost restless energy and eye for detail, that he was better suited to a Regular battalion than the necessarily more leisurely-paced routine of a TA unit. But, as always, the proof of the pudding was to be in the eating. A.E.G.B., writing in *The Journal Of The Wiltshire Regiment* in 1956 at the end of George's tour of command, puts it well:

*It was thought by some that he was taking over an impossible task, but his first camp at Bodney South, only nine days after he got command, proved that all fears were groundless. It was soon obvious that George Wort was not only an extremely efficient CO but he also was a determined upholder of all the Territorial traditions. His cheerful friendliness and his determination that only the best was good enough for the Battalion soon won the respect and affection of everyone. He never spared himself throughout the whole time of his command, and it is certain he will go down in history as one of the 4th Battalion's most successful Commanding Officers.*

The absorption of National Service part-time soldiers was in its TA infancy in 1953; by 1956, 4 WILTS had expanded to a strength of 900 officers and men. Perhaps the highest accolade given to George in this period was that he was regarded by all in the Battalion as a TA officer!

Promotion to full colonel in 1956 ensured his return to a familiar habitat of both fond and bitter memories, Malaya. He was appointed to the new Federation Military Forces and in the following year, became the first Military Adviser to the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya in London.

This strenuous, hard-working appointment, helping to shape and guide the infant Federation, brought its well-earned personal reward in 1958: George was promoted to brigadier and given command of 107 (Ulster) Infantry Brigade (TA), with its headquarters at Belfast. Again another challenging metamorphosis had to be made, for he was an Englishman commanding an Irish brigade, and Territorials at that. His successful achievement of this somewhat daunting task is summed up in an article, 'The Territorials in Northern Ireland', in the *Territorial Magazine* of September 1961, as he was giving up the command that had so fully and happily

crowned his career before leaving the Army:

*It can surely be said without fear of contradiction that no Commander has made such an impression on the Brigade as Brigadier Wort. There is no activity within the Brigade in which he has not shown a real interest, be it military training, administration, sport or cooking....*

As his ship bore him along Belfast Lough to retirement, pipers played him away. That same year, 1961, he had been fittingly awarded the CBE by H.M. The Queen.

However, retirement back to Wiltshire for George Wort, as his friends would easily have predicted, did not mean any hint of inactivity. Apart from working the family farm, he was soon heavily committed to several county organisations. In 1961, he was elected to Pewsey Rural District; to Wiltshire County Council in 1964, where he became chairman of the county welfare committee and, later, of the social services committee; in 1970, he was made an alderman. His other interests and local appointments included being Deputy Commissioner for St. John's Ambulance in Wiltshire, chairman of the Pewsey Old People's Welfare Committee, and Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire.

Throughout these years, his devotion and dedication to the Regiment never waned and he was especially prominent in the Wiltshire Regiment OCA, serving as chairman for three years, and invariably parading at the OCA Weekend, marching with some panache with bowler slightly tilted and wearing his customary red carnation.

We shall all have our favourite personal memories of George. A couple of mine stem from Hong Kong: George tying a bow tie with fascinating dexterity with one hand one hot, steaming evening before a Guest Night at Ebenezer House Officers Mess in the New Territories, of driving, albeit with fingertip gears, with some style and dash through Hong Kong traffic. A far more recent one was when those indefatigable travellers, George and his charming lifelong companion, Helen, visited Australia in late 1981 to attend the Ex-Japanese Prisoners Association Reunion in Sydney and to see many Australian friends from Changi days. A memorable luncheon was hosted by Mike and Sylvia Chivers at their house in Melbourne, well supported by Mike's seemingly bottomless Australian wine cellar.

George Wort contributed immensely to his Regiment, to his County and to his Country. His was a life of duty and service but he also made it fun. He had endured and suffered much but was never a whinge-er or a pessimist but a gallant, forward-looking chap who was deeply interested in people and all about him.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Helen, Jonathan and Jane, and Ian Spence. We shall all miss him greatly. Vale, George.

T.A.G.



**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C.L. SPEERS**  
**1912-1984**

Charles Speers was commissioned into The Royal Berkshire Regiment from Sandhurst in 1933 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Shorncliffe. The following year he joined the 1st Battalion in Khartoum and remained with them until their return to the U.K. in 1935 when he was posted back to the 2nd Battalion in Palestine. In 1938, following a tour at the Regimental Depot, he was seconded to the King's African Rifles and was serving with the 6th Battalion when war broke out. He took part in the campaigns in Abyssinia, Madagascar and Burma and ended the war as a GSO 2 in India.

After the Staff College Charles again went abroad to fill staff appointments in India and East Africa, returning to the U.K. in 1950 to become second in command of the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment the following year. After a brief interval as AAG Rhine District he assumed command of the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment and, almost for the first time in his service, began a fairly settled military life. He relinquished command in 1956 and, after a final spell as AQMG in Northern Command, he retired from the Army in 1959 to become Regimental Secretary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment at Reading, finally retiring in 1972.

In retirement Charles devoted himself happily to his close-knit family, his home at Donnington and his many friends. He retained his deep interest in the Regiment, its members and their medals on which he was an authority, and his experience and common sense were invaluable on Regimental committees. At the time of his death he was President of The Royal Berkshire Regiment O.C.A.

Of imposing appearance his unaffected modesty and integrity always emerged through his delightful sense of humour. It seemed that his only ambition was to serve to the best of his ability without thought of personal advancement. His period of command was a notably happy one including, as it did, the presentation of Colours by Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor. Indeed it would seem that his benign influence continues among those fortunate enough to have served under him. Withal he was the embodiment of the old fashioned virtues of courtesy and uprightness.

On the eve of war Alison Burbage went out to Africa to marry Charles and thereafter became 'Sally' to us all. A perfect helpmate to him she made a hospitable home wherever his service took him. She and her charming family are sure of a warm and affectionate welcome whenever and wherever the Regiment foregathers.

J.L.R.M.

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL L.W. WOOD OBE**  
**1910-1984**

Lieutenant Colonel Laurence Wood was born on 27th May 1910 and commissioned into the Wiltshire Regiment in January 1930, joining the 2nd Battalion at Crown Hill Barracks, Plymouth. He subsequently joined the 1st Battalion in Singapore, and moved with the Battalion to Bangalore. On the outbreak of war he was posted to the staff on the 4th Indian Division, moving with that division to the Middle East, where he held a number of Staff appointments and was Mentioned in Despatches. He returned to the UK in 1943, joining the 7th Battalion in Northern Ireland. On the disbandment of the 7th Battalion, before the invasion of Normandy, he was nominated as a reinforcement Company Commander and joined a Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders in the 15th (Scottish) Division, shortly after the landing. He was wounded and a prolonged period in hospital and subsequent convalescence deprived him of any further active service. After a short spell in Command of a Battalion of the Gold Coast Regiment he returned to the United Kingdom to attend the Staff College and on graduation he was appointed to be the AA & QMG of British Troops Berlin, an appointment which coincided with the Blockade of the former German capital. This appointment was one of the high points of his military career. He had a flair for administration and his outstanding achievements were rewarded by him being made an OBE.

In 1952 he was appointed to command the 1st Battalion and his tenure in command covered Hong Kong and the subsequent very successful tour of duty as Demonstration Battalion at the School of Infantry. On relinquishing command in 1955 he held the appointment of AA & QMG of the 44th (Home Counties) Division and finally retired from active service in 1959. He then had two Retired Officers appointments. The first was in the Regimental Headquarters of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the second at the Headquarters of the Prince of Wales Division, which was responsible for the administration of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and eight other Regiments. He finally retired in 1975 and settled down in Cherhill, not far from Devizes.

He was physically large and to some he perhaps appeared forbidding. Stern, he could be, but at heart he was a kind man and much more sensitive than many people realised. He possessed a sharp brain and an immense capacity for absorbing detail, which was perhaps the basis of his ability and reputation as an administrator. He had a ready wit and could quickly be the life and soul of any occasion, with a seemingly endless stock of anecdotes about regimental and military life. His qualities which stood out were his



concern for people, his compassion, his generosity whether as a host in his own house or at some regimental or public function, his integrity and strength of will, his sense of duty and his resilience. He was never a self-seeker and was a fine example of a Christian soldier and gentleman.

He married Joan in Bangalore in 1938 and she survives him, together with a son and two daughters.

J.R.R.

### **MAJOR THE DUKE OF SOMERSET DL 1910-1984**

Major The Duke of Somerset, 18th holder of the title, died peacefully at his home at Maiden Bradley on 15th November 1984. He was 74.

He was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton and at Clare College, Cambridge. In 1932 straight from Cambridge, he joined the Wiltshire Regiment. He was then Lord Seymour, aged 22 and heir to the second oldest dukedom in the Kingdom. To the whole Regiment, however, he was "Percy". This was an early and well-merited compliment. Here was someone different! Someone who was immediately respected and liked. It did not matter that he had not been to Sandhurst, or that he was a lord, or that he had an agricultural degree which no one understood in those days, nor even that he was a flagrant enthusiast on the jazz of Ellington, Armstrong and company.

He proved himself a true product of Blundells on the rugby field, and of Clare as a hurdler. He was a good shot and a gay companion, he was debonair and sociable. However, soldiering in Aldershot did not appeal and soon he was in Singapore and then India. The Wiltshire soldiers liked and respected him instinctively, the officers were delighted at his advent, and the girls adored him, naturally. He was a bright spark, loved a joke, and all his life he was a generous host. He was a member of the MCC and a cricket enthusiast. In post-war years he was a well-known figure at Lords and usually with the same group of close friends. Friendship meant much to him and he in turn was the best.

Whilst ADC to our local Commander in India he continued to join in all regimental sports and activities. In those days, resplendent in boots, spurs and accoutrements he is remembered as one of the few who was invariably courteous to the most junior officers and caring towards the men and their families. He was an officer held in high esteem and affection.

Early in the war he went to the Middle East on the Staff, but he always kept in touch with the Regiment with whom he preferred to serve. He even remembered the troops with thoughtful generosity

at this time at Christmas. He was soon to return to fight in Burma.

After the war Percy served as an instructor at the School of Infantry and at the Regular Commissions Board at Westbury. His last appointment before retiring to succeed his father in 1954 was both satisfying and successful. He was a notable Commander of the Regimental Depot at Devizes, the last bastion of the Wiltshires and later the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

In 1951 he married Jane, the sister of a brother officer, Mickey Thomas, who was his great friend, and a gallant and outstanding officer who was sadly killed in Normandy with the 5th Wiltshires. The marriage was a joyous one to the end. Percy was a devoted and attentive husband and a loving father. His family meant everything to him. To Jane, his most gracious wife, well-loved by all who knew her in the Regiment, we extend our deepest sympathies. In this we include his devoted children, John, Anne and Francis.

In his retirement Percy attended to his estates in Wiltshire and Devon with diligence. He loved his shooting and extended his hospitality to his friends. His consideration for his estate staffs was as thoughtful as for his soldiers. He remained closely associated with regimental affairs. He was Vice President of the Old Comrades, a Trustee of the Museum and a generous supporter of the Wardrobe, present RHQ of the Regiment. He was among the first to set a generous example when he heard that funds for the benefit of the Wiltshire Old Comrades were not sufficient for their needs. He was also Chairman of the County British Legion.

In conclusion, it may be fitting to recount what was perhaps strangely, but from a soldier's point of view, nonetheless a fulfilling and indeed rewarding experience for him. In 1944, whilst Second in Command of the 1st Wiltshires in the Burma jungle he proved himself to have the ideal qualities for this appointment in battle. He was impeturbable in danger and calm in crisis, respected and liked by all ranks. His old friend and Commanding Officer, Jack Houghton-Brown was severely wounded and Percy immediately took over Command. There are all too few who can testify what an untimely moment this was to take command. Of that close band of officers who had marched over the Goppe Pass and into battle the next day, 18 had already been killed or wounded and more than 200 men - with more evacuated with Malaria and jungle diseases. The platoons and companies depleted in numbers, were inextricably locked in conflict with the Japanese. And there was more yet to be done. Not a handsome inheritance. Command in battle is seldom an easy task, but the Command of battle-fatigued soldiers is much more demanding. With considerable skill and even more courage, Percy saw the task through. At night,



section by section, and platoon by platoon, he started to disengage so that by the predetermined date the break was made complete before the monsoon of 1944 arrived.

When Percy was not given immediate promotion to Command, it seemed to those in the battle to be a grave lack of understanding by his superiors. The

Regiment would have been honoured and he would have done them proud. This most modest and self-effacing man was a good soldier, who had what it takes when it mattered most.

AME  
DIMR

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Colonel Hobbs,

Last May I wrote to you concerning the possibility of obtaining tickets to the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Bn. on June 8th, 1984. You were kind enough to send me two tickets for the ceremony. Well, I write now to thank you very much for them. We were in Britain during that time for a holiday and to me the highlight was the Colours Presentation. The 1st Bn. put on a terrific parade full of pride and great execution in drill movement. I was very impressed with the dressing and professionalism of the Band and Corps of Drums and of the whole regiment. It was an excellent display and I feel fortunate to have seen it and to enjoy the hospitality of the Regiment.

Again many thanks for the tickets to a memorable event. My best wishes to you, all at HQ, and the Regiment.

Sincerely,  
Barbu Alim  
4920 Van Walbeek Place  
Annadale,  
VA USA.

Dear Editor,

I collect military books, and from time to time I find items of Regimental interest. I have just bought a copy of: *The Berkshire Regiment 1758-1881* by J.P. Groves Smalldoctavo (7½" x 5"). Green cloth with gilt title and figure. Published 1887. 158 pages, including list of Colonels, war services of officers, Maiwand casualty list. One illustration (frontispiece) of Maiwand Lion in Forbury Gardens, Reading.

If anyone in the Regiment would like it, it is available for £26.50 plus postage. Original receipt available.

Yours  
F. Myatt  
(Major (Retd) F. Myatt MC)  
Wellington Cottage,  
Longbridge Deverill,  
Warminster,  
Wiltshire)

The Editor

I have been commissioned to write a book with title of *FOR LOVE OF REGIMENT: A HISTORY OF THE BRITISH INFANTRY*. Although space is limited, I am keen to include all outstanding examples of love shown for Regiment, not just deeds of valour, but also homely acts of devotion that may have escaped mention in history books. Should be most grateful to any of your readers who might care to send me brief details of any example thought worthy of inclusion. There is no restriction on period, but I am particularly keen to have some good quotes from the inter-war years 1919-39.

Yours faithfully  
Gregory Blaxland,  
Lower Heppington,  
Street End,  
Canterbury.



## BATTLE OF TOFREK 22ND MARCH 1885

"Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, in recognition of the gallant conduct of Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Berkshire Regiment) in the action at Tofrek, to approve of the Regiment being in future designated Princess Charlotte of Wales's Royal Berkshire Regiment."

By 1879 gross mismanagement had brought Egypt to the brink of financial collapse, with the result that Great Britain (whose main interest was the security of the new Suez Canal) decided that it was necessary to take over the administration of the country. A small nationalist rising which resulted from the occupation in 1882 was quickly suppressed, but it was then found that far more serious trouble was brewing further south.

The Sudan, then a province of Egypt, had been appallingly misgoverned and exploited for years, and this had led to widespread and largely successful revolt under a fanatical moslem leader known as the Mahdi. The British, reluctant to get too involved in the domestic affairs of the country, then decided to abandon the Sudan and sent General Gordon to Khartoum with orders to organise the withdrawal of the various Egyptian garrisons in the province; he was however soon besieged in the town, and it then became necessary for Britain to despatch a large expedition in a desperate (and finally unsuccessful) attempt to save him.

The situation was further complicated by a second revolt in the Eastern Sudan under one of the Mahdi's equally fanatical lieutenants, Osman Digna, and as the Red Sea, like the Suez Canal, was vital to British communications to India and the Far East, a Field Force, which included the 1st Battalion of the Berkshire Regiment, was despatched to the port of Suakin under Major-General Sir G. Graham VC, KCB. After some preliminary reconnaissances, which included a sharp affair at Hashin in which the Regiment played an important part, the main body of Osman Digna's force was located some fifteen miles to the south-west. Graham decided to launch a major attack, but before this could be done the waterless nature of the desert made it essential to establish an intermediate post in which large quantities of water and other supplies could be dumped.

On 22nd March 1885 therefore a force marched out of Suakin to carry out this preliminary operation. It was commanded by Major-General Sir J. McNeill VC, KCB, KCMG, and consisted of the Berkshire Regiment, a composite battalion of Royal Marine Light Infantry drawn from the Red Sea fleet, three Indian Infantry battalions, and a small force of cavalry, together with a party of Royal Engineers and

other essential supporting troops. The main problem facing the force was to control and guard a vast convoy of pack animals, mainly camels, loaded for the most part with watercans; they were all hired animals under undisciplined civilian drivers, and the straggling and general confusion was such that the force only covered about six miles in the first six hours. Nevertheless McNeill decided to halt at that point so as to allow him time to establish the post and get the unloaded pack animals back to Suakin before nightfall under the protection of the Indian brigade; the place selected was a clearing in a large area of scrub and thornbush, apparently a traditional native camping ground, known as Tofrek.

Osman Digna's followers, who were usually referred to as dervishes, were mainly of the Hadendoah tribe. They were fanatically brave, and having few firearms the only way they could fight was by charging to close quarters with swords and spears. In order to counter-act this it was usual to build rectangular enclosures of thornbush; they were known as zaribas, and were intended to hold up charges until the concentrated rifle fire of the defenders could take effect. The whole force was armed with single-shot breech-loading rifles, the British having the Martini-Henry and the Indians the older, but still effective, Snider. In addition the two British units which were to garrison the post each had two Gardner guns, an early type of hand-cranked machine gun, manned by sailors, so that the available firepower was considerable.

The plan was to make one large zariba 120 yards square to hold the stores and administrative troops with two smaller flanking ones, 65 yards square, at the north-east and south-west corners. These were to be held by the British battalions, the Marines to the north-east, the Berkshires to the south-west, the whole being arranged so that all the faces of the main zariba could be swept by flanking fire. The lines of these defences were quickly pegged out by the Engineers and work on building them began immediately, while simultaneously the commissariat troops began unloading the water tins and other stores and stacking them in central work. Once the animals had been unloaded they were assembled in an area to the south-east in readiness for their return to Suakin. Local protection was provided by detachments of Indian troops, while their comrades built the central zariba, and a line of cavalry outposts was established to the south which was considered to be the most vulnerable flank. All the Marines were available to build their zariba but the Berkshires were divided from the start; the right half battalion was







detailed to build its zariba while the left half was sent off eastwards to protect the unloaded baggage animals.

At about 1430 the cavalry outposts came galloping back in some confusion, shouting that the dervishes were close behind them, and the whole force stood to. The four companies of the right half battalion were cutting thornbush to the west, and were completely unarmed, their rifles being piled in their zariba with their equipment draped over them, so the troops lost no time in dropping their cutting tools and racing back for them. Fortunately the outposts on that side were found by the 15th Sikhs who retired steadily and in good order thus giving the Regiment just enough time to get its rifles. Several men, slower than the rest, were almost overtaken by the dervishes but Subadar Gurdit Singh turned back with great gallantry and killed the leading three with his sword, thus saving their lives. The unfortunate Indian battalion on the south face was broken by the retreating cavalry and suffered heavy casualties, so that the Berkshires were left to bear the main brunt of the attack. They hastily unplied their rifles, flung themselves into rallying squares, mere irregular clusters of men, and prepared to fight for their lives. They had been cutting bush in their shirt sleeves and few of them had had time to put on their khaki jackets or even their equipment, but simply seized handfuls of cartridges from the reserve boxes, which someone had had the foresight to open.

The Gardner guns, which were in position at the south-west angle of the zariba, were overrun after a desperate resistance, and then thousands of yelling dervishes hurled themselves at the line of squares. It is difficult to describe the fight which followed in much detail because everything was obscured by the choking dust churned up by thousands of feet and by the thick smoke from the rifles; for much of the time the dervishes were at close quarters, and many of the battalion were killed or wounded by sword and spears. The fearful rifle fire never slackened for a moment however, and eventually the dervishes swerved off eastwards through the gap left by the fleeing Indians and began to attack the baggage animals, presumably with the intention of driving them back in panic in the hope of breaking the left-half battalion. It was here that the Quartermaster, Lieutenant Forde, had a narrow escape; he was supervising work in the central zariba when the attack started and very sensibly made for the Marine zariba, which was completed and manned. The marines on the southface were afraid to fire for fear of hitting him, when fortunately he stumbled and fell flat on his face, upon which his leading pursuers were swept away with one well-aimed volley and he was hauled to safety.

The left half battalion at once opened fire on the charging baggage animals which then swerved away

eastward, many making for Suakin, after which the troops concentrated their fire on the dervishes. The Companies seem to have been spread out, presumably in order to cover the whole of the eastern flank and it is difficult to pinpoint their positions exactly except for that of Captain Lynch, one of the few survivors of Maiwand whose later remarks suggest that it was in line, facing south, with its right on the wall of of the main zariba and its left well supported by the Marines.

The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Huyshe, was with the left-half battalion when the battle began, but all he could do in the circumstances was to sit quietly on his charger and trust to the fighting qualities of his battalion to see the thing through. At one stage he was himself attacked by a small party of dervishes, all of whom he shot with his revolver. By a coincidence his brother, who was then military correspondent for the Times Newspaper, was also present at the battle, which both survived unscathed.

After about half an hour the dervishes finally withdrew, and as the wind cleared away the dust and smoke, the full horrors of the battlefield were revealed. Twenty-one men of the right half battalion were dead and many more wounded, and in front of them were hundreds upon hundreds of dead and dying dervishes, over a hundred being actually within the unfinished zariba. They were lying thick over the whole area, intermixed with the bodies of British and Indian soldiers, campfollowers and drivers, and hundreds of baggage animals, and the scene was made more hideous by the fact that numerous vultures and kites had been rapidly attracted to the area and were already gorging themselves on the dead. Many of the wounded dervishes had crawled or been dragged away by their comrades but many remained, shamming dead and still hoping to achieve Paradise by killing an infidel. It was by the hand of one of these that Lieutenant Swinton died, stabbed in the back by a broad-bladed spear after the fight was over, but before the field had been thoroughly cleared. Captain Lynch noted that soon after the fighting ceased a mounted staff officer rode up to him and ordered him to succour a wounded dervish who was lying screaming close to his position. The irrepressible Irishman later noted, 'I told him where to go, and he went away. Heard no more about it. I thought my career ended!' He then marched his company over to the Royal Marine zariba to thank its defenders for all the support they had given him, and then the whole of the left half battalion rejoined the right half in their zariba.

A great deal had to be done as soon as the battle was over; the dead and wounded had to be dealt with, water and ammunition issued, and much kit and equipment sorted out, but by nightfall the immediate work had been done; the zariba was completed and



the battalion settled down to rest, although it is probable that few people slept well. At one stage a loose mule caused a false alarm and there was a great deal of wild firing which took some time to stop.

Tidying up continued next morning, mainly in the removal of the dead dervishes. Lynch records that they counted up to sixteen hundred and then gave up, which allowing for those who subsequently died after being dragged away by their comrades, suggests that the total dervish dead may have been well over two thousand. Most of the bodies were reported as being those of young men in the prime of life, but there were old men amongst them and even a few women. It was noticeable that most of them had shaved off their characteristically fuzzy hair before the battle in the belief that this would make them proof against bullets. It was sad that so many had to die, and one must admire the incredible courage with which they had behaved. The British lost seventy-eight killed or missing, (of whom twenty-two fell on the Berkshires), and the Indians sixty-three, most of those being in the unfortunate Regiment on the south face; many unarmed native followers and drivers also died; over five hundred animals, mostly camels, were killed and many more had to be destroyed.

General Graham arrived with two battalions on the

morning of 23rd March. He was at best a man of explosive temper, which was probably not improved by the sight of the numerous bodies of fugitives, both man and animals, along the path to Suakin. He used some harsh language to McNeill in public and perhaps with some justification, for although disaster had been averted, largely by the efforts of the Berkshires it was clear that the force had been surprised, due mainly to inadequate outposts. No official action was taken, but McNeill was never actively employed again. The battle was originally known as McNeill's Zariba but was soon changed to Tofrek, perhaps to indicate official displeasure with the unfortunate commander, who it should be said had shown great gallantry during the action.

In spite of efforts to clear the area, it eventually became necessary to build a new zariba well to windward until it was finally abandoned on 6th April; as had often happened before, a few acres of barren soil had found a place in British military history. There is little more to record of the campaign because it soon became necessary to withdraw the force to counter a more serious threat from the Russians on the Afghan border, thus leaving the Sudan to the mercy of the Dervishes until it was finally conquered by Kitchener thirteen years later.

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### A BALLAD OF THE BERKSHIRE REGIMENT.

*"Nostri pugnabant rari." - CAESAR.*

*"Our men fought uncommon." - Old Translation.*

Let Sparta boast her Monarch true,  
With his famed hundreds three,  
I sing of THOMAS ATKINS, who  
Can fight as well as he.  
The Berkshire woodcutting were out,  
The sun was fierce and high,  
When all around them and about  
Thundered the Desert cry!-  
When all about and all around  
Companies F. and G,  
The Desert, with a surging sound,  
Rose like a rising sea,  
They heard the foemen as they roared,  
They saw them as they came,  
They formed a sudden square, and poured  
A flood of angry flame!

The sky was blind with sand and smoke,  
With bullets shrieked the air,  
Like wave on wave the Desert broke  
Against the stubborn square!  
But when the smoke let through the sun,  
And when the Arabs ran,  
Firm stood that square, the battle done,  
And had not lost a man!  
And round, like swathes of seaweed, lay,  
Left by the ebbing wave,  
Their foemen, that were brave as they,  
But not one whit more brave,  
The Arabs of their Khalid boast,  
I know as good as he;  
The Berkshire lads that cowed a host,  
Companies F. and G.!





*This well-known picture, which now hangs in Regimental Headquarters, was painted by C.E. Fripp, who was actually present at the battle as a war artist. He held a commission in the Artists Rifles, a well-known Volunteer regiment, in whose Mess it hung until 1929 when it was generously presented to the Royal Berkshire Regiment.*



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# NOTICES

## REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

(Lower Heppington, Street End, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7AN)

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in 40 Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Corps, Regimental and Service Associations; Post Offices; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1st April 1983 - 31 March 1984 the Association assisted 9,685 men and women with their resettlement and placed 3,849 in employment. Of those placed 1,868 were men and women from the Army and 9 were from your Regiment.

## THE PRINCE PHILIP APPEAL FOR COMMONWEALTH VETERANS

48 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5JG

May I please draw your attention to The Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, a once-off campaign due to be launched publicly early in 1985? The Appeal is being sponsored by The British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, which, since its formation in 1921 by Field Marshal The Earl Haig with nine member organisations, has maintained its aim of ensuring that "no ex-serviceman of the Crown, ex-servicewoman, widow or dependant would ever be without help if in need." The League's membership has now increased to fifty-three, spread throughout the countries of the Commonwealth and old Empire. It has given aid both to ex-service organisations and to individuals in need from the millions of servicemen from Commonwealth countries who joined with Great Britain and fought beside her in Europe, Africa, and the Middle and Far East.

Whilst the League still has many veterans from the First World War in its care, the number of Commonwealth ex-servicemen from the Second

World War, widows and dependants now reaching their sixties, seventies and eighties and no longer able to fend for themselves is increasing dramatically. Many countries of the Commonwealth to-day have insufficient resources to provide for the needs of these Veterans and must rely exclusively on the support stemming from the League's Headquarters.

The League is no longer able to meet this support from within its own resources which have provided the money for both administration and benevolence. For the first time in its history, the League is compelled to seek outside financial support in order to honour its commitments.

At this stage only assistance in gaining publicity for the Appeal and offers of personal help are sought and would be greatly appreciated. If any further information about the Appeal is required, please do not hesitate to contact the Appeal Director, Brigadier R.C. Middleton.

## RUGBY

ARMY v NAVY Twickenham 2nd March 1985 for the STEWART WRIGHTSON TROPHY. Your support is needed! Support your Army Team. Kick-off 3 p.m.

## Sgt. George Walters VC

RHQ is compiling a dossier for the Regimental Archives on the life of Sgt. George Walters VC who distinguished himself with the 49th Regiment at the Battle of Inkormann and about whom little is known. He is the only Regimental holder of the VC for whom we do not have a photograph. If any reader has any information or private papers of Sgt. Walters they are asked to contact RHQ.

## For Sale

POW Div Mess Kit £150. Service Dress £100. Apply RHQ.

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1. New in 1982.
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