

*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"**, **"Hazebrouck"**, **"Bailleul"**, **"Kemmel"**, **"Bethune"**, **"Scherpenberg"**, **"Amiens"**, **"Hindenburg Line"**, **"Havrincourt"**, **"Epehy"**, **"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 Vannière"**, **"Seine 1944"**, **"Nederrijn"**, **"Roer"**, **"Rhineland"**, **"Cleve"**, **"Goch"**, **"Xanten"**, **"Rhine"**, **"Bremen"**, **"North-West Europe 1940, 1944-1945"**, **"Solarino"**, **"Simeto Bridgehead"**, **"Pursuit to Messina"**, **"Sicily 1943"**, **"Monte Camino"**, **"Calabritto"**, **"Garigliano Crossing"**, **"Minturno"**, **"Damiano"**, **"Anzio"**, **"Carroceto"**, **"Rome"**, **"Advance to Tiber"**, **"Italy 1943-1945"**, **"Middle East 1942"**, **"Donbaik"**, **"North Arakan"**, **"Point 551"**, **"Mayu Tunnels"**, **"Ngakyedauk Pass"**, **"Kohima"**, **"Mao Songsang"**, **"Shwebo"**, **"Kyaukmyaung Bridgehead"**, **"Mandalay"**, **"Fort Dufferin"**, **"Rangoon Road"**, **"Loungoo"**, **"Burma 1942-1945"**.

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

**Colonel-in-Chief**

FIELD MARSHAL HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT OM GBE QSO

**Colonel of the Regiment**

BRIGADIER W.G.R. TURNER CBE

**Regimental Headquarters and Museum**

The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire

**1st Battalion**

Stanley Fort, Hong Kong

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel S.W.J. Saunders BSc

**TA**

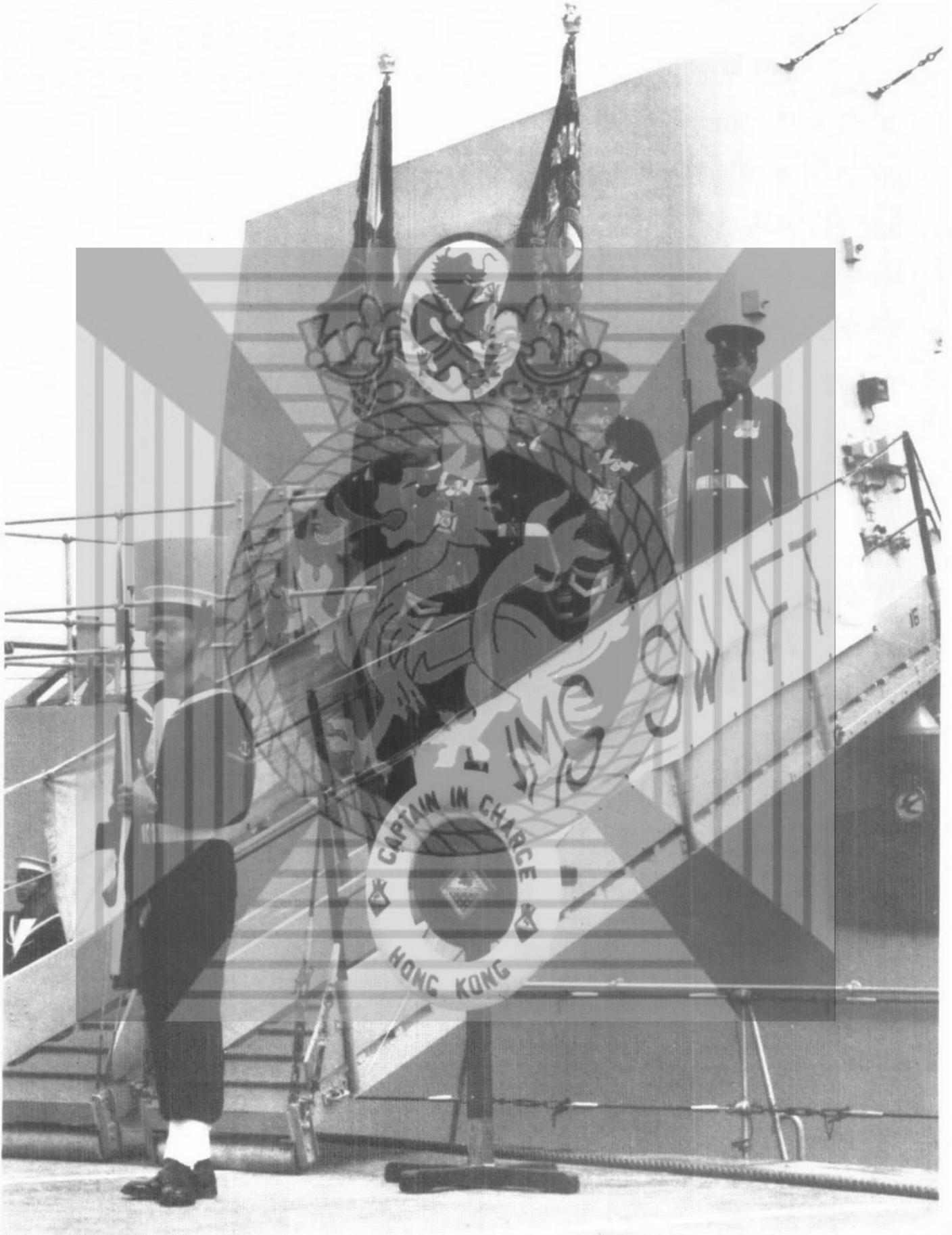
1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment	(Rifle Volunteers)	
	HQ Company	Devizes
	B Coy	Swindon
2nd Battalion The Wessex Regiment	(Volunteers)	
	HQ Company	Reading
	C (Royal Berkshire) Company	Maidenhead
	D Company	Reading

**Alliances**

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

**Affiliations**

Royal Navy:	HMS Dryad
CCFs:	Abingdon School, Bearwood College, Bradfield College
	Marlborough College, St Bartholomews School, Warminster School
ACFs:	A Coy, B Coy Royal County of Berkshire ACF
	A Coy, B Coy, C Coy, D Coy Wiltshire ACF



*The Colours coming ashore in Hong Kong.*

# FOREWORD BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Last September Rosemary and I visited the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. Under the able command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Saunders the Battalion undertakes its operational commitments along the Chinese border most effectively, has taken internal security training in its stride, plays a full part in the Colony's sports programme and it was a joy to see the social harmony that exists between all ranks and their families. Yes, some did not take easily to the steamy summer months, for others the long haul from the lower flats to the NAAFI is tiring, particularly with a babe, and many could do with a few extra dollars in their pockets. But I left with the firm impression of a happy battalion undertaking its operational and training tasks with distinction and taking every advantage of recreational facilities and local leave schemes. Thank you all for your warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Our congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel David Stone on being selected to command the 1st Battalion from November next and to Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Parslow who has recently assumed command of the Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division at Lichfield. The Regiment's adult recruits are trained at Lichfield and our Junior Soldiers go there for advanced training after six months at Shorncliffe. In August 1990 the 1st Battalion moves to Catterick where they will have a most challenging role in 24 Infantry Brigade.

Just before leaving for Hong Kong I met the oldest and youngest members of the Regiment. Mr Lintern, ex 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment, celebrated his one hundredth birthday in August and it gave me the greatest pleasure to add a card to those he received from the Queen and the Colonel-in-Chief. A few days later a young lad of just 16 from my village joined the Regiment as a Junior Leader. Once again I was

reminded of the enormous breadth of our Regimental family.

It has been good to meet past members at gatherings of our three Associations; my thanks to those who give their time to organise them. Your devoted service makes possible the comradeship extended to all and the welfare and benevolence given to those in need. The Regiment is very much in your debt.

Accessions to the Museum are received from generous benefactors throughout each year but seldom do we get an opportunity to obtain a Regimental item at a major London sale. Thanks to the generosity of the Victoria and Albert Museum, other civilian Trusts, the Friends of the Museum and several Regimental funds, we were able to purchase at Christie's Captain Conway Benning's Gold Medal for Albuhera and his gold watch. Conway Benning commanded the 2nd/66th at Albuhera and was killed in the battle. It is gratifying to know that our Museum is held in such esteem at the highest level of the arts. Our grateful thanks to those who contributed to this important and charming addition to our collection.

1989 is the 30th anniversary of the amalgamation of The Royal Berkshire and The Wiltshire Regiments. Understandably, many regret the passing of those distinguished Regiments; the high standards and best traditions of both have been perpetuated in The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment which continues to go from strength to strength. During this anniversary year please make an extra effort to attend the Regimental Association weekend at Salisbury on 1/2 July and, in particular, the service in the Cathedral followed by a buffet lunch in the Wardrobe garden on the Sunday.

My warmest wishes to you all.

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# REGIMENTAL GAZETTE

## OFFICERS' LOCATIONS AS AT 1 JANUARY 1989

**Colonel of the Regiment**  
Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE

### Brigadier

G. Coxon CBE odc (US) psc ..... SBLSO ABU DHABI

### Colonel

W.A. Mackereth psc ph ..... HQNI (for Comd 160 Bde Nov 1989)

### Lieutenant Colonel

A.J. Rose psc ..... School of Infantry  
A. C. Kenway psc ..... HQAFNORTH  
S.W.J. Saunders BSc psc ..... Commanding Officer 1st Battalion  
T.M.A. Daly psc jsdc ph ..... SHAPE  
D.J.A. Stone psc ..... SHAPE (for CO 1st Battalion Nov 1989)  
N.R. West sq ..... HQNI  
C.J. Parslow sq ..... COS HQ POW DIV (for Commanding  
Officer Depot Lichfield February 1989)

### Major

M.J. Cornwell sq ..... HQBF BELIZE (for Training Major 1 WESSEX May 1989)  
A.E.G. Westlake MBE BA sq ..... HQ SE DIST  
A. Briard sq aic ..... P&EE PENDINE  
R.B. Paddison ..... Training Major 3WFR  
A.P.B. Lake psc odc (BE) ..... 4 UDR  
J.L. Silvester ..... 1st Battalion  
A.N. Coates ..... 1st Battalion  
B.R.F. Franklin BSc ..... 1st Battalion (for AFCENT March 1989)  
N.J. Walker ..... HQ 3 Arm'd Div (for Second in Command 1st Battalion  
February 1989)  
P.E. O'R-B. Davidson-Houston BSc (Eng) psc ..... 1st Battalion  
S.E. Bowkett BA ..... 1st Battalion  
S.G. Cook psc ..... HQ UKLF

### Captain

J.C. Wort BSc ..... HQ 3 Inf Bde  
P.C. Tomlinson (Acting Major) ..... JIB Shorncliffe  
R.N. Wardle (Acting Major) ..... Depot Lichfield  
F.D.F. Drury BSc ..... 1st Battalion  
J.M.C. Rylands ..... 48 Gurkha Inf Bde  
N.M. Smith BA ..... School of Infantry  
R. Allen BSc (Econ) ..... 1/2 GR  
K.T. Haugh ..... 1st Battalion  
A.D. Thornell ..... Adjutant 2 WESSEX  
G.P. Barlow MBE ..... 1st Battalion (HK IS Trg Team)  
P.J. King BA ..... Adjutant Depot Lichfield  
R. Davis ..... Adjutant 1st Battalion  
T.D. O'Hare ..... RMAS  
J.I. Tozer BSc ..... 1st Battalion  
F.J. Chedham ..... School of Infantry  
A.C. White ..... CTCRM Lymestone  
W.H.C. Wilson BSC ..... 1st Battalion

**Lieutenant**

J.M. Tomlinson BSc (Hons)	1st Battalion
S.D. Gray	1st Battalion
P. Dennis	1st Battalion
C.J.S. Perkins BSc	1st Battalion
A.T. Smallbone BA	Depot Lichfield
N.S. Brain	AAC Centre – Pilot Trg
P.R. Flavell BSc	1st Battalion
C.N. Jaques	Depot Lichfield

**Second Lieutenant**

G.W.R. Griffin	SGC RMAS
R.J.G. Preece	SGC RMAS

**Regular (LE)**

Major W.R. Stafford MBE	QM Adjutant Bristol UOTC
Captain S.J. Venus	QM 1st Battalion
Captain R.G. Hicks MBE	QM Tech 1st Battalion

**Special Regular Commission****Captain**

J.J. Edmonds (Acting Major)	1st Battalion (for HQ WALES February 1989)
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**Short Service Commission****Captain**

M.J. Lister BSc (Hons)	1st Battalion
R.D. Higgs ph	658 Sqn AAC

**Lieutenant**

P.N. Clements BA (Oxon)	1st Battalion
G.J.H. Brown BSc (Econ)	1st Battalion
A.P.K. Fontana BSc	1st Battalion
R.C. Boulter BEng	1st Battalion
J.D. Gilchrist BA	1st Battalion
C.A. Heald	1st Battalion
J.P.B. Boxall BSc	1st Battalion
N.V. Shah BSc	1st Battalion
S.J. Howe	1st Battalion

**Second Lieutenant**

C.J. Harland	1st Battalion
D.G. O'Hara	1st Battalion
A.J. Rose	1st Battalion
H.N. Robinson	1st Battalion
M.P.H. Dell	1st Battalion

**Short Service (LE)**

Captain P.J. Mullins	JRTC Forte Chaffe USA
Captain R.J. Luckwell	1st Battalion
Captain W.H. Sherman	Depot Lichfield
Lieutenant A.M. Turner	1st Battalion

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

Major S.J. Duff RAPC	Paymaster
Major C. Herdman RADC	Dental Officer
Captain P.E. Sharples RAMC	Medical Officer
2/Lieutenant A.L. Green WRAC	Assistant Adjutant
Rev. A. Burt	Padre

### University Bursary Holders

K.C. Sayers ..... Plymouth Polytechnic  
 A.M. Gay ..... Oxford University

### Army Scholars

B.D.A. Kite ..... Burnham GS  
 C.J. Rayner ..... Canford School

### Warrant Officers and Colour Sergeants

WO1		CSgt.	
WO1 Fedrick	RSM 1st Battalion	CSgt. Coleman	Depot Lichfield
WO1 Mehrlich	RSM JIB Shorncliffe	CSgt. Tadhunter	1st Battalion
WO1 Godwin	Depot Lichfield HS (For RSM 1st Battalion)	CSgt. Ward	1st Battalion
WO1 Minty	RSM 1 WESSEX	CSgt. McIntyre	1st Battalion
WO1 Long	RSM Exeter UOTC	CSgt. Povey	1st Battalion
WO1 Hatton	Bandmaster 1st Battalion	CSgt. Fennell	1 WESSEX
WO1 Carpenter	RSM 11 UDR	CSgt. Porter	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Batty	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Higgs BEM	HQNI
		CSgt. Nicholson	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Nimmo	2 WESSEX
		CSgt. Tait 81	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Griffin	2 Wessex
		CSgt. Harrill	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Grant	1st Battalion Band
		CSgt. Decarteret	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Truman	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Reading	School of Infantry
		CSgt. Evans	School of Infantry
		CSgt. Traveller	1st Battalion (HKISTAT)
		CSgt. Vincent	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Williams	2 WESSEX
		CSgt. Stanley	1st Battalion
		CSgt. Tait 54	1st Battalion
<b>WO2</b>			
WO2 Beet	11 UDR		
WO2 North	Depot Lichfield		
WO2 Brame	HQNI		
WO2 Dobie	RIT		
WO2 Gardner	1st Battalion		
WO2 Coupland	1st Battalion		
WO2 Cox	4 UDR		
WO2 Samson	1st Battalion		
WO2 Moloney	1st Battalion		
WO2 Luker	Depot Lichfield		
WO2 Duran	School of Infantry		
WO2 Ficke	1 WESSEX		
WO2 Chapman	1st Battalion (for 1 WESSEX Feb 89)		
WO2 Lawrence	1st Battalion		
WO2 McLeod	1st Battalion		
WO2 Wareing	1st Battalion Band		
WO2 Watts	1st Battalion		
WO2 Gardiner	4 UDR		
WO2 Snee	RAC TRG Centre Bovington		
WO2 Gill	1st Battalion		
WO2 Christian	1st Battalion		
WO2 Hole	RMAS (for 1st Battalion Mar 1989)		
WO2 Maynard	1st Battalion		
WO2 Henwood	HRKR Hong Kong		

### Long Service List

WO2 Green	SSO MUNSTER
WO2 Whitfield	SSO MINDEN
WO2 Carter MBE	10 CTT Strensall
WO2 Morgan	19 CTT Corsham
WO2 Trench BEM	DNBC Winterborne Gunner
CSgt. Watton BEM	Estate Warden MUNSTER
CSgt. Choules	AAC Chepstow
CSgt. Fielding	1 Armd Div VERDEN
CSgt. Le Strange	4 Armd Div HQ
Sgt. Kendrick	Arborfield
Cpl. Barnes	RAEC Centre Beaconsfield

## Honours and Awards

Congratulations to the following who were honoured in 1988:

### OBE

Lieutenant Colonel E.R. Holmes TD Commanding Officer 2 WESSEX

### MBE

Major W.R. Stafford  
Major P.D. Stacey  
Captain G.P. Barlow

### MID

Major B.R.F. Franklin  
Major R.N. Wardle  
WO2 A.S. Gill  
CSgt. B. McIntyre  
Sgt. I. Missenden  
LCpl. N.D. Lloyd

### GOC's Commendation (NI)

Major M.J. Cornwell  
Sgt. J.R. Thomas  
Pte. S.J. Saunders

### CBF's Commendation (Hong Kong)

LCpl D.M. Prendergast  
Pte. S. Littlejohn  
Pte. E. Williams

### Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Sgt. J. Simms  
Sgt. R. Owens  
Cpl. W.R. Fodey  
Cpl. A.P. Harvey

### Commissions

We welcome the following who were commissioned into the Regiment during 1988:

Lieutenant A.M. Turner  
Second Lieutenant R.C. Boulter  
Second Lieutenant J.D. Gilchrist  
Second Lieutenant P.R. Flavell  
Second Lieutenant J.P.G. Boxall  
Second Lieutenant N.V. Shah

### Promotions

We congratulate the following on their promotion during 1988:

### Captain

Lieutenant F.J. Chedham  
Lieutenant A.C. White  
Lieutenant M.J. Lister  
Lieutenant W.H.C. Wilson

### Lieutenant

Second Lieutenant J.D. Gilchrist  
Second Lieutenant R.C. Boulter  
Second Lieutenant P.R. Flavell  
Second Lieutenant J. Boxall  
Second Lieutenant N. Shah  
Second Lieutenant S.J. Howe  
Second Lieutenant C.N. Jaques

### Regular Commission

We congratulate the undermentioned officer on his award of a Regular Commission in the Regiment:

Captain W.H.C. Wilson

### Retirements

The following officers retired from the Army in 1988. We thank them most warmly for their service to the Regiment and wish them the best of good fortune for the future:

Major A.F.R. Steevenson

Captain C.S. Biddulph

Captain A. Hobbs on transfer to 6 GR

Lieutenant R.C. Toyne on transfer to the RAF

### University Awards

The following Undergraduate has been awarded a Bursary:

A.M. Gay

Oxford University

### Regimental Calendar 1989

March	10	Regimental Committee of Managing Trustees Meeting.
	17	Wardrobe and Museum Trustees Meeting.
April	13	Regimental Guest Night at the Wardrobe.
	27	Friends of the Museum AGM.
May	8	Colonel of the Regiment's Luncheon at the Wardrobe.
June	3/4	Wilts OCA Reunion – Devizes.
	15/16	Regimental Golf Meeting – Tidworth.
	16	Officers Cocktail Party – Wardrobe.
July	1/2	Regimental Association Reunion – Salisbury.
	29/30	R BERKS OCA Reunion – Reading.
August	12	99th 1939-45 Officers Reunion – Salisbury.
September	1	Officers Dinner – Wadham College, Oxford.
	23/24	Dinner and Luncheon 4 and 5 Bns The Wiltshire Regiment – Salisbury.
	NYK	Luncheon for Mayors of Freedom Towns at the Wardrobe.
October	1	Dragon Club Luncheon – Aldershot.
	7	Sgts Past and Present Dinner.
	13	Regimental Committee of Managing Trustees Meeting.
	20	Wardrobe and Museum Trustees Meeting.
November	18	Arakan Dinner – Salisbury.

# REGIMENTAL NOTES

## Deaths

It is with deep regret that we announce the deaths of the following Officers:

Brigadier D.W.B.T. Hogg CBE who was the last Colonel of The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Major W.G. La T. Cockcraft who was Assistant Regimental Secretary (Berkshire) from 1974-79.

Captain T.J. Freelove The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment who was serving at the Depot Lichfield.

Our deepest sympathy goes to their widows and families. Obituaries are printed elsewhere in this issue of the Journal.

## The Colonel of the Regiment

Since taking over as Colonel of the Regiment on 1 January 1988, Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE has carried out a heavy and extensive programme of visits and social engagements in our affiliated Counties. The programme has included visits to HM Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire and for Wiltshire, the Mayors of the Freedom Towns, the GOC South East District and the GOC South West District, 1 Wessex and 2 Wessex, the army recruiting organisation, the Army Cadet Forces and HMS Dryad. In February Brigadier Turner hosted a very successful luncheon at the Wardrobe for the Editors of the local newspapers serving Berkshire and Wiltshire, which was also attended by the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion who was en route to Hong Kong from Northern Ireland. A Guest Night was held at the Wardrobe in April. The guests were Colonel Sir Hugh Brassey, Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, Major J.R. Henderson, HM Vice Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire, Major General Sir David Thorne, the Director of Infantry, Colonel M.R. Lee-Brown, the Chairman of TAVRA for Western Wessex, Lieutenant Colonel E.R. Holmes, the Commanding Officer 2 WESSEX, and Lieutenant Colonel The Viscount Allenby, the Army Careers Officer at Reading.

Brigadier Turner chaired the usual meetings of the Regimental Trustees and the Wardrobe and Museum Trustees, attended the Passing Out parades and the Prince of Wales's Division Selection Boards at the RMAS and took the salute at the Annual Reunion of the Regimental Association in Salisbury. In September he and Rosemary paid a visit to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. It was with great sadness that we learnt on his return from Hong Kong that he would have to enter hospital for a major operation. At the time of writing he is recovering in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery and look forward to him being with us once again early in 1989.

## Regimental Headquarters

We bade a sad farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Ridley who left us in September. We thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the Regiment and the Regimental Association during his two year stay and wish him the best of good fortune in his new job.

We welcome in his place Colonel Alan Hinings, who originally enlisted into The Wiltshire Regiment when he joined the Army in 1951. Colonel Hinings was commissioned into the Loyal Regiment on leaving Sandhurst, which amalgamated with The Lancashire Regiment in 1970 to form The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. After commanding the 1st Battalion of the new Regiment, Colonel Hinings held various staff appointments at HQ Director of Infantry and the Ministry of Defence and retired from the Army in July 1988. We extend a warm welcome to him and his wife Elizabeth and wish them a very happy stay with us. We were also sad to say farewell to Mrs Joy Ball, the Chief Clerk who took early retirement in April 1988. We welcome in her place Mrs Di Crockett from HQ UKLF.

## 1st Battalion

As will be seen by the 1st Battalion's contribution to this Journal, they have settled down very well in Hong Kong and they are enjoying a full and varied programme of activities. After an impressive arrival ceremony, the Battalion is acquitting itself well on training, operations on the Border and on the Sports field. Full advantage is being taken of the opportunities to travel in the Far East, particularly for adventurous training to Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Borneo and Korea. 1988 is the Chinese Year of the Dragon so it was fairly predictable that with the Regiment's past connections with China and having the Chinese Dragon in the cap badge the Battalion has been nicknamed "the Dragon Battalion". During the arrival ceremony which was held at the British Forces Headquarters in Hong Kong, the Colours were brought ashore from a Royal Naval Patrol Craft, HMS Swift. The Commanding Officer was invited to "dot" the eyes of the Lion, an honour only bestowed on important guests and visitors and the colourful traditional Lion Dance, which symbolises "strength and life" was performed. The dance obviously did the trick because the Battalion's rugby team made quite an impact by beating a top Club side in its first game and a Battalion team won the British Forces Rugby sevens competition and the Soccer Team won the Hong Kong Association Football Cup. The proposed visit by the Regimental Association to the Battalion in January 1989 is going ahead although only 22 members have elected to make the trip. They will be spending 10 nights in Hong Kong and will be based in a well known hotel in Causeway Bay. The Battalion will be

organising some entertainment and sight-seeing trips.

It has just been announced that Lieutenant Colonel D.J.A. Stone will be the next Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. He will probably take over from Lieutenant Colonel S.W.J. Saunders before the end of 1989. The Battalion is now expected to remain in Hong Kong until August 1990. On its return to the UK it is likely to be posted to 24 Bde in Catterick.

#### Visit by Colonel in Chief to the 1st Battalion

The Colonel in Chief, HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh visited the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong on 1 November. He was met on arrival by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel S.W.J. Saunders and visited the Companies deployed on the Border with China.



*The Colonel in Chief being welcomed by the Commanding Officer, Major P. Davidson Houston OC B Coy and Major General G. D. Johnson OBE MC, Commander British Forces are also in the picture.*



*The Colonel in Chief being briefed on operations in B Company's Sector.*

#### Northern Ireland Awards

We congratulate the ten members of the Regiment who were given awards for their service whilst on operations in Northern Ireland. Although they are individual awards they reflect very highly the achievements of the Battalion during its tour of the Province. Our photograph shows those who were still serving with the 1st Battalion when the awards were announced.

The award of the Mention in Despatches to CSgt. McIntyre means that both he and his brother, who is also serving with the 1st Battalion, have now received



*The Brigade Commander of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, Brigadier Beauchamp, congratulates members of the Battalion who received honours and awards for service in Northern Ireland. From left to right Pte. Saunders, LCpl. Lloyd, Sgt. Thomas, CSgt. McIntyre, WO2 Gill, Capt. Barlow, Major Franklin, Brigadier Beauchamp and Lt. Col. Saunders.*

a MID for service in Northern Ireland. We believe they are the first set of brothers in the Regiment to receive the same award.

#### Royal Hong Kong Police Commendation

We congratulate Pte Stephen Littlejohn who with LCpl. David Prendergast and Pte. Elfy Williams were personally commended by a senior officer of the Royal Hong Kong Police for assisting three police officers who were being attacked by a Chinese Triad gang with clubs. Although off duty at the time they helped to beat off the gang. Pte. Littlejohn was slightly injured in the attack but helped one of the policemen who was bleeding heavily into a taxi and escorted him to a nearby hospital.



*Pte Littlejohn (centre) with Pte Williams (left) and LCpl Prendergast (right).*

#### Staff College

We congratulate Major R.N. Wardle and Capt. P.C. Tomlinson on their selection for staff training from January 1990. Our congratulations also to Capt. F.D.F. Drury, Capt. J.M.C. Rylands and Capt. N.M. Smith on passing the Staff examination.

### Army Football Association Centenary

1988 marked one hundred years for the Army Football Association. The occasion was celebrated at the Military Stadium Aldershot on 13 April before the 1988 Army Challenge Cup Final. Units who had won the Army Cup since 1888 were invited to send a representative for each year that they had been successful, dressed in the uniform of the period, to take part in a parade in front of the Royal Box. The 1st Bn The Wiltshire Regiment won the Cup in 1921-22 whilst stationed in Dublin. They beat the 2nd Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers 3-1 in the final in the presence of HM King George V. The team captain was Capt. K.J.P. Oliphant MC. The Battalion won the cup again in the 1923-24 season when stationed at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth. They beat the Royal Artillery Shoeburyness 1-0 in the final also in the presence of HM King George V. The team captain was Sgt. C. Giles.

The Regiment's two representatives at the Centenary Ceremony were Cpl. Haddow and Pte Trounson from the Depot Lichfield. Cpl. Haddow was "dressed to the nines" in the Khaki uniform of the Twenties and Pte Trounson in the Blue Patrol walking out uniform. The Colonel of the Regiment was also present to watch the ceremony and the subsequent Army Cup Final.

### Benning Medal

In July the Regiment bought the Gold Medal awarded to Captain Conway Benning of the 66th Regiment after the battle of Albuhera, and his gold watch at a sale at Christies in London. Conway Benning was the son of a Northern Ireland Clergyman and joined the 66th Regiment in 1807. He was killed at Albuhera on 16 May 1811. An eye-witness wrote: "Our loss in Officers had been very great, having had four killed and eleven wounded; among the former Captain Benning who fell gallantly leading the Battalion he commanded to the charge." Conway Benning was a very good looking young man who when he went to join the Army in the Peninsular left an Irish farmer's daughter bearing his child. Benning had given her a charming miniature of himself and his gold watch. He was awarded posthumously an Army Gold Medal for Albuhera which was sent to his father with a letter from the Duke of York. Archdeacon Benning gave the medal to the girl.

The Colonel of the Regiment attended the sale at Christies with a representative from the Ogilby Trust. The medal and the watch are a charming addition to the Regimental Collection and it is hoped they will receive a lot of public attention in 1989. The Regiment is very grateful to the Victoria and Albert Museum and others trusts for generously helping to meet the cost of the purchase. A full account of how Captain Benning won the gold medal is included with the Museum notes.

### The Hungerford Tragedy Fund

The Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion called upon the Mayor of

Hungerford in February to hand over a cheque for £2000 for the Hungerford Tragedy Fund which had been donated by all ranks of the Battalion. The following letter was received by the Colonel of the Regiment from the Fund Manager:

"Dear Brigadier Turner

I am writing to thank you on behalf of the people of Hungerford for the kind donation of £2000 from the members of the Battalion towards the Hungerford Tragedy Fund.

The amount raised to date now stands at £1.1 million and over a quarter of this has already been distributed to those affected by the tragedy.

The people of Hungerford are slowly recovering and we continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity and support we are receiving.

Please pass on our thanks to all those concerned.

Yours sincerely

M.J. Harris

Fund Manager"

### The Hong Kong Raffle

The five prizewinners of the Friends of the Regimental Museum 1988 Raffle were:

1st Prize Captain W. Wilson DERR

2nd Prize Mr. James Leasor of Swallowcliffe,  
Wiltshire

3rd Prize Mr. R. Winnicot of Rowlands Castle,  
Hampshire

4th Prize Mrs. B. Cook of Woodford Green, Essex

5th Prize Mr. G.R. Robins of St Werburgher, Bristol

The raffle was a great success, the financial summary being as follows:

Ticket sales	£7426.50
Expenses	£323.71
Prizes	£1600.00
Profit available to fund Museum projects	£5502.79

### 100 Club

Prizewinners in 1988 were as follows:

	First prize	Second prize
March	Maj. J.A. Barrow	Lieut Col. A.J. Rose
June	Maj. A.P.B. Lake	Maj. M.J. Cornwell
September	Maj. J.W. Loe	Maj. M.J. Cornwell
December	Maj. J.A. Barrow	

### TA Appointments

Two former Regular Officers of the Regiment are now serving with the Territorial Army. Major Richard Titley has joined the Pool of Watchkeepers at CVHQ Woolwich and is badged to the Regiment. Our first TA member of the Regiment, Major Jimmy Durant has joined 1 WESSEX and is currently doing a Staff Appointment at HQ South West District.



Backus ADC RN, the Captain HMS Dryad and Colonel J.M. Hewitt OBE, the Divisional Colonel the Prince of Wales's Division. The 1989 Dinner will be held at Wadham College, Oxford on 1 September.

#### **1988 Officers Cocktail Party**

The 1988 Officers Cocktail Party was held at the Wardrobe on the second day of the Regimental Golf Meeting. Brigadier and Mrs Turner welcomed over 100 officers and their wives. Once again many of our Regimental widows also attended. 65 people went on to the usual supper party at the County Hotel afterwards. The 1989 Cocktail Party will be held at the Wardrobe on Friday 16 June. It is proposed to hold a buffet supper party afterwards at the Wardrobe.

#### **100th Birthday**

On 29 August 1988 Mr. H.E. Lintern MM, late The Wiltshire Regiment celebrated his 100th birthday. Mr. Lintern is the oldest living holder of the Military Medal. He enlisted into the 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment in 1914 and his first posting abroad after the 1914-1918 War was with his wife, now aged 97 years, to Hong Kong! He retired as a Colour Sergeant in 1935. The photograph shows the Colonel of the Regiment congratulating Mr. Lintern and presenting him with a bottle of champagne, Mrs. Lintern is also in the picture nearest the camera.



*New memorial to 43rd Div. in LOCHEM, Holland.*

#### **43rd Division Memorial**

A new Memorial to the 43rd Division has been erected in LOCHEM, Holland. The photograph of the Memorial was taken by a member of the Wiltshire Old Comrades Association during a recent visit to Arnhem.

#### **1988 Officers Dinner**

The 1988 Officers Dinner was held at Wadham College, Oxford. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and 50 officers attended. The guests were Captain J.D.L.



#### **Regimental Room**

The Regimental Room at the Wardrobe has recently been redecorated. The photograph was taken by students from the Salisbury Technical College on a Photography Course who used the Wardrobe for a Course Project.

#### **Old 1st Battalion Colours**

The old Colours of the 1st Battalion have now been cased in purpose-built air tight containers and are fixed to the South wall of St Michael's Chapel in Salisbury Cathedral. The Regimental Book of Remembrance is also kept in the Chapel.

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

The REME Bailleul Sgts Mess at Arborfield was the venue for the 1988 Dinner and what an excellent choice it turned out to be.

Thanks to an initial enquiry made by Roy Povey and the follow up action and several sorties made by Sgt. D. Smith, with the task of arranging overnight accommodation, some 125 members and guests sat down to dinner and 30 were given a bed for the night, thus avoiding the problem of drinking and driving. An excellent attendance because it was felt that with the

1st Battalion being in Hong Kong, the numbers attending this year would be down. However those members serving at ERE rallied round and gave their support. Our guests this year were the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier D.E. Ballantine OBE, MC, Colonel D.A. Jones, RSM Lane of 2 WESSEX and WO1 Burns REME. We trust they all enjoyed themselves talking over old times.

It was good to see Major "Topper" Brown SASC who left the Battalion in Malta as well as WO1 Godwin, WO2 Beet, WO2 Brame and Dennis Watts all over from Northern Ireland and Andrew Prior from Holland. Several members of the 1st Battalion, back in the UK on courses came along, and so did a number of ex Royal Berkshire members living in the area. This was much appreciated and indicates that the "Past and Present" is now well established.

"Florrie" Ford and Chris Whiting did a marvellous job in organising the raffle. Over £200.00 being raised to offset the cost of the evening. Hopefully, we will hold our next Dinner again at Arborfield but this will depend upon whether the civilian contractors are able and willing to lay it on for us. It has been made known to us by the SEE and the Apprentices College that we are welcome there at any time!

To those of you who have not yet attended one of our Dinners, give it a try, you will be surprised who turns up.

### **The Dragon Luncheon Club**

The annual luncheon was held in the Officers Mess, The Royal Corps of Transport, Buller Barracks Aldershot on October 2nd. Forty four members, representing all Battalions of The Royal Berkshire Regiment, were present. In addition to the Loyal toast and that of the Regiment a special one was proposed to "Absent Friends". This was peculiarly apposite since it included Major Cockcraft who, since the last war, has organized first the dinner and latterly the luncheon. This year he would have presided but for the illness from which he has since sadly died.

### **Divisional Golf Meeting**

The Regiment entered a team in the Prince of Wales's Divisional Meeting held at Whittington Barracks GC on 29 April 1988. The Regiment, represented by Major General Crabtree, Lt. Col. Carter, Major Ingles, Major Casserley, Major Murray and Mr Flay came a creditable 5th out of 9 teams.

### **Regimental Golf Meeting 1989**

The 1989 Meeting will be held at Tidworth Golf Club on Thursday 15 June and Friday 16 June 1989.

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

Our Twelfth annual reunion was held at the Wardrobe on 13 August 1988.

There were a few unavoidable absentees from the regular attenders over the years. 37 were present including one old friend who had heard of the reunion when visiting the Wardrobe earlier in the year. We would all like to think that the publicising of the Wardrobe might produce other names for whom we have addresses.

The stories of 40 odd years ago get bigger and better for the telling as the years go by!

The Regimental Room is splendid venue and our thanks are due to the Wardrobe Officers and staff for their ready co-operation and to Mrs Wilson and her helpers for excellent catering.

The 1989 reunion will be held at the Wardrobe on Saturday 12 August when we hope to have the remnants of the original Regimental Colour of the 99th Regiment which has recently been repaired and preserved on display.

### **Sergeant M.A.W. Rogers VC MM**

It is proposed to publish an article on Sgt. M.A.W. Rogers VC MM in the 1990 Regimental Journal.

Sgt. Rogers enlisted in the 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment in 1934 at the age of 14. He was a Drummer Boy. He was part of the Battalion Team which won the Inter Unit Young Soldiers Championship and in the years before the war he was a member of the Battalion Athletics Team as a sprinter. In France in 1939/40 when 2 WILTS were serving as part of the BEF he was a Corporal in the Drums. In 1941 he was promoted Sergeant and became Platoon Sergeant of the Carrier Platoon, the appointment he held until his death. He was awarded the MM for his part in the action at the FARM SANDOLINI, GERBINI in SICILY on 1 August 1943. He was awarded the VC, posthumously, for the part he played in the attack on 3 June 1944 by 2 WILTS North West of ARDEA during the breakout from the ANZIO beachhead.

Any information or reminiscences from those who served with Sgt. Rogers would be most welcome and particularly those covering the war period. We would also like to have any recollections from those who were with B or C Companies or the Carrier Platoon in the attack NW of Ardea. Letters should be addressed to Major J. Peters MBE at RHQ and should reach him by not later than 1 August.

### **Regimental Golfing Society 1988**

The 1988 Regimental Golf meeting was held at Tidworth Golf Club (for the 30th successive year) on 16 and 17 June in perfect weather conditions. Twenty-four players took part in the various competitions and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Prizes were presented by the Colonel of the Regiment and it was particularly pleasant to see Colonel Hugh Gillson who had been invited as a guest win the Gillson Trophy, presented by his father when he was Commanding Officer of The Wiltshire Regiment Depot in 1924.

Results were as follows:

## Stableford Singles

### Division A

- |                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Major E.H. Ingles           | 37 pts |
| 2. Mr. A.G. Flay               | 33 pts |
| 3. Major General D.T. Crabtree | 30 pts |

### Division B

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mr. R. Povey            | (on last 9) 36 pts |
| 2. RSM N. Minty            | 36 pts             |
| 3. Brigadier W.G.R. Turner | 25 pts             |

### Medal

- |                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| 1. Capt. F.K. Yiend   | 81 |
| 2. Colonel H. Gillson | 82 |
| 3. Major D. Murray    | 86 |

### Medal Handicap

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Colonel H. Gillson   | 67             |
| 2. Major E.H. Ingles    | (on last 9) 71 |
| 3. Lt. Col. A.E. Carter | 71             |

### Medal Handicap (over 24 handicap)

- |                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Mr. R. Povey   | 73 |
| 2. RSM N. Minty   | 74 |
| 3. Mr. P. Mallows | 78 |

### Foursome Stableford

- |                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Major Ingles and Mr. Green      | 36 pts |
| 2. Lt. Col. Carter and Mr. Mallows | 33 pts |
| 3. Maj. Casserley and RSM Minty    | 29 pts |

### Match v Tidworth GC

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Tidworth GC  | 4 |
| The Regiment | 1 |



*Northern Ireland Ferozeshah Celebrations – 21st December 1988*

*From left to right, top row, Edward Mackereth, WO1(RSM) Carpenter, WOII Brame, WOII Cox, CQMS Watts, WOII Gardiner, Lt. Col. West, Col Mackereth, WOII Beet, Capt. Wort  
Middle row, Mrs Lake, Mrs West, Mrs Mackereth, Mrs Wort, Mrs Watts, Mrs Carpenter  
Sitting front left, Maj. Lake with Meg & Teasle, sitting front right 2Lt. Carr*

## HMS Dryad

With the closure of HMS VERNON; the Royal Navy's Underwater Warfare, Minewarfare and Diving School in 1985; it was the Colonel in Chief's suggestion that the Regiment's affiliation with the establishment should pass to HMS DRYAD, the new home of Underwater Warfare specialists.

HMS DRYAD is situated within the 300 acre estate of Southwick Park about 7 miles North of Portsmouth in the folds of the South Downs. Once a privately owned country mansion and estate it was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence in 1941 and in 1943 became Admiral RAMSEY's Planning Headquarters and General EISENHOWER's Headquarters for the Allied Invasion of Europe. After the war the house and estate were compulsorily purchased by the Ministry of Defence and became the Royal Navy's Navigation and Direction School. However, the historic wall map of the French coast situated in the Operations Room during the Allied invasion has been preserved behind glass and can still be viewed in Southwick House, the Officers' Mess. This map reflects the position of the invasion forces at H-Hour for the first British beach on the morning of 6 June 1944.



*Southwick House, HMS DRYAD.*

Since its war days Southwick House has been surrounded by a collection of newer buildings and HMS DRYAD is now the home of the School of Maritime Operations providing training for Officers and Ratings who will form "The Fighting Team" in the Operations Room of the surface warship. All training is a mixture of classroom theory and practical work; computerised trainers simulating every conceivable type of warfare scenario and enabling Operations Room teams to become highly skilled in running digital equipment in the Royal Navy's latest ships.

Officers and Ratings on courses are trained to operate radars, sonar and electronic warfare sensors,



*The wall map room from which General Eisenhower launched the Allied invasion of Europe.*

man positions in the Operations Room and various communication channels, control the ship's helicopter/aircraft, navigate and fire missiles, torpedoes and guns. They are responsible for detecting the enemy, identifying him and attacking, using the appropriate weapon. Training takes place in the main in two large buildings housing computerised trainers. One is a tactical trainer, not peculiar to any type of ship. The other building houses "model" Operations Rooms of six different types of Royal Navy ships which are manned by students from Junior Ratings to Commanding Officers. Controlling staff play the part of the enemy by injecting into the computer, missiles, submarines, aircraft and torpedoes – in fact creating the conditions at sea of a ship at war. The only thing missing is the pitch and roll of the ship.

However, all work and no play makes "Jack" a dull boy and within the 300 acre estate there are opportunities for relaxation. Apart from a newly opened Sports and Recreation Centre there is an 18 hole golf course and a Riding School with an indoor and outdoor arena and, and at the last count, about 70 horses.

### **A Day in the life of RHQ**

Mrs Crockett has ordered supplies in the usual way, including toilet rolls, minimum order 480. The lorry driver has failed to notice the special instructions and cannot get his vehicle into the Close. Mrs Wilkinson, the only person at RHQ at the time with a car, arranges to rendezvous with the lorry driver at the nearest convenient spot. This happens to be a car park opposite the Emergency Department of the General Infirmary. While she finds somewhere to park the lorry driver carries the obvious bundles wrapped in clear polythene across a busy road to load into her boot.

Meanwhile back at the farm ..... the electricians arrive to repair a light in the Museum, another electrician arrives to replace the meter. Major Pickford

(Secretary, Wilts OCA) and Colonel Salt (Secretary, Royal Berkshire OCA) both arrive at the same time, normally they come in on separate days. The Journal has arrived, the Wiltshire OCA Annual Report has not!

By now it is coffee time, lo and behold the electricity is turned off. Colonel Salt sends down for some candles! The fire alarms start to ring. The visitor staying in the Landmark Flat thinks it is his front door and comes down the stairs, finds no one there but sees the milk, which he promptly takes back up to the flat on the top floor. Only having just arrived the night before he does not realise that the milk is not for him. Luckily Mrs Wilkinson guesses what has happened and rescues the milk.

There is a Committee Meeting and lunch for 16. Mrs Hammond who does the cooking cannot come but kindly leaves everything, nearly ready. Mrs Crockett and Mrs Wilkinson will have to cook the lunch.

Lt. Col. Stone at Ashford has arranged a day out for

his foreign officers on a course at the Intelligence Centre. The Regimental Secretary has told him that we would be delighted to entertain them and as a treat will give them a cream tea. So, the ladies of RHQ disappear for half an hour to do the shopping, getting back just in time to cook lunch.

Good news! the long awaited computer will be delivered tomorrow. In between cooking, shopping, coffee making etc etc office furniture in the General Office is re-arranged (at least three times) to make room for it.

There is just time to type letters for the Regimental Secretary, Assistant Regimental Secretary, Curator and the two OCA Secretaries, do the post, balance the petty cash and postage accounts before the foreign officers arrive.

A young Corporal home on leave calls in to collect some raffle tickets for the Hong Kong Trip. "What do you do all day?" he asks.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

**Curator: Major J.H. Peters MBE**

### **THE REGIMENT IN CHINA AND HONG KONG**

With limited space available it is difficult to be able to give more than just a passing account of the Regiment's service in China and Hong Kong, but with publications about our past now difficult to get hold of, the following brief account will, it is hoped, be of interest to those who wish to increase their knowledge of the Regiment's history.

#### **The Opium War 1840-42 – 49th (Hertfordshire) Regiment of Foot**

In 1839 the opium trade between China and India which, because of the enormous profits involved, was encouraged by the British, was brought abruptly to a halt by the Chinese government, even though the Chinese people themselves actually yearned for it. The British suspecting that the Chinese government would probably use this as an excuse to stop trading altogether decided to act, and therefore in early 1840 the Governor General of India received orders for the despatch of a small force to carry out reprisals. The 49th was to be part of this force.

This war of reprisals consisted, in the main, of a series of short sharp actions usually involving landings from naval ships or transports and was to last for more than two years before the Chinese gave in with the signing of "The Peace of Nanking". The 49th acquitted themselves well being particularly noted for their dash and courage, so much so that on 17th February 1843 the War Office sanctioned for the Regiment "in

consequence of its distinguished conduct and gallantry" the adoption of the device of the Dragon, and the bearing on it's Colours and Accoutrements of the word "China".

#### **The War of 1860 – 99th (Lanarkshire) Regiment of Foot**

This war covers the sacking of the summer palace of Peking of which a lot has been spoken about within the Regiment, often without regard to the facts. I have therefore, included extracts from Captain J H Dunne's (later a Colonel of the Regiment) lively diary "From Calcutta To Peking," where appropriate.

The 1858 Treaty of Tientsin authorised both Britain and France to keep a resident minister in China. In 1859 the small force entrusted with the disembarkation of the two ministers was repulsed in the area of the Taku Forts taking heavy casualties. The governments of both Britain and France decided therefore to send an expedition to China to enforce the treaty.

The British contingent was to be raised from units currently in India and would be comprised of two divisions and a cavalry brigade. The 99th was to be part of the 2nd Division.

The voyage from India to Hong Kong took about six weeks, the monotony being relieved by the troops indulging in impromptu theatricals, fishing for shark or games with the wildfowl, on board as rations. The appearance of a friendly gunboat or tug was also welcome as this could mean a tow which could result in more time to have a reasonable 'run ashore' at Singapore or other port of call.

After a week in Hong Kong the assembled flotilla moved north to Chusan which was occupied as a sort of forward assembly area. Capt Dunne describes the scene: "Everything is gloriously uncertain, and many say even now that there will be no war.... it would be, I suspect, a disappointment to some hundreds who are looking for promotion by the row....even Guardsmen have not been above coming out in order to get their share of the rewards".

After a wait of two months, for negotiations, the invasion force again sailed north, now to rendezvous with the French, for a landing just north of the Taku Forts, the taking of which was essential if the march on Peking was to be successful. The first brigade to land (not the 99th's) did so with much difficulty, not as a result of any enemy action but because of the difficulty of ploughing through the heavy sticky mud. The Brigadier led the way having taken off his trousers, boots and socks which, with his sword, he slung over his shoulder keeping only his helmet and jacket on his person. Having set the fashion for the "assault" the brigade staff did likewise, as did apparently the whole brigade.

Eventually the whole force was landed, including the French, and shortly after the Taku Forts taken. The march on Peking then began with Tientsin being the first town occupied. It was here that the 99th took over the lead to the next objective, Ho-Si-Wu, where a halt was called while the diplomats of the force entered into negotiations with the Chinese, much to the annoyance of the military commanders. This enforced halt resulted in the Chinese being able to launch an attack on the Anglo-French force with some 20000 men. The Allies, however, with the 99th in the centre, were able to repulse the onslaught.

The Chinese [Tartars] then fell back to a position just outside Peking where they regrouped. The advancing Allies, taking advantage of their previous successes, again set upon the enemy with the 99th in the thick of it. The Chinese again withdrew and peace negotiations ensued. It was while these negotiations were in progress that the French force disappeared from the scene. Capt Dunne recalls the events

Sunday, October 7th – 7 pm. "The Commander-in-Chief has just come in having discovered our gallant allies, the French, either accidentally or purposely, pushed on yesterday to the Emperor's summer palace.. they have plundered it tremendously and now.. they have watches, clocks, and jewellery lying about their camp... General Montauban declares that everything is being guarded most carefully by him, so we must suppose that his men are merely keeping the things in their tents and knapsacks for safety".

October 8th. – "A memorable day in the history of plunder and destruction. Off soon after daylight with a select little party....it was nearly twelve o'clock before I got to the palace gates. Saw everyone clearing off,

loaded with booty; and in despair, took to buying pearls in the French camp...When I went into the palace it was in a frightful state..Everything that could not be moved was being smashed...Every Officer in our army who had managed to procure leave was doing business...". Capt Dunne goes on to say that there wasn't much left of any value by the time he got there, but he did manage to pick up a nice roll of silk, but even this was stolen from him by a Chinaman who he had entrusted to look after it while he went looking for something else. He goes on "...so, except for my purchases from the French, I had nothing but two or three coats of the Sun's brother". Others were more fortunate and one brother Officer got back with thirty four rolls of silk, all however were determined to go back to the palace to try and find more.

October 9th. – "Today there was a general surrender of all our ill-gotten possessions. It was decided that everything taken at the palace should be given up, and sold for the benefit of the Army...there was nothing for it but to produce all. An exception was made as regarded those things purchased in the French camp". Included in the things purchased from the French by Capt Dunne was "a pretty little dog". This was "Looty" eventually brought back to England and subsequently called a "Pekinese". There is no doubt that the French got away with all of the most valuable items, there being no amnesty placed upon them. The diary relates "In one camp we saw them squatted down in parties, while the corporals served them out ingots in the way our men get biscuit, and a sergeant assured me that every man in his company had at least one, if not two, watches apiece".

The auction of the loot taken by the British realised enough to enable every soldier of the British force to be given four pounds, and the Officers, even though they had to pay, some valuable mementoes of the campaign, some of which are still in the Regiment's possession today.

While the looting continued, peace negotiations went on, and eventually a peace was agreed with much ceremony in which the 99th played a significant part.

The force eventually broke up but the 99th stayed in China, being stationed at Canton. After a year there they moved to Hong Kong where they remained for a further three years.

## The "Twenties" & "Thirties"

1st & 2nd Battalions The Wiltshire Regiment.

With the ending of the First World War the rapid reorganisation required to place the regular battalions of the army back into peacetime locations put a not undue strain on many regiments, particularly so in the case of the 2nd Wiltshires who were required to move to Hong Kong.

The battalion arrived in the Colony in November 1919, and the following appeared in one of the local

papers:- "Hong Kong's new regiment arrived at about 11am yesterday... the men landed at 1230 pm and sent to Murray, Mount Austin and Victoria Barracks. Fifteen Officers have been housed at Murray while the rest are temporarily residing at the Peak Hotel. There are 24 married men with their families. It will be interesting news to the residents of Hong Kong to learn that the regiment has a Band of it's own, fifty strong, under Bandmaster Easton". Once established, the pattern of life appeared to settle down into much the same way as it is today except, of course there was no border to guard as such. Detachments were very much the order of the day with the attendant ceremonial being of great importance. Peking was one of the places which demanded such a detachment; the duties being shared with the American, French, Italian, Dutch, Belgian and Japanese forces.



*General Sir John Hart Dunne K.C.B.*

In his first letter, after their arrival, to the Colonel of the Regiment, (none other than General Sir John Hart Dunne KCB) the Commanding Officer wrote: – "You will be pleased to hear that the battalion seems to have made a very good impression in the Colony....the only complaint we have is the high dollar, it now costs 5 shillings (25 pence) and is hitting everyone hard". To which the General replied, "...things do not change, I remember a CO of the 99th fifty-six years ago, then we were all on Indian rates of pay and the CO drew £100 a month pay plus £40 for command and he received it in dollars at 4s.3d per

dollar, half of his pay he took to the bank and bought bills on England at 4s.6d, so that on leaving Hong Kong after twenty-one months he had made a tidy profit".

Although overseas tours were very much longer than they are today the 2nd did not stay long in Hong Kong and in early 1922 they moved to India. However, in 1929 they again sailed for China, this time the destination being Shanghai. This tour was very short and uneventful and the following year the battalion sailed for home.

Early 1932 saw the 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment on its way to Shanghai, this time with a little more urgency as fighting had broken out between the Chinese and Japanese, but although a War Diary was opened the battalion did not get greatly involved and in November it sailed for Singapore.

### **The 1950's – 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment**

The run down of our Forces after the Second World War and the disappearance of most Regiment's second battalions left the Army very much depleted in the face of the subsequent world events which showed that there was a need, after all, for a sizeable standing army. This downturn in world events was to have quite an effect on the movements of the 1st Wiltshires.

The Battalion had been earmarked for a tour of duty in Malaya to join the forces fighting communist guerrillas there. The advance party had already arrived and had embarked on a programme of jungle training when word came that the Battalion was to proceed to Hong Kong. This same warning was transmitted to the main body who were, by then, already on the high seas. This sudden change of posting was brought about by the start of the Korean War and the rapid departure to Korea of the Brigade from Hong Kong. The 1st Wiltshires were required to re-inforce the depleted garrison in the Colony.

On arrival the Battalion moved to the New Territories close to the Chinese mainland, where they quickly engaged themselves in constructing defences, as China, now in the hands of the Communists, was not a particularly friendly neighbour. Tactical exercises dominated battalion life; followed closely by the need to train drafts of other regiments, sent out from the United Kingdom on their way to re-inforce their battalions in Korea. Other activities did however take their place, including ceremonial, and shooting, in which the Battalion did especially well.

The tented camps of the New Territories were not without their problems, witness the following extract from the Diary of Events:–

"4 Oct 50 – Typhoon Signal No 7 – received 0130hrs – Strong gales expected within 4-6 hours. All tents were struck by 0430hrs..". [Rest content all ye in typhoon proof Fort Stanley].

In 1951 it was the Wiltshires turn to send a draft to Korea when Lt A E Carter and about 100 other ranks

were sent to re-inforce the 1st Glosters.

These were the days when the vast majority of Corporals and Privates, and some Subaltern Officers, were National Servicemen and the turnover within battalions a constant process of training and re-training. Even more upheaval occurred during times of a major battalion move when it was not uncommon for large drafts to be transferred from one unit to another, as were the 270 Officers and men of the Devons who joined the Wiltshires in the Colony.

The Battalion left Hong Kong in October 1953 for Warminster and this was to be the last time the Regiment would see service in the Colony until the 1st Battalion the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment's arrival in January 1988.

### **CAPTAIN CONWAY BENNING. 2nd 66th REGIMENT**

Conway Benning was originally commissioned into the Royal Artillery, but exchanged into the 66th in 1807. He was born about 1773, the son of Archdeacon Benning, of Dromore, Ireland.

He was a good looking attractive young man but unfortunately when he went away to join the Regiment

in the Penninsular he left behind him [near Ballycastle, Co Antrim] a farmer's daughter who was shortly to have a baby. Benning had given her the only things he possessed, a charming miniature of himself and a large gold watch. The girl cut out a piece of paper which exactly fitted into the watch, and on it was pricked "For Love of Conway Benning".

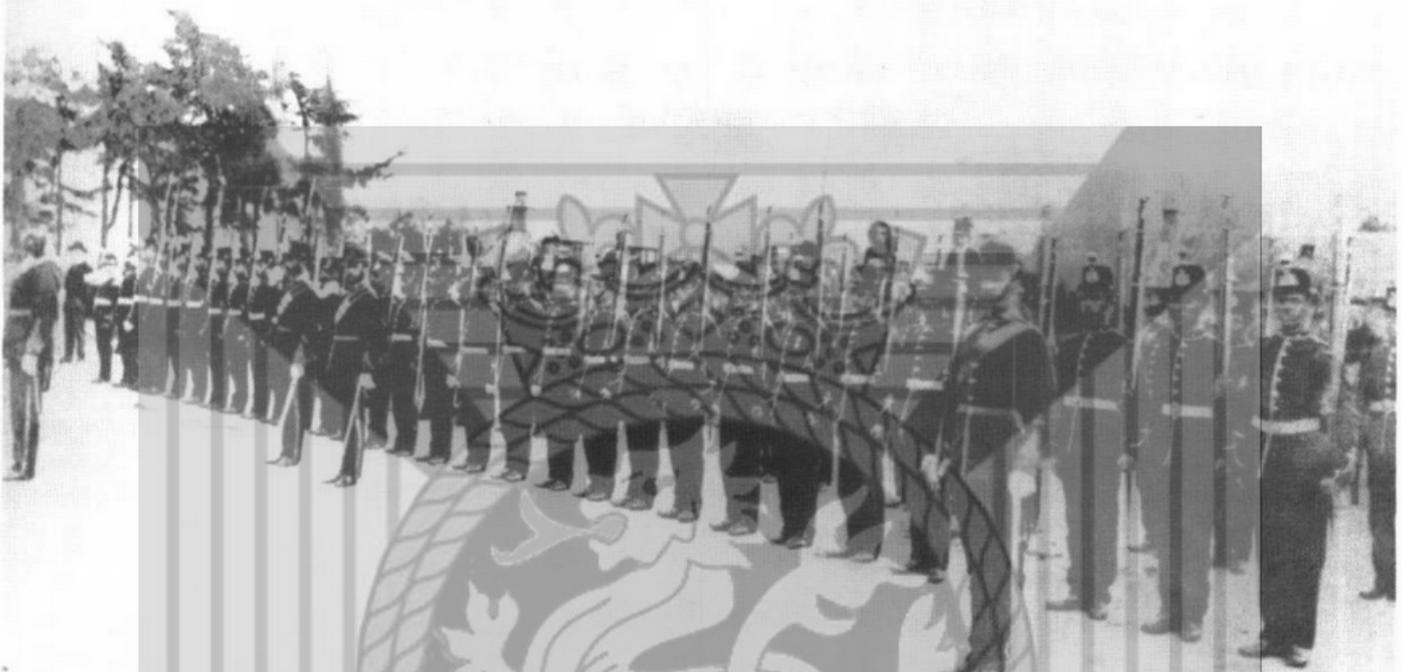


*Captain Conway Benning 2nd 66th.*

Captain Benning had been badly wounded at the Battle of Talavera, but he recovered in time to be given command of the 2/66th for the Battles of Badajoz and Albuera [the Colonel having taken over command of the Brigade]. He was killed at Albuera and posthumously awarded a Gold Medal. When Archdeacon Benning received the medal from The Duke of York, the Commander-in-chief, He sent it to the girl.

It is the gold watch and medal which have been successfully acquired at a recent Christies auction. The documents which came with the watch show that it was made prior to 1750 and probably belonged to Benning's father. The moulding on the gold case depicts a very fine nativity scene.

The 2/66th gained six gold medals for the Penninsular War, one each to Captains Benning and Goldie [Posthumous], a Major Dodgin received three; for Vittoria, Pyrenees and Aire, and one for Lieutenant Colonel Nicol, for Nive. The latter's medal is already in the museum's possession.



### Colours of the 99th Regiment

The 1st stand of Colours, presented in Glasgow soon after the Regiment's formation in 1824, were eventually laid up in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. Recently however, they were taken from St Giles and placed in the Wardrobe. Of the Queen's Colour there is virtually nothing left, but the Regimental Colour has been stabilised and will shortly go on display in the Museum.

The 2nd stand presented in 1841, were presented to HRH The Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh in 1874, shortly after the Regiment's title was changed to Duke

of Edinburgh's. They were kept at Clarence House, but after the Duke's death in 1900 they were laid up at St James's Church, Devizes.

The early photograph shows a Guard of Honour of the 99th, which was then under command of Lieutenant Colonel J.H. Dunne, at Ballater railway station after the Colours had been presented to the Duke. Note the headress, the last in the line of Shakos, and the rifles, which are Sniders. Only one medal can be clearly seen on parade, perhaps a Pekin veteran.

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## THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

### Membership and Subscriptions

The membership of the Society now stands a 265 a welcome increase, at the new subscription rates, since the last Journal. To the many in the Regiment who are not yet members, may we ask again for your support at the following rates:

- Individual – £5 per annum
- Joint (Husband and Wife) – £8 per annum
- Life (Husband and Wife) – £50.
- Corporate – £100.

Application forms for membership can be obtained from Major J H Peters at RHQ or from the PRI in the 1st Battalion. The completion of a covenanted subscription gives the museum full value through tax relief for the money subscribed at no extra cost.

Those who become Life Members will wish to know that their money is invested in National Savings Bonds to produce an annual income through interest. Currently the sum invested is £2,000.

### Annual General Meeting – 1989

The 1988 AGM was well attended on 21 April and James Leasor, the author, gave an amusing address after the official business. The 1989 AGM will take place in The Wardrobe, chaired by The Colonel of the Regiment, commencing at 1430 hours on Thursday 27th April.

### The Hong Kong Raffle

Details of the prize winners and the financial summary are given in the Regimental Notes.

### Museums Year – 1989 – Open Day Sale at the Wardrobe

1989 is Museums Year and to mark it there will be an Open Day for the Museums in The Cathedral Close on Saturday 3 June. The Society will be running an Open Day Sale as the fund raising event for 1989, to take advantage of the many visitors expected – in excess of 1,000 on the very wet day in 1986, when a similar day was held.

In March the committee will request support in the form of items for sale, and physical help on the day. Please note the day now, 3 June, in your diaries and start to earmark possible sale items which can be donated. We plan to have stall selling: Books – Pictures – Toys – Quality Clothing – Kitchen and Garden Ware – Plants and Vegetables – Wine – Cake Stall – White Elephant Stall – Sports Kit, etc.

### Projects Funded and Supported

Members subscriptions, and part of the raffle profit, have been used to fund the following, totalling £3,790:

- a. A wrought iron light bracket in the entrance hall – £250.
- b. A grant towards the purchase of the Benning medal, watch and papers – £750.
- c. Audio equipment to trial with information tapes on selected exhibits – £300.
- d. Publicity leaflets – £1,500 plus £750 for the years 1989-90.
- e. Expenses to fund Book Preservation instruction for NADFAS volunteers working in the library – £240.

### Future Development of the Museum

Your committee has prepared a draft paper of possible future development of the museum with costings, which awaits consideration by the Trustees. In addition Colonel John Hill, with the help of many members, is preparing scripts for tape recordings linked to selected exhibits, particularly those of World War 2.

### Attendance at the Museum

Despite a reduction in the tourist figures overall of 15% in Salisbury, the museum attendance for 1988 showed an increase of 11% over 1987 which is satisfactory but still capable of improvement. The trustees and Curator would like to see this year's total of 11,350 increased to 15,000, but this will depend in part on all our efforts to advertise amongst our friends, and for those regimental agents distributing leaflets to keep their outlets supplied before and during the season.

For those able to do so please recruit a Friend this year and encourage a visit. Finally all members are thanked for their support of the museum in all its aspects and we look forward to further progress in 1989.

## 1st BATTALION

### Diary

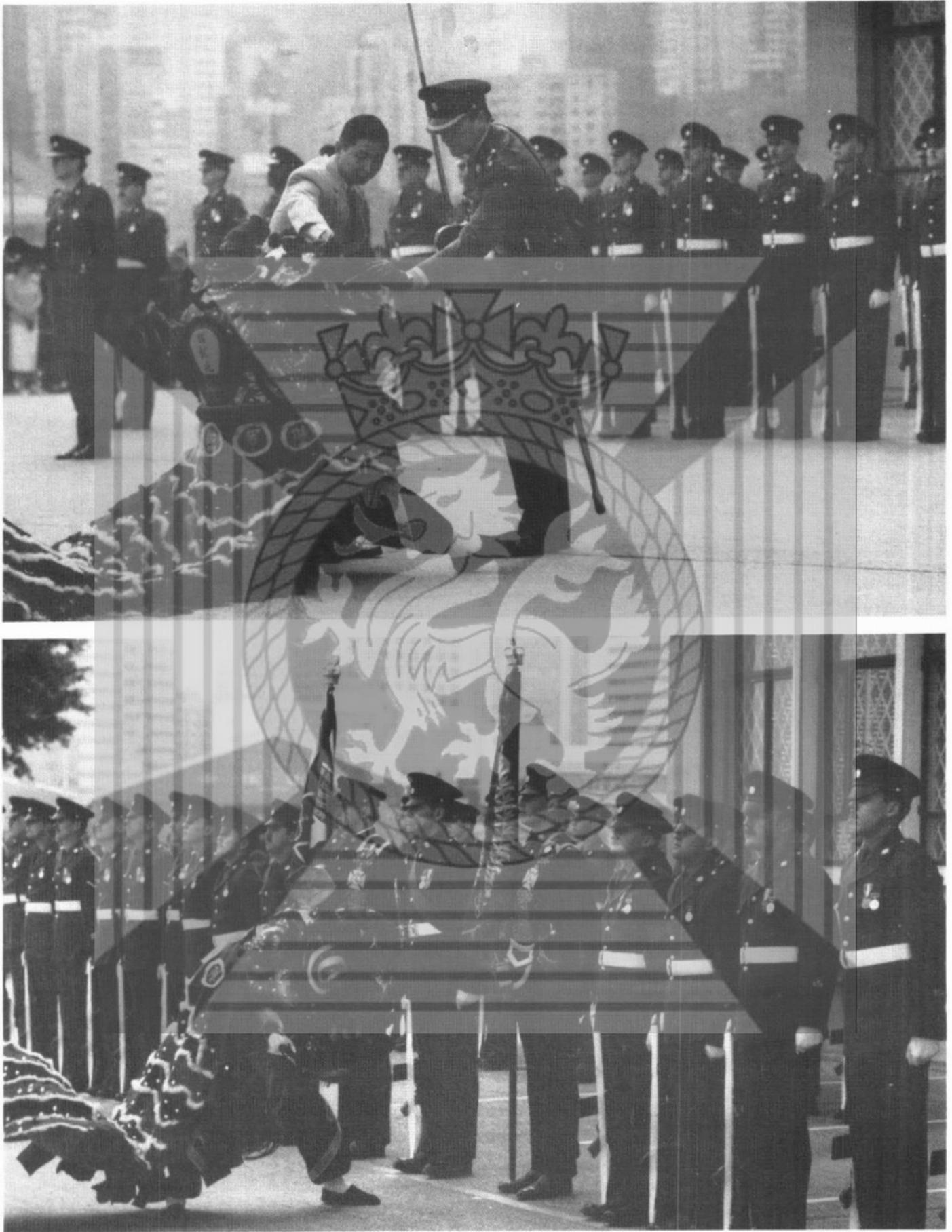
The thoughts of the interminable rain and cold of Northern Ireland seem far behind us, almost ancient history, as we now combat Hong Kong's humidity and heat in a vain effort to keep cool, wishing on occasion that we could be facing that inevitable cold of the United Kingdom. These occasions though are few and far between, normally on early morning PT period or half way through a rugby match.

Whilst much planning for the move from Northern Ireland to Hong Kong was going on in the latter half of 1987, the vast majority of the Battalion had still to concentrate their thoughts on the job in hand. Operations continued right up until the end of the tour and this, combined with getting the barracks and all the Battalion's equipment ready for what was an excellent handover meant that no-one became

complacent. All were kept busy and it was not until we were on block leave that we were able to let our thoughts drift to what life might be like in the Far East. We were extremely fortunate not to suffer any casualties on the Northern Ireland tour and for that fact alone it should be regarded as a success, not to mention the fact that the Battalion has so far received two MBEs, six MID's and two GOC's Commendations as a result. The Commanding Officer received the following signal from Commander 8th Infantry Brigade on leaving Aldergrove:

"As you complete your busy but most successful tour in Aldergrove I want to thank you and your Battalion for the hard work and support that you have given to 4 UDR, 8 UDR and this Brigade ..."

We still keep in touch with 4 and 11 UDR, particularly with the former and we have managed to



*The arrival ceremony in Hong Kong.*

organise a number of training attachments that have proved very successful. Our links with 4 UDR remain particularly strong, we left them facing an upsurge of terrorist activity towards the latter half of 1987 despite the international outrage over the Remembrance Day bombing in Enniskillen in November and we welcome the opportunity to give some of their soldiers a break from Northern Ireland operations in Hong Kong. The move to Hong Kong after two weeks leave in the UK went well. Special congratulations must go to WO2 Coupland, Sgt. Thomas and LCpl. Valler for their patience and diligence in sorting out the detail for the move; but more importantly to the Families Office staff who worked very long hours and made every possible attempt to make sure that the move for the families was as smooth as possible. All families remained well informed throughout the last 6 months, an excellent brochure and video were produced and a number of talks arranged, all designed to prepare everyone for life in Hong Kong. Special congratulations to Lt. R.J. Luckwell, Sgt. Browne, Cpl. Wright and the rest of the Families Office staff. Well Done.

Our arrival in Hong Kong was a well publicised event, the Battalion was officially welcomed with a small parade at which the Colours were ceremonially brought ashore to the Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong (HMS TAMAR) from HMS SWIFT. The Commanding Officer was asked to practice his artistic skills in public by painting the eyes of the Dragon that performed a welcome dance for good luck. The dance seems to have worked, the Battalion has settled quickly into the local scene and we have already established a good reputation in Hong Kong. We find that we are very much part of the community and the excellent facilities at Stanley Fort are in constant demand. Sport has continued to flourish. The Soccer team, managed by Lt. Sherman, quickly made their mark by winning the Army (Hong Kong) Cup in a thrilling final against GTR. The services of many of the team have been sought by the British Forces Combined Services side. This has also been the case with both our Rugby and Cricket teams. Rugby is the high profile sport in Hong Kong and the Moonrakers XV has wasted no time establishing itself as a force to be reckoned with in the Hong Kong 1st Division. Many of our players have been selected for other representative sides in the Colony as well as the British Forces side. 2Lt. J. Boxall and Pte. Cross have done particularly well to get selected for the Hong Kong representative side for its tour of Japan. The Battalion arrived at the end of the 1987/88 sporting season and no competitive sport is played during the months of May-September and so there is little further to add save the Battalion sport remains extremely competitive and every effort is being made to perform well in all sports and to rejuvenate some that have faded recently. A particular effort was made this year to encourage Boxing, the Inter Company competition culminated with the Finals on 7 October.

There is much enthusiasm, especially from some ex junior leaders and hopes are high for being able to have enough talent to repeat the Battalion's boxing successes of the early 80s.

The Battalion has been heavily committed since its arrival and "nights out of bed" are almost comparable to Northern Ireland.

Whilst the nature of our operational commitment may be less exciting it is no less demanding especially with the heat and humidity making life more uncomfortable. We have just come to the end of our first border tour period with a further two to go before the build up to Ferozeshah. So apart from a month covering the period mid September-mid October our time is spent almost totally on the border. However we have been lucky to be able to take advantage of being able to exercise in some exotic and exciting countries; we have already sent personnel to Brunei, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. There have been sports tours to Thailand and adventure training expeditions to Sabah, Nepal and Thailand. The Band experienced an excellent two week tour of Japan in March and next year the Battalion can look forward to sending companies to exercise in Malaysia, Sabah, Hawaii – not to mention the possibility of the Battalion Command element exercising as the British part of the Five Power Defence Agreement in Australia. In the more immediate future we look forward to participating in the Mortar and SF concentrations, a Battalion FTX, an Honour Guard in Korea as well as Ferozeshah 1988.

After a fairly quiet settling-in period the Battalion has found itself in an extremely busy and so far rewarding environment. We continue to be regarded as a willing and professional Battalion and look forward to hosting what will be an interesting and enjoyable holiday for those Old Comrades who journey out in January 1989.

### LIFE WITH A COMPANY

When the last journal notes were written A Company were heavily involved with deployments in Northern Ireland. We now find ourselves equally occupied but in different circumstances in Hong Kong. We have dabbled with Internal Security conventional tactics (the first time since Canterbury), completed a couple of border tours, preventing illegal immigrants from crossing the Sino-Hong Kong border, and have also taken part in three overseas adventure training exercises. At the time of writing we are also looking forward to a seven week overseas exercise due to take place in Sabah in January 1989.

The opportunities for both military and non military training are plentiful and we make as much use of them as possible. The notes that follow will describe some elements of life with A Company.

### **Internal Security the Hong Kong Way**

2Lt. Delf joined A Company in February 1988, and was thrown head long into the Battalion's internal security training. Having concentrated on section attacks at Sandhurst, would he now find something totally different?

"Our primary role in Hong Kong is to support the Royal Hong Kong Police (RHKP), with Internal Security. Hence a training package has been laid on by the Hong Kong Internal Security Training Advisory Team (HKISTAT), so that we can become familiar with the way the police do things out here".

Lt. Col. Saunders announced in his opening brief. The package began on 1st March and was to last four days. The period was split into lectures and presentations. All officers and SNCOs attended. During the four days we had a day's worth of central presentations at Stanley Fort, followed by further talks at various venues in the New Territories.



*2/Lieutenant M. Delf still smiles after a Guard Dog attack demonstration.*

The package concluded with a demonstration by a Police Tactical Unit. This was impressive to say the least. We would have to work hard if we were to achieve their standards. The package had been run by fellow members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Capt Barlow, assisted by CSgt. Traveller. The package now finished, it was my turn to pass on to the Platoon what I had learned, or rather to help Sgt. Stevens who led me through the first few months of my stay with 1 Pl.

Things gradually began to take place, issue of riot shields and flak jackets, all rather old hat for those who had been to Northern Ireland!

The Coy training was concluded with a small exercise based around Stanley Fort. This included Key Point protection, patrolling and a company cordon and lift. The Bn exercise followed, this was almost a mirror image of the Coy's. Just before the end of the patrolling phase, I was removed from the Coy location, so that I could attend the PCBC at the School of Infantry and learn to do things the Warminster Way!

### **The Best Platoon with a Helping Hand**

The months of May and June brought two things to A Company, a new Platoon Commander in the form of 2Lt Gilchrist for 1 Pl and two weeks of shooting and dry training at Lo Wu Camp in the New Territories. The climax of this was to be the Battalion Inter Platoon march and shoot competition.

B Company set a cracking pace from the start, but by the time 1 Pl's turn came, the competition was still wide open. The march was completed at an easy pace and the shoot began well with some impressive marksmanship from Private Clerkin and Green on the 84mm Anti Tank Weapon. Unfortunately this standard was not maintained, as two fire teams under Sergeant Stevens and the Platoon Commander put down fire from the two hundred metre point distinguished more by speed than accuracy ("Oh, were those the falling plates?"). It was therefore left to Corporal "Shergar" Thomas and his elite Point Section to clinch the competition. The going was good and Corporal Thomas's speed on the flat soon told. When the shoot was over, 1 Pl took the lead. It was then time for a nail-biting wait in the heat of the day for the remaining Platoons to complete the course. A quick foraging expedition produced a crate of lemonade (cheers sir but where's the beer) with which to celebrate the provisional results which showed 1 Pl the winners. By this point however, most of the platoon were more concerned with the absence of their haverbag lunches than with the result of the competition. The Platoon then returned to Stanley Fort in triumph ready to enjoy the fruits of victory, 2 crates of which were awarded to them on Monday morning.



*A Company soldiers at the LO WO range near the Chinese Border.*

### **2 Pl Trip to Lantau**

The Company Commander was very keen that soldiers should be given the opportunity to do as many things as possible. Idle hands... and all that. So various weekend trips were organised to enable Platoons to see as much of Hong Kong as possible. 2Lt. Harland organized a trip to Lantau.



*Ptes McCann, Quinnell, Knott prior to a recon patrol on the Coy exercise in Lantau.*

Lantau is a bush green mountain island which lies off to the west of Hong Kong. Although considerably larger than Hong Kong, its population is very much smaller, located in small pockets of habitation around the coastline.

This is what the intrepid explorers of 2 Pl set out to discover "To boldly go where no man has gone before..." Probably the most dangerous part of the trip was the No 6 bus ride down to Central, then it was onto the ferry that was to take us to Silvermine Bay. The weather was set fair, the sea was calm, the wind ruffled in the sails and the smell of salt was heavy in the crisp early morning breeze – well, something like that.

On arriving at Lantau the team immediately received the first test of skill, courage and fortitude – which bus stop was the right one? Pte Cutheill solved the dilemma, selecting a bus stop by the way his nose was pointing rather than by use of any sound logical reasoning.

Anyway, after an hour or so we arrived at Tai O which claims to be the Venice of Hong Kong, alas, not a cornetto in sight, but the smell was the same.

Lunch time had arrived at last and we headed for a rather dubious looking restaurant for a plate of fried rice with "bits" in, washed down with bottles of San Miguel and two anti sal nonella tablets.

The afternoon saw us scaling the very heights of Lantau, well OK there was a bus, to visit a Buddhist temple. The boys were very interested in colourful Buddhas.

Then it was back to Silvermine Bay to set sail into the sunset, day was drawing to a close and the Wanchai beckoned.

### **Company Exercise – Lantau Island**

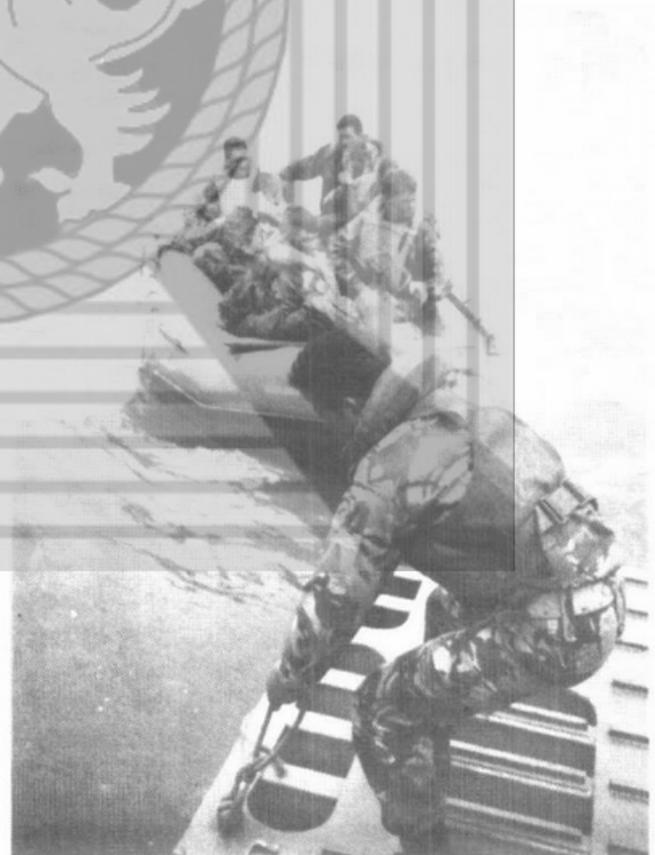
Lantau having been visited on an informal basis now became the focus for a company exercise. It was to be nothing like the pleasant day out previously encountered, the 2IC made sure of that.

A long discussion about company training ended and

the skeleton was formulated for a company exercise on Lantau. It was to be a low level, Section based exercise (all the Platoon Commanders and Sergeants were in Brunei acting as umpires) that was to last for 4-5 days and was to concentrate on conventional warfare – something that the battalion has not been directly involved with for the past two and a half years.

After weeks of liaising with the RAF, the Queen's Gurkha Engineer Boat Troop and the Maritime RCT Commander a "Concrete" exercise scenario and sequence were written. The exercise was to use landing craft, helicopters and Gemini boats as much as possible and refresh Section Commanders in the skill of delivering orders, patrolling, conducting section attacks and administration in the field.

D Day arrived. The Company deployed to the Kowloon Container Terminal to await the arrival of the landing craft. It was slightly late and at this stage I dreaded that none of the outside agencies remembered anything that had been planned. Anyway it finally did arrive and we settled down to a 2 hour journey. Having linked with the Geminis the Platoons began to cross deck from landing craft to the Geminis, quite a sight in the relatively choppy sea. How we did not lose a soldier or more importantly a rifle I do not know! Once they hit the beach there were scenes that did anything but resemble the John Wayne films, instead – capsizing boats, wet soldiers and desperate snatching for bergans!!



*Cross decking prior to beach landings at the start of the Company exercise.*

The march in was extremely hard, a sign of things to come, and eventually platoon harbour areas were set up. That night recce patrols went out and back, and most patrols even found their objectives. On the debrief it became even more apparent how difficult the going was. Even the Recce Platoon, who were acting as the enemy and had been inserted by helicopter, found it hard at times. After a day of admin, ambush patrols went out. The ambushes were sprung from the beaches, the enemy being inserted by Gemini, and the patrols moved to new helicopter pick ups to be moved to another part of the island.

Then followed a series of problems that were totally out of our control. The landing craft for the vehicles and Company Headquarters was 3 hours late and by the time we rendezvoused with the rest of the platoons we were even later. That, coupled with the fact that we had to wade 50 meters out to the landing craft to load the entire company's bergans (getting drenched into the bargain due to a change in the tide) did not bode well.

We were not disappointed. When we were meant to join the Geminis to do an opposed beach landing by sections, they were not there! We eventually arrived back at Stanley tired and wet, and despite parts of the exercise being very tough for the platoons many lessons were learnt and our initial aim was achieved.

### Ex Alpha Hike 1

It was now time to change tack and conduct some adventure training exercises. They were all fairly ambitious and involved a great deal of planning and the persuading of some senior officers to get them off the ground.

"I'm not climbing no mountain". Such was the reaction of at least one member of exercise Alpha Hike 1 A Company's expedition to Mt Kinabalu in Sabah, North Borneo, on being told that the aim of the trip was to get to the top of the mountain. However, the attractions of a subsidized trip to foreign parts soon overcame such doubts, and on 3rd August 12 members of 1 Pl departed for Brunei, en route to the mountain.

The work up to the move to Sabah and the climb itself began with a couple of days jungle survival training around Medicin Lineas, where we stayed. Time was also found to take on a party of marines also staying at the camp at various sports.

A quick trip to the Mulu caves in Malaysia had to be cut short because of lack of time, and all too soon for 1 Pl, we found ourselves under canvas in Sabah, in the shadow of Mt Kinabalu. The evening before the climb was spent meeting the locals, losing to them at draughts (but sir, they changed the rules!) and teaching them the words to a number of Regimental Songs. This seemed to go down very well, and made us firm favourites for the remainder of our stay.

Early the next morning, the climb began. Our Malaysian guide, Dennis, set such a cracking pace that



*1 Pl at the summit of Mt Kinabalu on Ex Alpha Hike 1.*

some slightly disgruntled members of the expedition struggling under an overloaded bergan suggested methods of slowing him down permanently. However by and large we were still in good heart by the afternoon, when we reached the hut where we were to spend the night. At 2 am the next morning, we set off again, this time in the pitch dark. The altitude was also affecting people at this stage, and as the climb went and morale began to sag, to the extent that some 25m from the top a voice was heard to mutter "I'm not going any further". However the prospect of a team photo was enough to bring everyone to the peak. Photos done, the descent began just as the sun peeped over the horizon.

Once off the mountain, there was one spare day before the return to the city of Kota Kinabalu and then Sabah. While most of the expedition members were content to spend time resting, the intrepid LCpl. Harper and a few brave companions decided to do some big game hunting as well. The local "Game" proved somewhat larger and more savage than expected – two very large and aggressive tarantulas. Even so, they only narrowly escaped being transported back to Hong Kong by being too big to go into match boxes.

The return to Brunei bought a well-earned day of R and R before flying back to Hong Kong.

### Alpha Hike 2

On the afternoon of the 18th August 1988 Alpha Hike 2 assembled at Stanley Fort, the team consisted of: 2Lt. Harland, Cpl. Green, Pts. Boocock, Bowman, Burbridge, Cooney, Horrocks, and Jenkinson.

We flew from Kai Tak that evening and arrived in Thailand without mishap although Cooney and Jenkinson staggered off the plane under the burden of gifts bestowed upon them by the hostesses, forgetting that they had to carry them on their backs for the next 10 days.



*Cpl Green and friends at one of Ex Alpha Hike II's objectives*

The next day we were off to the Bridge over the River Kwai and one of the War Cemeteries close by.

The following day was spent in a cramped bus travelling up to Chiang Mai, fortunately it was airconditioned. Once in Chiang Mai we set about looking for a guide/interpreter.



*Ptes Horrocks, Boocook and Burbidge Elephant trekking in Thailand. Where's the number 14 bus?*

Eventually we found a guide who agreed to help us at a suitable price, so the following day we set off into the jungle. Our first stop was for lunch at a very inviting waterfall where we had a swim to cool off. We were just beginning to think it was very pleasant when we met our first hill or was it a jungle covered cliff face which went on and on. Eventually we arrived at the village we were making for, having passed through several already which had given us a brief hope that we were there. The village if you can call five or six bamboo huts a village, was of the Meo tribe.

Having made our beds (unrolled our roll mats) we sat around drinking copious amounts of tea which the villagers collect from their own tea plantations.

The next few days followed much the same pattern and we were beginning to think our guide was trying to see what the British Army was made of by finding, or so it seemed, the steepest hills. The countryside we were passing through varied from paddy fields to jungle to tea and banana plantations, and when you were on top of some of the hills you had a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside.

One day when we had got up and prepared ourselves for the walk ahead our guide produced some elephants which were a far more relaxing way of seeing the jungle. Burbidge decided he would like to drive an elephant so he hopped into the driving seat (the head). Afterwards he was heard to complain that it was like sitting on a bass broom.

We also managed to get an hour's rafting on bamboo rafts down the Maetang River (the River of a Thousand Rapids). This proved to be very exciting especially if your raft was not sure whether or not it was supposed to float. After this we had a day's walk back to a passable road for transport to pick us up and take us back to Chiang Mae and a real bed, alas no hot water.

We arrived back at Kai Tak, tired but having had a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

#### **Postscript**

In conclusion A Company has had a very profitable year in which a great deal has been achieved both in and out of work. Sadly some of the people so heavily involved in these events have left us. Major Franklin moves to Holland and we wish him, his wife, Inge, and the children all the best in the future. Also many senior ranks have departed. CSM Luker, CSgt. Henwood, Sgt. Sumner, Sgt. Truman and Sgt. Pocock. We wish them all well in their new jobs.

With so many departures we have also welcomed some new blood. Major Coates returns to the Battalion after a long period away, to take over as OC. Lt Heald as 2IC, CSM Christian and the Tait brothers, one as CQMS and the other as Pl Sgt. of 2 Pl.

We have now spent one year in Hong Kong and achieved a great deal, this year promises to be equally as hectic, and we are looking forward to new challenges.

## B COMPANY

The 90 Soldiers and 40 wives of B Company moved from N Ireland to Hong Kong in February to find Stanley Fort, for the first month of the Battalion's two and half year tour, colder than the UK and no central heating! The temperature soon began to rise and reached a peak of 34 degrees C and 97% humidity in August.

On arrival in Hong Kong the hierarchy of the Company changed with Lt. P.N. Clements taking over as Company 2IC, CSgt. Tadhunter as CQMS and followed by Maj P.E.O'R-B Davidson-Houston, fresh from 2 years at the Army Staff Course, as the new OC, returning after an 8 year absence from the 1st Battalion. In June WO2 Carpenter handed over CSM to WO2 P.W. McLeod which completed the new Company HQ. The first two months in Hong Kong were spent on IS training, practising cordon and search operations, riot drills and the response to general IS incidents. No problems for a Battalion posted from N Ireland – except Cordoning and Searching a highrise block of 35 storeys with 7,000 people living in it presents a few challenges.

In May B Company started training for Limited War operations, concentrating on section, platoon and company skills and operations leading up to Exercise BRAVO BASH 1 at the beginning of June. This was held in Lamma and Lantau Islands, the latter being the largest island in the Colony. It was an arduous test for the Company with wet beach landings by day and night and plenty of "tabbing" up Lantau and Sunset Peaks. The 5 day exercise ended with a dawn beach landing and a Company advance-to-contact up a steep valley in 32 degrees C, a sound test of fitness. The Company was then flown back to Stanley Fort by Wessex helicopters.

The Battalion Infantry Skill at Arms Camp (ISAAC) was held in the New Territories at the end of June. The Company carried out 6 days of range work and low level training, followed by a 4 day exercise, Exercise BRAVO BASH 2, and the Inter-Platoon Match. B Company won the inter Company Skill-at-Arms shield and 5 Platoon were the runners-up in the Platoon Match.

Exercise BRAVO BASH 2 was based on a limited scenario with the rifle platoons operating from patrol



*Frontier Ops Room.*



*'Combat Clerk' Cox with his man-portable computer*



*Border Operations, OC C Coy (right), LCpl Murtagh (centre), Pte Flay (left)*



*Chung Ying Street – The Hong Kong – China Border in the village of Sha Tau Kok.*

## C/SP Company

bases in the Eastern Sector of the New Territories. All operations were conducted by foot to build on the lessons learnt on Exercise BRAVO BASH 1 on Lantau Island. During the block leave in July most of B Company seemed to disappear to Thailand, with only a few returning to England and one or two remaining in Hong Kong. The 3 week leave period proved to be a well earned rest after a very busy first 6 months in Hong Kong.

At the beginning of August the Battalion deployed to the Sino-Hong Kong Frontier to carry out a 5 week border tour. B Company deployed to the Eastern Sector of the New Territories with responsibility for the SHA TAU KOK (STK) TAOR. The Company was responsible for 7 Kilometres of land frontier with its double fence and watchtowers and the coast line of Starling Inlet and Tolo Peninsula. The latter was patrolled with a detachment of the Boat Troop Queen's Gurkha Engineers. Company HQ was based in the village of SHA TAU KOK approximately 50 metres from the Frontier. SHA TAU KOK is half in China, half in Hong Kong with the International Border following a line of stones down the centre of Chung Ying street. The villagers have unhindered access to both sides of the village – a policing nightmare. Due to the very poor weather during the tour and increased prison sentences for Illegal Immigrants the Company area was very quiet. However, a steady trickle of Illegal Immigrants were caught cutting coils of dannert wire which are flood-lit at night – a real challenge for them. Others attempted to enter Hong Kong by swimming and wading across Starling Inlet or by home made rafts.

B Company returned to Stanley Fort on 14 September for a month before starting the next 6 week Frontier Tour. In March/April 1989 the Company is off to Malaysia for 6 weeks jungle training which should be very challenging. Certainly the next 10 months are very full with only 15 weeks in Stanley Fort.

On the competitive front B Company has been performing extremely well winning the Inter Cross-Country Nines Cup in March, the first time for over 40 years (?). In May the B Company Rugby 7-a-side team won the British Forces Hong Kong Competition. This was followed by winning the inter-company 6-a-side Football Competition.

At the time of writing B Company is rather short of JNCOs, but seems to have gained a section of young officers – Lt. Smallbone (5Pl), 2Lt. Robinson (4Pl), 2Lt. Rose (6Pl), Lt Hetherington (4 UDR temporarily attached), 2Lt. Boulter (supernumary) and 2Lt Shah (supernumary). It is to the credit of the platoon sergeants, Rogers (4Pl), Goddard (5Pl) and Doswell (6Pl - ex-Coldstream Guards) that the subalterns are kept in order!

A final, busy Christmas in Fermanagh saw the end of a hectic two years in N Ireland. All were looking forward to the warmer climate of Hong Kong and in the short term a well earned 3 weeks leave.

Upon arrival in Hong Kong the Company underwent a rapid expansion and change in orbat. The Mortar Pl doubled in strength to 50, the Recce Pl rejoined the Coy, changing places with the Drums who returned to HQ Coy.

The Mortar Pl ran a Cadre for their New Entry starting early in April. This went well, culminating in a two week Live Firing package at Castle Peak ranges, the first live firing since the UKLF Mortar Concentration of July '87. Since then the Mortars have enjoyed numerous range days including firing for the week long Artillery target indication exercise which the Battalion took part in.

The Milan Pl also wasted no time and upon arrival began preparation for a demanding and testing concentration. After a four week cadre the Platoon departed, in the middle of April, for a five week period of field training and live firing on Puckapunyal training area, Victoria, Australia. Other units taking part were 1/2 GR, 2/2 GR, 10 GR and 5/7 Royal Australian Regt who had just received Milan.

The five week training package consisted of extensive platoon training interspersed with numerous tests run by the concentration staff from SWW Netheravon. The test consisted of AFV assessments, Soviet tactics, weapons handling and battle procedure all of which were carried out in NBC black.

The highlight of EX Blue Flyer and the culmination of the years training was the live firing. The platoon was deployed into a Battalion defensive position, 56 hours in advance of the live firing day. After continuous attacks from Leopard 1s & M113s (provided by the hosts 1st Armoured Regiment) they withdrew into an Assembly Area in preparation for the live firing. The Milan Pl from 1 DERR was the first to go through the live firing battle exercise called EX NO WORRIES. Milan detachments, who had been without sleep for 48 hours, advanced 7 Km in NBC High to the firing point and reoccupied a defensive position under overhead fire of Leopard 1s and two sections of soldiers. The platoon's hit rate was up on last year's average. 8 hits were scored out of 10 with 2 missiles being blinds.

Although the platoon had little time to prepare between arriving in Hong Kong and departing for Australia they performed extremely well. The four days R&R in Sydney at the end of the concentration was well deserved and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Recce Pl is now totally reorganised and currently preparing to run EX BADGE HORN which hopes to achieve an exchange of ideas between ourselves and the American troops taking part. Several members of the Recce Pl are now highly trained in jungle warfare

having attended extremely demanding courses in Brunei.

Apart from the specialised platoon training the Company has taken part in the Battalion IS exercise, the Nines Cup and the two weeks long Skill at Arms Competition. LCpl. Dunn flew the Coy flag by winning the Nines Cup Cross-Country, Capt. Lister (best B Class shot), Pte. Seaward (runner up best B Shot) and Pte. Durden (runner up Best Young Soldier) were all prize winners for shooting.

During the Skill at Arms Competition the Company also took the opportunity to walk the 100 Km Maclehos Trail across the New Territories. It proved an enjoyable albeit wet 4 days which saw a vast improvement in the Company's snake and bird recognition under our zoological mentor Maj. Wort.

Since the last Journal the Company has had to say numerous "Hello's and Goodbyes". We have lost WO2 Coupland to the Int Cell to be replaced by CSM Maloney. The stores have seen several changes, CSgt. Lawrence moved on to CSM HQ Coy; CSgt. Christian his replacement is now CSM A Coy and we finally welcome CSgt. Vincent from JIB Shorncliffe. The Mor Pl has welcomed in Sgts. Little, Missenden, Parks and Stanley. The ATK Pl have welcomed Sgt. Mallinson and the Recce Pl Lt. Gray and CSgt. Truman. At present we are in the process of saying goodbye to the OC Major Wort and 2IC Capt. Biddulph (after only 6 months) who are "posted" to 3 Bde and "Civvy street" respectively.

As these notes are being written the Company is starting its first border tour with responsibility for the Sandy Spur/Pak Hok Chau Area, which includes the World Wildlife Fund Mai Po bird reserve and is again helping to foster our ornithological interests!

## D COMPANY

The Company completed its last and successful tour of Fermanagh with the usual inevitable changes in its orbit.

Maj Tanner, destined for Staff College and then 1 STAFFORDS, handed over to Maj. Bowkett and the CQMS, CSgt. Maynard handed over to CSgt McIntyre and Sgt. Griffiths took Sgt. Watson's place.

Unusually the 2IC (the fifth for D Company) remained, but passed up the delights of Fermanagh for the advance party sojourn in Hong Kong, taking over from 1 Coldstream Guards.

After a brief settling in period (including Sgt. Foster's arrival and Sgt. Little's defection to the Mortars) the work began with training for our new role – Internal Security just for a change; although IS Hong Kong style would prove to be somewhat "different" to Northern Ireland. D Company was to be given some additional interest in the form of a Saracen APC Company, with which we would become the Battalion mobile reserve. Shock action! This new role meant that vehicle

commanders had to be trained to command the lumbering beasts on the busy roads of Hong Kong with Gurkha drivers. Plenty of potential for the odd prang now and again but the only one to date was not LCpl. Bailey's fault at all! The Company IS training package culminated in a short IS exercise at Camp 10 which will be remembered particularly by the CSgt and Pte Davis for the area's mosquitoes, since they suffered more than most. After the first night Pte. Davis would have been able to do a very good impression of Satchel Mouth Louis Armstrong with the addition of some cam cream!



*Pte Wood checking I.D. cards at Lo Fang Bridge.*



*D Coy 2IC, Capt. Tozer on Ex Eastern Duke (Bn 15 Ex).*

The Company then enjoyed an Easter stand down, prior to the test exercise, during which time the platoon commanders were to ensure the single soldiers were not bored. Lt. Perkins achieved this by organizing the arrest of his entire Platoon during a beach party and 11 Platoon managed to stop the longest escalator in the world at Ocean Park.

The Battalion test exercise in early April saw D Company spending the majority of its time guarding Yuen Long sewage plant. Visitors to this "fragrant"



*Ptes Brown 82 & Wood at Lo Fang Bridge (China in Background).*



*LCpl Prendergast & Sect, Ex Delta Dragon I, Stonecutters Island*

and scenic location kept their visits short and returned as infrequently as possible.

Once the IS test exercise was over, life in Stanley calmed down a little, 2Lt. Howe joined Training Wing and left a gap to be filled by 2Lt. O'Hara, and Sgt. Burgess departed for 1 STAFFORDS.

Preparations were made for a week's recreation and adventure training on Ping Chau Island, off the east coast of the New Territories and only a couple of kilometres from the Chinese coast.

This would be an ideal opportunity for the Company to relax and catch the rays (hopefully avoiding the sunburn that the companies before us caught) away from the majority of the Company hierarchy. The island offers facilities for windsurfing, canoeing, snorkelling, fishing, top roping and abseiling which every one had the opportunity to try. As well as the above LCpl Lynch and the other JNCOs provided additional physical "entertainment" and the CSgt and his merry men provided the beer; which was one of the most popular attractions on the island. The social highlight was the barbecue, one of the best the Company has had (thanks to LCpl. Lucas) the like of which LCpl. Tindill had never seen! (He had by this stage spent a month on the island instructing for all the companies and seen some barbecues).

In June Sgt. Hanson joined us, and the Company moved to Stonecutters Island for a one week camp based in what used to be a "glasshouse". There the Company could cover some basic military skills, and

complete a combat fitness test (this earning the location the nickname "Devils Island") – a walk in the park for some but rather more testing for others. The week included a visit to the Aircraft Carrier USS Enterprise – the largest warship in the world with 90 aircraft and 5600 crew, and a Company smoker. The smoker included the usual "get the Officers and senior ranks into the swimming pool routine" and some memorable skits. The skits included the military equipment of the world skit dedicated to the 2IC, the Company on parade skit (for the CSM) and the infamous "OC on trial" (and soak him again) skit.

The next venture out of Stanley was to be the Battalion Skill at Arms Competition, for Delta Force this commenced with a defence exercise.

The exercise would take the form of an approach march, dig in, withdrawal, harbour up, recce and dawn attack on a deserted village. A testing exercise for the majority of the troops working hard in high temperatures. The Company earned the nick name "Domino Company" and made good use of the casevac chain! Pte. Robertson (our RMA) worked so hard he himself was casevaced.

Following leave the Company moved up to the Chinese border to occupy the Man Kam To and Pak Fu Shan sectors (where we are at the time of writing) to maintain the integrity of British Territory. Very wet and misty so far, the troops liken it to Fermanagh; the difference being the rain is warm. We arrived here with some attached personnel from 4 UDR and certainly made use of the additional manpower. Their attachment was not the swan their predecessors had enjoyed in Stanley some months ago. So far events here include the rescue of a Chinese Communist horse from the border river by Lt Brown (the horse later repatriated by the Royal Hong Kong Police); and five direct lightning strikes on PFS Int Op, causing some alarm and despondency to its occupants (namely Pte. Freeth). Snake hunting seems to be a popular off duty pastime and trophies include representatives from the Cobra, Banded Krait and Bamboo snake families.

Patrolling continues with the OC and CSM keeping a watchful eye on events in the sector from their bicycle forays along the fence line. It should be noted that rank has its privilege and the OC is entitled to a rear mud guard, a much sought after commodity among the mobile community.

The Company has also captured thirteen illegal immigrants to date and been first to use the air assets available in the hunt for escapees (sadly this proved to be less than successful). The CSM provides the incentive for catching Illegal Immigrants by awarding the lucky captors a dayglo smiley badge. This helps to maintain keen interest by the troops at the sharp end.

With excitement such as this, the weeks on the border will just fly by; and before the Company knows it the next border tour will be over and the Company will be off to Hawaii and its overseas exercise in June 1989.

## CORPS OF DRUMS

The Drums Platoon has been very busy since arriving in Hong Kong under the command of Drum Major Philip Harrill. All Drummers had to work extremely hard and for many hours into the night to gain the musical standard required.

The Platoon is now 30 strong, and is able to Beat Retreat and carry out other engagements on its own without the assistance of the Regimental Band. The Commanding Officer's Bugle Competition was won this year by Lance Corporal Shane Rowell and the Adjutant's Bugler was won by Corporal Jim Callcut. A mention should go to Drummer Jason Lea who did very well in the competition. At least half of the platoon have been to Japan and the other half are patiently waiting their turn. The first trip was with the Band for a two week tour. A team of Buglers went for three days in support of the St. Georges Day Parade and the Drum

Major and two Buglers made a special trip to play at the British Embassy.

We say farewell to Corporal Mick Adcock and his wife Jeneane who will be missed but we say hello once again to Corporal George Smith and his family.

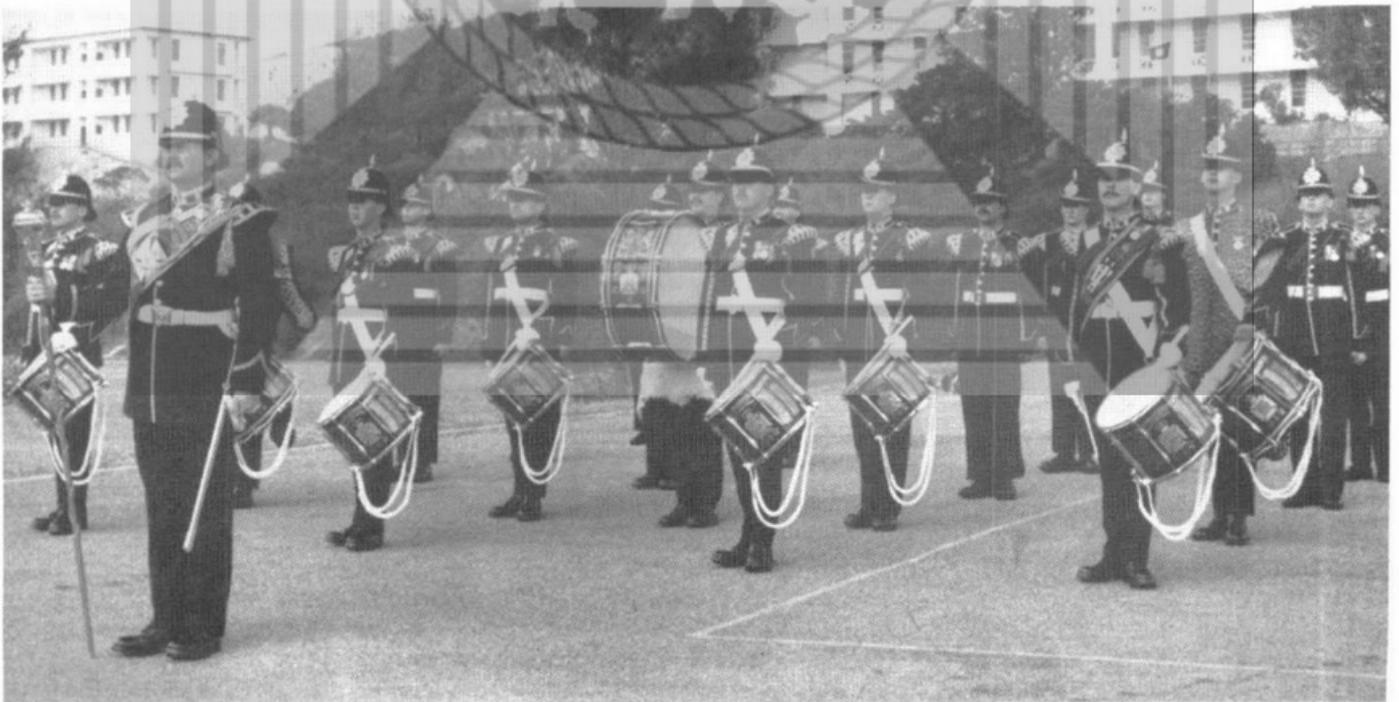
The Platoon are now working hard on their GPMG (SF) drills in preparation for the Brigade Concentration.



*LCpl Rowell receiving the Commanding Officers Bugle.*



*The Drum Major, CISgt Harill.*



*The Corps of Drums.*

## The Regimental Band

The arrival of the Colours aboard HMS Swift provided the Band with its first opportunity to perform in Hong Kong. This was the start of what has turned out to be a very busy tour.

It was not long before the news of our arrival had spread around the territory and engagements flooded in. New publicity photographs were required and as usual some members of the Band were quicker to respond to the photocall than others.

The new posting brought new responsibilities within the Band with Sgt Bob Finlay taking over the running of the Bavarian Band from CSgt. Andy Grant and Sgt. Gary O'Neill taking over the Blue Interlude Dance Band from WO2 (BSM) Bob Wareing. The continued popularity of both these Bands has made theirs an unenviable task. No sooner had the Band settled into a routine in Hong Kong than it once again found itself at Kai Tak boarding an aeroplane desination Osaka, Japan (see separate article).

Back in Hong Kong the demand for the Band was still increasing. Various messes all over the territory were booking the Band in all its capacities as were some of the more exclusive hotels. The Band can also be found regularly entertaining the public at the Landmark shopping plaza in Central, occasionally joining forces with the Royal Hong Kong Police Band. Other appearances have included Sha Tin Racecourse, The American Club and Aberdeen Boat Club as well as a multitude of PR engagements at various localities throughout Hong Kong.

On the non musical side the Band found itself on the firing ranges where, despite frequent downpours, performed exceptionally well with results even surprising some members of the Battalion!

The musical cassette recorded in England last year continues to sell well and can still be purchased from Regimental Headquarters. The Band continues to prepare for its quinquennial Kneller Hall Inspection which takes place on October 5th this year, still continuing to carry on its normal engagements



*The Band at the Landmark Shopping Centre in Hong Kong.*

throughout Hong Kong, in addition to ten days Border Patrol, releasing Rifle Company personnel for a much deserved R & R period.

Since the last publication of the Journal we have said farewell to BdsM Burney and now extend a warm welcome to BdsM Tim Arnold who has joined us from The Normandy Band of the Royal Green Jackets, BdsM Phil Finch from the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment and BdsM Butler from the Army Junior School of Music, Bovington.



*Mr Hatton, Bandmaster & WO2 Wareing BSm pose for photo with traditional Japanese Lady.*



*Band outside Temple in Kobe.*



*The Bandmaster WO1 Hatton.*

### **Regimental Band Tour Japan March- April 1988**

The Japan Tour 1988 was very much a first time event for all members of the Band and four side drummers from the Corps of Drums. Our first task was actually to get out of Hong Kong which proved easier said than done; we found the famous Hong Kong "Yes" being the reply to all our questions at the Cathay Pacific desk in Kai Tak. Fortunately a timely arrival of one of their representatives previously tasked to handle our move ensured a swift and efficient processing of our cargo and personal luggage.

The next hurdle was placed firmly into the lap of OC Band Tour, Major Edmonds, who had the onerous task of paying the tax and excess baggage bill. The look of relief showed clearly on his face when the bill only left him HK\$28 short of the figure he had anticipated.

All drama over, we at last found ourselves, seatbelts fastened and headphones in place roaring down the runway Osaka bound. It should be mentioned here that the Cathay Pacific flight was very comfortable and the Band Sergeant Major can certainly vouch for the very high standard of the cocktail menu.

On arrival in Japan we were met by our sponsors, Delta, and after finally checking through Customs and convincing the local Police that the Warrant Officers' swords were part of ceremonial dress we embarked

upon the first of many coach journeys in the country.

Throughout the tour our base was the Toyo Hotel in Osaka which was very comfortable accommodation indeed. Possibly an indication of the cost of living in Japan is that it is cheaper to buy new clothes in Stanley Market than to use this particular Hotel's laundry service.

Once settled in we were able to get to know our musical colleagues on the tour, six pipers from the Royal Highland Fusiliers who had flown in from Edinburgh. The Fusiliers have always had a great tradition of good piping and Sgt. Kerr and his men more than maintained this in all respects.

Our first evening in Osaka was spent in conference with our sponsors which for the tour admin team was our first opportunity to talk (via an interpreter) to Japanese people. We at once realized what tremendously polite and generous people they are, an attitude which never faltered throughout the tour. Possibly our first disappointment on reading the itinerary was the lack of sit down concerts which Bands much prefer; however our sponsors took note of this and arranged a concert in a local school which satisfied our artistic bent.

The main work involved endless 30 minute concerts standing up outside shopping centres which appear to cover all commercial areas of Japan. Although a little musically unsatisfying, our audiences appeared to enjoy the performances wherever we went for they were very discerning of Western music. Rather than give a printed list of engagements undertaken it is probably more worthwhile recording some of the lighter moments we enjoyed.

Eating in Japan certainly differs from what most have experienced with one incident in particular worth a mention. One evening a member of the Band found himself unable to eat the set Japanese dinner. This so concerned the manager of the Delta that he led the hungry man to a pub restaurant nearby. He ordered from the menu assuring the young man that the food would be to his liking but this proved to be far from the truth with the first course being almost more than enough to terrify our working class tastes. It consisted of slices of raw horse meat. The Bandsman, not wishing to offend his host, tried the food and despite several facial colour changes managed digestion. Feeling now rather proud of himself he next attempted the Octopus Pizza which was definitely his downfall with the act of swallowing very nearly finishing him off altogether. Only a clever manoeuvre with a napkin and a timely exit enabled him to maintain some sort of decorum.

Possibly one of the more interesting events of the tour was a visit to the Sumo Wrestling School of Osaka. There we were allowed to watch the wrestlers undergo a strenuous training session. These dedicated men put on a great show for us and even allowed photographs to be taken for those brave enough to pose alongside them. That same evening we attended the Osaka

competition and saw the champions of Japan in combat. For all of us this display of ceremony and the traditional pageantry of the Sumo was the most clear expression of Japan's culture on view and it's hoped that too much Western influence will not cause the popularity of Sumo wrestling to diminish.

Our most rewarding musical meeting was with the Band of the Okayama Police which took place at the SETO Expo site. We took part in the combined concert which was televised and was certainly enjoyed by the Bandmaster of the Police, Mr Yasuda, as he was making his farewell performance before retirement. Although the Japanese bandsmen and ourselves were unable to converse verbally, the international language of music proved more than adequate to break down the barriers.

After travelling the length and breadth of Japan's west coast we were quite relieved when our three week tour drew to a close in Osaka. Once again our hosts dug deep into their purse and laid on a Sayonara party in the hotel.

The early part of the evening was taken up with speeches, thanks and exchange of gifts but, as requested by our Japanese friends, songs and skits soon got underway. Our Scots colleagues proved very talented indeed with the Pipe Sgt. leading the way with his high speed version of the song "Caractacus". Our attempt at singing the words with him caused one senior member of the Band to lose his dentures in verse 3. The Farmers Boys, not wishing to be outdone, paraded the talents of our resident pianist Bdsman, Hutchinson and the doubtful wit of LCpl. Thomas. We also gave a brief musical account of the Second World War ably led by the Bandmaster, WO1 Keith Hatton.

The party brought to an end a very full and enjoyable tour of Japan. We certainly learnt and saw a great deal and were very grateful indeed for such an opportunity. Hopefully if the chance should occur we may make a repeat visit next year and with that in mind I will conclude this account Japanese style ..... SAYONARA!!

### **MT Platoon**

It has been some time since the MT Platoon entered a contribution to the Journal. It would be difficult to highlight each individual Operational, Training, Sporting or Recreational activity that we supported. "UBIQUE" should be our motto.

The Platoon in Northern Ireland was about 22 in number and had a fleet of about 102 vehicles to maintain, and depending on the type of task, to drive. The fleet was mixed comprising normal military type vehicles and a civilian fleet as well. During the Aldergrove tour our main task was to give support to operations as and when they occurred and to support the Battalion in barracks, with one of the main tasks being families support. The Northern Ireland tour saw a lot of changes in personnel. WO2 John Dobie went

from MTO to RQMS being replaced by CSgt. Dennis Watts, Sgt. "No problem" Twiggy Heal to the Signal Platoon with Cpl Muttly Shaw taking over the MT Sgt. task without rank. In March 1987 Lt. Bill Sherman replaced CSgt Watts as MTO and the good CSgt took over the MTWO slot. During our Northern Ireland tour we were well supported by our REME LAD commanded by Sgt Uppington who left at the end of the tour on a well earned promotion. The Inspection prior to our departure went well and a lot of effort was given by all ranks to reach a very high standard.

Our move to Hong Kong went smoothly and February 1988 saw the Platoon working hard to get its equipment into a reasonable working order. Any illusions of an easy life in the sun were soon dispelled, indeed the work load of the Platoon has never been higher.

Our move to Hong Kong also saw the departure of platoon characters to other sub units of the Battalion; namely Cpl. Quango Quashie to B Coy as CQMS Storeman, Cpl. "I write off Fiestas" Hibberd to C/Sp Coy as CQMS Storeman and LCpl. Ockwell to the Mortar Platoon, this has left the Platoon short of qualified NCOs. It would appear that the old "Mechanised Jockey's" from Osnabruck are a dying breed. Our last farewell of note was to CSgt. Watts who has left the Army for a Territorial Army NRPS job, good luck Dennis. CSgt. Roy Povey replaced him

as MTWO. Another who has returned to the fold so to speak is Sgt. John Sims who takes over as MT Sgt. A welcome is extended to Ptes. Smith 29, Hoskins, Oxspring, Gibbings, Rook, Fever (is he married or not), Epplestone, Senior, Traill, Murphy, Snowball and Middleton and also of course to our newly inherited REME LAD Section who, supported by the Platoon won the REME HK 6-a-side Football Competition. Luckily all is not just hard work and the Platoon plays a full part in all Battalion events with members representing the Battalion at football, Cpl. Mackie, LCpl. Gray (REME) and Pte. Rook. Rugby, Cpl. Parsons (REME). Swimming, Sgt. Simms and LCpl. Prosser. Athletics, LCpl. Prosser and Pte Rook with Sgt. Simms and Cpl. Mills taking part in a fiercely contested local "Dragon Boat Races". On the social scene the Platoon has held Disco's and B-B-Qs which in our present environment have been a huge success. Our next challenges will be our first Border Tour, Ferozeshah, and in the New Year three overseas exercises, two in Malaysia and the other in Hawaii. Finally to all those who have not been mentioned, you are not forgotten, if you have left "thank you very much and the best of luck to you and your families". If you are a Platoon old "Petrol Foot", keep up the good work and enjoy the Far East.

## NOTES FROM THE MESSES

### Officers' Mess

As you all know by now from various articles in this Journal, the 1st Battalion arrived in Hong Kong in January and February of 1988. Stanley Fort is our new barracks and it contains the majority of our quarters. It is situated on a peninsula on the Southern side of Hong Kong Island. At the top of the highest peak of this peninsula is our Officers Mess. A large colonial white building with huge balconies, from the flat roof top you almost have a 360 degree view of the South China Sea. Surely one of the most splendid Officers' Messes in the British Army.

The move of all our pictures and furniture had been well organized by CSgt. Le Strange and the out going PMC Major Steven Bowkett, almost nothing was damaged. It was therefore a joy for the new mess PMC Major Brian Franklin to set the mess up. We now own excellent copies of most of our oil paintings which look good in the new mess and do not seem to be affected by the high humidity. With the addition of a few old tribal rugs, some large indoor plants, recently renovated rattan chairs and covers from the Quartermaster Capt John Venus, the mess was soon looking very stylish.

In March we held our initial cocktail party to invite representatives from civilian, police and military units

in Hong Kong. Over 250 guests were entertained, with our Drums Platoon finishing off the formal part of the evening with a floodlit display. Brigadier Beauchamp, the Commander 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade took the salute at the end of the display. The hosts then had a supper party which went on well into the night.

The mess has its own flat which is available for members to book for visiting relations and friends. This is well used and a steady stream of mothers, fathers and girlfriends have been made welcome in the mess.

Hong Kong is a very social place. The mess has had many forms of parties and entertainment. Working luncheons were started again. This provided a very good way to invite people to the mess who would not perhaps be invited to a more formal occasion. Many a glass of fine port has been shared on Friday afternoon at these functions. The wives also decided that the idea was sound and ladies luncheons have become an established event. The Commander British Forces in Hong Kong, Major General Johnson was welcomed to the mess for luncheon in April as too was his wife to the Ladies luncheon at a later occasion. In July we entertained the Deputy Commander British Forces Brigadier Arnold at a Regimental Dinner Night. That evening we also dined out Major Barry Paddison. We



*The Officers Mess, Hong Kong 1988.*

wish Barry and Fiona all the best on their move from Hong Kong to join 3 WFR in UK. In November we plan to dine out Major Adam Westlake and say goodbye to Tricia at a Ladies Guest Night. They move back to the Aldershot area in December and we wish them well.

At the end of September we had our Autumn Ball. It coincided with the visit to the Battalion of the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Turner and Rosemary. The whole of the weekend was fun. Several junk trips were planned. The Ball was held on Saturday, the luncheon and tea party on the Sunday followed by a joint Officers and Warrant Officers and Sergeants splash party at the swimming pool in the evening.

The officers' mess has a large number of young officers living in at the moment. There are often twenty or so officers in the mess at one time despite having several away on courses. This leads to a very healthy mess life and with the social and entertainment delights of Hong Kong night life just down the road, the mess is making quite a name for itself.

We congratulate Second Lieutenant David O'Hara and Julie on their marriage in April and also Second Lieutenant Chris Harland and his wife Tracey who married in July. We have welcomed numerous newly arrived subalterns, and also Lieutenant Algy Turner and Helen, Algy having just been commissioned.

#### **Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess**

Now that the Battalion has settled down in the land of the Dragon it is with delight that we can report back to having a Mess to ourselves again, apart from sharing with cockroaches, chitchats and several other uninvited guests. After a long settling in period and with the help of some useful contacts the Mess has taken shape. It is very well supported. This is the first time for several years that all the Mess members are quartered within the camp, so this makes for a very good social atmosphere, except for the mountain we have to negotiate to get up to the Mess and the occasional mishap on the way down.

We started off Mess life in Hong Kong with a cocktail party in March, which was a huge success as people came from miles around, out of curiosity to see if there was life after the Guards and all were pleasantly surprised. Since then the Mess has hosted several units and made some useful contacts, some we hope to share when the Old Comrades visit the Battalion in the New Year.

The Battalion is now entering a hectic time with border tours, overseas exercises and the preparations for Christmas, with the Christmas Draw taking place immediately after a border tour followed by Ferozeshah a few days later.

The Mess has now started it's new season sporting programme and is well represented in all Battalion sports. We have even managed to muster a Cricket Team and remain undefeated, having played one and won one by 20 runs and seven pints, so we should manage to give the Officers' Mess a good run for their money in the future.

Since our arrival in Hong Kong, we have had to say farewell to some popular Mess members, who have now joined the ranks of past members, Bob Merritt,

Dennis Watts, Joe LeStrange, and we wish them well in the future. We also congratulate the following on their promotions, WO2 Christian, WO2 Gill, WO2 Gardiner, WO2 Watts, Sgt. Owens, Sgt. Murrell, Sgt. Pockock and Sgt. Cook.

Now that the Battalion has received confirmation of our next posting we shall endeavour to continue making the most of Hong Kong and hopefully members on external postings will take the opportunity of coming over and visiting us.

## SPORT

### Association Football

At the end of the Aldergrove tour the squad lost players on posting namely; Sgt. Proberts and Cpl. O'Doherty and due to the handover very little soccer was played. On arrival in Hong Kong we inherited the position of our predecessors, in the Major Units league and Cup Competition. Football, along with all sports and fitness training has attracted a wealth of new (and not so new) talent since our arrival, and this has led to no less than 3 Battalion Team Squads involving some 60 players which will no doubt stand the Battalion in good stead for the future. Our first priority was to get acclimatized and match fit and this was achieved through hard work. Within Hong Kong there is a British Forces Team and 7 members of the 1st squad have been selected and play regularly for the team: CSgt. Truman, Sgt. Inglis (ACC), LCpl. Murtagh, LCpl. Ball (ACC), Pte Maynard Pte. Hearn and Pte. Vincent (ACC), Pte. Boyle has also played in a representative match versus RAF UK. The Major Units League is not as strong as

Northern Ireland being composed of Gurkha Units, RN and the RAF. Our inherited league position was not good, with 8 games played resulting in 6 lost 1 drawn and 1 win, therefore the league was used as an acclimatization and settling in phase with the main effort being the Hong Kong Knockout Cup Competition 1988. In this competition our main trial was the semi-final v RN HK with the Battalion winning by a 4-3 margin. In the final the Gurkha Transport Regiment were our opponents and on a slippery pitch things went wrong, when against the run of play the Gurkhas took the lead. However the Battalion soon drew level and at half time led 2-1. Soon after the interval this increased to 4-1 and the Gurkhas attacked hard, testing the Battalion. However we scored again to ease the pressure (5-1), with the Gurkhas taking a consolation goal to make the final score 5-2 in the Battalion's favour.

The 2nd and 3rd XI's were too late to enter into a league and had to be content with social matches. These were played at weekends and mainly against the expatriate community, with the standard varying from poor to very good. It was in one of these that LCpl. Lloyd scored 11 goals when playing against the HK Prison Staff Training School. The Inter Company League did not take place due to the time factor, as pitches are out of bounds from the end of May, therefore a 6-a-side competition was organised and this year B Coy ran out the winners beating HQ Coy (Catering/QM's Pl) in a demanding final. Other successes have been the LAD HK 6-a-side REME champions and the Catering Pl, HK ACC 6-a-side champions. In a space of three months this was quite an achievement against acclimatized and established teams. The WOs' & Sgts' Mess and Cpls' Mess also played in a Sunday League, so all in all there is a lot of football being played with pitch time being in great demand. A mention should be made about officials, and within the Battalion we have been fortunate to have the services of Sgt. Hiscock who has done a lot to improve and coach the younger and newer referees to the game. A word of thanks is also extended to Cpl. Hauxwell and LCpl. Turner who along with Sgt. Hiscock have borne the burden of a lot of our social and training matches mainly at weekends.



*Bn 1st XI – Hong Kong Knockout Cup Champions 1988.  
Rear Row L-R*

*Lt Sherman, LCpl Thomas, CSgt Truman, Cpl Bennet,  
Pte Maynard, Lt Col SWJ Saunders, Pte Boyle, Pte  
Hearn and Pte Dyer.*

*Front Row L-R*

*Pte Rook, Pte Vincent, Pte Smith 58, Sgt Inglis (Capt),  
LCpl Ball, Pte Porter, LCpl Murtagh and Cpl Dunford.*

Colours and prizes were awarded for this season as follows:

**Colours** – Cpl. Bennet 63, Ptes. Hearn, Smith 58, Porter and Vincent ACC.

**Most Promising Player** 1st XI – Pte. Hillier 2nd and 3rd XI's Pte. Wood.

**Top Scorer** – 1st XI Pte. Maynard 2nd & 3rd XI's LCpl. Lloyd.

**Outstanding Player** – 1st XI Sgt. Inglis 2nd & 3rd XI's Pte. Ledgister.

The settling in period is now over and units are in aware of our strengths and weaknesses so no doubt the next season will prove interesting. Finally a mention to two players who have through injury been forced to retire, namely Ptes Porter and Stallard, we wish them well and thank them for their efforts in representing the Battalion.

#### **Battalion 1st Squad 1988:**

CSgt. Truman, Sgt. Inglis, Cpls. Dunford, Bennett 63, LCpls. Thomas, Murtagh, Ball, Ptes. Boyle, Porter, Rook, Hearn, Maynard, Smith 58, Dyer, Vincent and Hillier.

#### **Rugby**

The 1987/88 rugby season has seen a mixed bag of results. With the Battalion deployed in Northern Ireland for the majority of the season it was difficult to field the same side week to week. However, after a promising start winning the first four games, things started to go down hill as we lost to 1 RWF in the semi finals of the Northern Ireland Cup competition.

As a highlight to the 87/88 season the team was finally given permission to go on a rugby tour to Wiltshire. The team was very successful winning three matches and drawing two. The majority of antics on the tour were under a "D Notice" but Pte Stacey must be mentioned for his club record breaking attempt of 84 seconds on the watering can followed by his subsequent immediate action.

The season was interrupted with the move to Hong Kong in February this year and as soon as we arrived we took the position of the Coldstream Guards in the first division. As with the beginning of the season we had a successful end winning three out of our last five games. Major Wort, WO2 McLeod, Ptes. John, Morgans-Hurley and Cross are to be congratulated as they represented British Forces Hong Kong.

We have just started the 1988/89 season so I am going to take the liberty of giving you a rugby update. Again a good start, we are at present second in the league having lost one out of three games and things are looking good for the season. Congratulations are again in order, Lt. John Boxall and Pte. Gary Cross were selected for the Hong Kong International Team Tour of Japan and Capt Peter Dennis and Pte. Mark Morgans-Hurley were selected for the squad for the forthcoming Asian International Rugby Football Tournament.

Finally we must wish WO2 Dennis Moloney good luck in his new job as team coach, as he has finally "retired" (again).

#### **Stanley Tuen NG (Dragon Boat) Festival**

This major festival commemorates the death of a Chinese poet-scholar many years ago, who drowned himself in protest at a corrupt government who would not heed his advice. Such was his popularity that local fishermen tried to save him by racing out in their fishing boats. Thus an annual boat race festival was born. I learned all this within a week of arriving in the Colony at the local residents association New Year reception and was immediately fired with enthusiasm at the prospect of racing a long heavy boat with a crew of twenty (twenty two for ladies and Chinese men) plus a drummer and a helmsman in the Stanley festival to be held on 18th June.

The Battalion entered two male teams under the banner of Dragonvlyers "A" and "B" and one ladies team (the Dragonettes); physical training began in early March. The Dragonvlyers commenced with a squad of seventy four which soon reduced when LCpl. Plank's PT was shown not to be an easy way out of Company PT, and at times I wondered whether the squad could produce two full crews. Meanwhile the ladies were showing a fanatical determination in their evening sessions, which would remain with them until race day was over.

The PT was going well, but what of training in the boats themselves? Unlike all the other teams with years of experience we were complete freshmen and there could not be enough time on the water. Some teams were fortunate enough to have their own training boats but we would have to wait until May for the Stanley Residents Association boats to be made available, giving us all too few practice afternoons.

The first afternoon in the boats will be particularly remembered by the crew that day. To the amusement of some and great concern to others in the mixed crew, the boat sank under the direction of Maj. Edmonds who went down with his ship in fits of laughter. Fortunately some experienced help was at hand. Mr Steve Doyle (an SRA dragon race committee member) gave us an invaluable afternoon's coaching; and WO2 Eadsforth (our camp estate warden) with a few seasons experience was discovered and coaxed into the squad. Training now got under way in earnest, with the crews learning the basics of paddling in unison, paddling to maximum effect and racing starts. Meanwhile helms and drummers were tried and tested and selected. Finally the whole act was put together over the course (some 460 metres), and raced as many times an afternoon as strength and endurance would allow. The Dragonvlyer practices were made particularly difficult because no two crews were ever the same due to company

commitments, a major problem that the Dragonettes (who by this stage were well regarded locally) did not have to face.

After much careful consideration the crews were chosen (leaving some of the squad understandably disappointed) and the great day eagerly awaited.

June 18th saw an early start from the Dragonvlyers now resplendent in their Team T-shirts (for which many thanks go to Cpl Hawkins for the art work). The festival is a very big event all over Hong Kong, and Stanley is no exception and by 8 am spectators had already started to fill the beach. Team tents for the forty expatriate mens'; thirty four Chinese mens' and twenty ladies' teams were crammed into their designated areas and an intoxicating atmosphere of friendly rivalry started to spread. The boats themselves were transformed into real Dragon boats by the addition of bearded Dragon heads and tails.



*Dragonvlyers "B".*

The first to race were the Dragonvlyers "A" team, under the drums of skipper WO2 Eadsforth with Maj Edmonds at the helm. They had drawn a good lane in the five boat race and got off to a flying start. A win looked certain but disaster struck – they were rammed from behind by a boat that lost control (which is one of the hazards of racing such unmanoeuvrable craft) and knocked into fourth place. This ensured a second race in the first round of the plate but they stopped there.

Next to race were the Dragonvlyers "B" team with Capt. Tozer as skipper/drummer and Cpl. Leivers with the demanding job of helmsman. After an easy second place in the first round the team was knocked out in the next when they were placed third in a maritime "photo finish".

The Dragonettes, skippered by Mrs Saunders and with honorary lady Maj. Edmonds at the helm, proved their confidence was well founded with a clear win in the first heat, they fought through into the place finals but lost out there.

The official part of the race day closed shortly before sunset with the prize giving. No cups for the Battalion

this year, but the Battalion certainly gained much "face" in the local community for a very creditable performance for first timers. The races over, the teams went their separate ways to celebrate their efforts, carry out post mortems on their races, and look forward to certain victory next year in what surely is one of the most exciting events that anyone could take part in.



*Dragonettes in action.*



*Dragonvlyers "A" returning after their first race.*

# MISCELLANY

## The British Services Everest Expedition 1988 A Personal Account by Lt. S.D. Gray

The British Services Everest Expedition was a 36 man climbing team selected from the Armed Forces. It was supported by 6 Sherpas and 4 Sherpa cooks. In addition accompanying the team were a 4 man Granada Television crew aiming to make 6 half hour documentaries for broadcasting worldwide, as well as an artist. Our common aim was to climb the West Ridge of Everest from Tibet, a feat only ever managed by 4 expeditions, and to be the first British team to reach this summit from China.

Standing at 16,500 feet in our base camp in early March after a bone shaking approach by lorry, and prior to that our acclimatisation trek in Nepal, I wondered what I had let myself in for. Everest 12 miles away was clear, intimidatingly large, with a plume of spindrift being blown off by the jet stream. For days while we sorted out the tonnes of stores to be carried to our Advance Base Camp by Yaks the wind never stopped, and temperatures averaged  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Yaks carried our equipment up to an Advanced Base Camp (ABC) sited at 18,000 feet just above the Rangbok glacier. From here we pushed forward past ice forest pinnacles of ice rising up to 40 feet from the warm ice mass before emerging onto a smooth easily crossed glacier to arrive at Camp 2 (C2). A typical round trip from ABC to C2 initially took 5 hours, carrying either 10kgs of food, fuel or oxygen one way. Camp 2 was positioned in the middle of the glacier at 19,400 feet. All around the mountains enclosed us. The 10,000 foot North Face of Everest dominated everything. The Summit and our route up the West Ridge were clearly visible, the north col was to our east, and the Lo La Pass lay in the west.

Up until C2 working and carrying loads was demanding but no climbing skills were necessary. I began my days very early in order to avoid the intense heat reflected off the snow later in the day, and also the danger of falling rocks from the moraine beside the glacier. The penalty was suffering from cold feet and biting  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  wind which seemed to penetrate all layers of clothing. Each of us worked in 4 man groups carrying for 6 days before returning to ABC for 2 days rest. I was a Support Climber and therefore moved up behind the lead climbers who were laying and fixing rope along the route. Climbing up from C2 to C3 was exhilarating but hard work. For the first time I wore double extreme high altitude boots with crampons attached to the bottom to give grip. Each also wore a harness with the necessary climbing hardware attached. The route followed the French Spur a knife edge ridge with steep drops either side at an angle of 55 degrees. To assist my climbing

I used Jumars, a oneway friction device which when pushed up locks and will not slip down. This particular carry I found hard work when carrying a slightly reduced load. The extreme angle and altitude while exposed to the elements sapped strength and willpower. I repeated this carry 11 times in varying weather conditions. The ascent often took up to 4 hours, while abseiling down took 45 minutes! When it snowed the angle did not allow the snow to settle and it therefore rained down the face in a constant stream. This added another dimension when trying to battle upwards pulling the buried rope out of the snow in a whiteout. When clear the location of C3 was spectacular. Three 4 men snowholes were dug into the slope with a stunning drop to the glacier below! I found sleeping in a snowhole far more comfortable than in a tent. The main reason being the protection from the constant wind and snow. Also at night the temperature was a warmer minus 6 degrees inside while a minus 30 degrees outside. From C3 (21,000) upwards the angle eased off and the avalanche danger increased. Evidence of previous expeditions were visible – shredded tents, old fixed ropes and stores. Whenever possible we used and salvaged equipment notably Japanese food and oxygen. I found that I felt fine with a minimum of headaches, and as the expedition progressed through April I became fully acclimatised. However when I passed 23000' my body seemed noticeably to slow, more rests were needed and intervals in between shortened. Arriving at C4 24000' was a relief after 24 hrs of climbing.

Again we dug snowholes. Once at extreme altitude I found sleeping harder and restless, and after a carry I felt drained of energy. Eating was a survival necessity, and although our food was excellent, summing up enthusiasm to melt snow and rehydrate rations was often hard. Health and hygiene are important but in the extreme environment washing was difficult, it also used valuable fuel manpacked upwards. So a full wash was a luxury every few weeks back down in Base Camp.

I was ill a number of times mostly with throat and chest infections caused by breathing cold dry air.

Returning to the mountain I climbed to C4. Up until then most climbers had used oxygen to sleep with and to carry for all heights above it. Two of us had acclimatised well and felt able to carry a normal load oxygen free. On Friday 13th May we left our snow hole after a sleepless night caused mainly by nerves to emerge into a clear  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  sky. 6 Sherpas moved with us up on to the top of the West Ridge. At this altitude they seemed to find the greater weight that they carried no problem. I was constantly impressed by their

dedication, loyalty and cheerfulness when my own mind and body was anything but cheerful. Looking like snowmen in our Gortex covered down suits we struggled upwards. Camp 5 (25,100') was to be my personal record which having achieved oxygen free I was delighted with. Here tents were pitched, one of which blew away with all its contents. Above me the last 4000' of the world ended at 29,128'. The view down into Nepal looking across the South West face to the south col, and into the western Cwm at Lotshe and Nuptse and countless other peaks, many now below me, was breathtaking. Looking into Tibet the Brown Hills and our completed route were clearly visible to Base Camp, 7000' below. Boyhood stories of Bonington, Mallory and Irving all sprang to mind.

The expedition, had prior to this, mounted two attempts on the summit. Our first assault failed during the last few days of April due to our inadequate logistics and oxygen. Although returning dejected and exhausted the two pairs had gained valuable information for the next attempt. The second time the pairs encountered deep unstable snow ready to avalanche so they returned to wait.

The weather pattern noticeably changed from constant high winds to a warmer environment as the jetstream lifted. Snow showers became regular. I watched the Tri Nations reach the top via telescope and live TV broadcast by satellite from the summit to their Base Camp close to ours. The outside world seemed so much nearer. We were the first British team to use a satellite link to any phone number in the world, morale boosting calls were a constant reassurance to those at home and often great surprises. "Hello this is Simon, phoning from Base Camp on Mt Everest" certainly was a conversation stopper. Our final summit assault was in mid May when a pair reached the middle of the Hornbein Couloir at 26,500' and established a camp in perfect conditions. Full of confidence, everyone waited until early morning. We awoke to a howling wind, low temperatures and deep snow. At the high point the pair fought in 100mph winds, a white out and -40 degrees C. In extreme danger with the descent increasingly becoming riskier they turned back, 1,500' below the summit. The following day we began to evacuate the mountain, and the dangers were realized when an avalanche knocked one of the team downwards to be arrested by the rope. Suspecting a broken ankle he had to crawl down the mountain to Camp 2 from where we were carrying him.

The intense disappointment and depression at not having put a serviceman on the top after four and half months of physical and mental effort was felt by all. However, as the well known names in the British team arriving to attempt the unclimbed North East Ridge said, "On a mountain that claims 1 in 10 lives from expeditions, you were successful in that all of you returned alive!"

## **Operation Raleigh Expedition to Southern Chile By Capt C.S. Biddulph**

Operation Raleigh is a scheme, conceived by Colonel John Blashford-Snell which aims to give a variety of young people the chance to undertake challenging expeditions in remote parts of the world. The participants, known as Venturers, are drawn from all walks of life and several different countries. All expeditions aim to incorporate elements of adventure, scientific work and community projects.

I was fortunate to be selected to join the Chile expedition, as a Project Leader, from January to March 1988. Therefore as the remainder of the Battalion prepared to move to Hong Kong. I found myself in Santiago at the height of summer. From Santiago we moved south to the town of Puerto Montt where a base camp was established.

Following a short acclimatization period, amongst the volcanoes of the Osorno region, small groups of Venturers with staff departed for various parts of Chile's Regions 10 and 11. This area is dominated by the Andes and is a mass of mountains, glaciers and forests with poor communications. Consequently the journey south was by means of a service of ferries and tramp steamers not designed with comfort and speed in mind.

Eventually after nearly a week of broken travelling, along an amazingly spectacular coast, my group – consisting of myself, a doctor and ten Venturers – reached our start point.

Our aim was to negotiate a network of valleys and passes through the Andes to a small settlement, near the Argentina border, before heading north west, (and back through the mountains) to the Pacific coast port of Puerto Chacabuco. From a study of the available maps this appeared a demanding yet reasonably straightforward task. What we failed to appreciate, at this stage were the number of deep, fast glacial rivers to be crossed, the impenetrability of large masses of bamboo and the general ruggedness of the terrain. Our introduction to the area proved to be a harsh one and certainly difficult for some of the group to come to terms with. Following a night landing, by inflatable dinghy, in the delta of the Rio Exploradores. We woke at dawn to find our tents under six inches of water. A hurried evacuation started a long day moving, through the flooded delta in an attempt to get above the high water mark. Numerous deep and icy rivers and channels had to be waded, or swum, before a vaguely suitable campsite was found. Eight hours in heavy rain and icy water had given rise to two cases of mild hypothermia – a situation not helped by the majority of sleeping bags being soaked!

Despite being trapped by impassable rivers on three sides and the sea on the fourth spirits rose as we slowly dried out and warmed up. By means of a radio call to another group we enlisted the help of a small boat which successfully carried us upstream to a more suitable start



*A Chilean rodeo.*



*River crossing by horse on the Rio Exploradores.*

point. Our stay in the delta had lasted three days.

A general improvement in the weather and a chance meeting with two unemployed "huasos" (Chilean cowboys) heralded a change of fortune and the remaining 120km of the route were completed in seven days. These were by no means easy days but we encountered no insurmountable obstacles whilst spectacular and varied scenery compensated for the regular company of mosquitoes and horseflies. Ten days after being put ashore we arrived in Puerto Rio Tranquilo infinitely wiser and considerably thinner. The next two weeks were spent exploring the area, rebuilding the community centre and providing the local shop and bar with its best customers to date. The villagers proved extremely friendly and generous despite our apparent attempts to destroy what remained of their community centre.

The saving grace was our ability to keep most of the children (who were on summer holiday) amused with our crude attempts at carpentry, painting and glazing.

Before the paint had a chance to peel and the scarcity of glass in the windows was noticed we were again on the move – heading towards the Pacific and journey's end. The first week proved to be somewhat of an endurance test as we hacked through rain forest and

bamboo loaded down with nearly 3 weeks rations. We also encountered the most serious rivers of the trips (swollen from recent rain and melting glaciers) which required frequent crossing in order to avoid areas of thick tangled forest.

Feeling extremely hungry and bearing the scars of a plague of leeches, which boldly attempted to out-do the Blood Transfusion Unit, we finally reached the Rio Sorpresa Sur.

The few people we met, in this valley, raise and herd cattle which are then shipped out to be sold in Puerto Aisen – which at a distance of 150 kilometres is the nearest town. Everybody was amazingly generous and took great pride in producing sumptuous meals despite the scarcity of supplies and their normally frugal diet. Local food included dried meat (known as "Sharky") washed down with yerba mate which is a strong, bitter herb tea imbibed, from a hollow gourd, through a metal pipe.

Our progress slowed as we made frequent stops to help (or hinder) locals with amateur performances of hand milking and lassoing cows. I have vivid memories of deciding to take my coffee black as yet another long suffering cow refused to respond to my frantic tugging and also achieving a personal best over one hundred metres with a healthy young bullock attached to my lasso. Well fed and totally convinced that our futures didn't lie in cattle raising we pushed on in order to make the most of the remnants of summer and catch our jerry in mid-March.

The route for the final stage of our trek was very vague. Our maps (surveyed 30 years before) were poor photocopies so we resorted to any local knowledge available. This often caused confusion due to conflicting reports about the feasibility of different routes. We finally opted to head due north along the valley of the Rio Condor rather than run the risk of becoming stuck in bamboo and mountains with only 4 days rations remaining. However we still had the problem of crossing a series of lakes laying in a densely forested, steep sided valley.

This was solved by borrowing various rough planked rowing boats, which despite leaking at an alarming rate, carried us over 20 kms of water with no real mishaps.

Nineteen days from starting we reached Chacabuco. The whole group felt immense satisfaction at completing one of the most demanding projects while enjoying fantastic scenery, numerous new experiences and meeting so many fine characters along the way.

### **My Attachment To The Kiwis By Lt. A.T. Smallbone**

"How would you like an attachment to the New Zealand Army in Singapore?", the Battalion 2IC mused over the morning coffee – would I?! Four weeks later, nursing a farewell hangover courtesy of our own subalterns, I arrived at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A

short bus ride later and I was in Dieppe Barracks, home of the 1st Battalion The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, in time for dinner.

"G'day mate" – was he having me on? – "See you on the lawn in 10 minutes for dinner". Sandhurst training obviously had its effect even on me and I slipped into collar and tie. On the lawn the Kiwis in vests, shorts and very little else seemed used to this strange British habit. Boz, a big lively fellow piped up, "Don't worry Rupert I turned up in a Gurkha mess like this when I was on attachment!" The nickname Rupert stuck from there on unfortunately.

It appeared I had missed a major party the day before – having been out with them since, I think that for my liver's sake this was a good thing. They were a friendly bunch and it appeared I was to be attached to C Company starting with the Battalion Parade the next morning. This sounded okay until I learnt that the Kiwis drill was slightly different to ours, halts on the right foot for example, and worst of all, words of command replaced by drum beats.

It was therefore with a feeling of impending disaster that I arrived, Sam Browne gleaming, to meet 9 Platoon. The Platoon were about two thirds Maori and kindly promised to prompt me through the parade. How I made it round the square in both slow and quick time is still a mystery, that I made some errors that would have had their RSM tearing his hair out I have no doubt.

Within a few days we were off on exercise in the Malaysian jungle. It was a Section Commanders' navigational exercise and I was due to be attached to the Company HQ lying in a hammock for a week. Then fate in the form of Smallbone's big mouth intervened, and I found myself volunteering to make up the fourth man on one of the "enemy" recon platoon teams. Complete with green and black face, sweat band on head, and M16 I swept across the jungle at tree top level in a Huey, happily envisaging myself as the glamorous "Nam Vet". However the jungle is one thing in a helicopter, on the ground it is a totally new ball game.

Always wet due to either the incessant rain, sweat or the constant stream crossings, movement in the J (as we jungle warriors call it!) is not just slow, but very hard work. My first major hurdle was provided by leeches. After about an hour's hard tabbing we had a rest and I slopped down onto my bergan. Glancing down at my chest I was confronted by a slug sized leech digesting a meal of finest O positive. Ripping it off and showing my disgust I threw it violently against a tree before stamping on it, much to the amusement of the rest of the team.

Further incidents with the great variety of creatures found in the J convinced me of my aversion to reptiles. Bumping face to face with a huge green snake hanging from a tree is not my idea of fun. However with time and experience I found that it was possible to live in and feel comfortable in this totally alien environment.

One week after this exercise and I was back in the J, this time adventure training on Exercise Bamboo Sailor. We were dropped off in the Malaysian jungle and taken up river in one of the long thin river boats so characteristic of that part of the world. After this came a 20 kilometre tab to our bamboo, which proved to be a lot harder than it sounds. Any thoughts of an easy life after this were quickly quashed. Cutting bamboo is an extremely arduous, dirty and dangerous task. Once it has split bamboo shears into razor sharp lengths and three of our party needed extensive stitches. Eventually after 2 days of cutting we had collected enough bamboo for the 12 rafts we required, and by using natural twine from the bark of trees we set about their construction. We were shown an advised design by the locals, however my team consisting of the group medic and a ferocious looking Maori Corporal went for a more solid design, earning our raft the nickname "Tank". Our raft was slower than the others and tended to bulldoze through the rapids rather than float over. The Tembeling River in the Taman Negara region has quite a few rapids and these proved to be the graveyard for a number of the rafts. Fortunately the "Tank" made it all the way despite some hair raising moments. Shooting over the rapids was good fun, but occasionally the rafts would become either lodged on or between the rocks and the only way to free them was by getting off and using brute force. I was not the only one to get washed away doing this. However the most dangerous moments came when the bamboo deck gave way and you fell through, being left suspended with your legs stuck while the rocks crashed into the bottom of the deck. Fortunately at the end of day we had no serious injuries and this gave rise to a wild end of trip party from which I hope Malaysia has recovered.



*A disintegrating raft on the Tembeling River.*

After this it was back to in-camp training with the poor Kiwi "Baggies" being subjected to a few Smallbone jokes during the lectures I had to give. Much of this period was spent preparing for a dive on the wreck of HMS Repulse on Anzac day. I was not there for the dive but attended the training including a week's scuba diving on Tioman Island off the East Coast of

Malaysia. This beautiful island, where incidentally they filmed "South Pacific", has some huge coral reefs and the diving is quite spectacular. Besides the fish and the coral there are sea snakes, turtles and of course American tourists in very brief bikinis.

At the end of April after seven great weeks I had to return to Hong Kong. There was a short party in the Mess to celebrate followed by a group of us hitting the town. Hence my flight back was less than enjoyable. Singapore is a very clean city but lacks some of the vitality of Hong Kong. The Kiwis however can have fun anywhere, and I remain in contact with the friends I made there. Like us in 1970, the Kiwis are moving out of Singapore in 1989, and it would be a great pity if we were to lose touch with them. As an Army they are very similar to our own and their skills in the jungle are very impressive. I RNZIR are keen to maintain their links with us and I wish the next lucky man on Exercise Little Look as much fun as I had – if so he'll have a great time.

### **Naval Connections Renewed HMS Swift – The Philippines By Lt. C.A. Heald**

It was a Regimental Dinner, a tap on my shoulder, "There's a place on HMS Swift being offered to the Battalion, they are going to the Philippines", and off went the Company Commander, obviously quite disappointed that he was unable to go himself. Having put out feelers to the right people, I waited to see if I would be lucky enough to go. A few weeks later I was told that I would be going as would Privates Cottage (HQ Coy) and Dobroczynski (C Coy). Now all that I had to do was convince my wife that I was going away on a ship for ten days to the Philippines and that I was sure that it would be very hard work and no, I would not be going on to any beaches. Monday the 20th June arrived and I waited for the transport to pick me up. Dobroczynski and Cottage arrived "Have you both got everything?" Dobroczynski piped up that he did not have his passport, we set off to Tamar hoping that he would not need it.

Once on board we were shown our accommodation – Cottage and Dobroczynski were in their own bunks and I took my place on the wardroom floor!! Time to meet the ship's company and have a tour around. As we soon found out we were not the only visitors on board – there were also a policeman, a QGO from the Signals, a PTI and numerous others, obviously a very popular deployment.

At 1600 hrs on the dot we sailed out of Tamar and into the busy channel. Standing on the bridge was quite a sight with the navigation officer running to and fro desperately trying to miss the numerous sampans and cross harbour ferries. Half an hour later we were well out of the way and on course for San Fernando where we would come alongside on Wednesday morning. Sea sickness pills were handed out – surely I wouldn't need

those. How wrong could I have been! for the next twelve hours I felt decidedly ill and wished that I had never been asked to go on the trip. I finally got my sea legs and the next day was spent finding out how the various departments onboard went about their work – Cottage, Dobroczynski and I all decided that we had joined the wrong service!

We woke early on the Wednesday morning to start preparing for the entry to San Fernando. As we got closer, land showed up on the radar and eventually we had sight of it. It was hardly the most attractive of places, the pier was falling to bits, the pilot to guide us in did not bother to turn up (he was later found standing on the end of the pier) and the Philippines Navy patrol ship was on the pier next to us with a chicken coop on the back and washing hung out on the railings!

The five days we spent in San Fernando (which is a one horse town without the horse but plenty of bars) were spent having some rather difficult social functions with the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard as well as some sight seeing and relaxing on the beach. We had a visit to USAF Wallis Air Base where they all told us the Philippines was a hardship posting – if you believe that then you will believe anything! We played various sports against the Filipinos and being very diplomatic won a few and lost a few but with compulsory singing afterwards we were definitely winners, finding our own versions of Tom Jones and Mary Hopkins (and wonderful he looked too!)

The following Monday all the farewells having been said we headed back for Hong Kong. An uneventful first day was more than made up for on the second when we stopped to go for a swim and a windsurf (all under the careful eye of a sailor with a loaded SLR – just in case there were any sharks in the area), but the highlight must have been the water skiing behind the ship. The first up were the Captain, 1st Lieutenant and a junior officer, quite a sight. Cottage had a go but decided it was not for him having been dragged behind the ship for 50 metres.

On Wednesday morning (having been anchored in the Tai Tam bay looking at Stanley Fort on Tuesday night), we arrived back at Tamar. It was a marvellous experience to work with the Navy for a few days and learn a little about how another service worked, as well as renewing our naval connections.

### **Smock Woodland Camouflage Maternity By Captain P.J. MULLINGS**

*Joint Readiness Training Centre  
Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas*

How I came to be posted to the United States of America in the first place is a boring story helped considerably by inside information at PB2 and a wife who has a sense of humour. I will mention only briefly Nick Smith's throw away line, "You won't get it, you're

one of at least a hundred”, and then when I did “get it”, the look on the CLF’s face as the CO tried to explain where ARKANSAS was. Similar confusion and much mirth echoed round the triad of Tomlinson, Muir and Wardle as they recalled their ‘A’ Level geography telling them that it is pronounced ARKANSAW and it is not a townland of Enniskillen.

Anyway, as all of Ardmore Drive, Crumlin and Antrim knew, the Mullings family were Stateside bound and three quarters of the household landed at Washington Dulles airport on June 15th and spent a luxurious weekend in the Crystal City of Marriot Hotel. We duly dragged ourselves around DC, the Smithsonian, Washington Cathedral, Georgetown, Arlington Cemetery etc until Monday morning when were treated to a morning’s brief at the British Embassy, followed by the presentation of a cheque for over \$16,000 with which I was told to find a house in which to live, furnish it and establish ourselves at Little Rock.

We ended up renting furniture which was placed room by room in a completely empty US Air Force quarter. These quarters are empty shells, no carpets or curtains either. A car was also a priority as the Embassy would pay Avis for one week (less collision damage waiver), so we scoured the local press and ended up with the biggest heap of junk next to the Renault Gordini we owned in Catterick. The monster has a 5 litre GM engine which will not start in the mornings and has a bad electrical earth causing all the lights to fail without warning. The driving test in Arkansas is mandatory in order to get a lower insurance group and to get a two year licence. “God damn it Henry, this guy’s British Licence doesn’t expire until 2012”. The test is quite simple and consists of a written tick test (Jacqui, “What’s a muffler?”) and then the practical which involves you getting into the side of the car on which the steering wheel is situated. These tests are supervised by a character similar to the sheriff in The Dukes of Hazzard TV Show.

Culture shock are words you understand to the full in Arkansas. Enormous neon advertisements are fallen in along every highway, each one trying to get higher and more visible than the next. Macdonalds, Shoneys, Mr Lube, Burger King, Days Inn and others all try to persuade you to part with a dollar. Arkansas is also slap bang in the middle of the so called “Bible Belt” and if its religion you want, you’ll surely find it here in hillbilly country. Whether it be a snake ritual or a pure and simple uncomplicated 7th Day Adventist all you need do is consult yellow pages. In fact if you want to go the whole hog and start your own congregation, you can buy a plot of land, erect the church complete with flashing neon crucifix which will outline your relationship with the universe.

Americans speak English based on the Websters Dictionary and they have an infuriating habit of changing nouns into verbs. Trash was once trash but now we have “to trash”. Snack was once snack, but

now we have “to snack”. They curse in rather a strange way also, usually making reference to the fact that you are the son of something, or that you do strange things with the anatomy of another male. (\$10 prize for the first letter telling me what I mean). After profanities such as these, imagine our surprise to find reluctance to mention anything to do with the loo. Never ask for a lavatory or toilet, far too crude, bathroom or restroom are the only descriptions available. The stable boy when describing the fact that Keri’s horse had left enough manure for the Wardrobe’s roses for six months, exclaimed “He’s been to the bathroom”.

Television is wonderful and if you are a soap fan and like commercials. Benny Hill gets an airing on some cable channels as does Monty Python and this really does look dated. It is hard to explain to an American just what “Upper Class Twit of the Year” is all about. One thing I have found wakens up boring shop talk, is to blink furiously and give a Benny Hill salute.

Bureaucracy rules OK in USA. Rules, rules, rules, paranoia, tin pot dictators in offices (worse than a German with a hat). On Little Rock Air Force Base we suffer garden inspections weekly and I have a job lot of letters warning me of severe penalties if I do not remove the garden hose which is connected to the outside pipe. This procedure is known as “being wrote up” as the local base weekly paper exhorts “don’t get wrote up for leaves”. This unique publication is called Air Scoop and is aimed at the Air Force establishment who fly the 100 plus C130s which live here. Got a whine or gripe airman?, no problem, drop a line to the Base Commander for inclusion in OPIN LINE or dial 988-OPIN to dictate your moan. Base hospital doctor needs a public rocket for failing to diagnose Parkinson’s Disease at sick call, or some Captain in front of you in the Commissary checkout express lane with more than eight items in his basket!, no problem, just write or ring in to OPIN LINE and have a moan.

To all those young ladies reading this article you may be interested to know that you can remain in service throughout pregnancy, birth and post natal depression. As you get larger round the midriff just waddle off to the S4 (QM) and get the next size “Smock Woodland Camouflage Maternity”. When little Duane, Emmy Lou, or Hank arrives and your stretch marks are beginning to disappear, simply drop him off at the base child care facility from 0600 hrs on and go off and control C130s lumbering around the circuit or reassume your loadmaster duties in the back of one.

Life in the Army is beyond my descriptive capability, but suffice to say “they ain’t like us”. One thing that stands out is the fact that Officers like to show they are in charge, unlike in our Army, where the Senior NCOs and Warrant Officers tend to assume God like postures. Micro management is prevalent and if you are used to making momentous decisions like what time to arrive at work and what time to go home, then

the sudden wrenching of this honour from your grasp can pose serious questions as to whether you had made the right decision to come here. Another factor which adds fuel to the fire of doubt is the American pre-occupation with the body beautiful. I have seldom seen so many posers and muscle benders in my life. I remember well from those halcyon days of Boys Service when a real ponce of PTI Cpl. would flex his right bicep and scream "Onto the wallbars-go", "go" being clipped for maximum effect.

PT here takes on a similar authoritarian cloak at 0630 hours daily. The US Army is quite unable to do this activity during the course of a working day. Come rain or shine, 30 minutes calasthenics followed by a run of not less than 36 minutes and here is the good part: every Tuesday we "get to do" a rucksack road march. I am convinced after 25 years in the infantry, that if the Lord had intended us to carry one-third our body weight on odd disjointed occasions then he would have incorporated strengthening devices in our knees and ankles. Singing and exercising in cadence is a custom reserved for the Hun, Islamic Revolutionary Guards and the US Army. "I want to be an Airborne Ranger, I wanna live a life of danger, etc etc", similarly having your PT gear emblazoned with the exhortation of the day is recommended. "All the Way", "Lead to the Top" are minor literary phrases which are guaranteed to make the hairs on your neck tingle.

If I am asked to describe America I would say watch TV because it is just like that. Everyone is buying two cars or a car and a pick up truck and one thing you never ask is "How much does it cost?". What you should be asking is "How much are my monthly payments, and can I stretch them over 100 years?". Car dealers will sell their souls to the devil in order to sell and because they are not bound by Government legislation, anything is possible, simply because a car is a must.

Distances are so vast and public transport so poor that this really is the land of the automobile.

We have imported fast food, soap operas, and Super Bowl but thankfully we have resisted the nauseating habit of "dipping" or "chewing". Smoking is a dirty word in military circles. The Forces have gone as far as banning it from all offices and public places so to overcome this US Serviceman either dip snuff or chew coarse tobacco. The technique is quite simple, all you do is take a goodly wad of this stuff and wedge it between your teeth and gum either at the front or side. There are warnings on the tins which read "This product may make your teeth rot and your gums fall out". The relative state of decay of your mouth and gums is therefore directly proportional to the place you stick it. One important part of the operation is what to do with the thick brown liquid which if swallowed will give you an instant tonsilectomy. The answer is quite simple: carry around a used Coke can or a paper cup for hawking into. Leaving the cup on the British Project Officer's

desk is not conducive to good Anglo US relations.

I don't expect for one minute anyone is remotely interested in why I am really here. Not to reform the US army that's for sure. Direct Fire Weapons Effect Simulation is the answer or in the dreadful British habit of pronouncing abbreviations, "DEFWES". We are rapidly entering an era of high tech training aids and the US Army has been using the Multi Integrated Laser Effects System (MILES), for 10 years and we have at last caught on that it may be what we are looking for in terms of Advanced Collective Training. We already have two way simulation capability in the form of SIMFICS and GATWES and the problem is identifying where we want to go bearing in mind the amount of money already spent and the fact that SAWES as far as the Infantry is concerned will not interact with any of it.

Summer is coming again and humidity is similar to that in Hong Kong. The rattlesnakes, tarantulas and creepy crawlies will be blinking in the Spring warmth at Fort Chaffe and Mullings will spend nights on the bonnet of the jeep or in a hammock, wondering if Fort Smith hospital has a good supply of snakebite serum. Last summer I suffered only from mosquitoes, chigger and wasps, so this year there is an equal chance that one of the former will get me or at least scare me to death. I had the same feeling being posted to C Coy in Ballykinler when Dolly Draper was in command ..... but that is another story.

#### **Visit of the Regimental Association to Hong Kong 20-30 January 1989**

We were aware that the approach to Kai Tak Airport could be "dicey", now as the Cathay Pacific 747 flew below the top floors of the high rise buildings seen flashing past the aircraft's windows on either side, we wondered if this was not an understatement.

The spectacular panoramic views of the bays and inlets of HK Island in the morning sun which we had enjoyed a moment or two previously vanished from the mind as it concentrated on the plane's approach. Then, with the slightest of bumps, a touch of the brakes and the reverse thrust of the engines, we slowed, and confidence came rushing back as the plane taxied towards the terminal buildings.

The group consisting of fourteen members and families was met by the Travel Agent's guide, Miss Chan - (call me Ida) who briefed us, pointing out places of interest en route to the sumptuous Excelsior Hotel - one of the Island's best we were informed - overlooking Causeway Bay and the "Noon Day Gun" of Noel Coward's famous "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" ditty. It is still fired each day on the stroke of twelve noon.

At 3pm we were collected by Miss Chan for a "coach tour of Kowloon - on foot", and promptly set off at a cracking Light Infantry pace. Through the milling



*A group of Members of the Regimental Association at Dills Corner Camp British New Territories*

throng we went, trying hard to keep contact with Miss Chan and each other. We plunged underground to savour the delights of the MTR (Mass Transport Railway) which connects the Island to Kowloon on the mainland peninsular. On to Nathan Road, pointing out the best places to purchase suits, shoes, jade, ivory, jewelry, this Chinese equivalent of Mary Poppins whirled us through the side streets before depositing us at the Star Ferry Terminal to make the more tranquil return journey to Hong Kong and a chance to regain our breath and bid Adieu to the pretty little Miss Chann. The fare on the Star Ferry is 60 cents – approx 4p and is by far the best mode of travel twixt Hong Kong and Kowloon.

6pm found us in the Dickens Bar of the hotel where we were welcomed by Lt Col Saunders and Lt Simon Howe who was to be our guide and mentor for the stay.

Over drinks the programme for our visit was explained and discussed, emphasis being placed on the voluntary element of the programme, after which we were free to “orientate” ourselves.

“Pumpkin Time” was 8pm next evening when the Regimental coach arrived at the hotel to convey us to Stanley Fort where the Battalion is stationed and to the WOs and Sgts Mess in particular where we were entertained by RSM Godwin and the members of both the Officers and Sgts Messes over drinks and an excellent Chinese buffet meal which gave our taste buds a promise of the culinary delights in store.

Day 3 and from the hotel we were conducted by Simon to a nearby tram stop in Hennessy Road where to assimilate the local atmosphere we packed aboard the next tram with “Central” on the destination board. The drill is that passengers board at the rear of the train, ease/fight oneself through the other sardines to reach the front in time to coincide with the destination, dropping a dollar (aprox 7p) into the depository under the watchful eye of the driver. We will not dwell on the plight of those who failed to fight their way through and were conveyed whence!! Our destination was the Furama Hotel where we were to have lunch in the revolving restaurant on the thirty-fifth floor, affording breath-taking views of the harbour and Kowloon across the bay. The meal was superb and in such wonderful surroundings, like good wine, was savoured without undue haste and it was with reluctance that we took leave of the impeccably attired Chinese Staff. Next by funicular to Victoria Peak, 1305 ft above sea level and the highest point on the island and bathed in the unaccustomed (for us) warm sunshine of the afternoon.

Li Yeun Street, Chiu Lung Street, Wing On Street are but a sample of the maze of narrow streets lying off Queens Road and known collectively as “the Lanes”, each packed tight with shops and stalls leaving but a narrow track along which the throng shuffles from one end to the other. Each is an Alladins Cave of goods offered for sale at ridiculously low prices and reduced even further by good natured bargaining – which is

expected and accepted by the vendor. The ladies in the group were in their element – but in truth not much was purchased on this occasion but we were all grateful to Alexis Davis, the wife of the Ajutant for guiding us on this “Recce”.

Without doubt the highlight of the visit was the next day when, after travelling to Stanley, we boarded the power boat “Anthoula”, thoughtfully vitalled with an assortment of liquid refreshment, to offset the parching effects of the salt spray presumably! We cast off at 10am with the good wishes of Lt Col Saunders who saw us away. A wonderful tour of the Island seen in a different perspective. The fishing fleet was in port for the forthcoming New Year celebrations and were lined up with a precision to make the heart of a RSM proud and were an impressive sight. Boats of every shape, size and calling ploughed their way across the waters, motorized junks, sampan Tescos selling food and vegetables to those on their larger counterparts, whilst the boat people cooked, washed and went about their daily lives on decks forever bobbing in the wake of passing craft. Aberdeen is the largest fishing village, noted also for its floating restaurants. On one such, aptly named “Jumbo” we savoured Dim Sum – a Chinese NAAFI break we were told, washed down with copious quantities of jasmine tea. From Jumbo we sailed to Lamma Island, traffic free hence tranquil and peaceful and seated ourselves at the Man Kee Sea Food Restaurant, an open air harbour-side establishment – in fact on a bamboo verandah stretching over the waters of the bay. Here we sampled our first authentic Chinese meal chosen by our guide. Seated at large round tables we attempted to master the tricky business of conveying the food in the centre of the table to the mouth with chopsticks, whilst the restaurateur and his wife poured copious draughts of Chinese beer and effected not to notice our lack of culinary skills with the equivalent of the knife and fork. All in all a memorable day.

In a more sombre mood next morning, we visited Stanley Cemetery. Impeccably maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission where lie so many who lost their lives during the Japanese occupation.

Afterwards, on to Stanley Market – an even better Alladins Cave, where the group started to dig deeply into their purses to purchase the first of the bargains which would accompany them to the UK. From the market we were conveyed to the Battalion Square where members of Sp Coy under Major Patrick Davidson-Houston brought us up to date on their latest technology. Thereafter we were entertained to an excellent display by the Corps of Drums under their Drum Major, D/M Howells. I have no hesitation in saying that this was the slickest exhibition of drumstick virtuosity I have witnessed and all are to be congratulated on their proficiency.

From the square to the Officers Mess for drinks before joining the Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Officers in

the Corporals Mess for a Bar-B-Q buffet and the opportunity to talk to members over more San-Miguel – the local snake bite!!

The tour of the New Territories the following day was a nostalgic return to a long remembered area which was now hardly recognisable, 40 years on. The sign posts brought back memories of fishing villages, now modern towns bursting at the seams. Dills Corner and Lok Ma Chou were visited, the latter affording view of the Peoples Republic of China across the Sham Chun River which marked the border. Of great interest was viewing the city of Shenzhen a mile or two away and the modern highway leading to the New Territories in preparation no doubt for 1997 when the Colony is ceded to China.

In the hotel foyer next morning we were “taken over” by a five foot ball of Chinese energy who, within minutes had us taxi-cabbed, deposited at the Macau Ferry Terminal where we were handed tickets and given rapid fire instructions, and jet foiled across the intervening forty miles stretch of water in as many minutes. Guide No 2 met us (call me Patrick) and took us under his wing. A very knowledgeable young man with an excellent command of English, he guided the coach driver and us through the winding streets of this ancient Portuguese outpost with a non-stop interesting commentary. Compared with Hong Kong the place appeared seedy, tired and probably 20-30 years behind its rival. Neither did it have the traffic and subsequent noise and therefore enjoyed a more tranquil lifestyle moving at a slower pace. Cars carry twin licence plates, one for Macau and the other for the Peoples Republic and nowadays a steady flow of vehicles and pedestrians across the border only yards from the Macau shops. The Chinese border guards on duty that day were affable and smilingly posed for photographs, Patrick interpreting. The enclave depends on two major gambling casinos for its revenue and the guide drew our attention again and again to the number of pawn shops. As he put it – “The casinos are only open five hours a day, the pawn shops are open all day eight days a week!! an indication of the gulf between the haves and have nots. To enjoy Macau a guide is essential and we found the Portuguese meal and the visit to the Casinos which were included in the tour price, good value for money.

Fittingly the final Sunday brought us together for a Service in the Garrison Church at Stanley affording a peaceful interlude to our busy itinerary which we appreciated. But not for long ..... just in case we had any loose change we were taken literally to the races. The new racecourse at Sha Tin proved a magnificent setting with a purpose-built railway to convey the punters to and fro. We were ushered into a box – a sumptuous room with restaurant service where the floor ceiling windows on the top floor of the Grandstand commanded a view of the whole concourse. It was a highly unusual experience for us to be served food and

refreshments in such salubrious surroundings whilst studying the equine form. Several of the group came away richer than when they arrived, but mostly we made our donations to the "Society for the Protection of Destitute Chinese Bookmakers". It was announced that the attendance figures for the day was equal to that when Her Majesty The Queen opened the course – 65,000, and to us all appeared amicable and fun loving with not a sign of untoward behaviour as they dispersed towards the railway station – impressive – not even the losers were upset!

On the dot of the appointed hour of the final day Ida, our original guide reappeared and took us in charge and like a miniature typhoon whirled us through Passport control and customs without hitch or hindrance at Kai Tak Airport before wishing us a final farewell.

It was the end of a memorable holiday visit to the Battalion, to whom we are most grateful for the many kindnesses and the hospitality extended to us during our stay. The programme organised on our behalf

exceeded our expectations, yet contrived to hit exactly the right balance in occupying our interest to the limit whilst allowing sufficient free time to follow our personal pursuits. We are most grateful to the Commanding Officer and all concerned for making the visit the success it was.

To summarise – Hong Kong is well worth seeing. It is vibrant, affluent and never sleeps – shopping hours are normally 10am to 9.30pm and when the shops close the thoroughfares are taken over by market stalls, restaurants and night life for those so inclined, abound and English is widely understood and spoken. The streets are crowded with mostly polite well-dressed people and providing normal precautions are taken it is safe.

But if you wish to see it – go soon, before the territory is handed back or disappears under the creeping concrete jungle of high rise monoliths and megaliths, flyovers, bridges, pedestrian walkovers and the dreaded automobile – you'll enjoy it!!

## DEPOT THE PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION

Life is never dull at the Depot. Despite the fact that routine for a member of the Permanent Staff may be mapped out by the Depot Training Forecast for the next 12 months or more, fine tuning and new challenges constantly arise.

Recruits are allocated to the Prince of Wales's Division by the Standing Committee for Army Manpower Forecast (SCMAF). They predict the numbers of trained soldiers expected to leave the Army over a given period and then tell Careers Officers what their recruiting targets should be. At the time of writing the Depot expects to receive more adult recruits in a six month period than at any other time. If they are successfully recruited Whittington Barracks will be humming with activity.

Although SCMAF allocates recruits to our Division, it is the job of Divisional Headquarters to adjust the allocation of trained soldiers to battalions. Infantry policy is that battalions serving in Northern Ireland have to be at a "minimum manning strength" – even if it means cross posting recruits badged to other regiments. In the past 1 DERR has been the recipient of cross posted soldiers. The numbers of young men wanting to join the Battalion has improved (although not all are from Berkshire or Wiltshire) to the extent that a small number have been cross posted to 1 GLOSTERS.

Anticipated changes to the Depot training Cycle will make themselves felt over the next few months: the introduction of SA80 to 1 WESSEX in January heralds the gradual conversion of our TA recruit training from SLR, and a 2 week extension to Common Military Syllabus training for adult recruits will increase their

training from 19 to 21 weeks (the situation that existed until 1986).

The Regiment continues to be well (others say overly!) represented at the Depot. At the time of writing there are 3 officers, 2 WOs, 2 SNCOs and 8 JNCOs – slightly fewer than last year, but more are on their way (including our new Commanding Officer Lt Col. Colin Parslow).

Many of the lessons learnt in Northern Ireland by our instructors were put to good use during exercise WESTERN ENCOUNTER, a District Military Home Defence Exercise held in October. Most of the Depot's platoons stopped training and took to the field to defend either Staffordshire County Military Headquarters (the peace time home of the Divisional Colonel) or a "key point" at Swynnerton training area (in reality a disused but massive underground bunker). The exercise, judged a success, also provided a well deserved break from the routine of the training cycle for recruits and instructors alike.

Earlier last year Lt. John Tomlinson organised a successful adventure training exercise in the Himalayas. Exercise MALLORY'S FOOTSTEPS took 3 staff (including Lt. Tomlinson) and 3 recruits on a high altitude long distance trek, including the Everest Base Camp.

The Depot has been busy in competition (Western District winners Skill at Arms 1988), on the sports field (placed second minor unit in the Army Cross Country Championships 1988), and for charity (WO2 North and Cpls. Plomer, Rowley and Smith raised £1000 in a sponsored marathon race at RAF Cosford). All in all a fast paced year, and one with a wide spread of variety.

# THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

## DERR

**President:** Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE

**Chairman:** Colonel D.W. Fladgate MBE

**Secretary:** Colonel A.M. Hinings OBE

## R BERKS OCA

**President:** Colonel J.L.R. Metcalf OBE

**Chairman:** Colonel D.F. Salt

**Secretary:** Colonel D.F. Salt

## WILTS OCA

**President:** Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE

**Chairman:** Colonel D.I.M. Robbins OBE MC

**Secretary:** Major J.J. Price

The Offices of all three Associations to which correspondence should be addressed is: The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EX

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Association

At the Annual Reunion on Saturday 2 July 1988 we were able to welcome officially our new President, Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE. His opening address, at the AGM at the Wardrobe, giving a fresh impetus to the Regiment's progress and the role of the Association, was most warmly received. All members now eagerly await his recovery to full health so that the expectations of this opening address will be fulfilled, as surely they will. The Reunion was a considerable success and was further confirmation that a worthwhile two-day event met the wishes of the majority of members.

After the AGM a most enjoyable Dinner Dance was held in the City Hall. This was attended virtually to capacity. Swinging Sixties dance music was to most peoples' taste as membership on the whole is not young enough for today's heavy metal and not quite so old as to know the Charleston.

On the Sunday morning large numbers of members and families assembled for a Regimental Service of Remembrance in the Cathedral. Standards of Branches of the former Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments joined with DERR Association Standards in the Service. Unfortunately due to previous heavy rain the fine Band of the Devon and Dorset Regiment were unprepared for a break in the bad weather and a march back to RHQ. In all other respects the day was a great success with all visitors and guests under cover for lunch in the garden.

Next year, need we remind you, is the 30th Anniversary of the amalgamation and certainly a year for celebration. The key dates are 1/2 July 1989 and for full details and a booking application do NOT fail to secure your copy of the DERR Association Annual Report. Full news of current and planned Branch activities can also be

gleaned from this Report and our many hundreds of compo fanatics will be sharpening their pencils for the latest test of Regimental knowledge.

We start the second 30 years of the Regiment's new life with over 3500 life members; guaranteed comradeship and mutual support until 2019 and beyond.



*The Standards being brought into the Cathedral for the Reunion Service.*

## The Royal Berkshire Regiment Old Comrades Association

(Princess Charlotte of Wales's)

### Deaths

With great sadness we have to record the deaths of Brigadier D.W.B.T. Hogg on May 17th and of Major W.G.La T. Cockroft on October 17th.

Obituaries appear elsewhere in this journal.

### Appointments

Lieut Col. W. Pearce-Serocold DSO TD has been elected President of the Newbury Branch. Colonel Serocold served in the 4th Battalion and commanded the Derbyshire Yeomanry (Reconnaissance) in N.W. Europe in 1944-45.

Captain G.P. Savill has been elected President of the Reading branch.

### Re-union

Our 80th birthday was considered a great success thanks again to the efforts of the Reading Branch. Certainly the turn-out exceeded our wildest expectations, the marching column appearing to stretch from one end of the square to the other. We were honoured by the presence of Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE, Colonel, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) who brought with him the medal posthumously awarded to Captain Conway Benning. We deeply appreciate his efforts and enthusiasm in acquiring this important piece of Regimental memorabilia.

Also on show at the reunion were the remnants of the Queen's Colour presented to the 1st Bn Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment) at Malta in 1889. This is one of the first pair of Colours taken into service after the award of the 'Royal' title in consequence of the battle of Tofrek. It is of great significance not only to us but to our successors, having been presented by the then Duke of Edinburgh when commanding the Mediterranean Fleet. The Colour has been splendidly mounted and framed by Major Robin Wilson and will shortly appear in the Wardrobe where we hope it will be joined by the appropriate Regimental Colour. Both Colours disintegrated when in St Lawrence's Church, Reading, and were subsequently found in a fragmentary condition in Brock.

### 3rd (Militia) Bn Colours

A reception was held at Brock, by kind permission of Lieut. Col. E.R. Holmes OBE, to mark the safe return of the 3rd Bn Colours. Guests present were the Mayor of Abingdon with representatives of her Council, officers of the 2nd Bn The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers) and representatives of the Reading Branch of the OCA. Col Holmes who is an eminent military historian, gave a short talk on the Militia.

### The Hudson Family

Mrs Dorothy Hudson died on August 20th aged 101. Her husband, Captain Thomas Hudson was killed at Loos in 1915 while Adjutant of the 5th Bn. He was one of three brothers, sons of the Rector of Great Shefford, all of whom were commissioned into The Royal Berkshire Regiment and all of whom played rugby for Harlequins. Arthur Hudson was killed as a Captain in the 6th Bn at Glencorsewood in the opening stages of the 3rd battle of Ypres (Paschendaele). At the time he was attempting to subdue a German anti-tank gun.

The third brother, Noel, after service with the 6th Bn,

was posted to the 8th of which he assumed command on 21 April 1918 at the age of 24. He continued in command until April 1919, apart from spells recovering from several wounds and a period spent in command of the Brigade. By this time he had acquired a double DSO and a double MC. After the war, besides captaining Harlequins in W.W. Wakefield's day, he took Holy Orders, eventually becoming Bishop of Ely. Truly 'the Church of militant and triumphant! The OCA sent flowers to Mrs Hudson on her 100th birthday.

### Membership

The influx of new members during the year has been most heartening, though there is still and always will be a need for active recruiting by members if we are to fulfill our prime function of cementing old friendships and keeping a watchful eye on welfare. It appears that there is no DERR branch in west Berkshire, which is a most important area. If there are any DERR people here with no home to go to it is hoped that they will make contact with the Newbury branch, where they will be very welcome.



*Reunion 1988. The Officers lead the March Past.*



*Reunion 1988. The March Past.*

## **The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) Old Comrades Association**

### **General**

It is encouraging to report that the number of members of the OCA has tended, surprisingly, to increase, rather than inevitably decrease, over recent years. This is due largely to the efforts made by existing members to bring in old mates who are out of touch. In 1988 our known membership was 703.

We regret to announce the recent resignation of our Secretary, Lt. Col. V.H. Ridley MBE QGM, who for business reasons, has left RHQ after too short a spell. We thank him for his dedicated work, in which he was ably supported by Major G.R.A. Pickford TD as his Honorary Assistant Secretary. The RHQ replacement, for the first time ever, regrettably will not be from the Wiltshire Regiment. This was inevitable. We must, therefore, accept that the valuable work done by the Secretaries, and which we all took for granted, must now fall to several part time volunteers from the Executive Committee. We do not know how long this can continue, but rest assured that it is our intention that the OCA will not ever suffer in any way.

### **The Annual Reunion 4 & 5 June 1988**

Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE, Colonel of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and President of The Wiltshire OCA took the Chair for his first Annual Business Meeting on 4 June at Devizes. Among other items on a full Agenda, his predecessor Brigadier J.R. Roden CBE was thanked for his past and service and was appointed a Vice President.

At this meeting the President proposed that it was no longer necessary to hold an annual meeting of the General Committee, usually in March. It had become superfluous for reasons both of time and economy. The General Committee itself would of course continue as such, because it is their business to see that the Executive Committee, which is normally drawn from the General Committee, is properly constituted and its work approved. However, the AGCM and the ABM would in future be brought together as one meeting. This will be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and would be held at each Reunion weekend.

The Annual Dinner on 4 June was attended by 302 members and some wives. The occasion was considered a great success despite minor administrative lapses, such as slow service.

There was an excellent turn out for the Church Parade and Service on 5 June. As usual, the weather was kind to us, another thing we seem to take for granted on these occasions. The Band of 1 Wessex Regiment again played for the march. Although some members have proposed the route should be shortened, it was decided that there is no good reason to do so at present. The Service was as good as ever. Canon Williams officiated

and the Rev P Tamblin, an ex-padre of the 4th Battalion, preached.

After the Church Parade all ranks and families were provided with an excellent buffet lunch in the Corn exchange and the Bear Hotel, through the generosity of the Tilleard-Cole Hospitality Fund. We continue to be most grateful for the financial assistance afforded by this Fund at so many social events.

We are again indebted to the Wiltshire ACF who provided food and accommodation at Tilshead Camp for members who had to be bussed to and from the Dinner. The 1989 Reunion will be on 3 & 4 June at Devizes.

### **Miscellaneous**

Branch notes will be published in the Annual Report. The standard of the Report has improved greatly and all contributions are welcomed for consideration.

For the first time in many years we have a resident in the Royal Hospital Chelsea. He is Mr Frank Swift, 2nd Battalion Palestine and 1st Battalion Burma. He attended the 1988 Reunion dinner in uniform, accompanied by an escort comrade of the East Surrey Regiment.



*Mr & Mrs Lintern on his 100th Birthday.*

On 29 August 1988 Mr H.E. Lintern MM celebrated his 100th birthday. The customary telegrams were received from HM The Queen and The Colonel in Chief. Mr and Mrs Lintern, aged 97, were visited by Brigadier Turner, who conveyed OCA congratulations on the day. It is thought Mr Lintern may be the oldest surviving holder of the Military Medal. This was gazetted on his birthday in 1919. He enlisted in 1914 and retired as a Colour Sergeant in 1935.

These notes conclude on the sad note of Brigadier Turner's recent serious illness. After a severe operation in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich in October, he is recovering steadily, with the steadfast support of his wife Rosemary. The whole Regiment and all Old Comrades join in sending them our sincere and earnest good wishes for his early, and most important, return to duty.

# THE JUNIOR INFANTRY BATTALION SHORNCLIFFE

Life at the Junior Infantry Battalion has cracked on at a ripping pace and it is hard to believe that yet another year has passed, however, stopping to look back makes you realise how much has changed. From the Regiment's point of view we have said goodbye to quite a few; Lt. Simon Gray left in December to climb Everest on the near successful Joint Services Team and Sgt. Vincent, Cpls Hilsdon, Smith and Pavitt have all now returned to the 1st Battalion. We thank them for their hard work leaving behind a healthy respect for our Regiment and its good standards, which are being maintained by those who have replaced them.

Capt. Wilson replaced Lt. Gray in Burma Company, but only for 6 months before being given the the new Retraining/ Remedial Platoon to command. This gave him something else to think about, other than what to write for the Journal notes at the end of the year. New arrivals at the beginning of the year were Cpl's Badenski and O'Doherty both to Burma Company and were closely followed by RSM (WO1) Merhlich from 1 Wessex. The RSM has brought his own inimitable style and talents to JIB, known only too well by the 1st Battalion. They will not be surprised to hear he trains the Junior Boxing team and plays rugby for the Foxhounds, the permanent staff team (what at 35!).

There has been no mention, as yet, of those that have been here a while longer, Cpls Alden, Fitzgerald and Savage. Cpl. "ATO" Alden was part of 8 Platoon

Peninsula Company where he is fondly remembered by ex-Junior Leaders for his all too realistic "bangs" and pyrotechnic displays at Battlecamp, Cpl. Fitzgerald has helped put the word continuity into a training establishments vocabulary in more ways than one; his son is presently going through training with Peninsular Company and will hopefully be with the 1st Battalion by June 89. Cpl. Fitz, is also the principal coach for the Junior Tug-of-War Team putting in his much valued experience. Cpl. Savage is HQ Company clerk and has done valued work there. He is presently trying to further his career and we wish him luck.

There has been a good percentage of Duke of Edinburgh's Juniors passing through JIB in the past year and the great majority have moved either to the 1st Battalion or to Depot Lichfield for further training. All in all the morale at JIB is very high. Capt. Wilson returns to the 1st Battalion at the end of the year and his slot as Regimental rep. will be handed over to Major Tomlinson until recently the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. He will be taking over as OC Peninsular Company.

The photo is part of the JIB Shooting Team that took part in Junior Bisley this year. In the centre of the frame is JLDR Wright DERR who was runner-up in three competitions, and one of the team who won the falling Plate. He passed out of JIB in Aug 88.



# 1st BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (RV)

1988 has seen 1 WESSEX take part in Exercise BOLD GROUSE in Denmark. This was the culmination of an intense two year programme designed to train and maintain the Battalion at the standard required to take its place alongside the other three (Regular) Battalions of the UKMF. We are at present just starting our next cycle to get us into shape for Exercise BOLD GUARD which will take place in Schleswig Holstein in 1990.

1989 will see 1 WESSEX become the first TA unit to receive SA80. We hope to get the new weapon system in March, which will enable us to start the new calendar training year with it. The conversion programme has to be spread out a little longer than it would take a Regular unit, to that end we have already converted the PSIs and we intend to convert all ranks and to shoot Stages 1-3 early June then consolidate this training and shoot Stages 4 and 5 at Annual Camp in Thetford in early July.

Our Wiltshire Companies: HQ and B are in fine fettle, with a good spattering of DERR PSIs and Ex DERR soldiers.

B Company in Swindon is recruiting strongly and is nearly at its established strength, but there is still room for those of you leaving the Battalion for the Swindon area who might like to carry on in uniform. Jimmy Durant has taken over as OC, and is supported by CSgt. Jeff Williams (who replaced Roy Povey in June) and the arrival of WO2 Chris Chapman in February 1989 will further bolster the Regiment's links.

Headquarter Company in Devizes has had a number of changes. Major (QM) Bill Stafford has moved to Bristol University via the Falkland Islands. (Congratulations to him on his New Year Honour). Captain John Rylands is now in Hong Kong, not with the Battalion, but no doubt very much in touch. (I didn't realise there was a desk in that office of your's John?).

And what about the new arrivals? First, the Signals PSI Sgt. Kim Foy. He has had a very busy first couple of months but has really thrown himself into the job and is making an impressive start. Pte. Paul Watts is another arrival, and is employed as the Commanding Officer's driver. At least that is what his posting order said, but as the only Pte. soldier in the unit Monday to Friday he is in great demand.

WO2 Colin Snee is still very capably carrying out the duties of Recce Platoon PSI and is to be congratulated on his recent promotion to Warrant rank. He has been instrumental in raising the professional standard of the platoon over the past two years. On their annual firing in 1987 the platoon were the first

TA members to fire the new practices, and they obtained a grade which compared them very favourably with their Regular counterparts. At Annual Camp this year they managed to achieve the distinction of being the only recce platoon in the UKMF to take their complete compliment of Foxes to Denmark. WO2 Snee is returning to 1 DERR in early 1989 and will be sadly missed here.

In June 1989 WO2 Dennis Moloney takes over as the Senior PSI of HQ Company, he is preceded by Sgt. Fitch Little who will become the Mortar Platoon PSI.

On the NRPS side Cpl. Jimmy (Damn Damn) Jones is still the mainstay of the FAMTO account, but sadly LCpl. Phil Angell has decided to move onto a new driving job with a civilian firm in Devizes.

As can be seen from the list below many ex members of 1 DERR have found that the TERRIERS are not the 'Dads Army' of the past. They have in fact decided to remain as soldiers and have taken a part-time job as civilians for the other five days of the week:

Major John Tristram	HQ Coy
Major Jimmy Durant	B Coy
WO2 (CSM) Mitch Mortimer	HQ Coy
CSgt. Steve Gray	SF Pl
CSgt. Charlie Stone	MT Pl
Sgt. (Brigadier) Frayling	Catering Pl
Sgt. Jeff Phillips	B Coy
Cpl. Colin Latham	B Coy (Sigs)
Cpl. Pete Legg	HQ Coy (Stores)
Cpl. Paddy Trappe	B Coy (MT)
Cpl. Mo Vizer	A Coy (Stores)
Cpl. Steve Preston	B Coy
LCpl. Vince Lake	B Coy
LCpl. Ron Mitchell	MT Pl
Pte. Paddy Devlin	MT Pl
Pte. Dave Marsh	D Coy
Pte. Kevin Wigley	B Coy

With 1 DERR being in Hong Kong 1 WESSEX is an ideal place for soldiers to spend their last 6 months of service (if permitted). There are quite a number of these soldiers now starting to arrive. At the time of writing the following are with us:

Sgt. Dick Wise	HQ Coy
Cpl. (Donkey) Webb	B Coy
Cpl. Dave Rose	HQ Coy
Cpl. Mike Hillsdon	HQ Coy
Cpl. Paul Driscoll	B Coy
LCpl. Brian Johnson	B Coy

## 2nd BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (V)

The training theme for 1988 was patrolling, with continued training in individual and specialist skills related to our Home Defence role. During the first half of the year the Battalion worked up through two major exercises; the second using the whole of SPTA (East) in a search and destroy operation. In addition the Battalion Annual Skill at Arms meeting was held at Longmoor, resulting in an impressive win by B Company.

In late August the Battalion moved to St Martin's Plain Camp for the first phase of the annual training period. The Battalion produced over 400 officers and other ranks in the field. For a week twelve range teams from within the Battalion ensured a very intensive use of the Hythe and Lydd range complex by all platoons. In the second phase the Battalion took part in Exercise AUTUMN TIGER when rifle companies moved to their role locations and came under command of their respective TAOR.

During 1988 new initiatives have been taken to assist recruiting and to raise the profile of the TA generally in the public mind. Companies have planned recruiting campaigns in their own geographical areas, including the use of "Look at Life" weekend exercises, and making profitable use of the national "profile raising" advertising offensive launched in September by the National Employer Liaison Committee. In July and September the Battalion sponsored its first two "Executive Stretch" exercises for management personnel from industry and commerce designed to highlight leadership qualities within individuals by confrontation with demanding "command task" situations on Exmoor.

Lt. Col. Dewar took over command from Lt. Col. Holmes OBE TD in November. The Battalion also welcomed Capt. Thornell as Adjutant in September. In January CSgt. Porter, who will be missed greatly by D Company, departs for warmer climates with the Battalion in Hong Kong and hands over to CSgt. Mallinson. CSgts. Griffin and Burlow continue to give invaluable support to C (Royal Berkshire) Company. CSgt. Nimmo has continued success in maintaining the high standard of training in the Regimental Recruit Training Team.

Brock Barracks also recently welcomed another Farmer's Boy in WO2 Dobie who having relinquished the appointment of RQMS in Hong Kong has arrived to lead the DERR Liaison Team, having taken over from CSgt. Decarteret.

### C (ROYAL BERKSHIRE) COMPANY

C Company are still enjoying life to the full and are working hard at keeping their reputation as "Best in the Battalion". We have had a year of good solid training and a very effective camp where we were left very much to our own devices to instigate some very useful company strength training. The first week was spent on field training and on the second week we took part in Exercise AUTUMN TIGER on KP Duties.

Our numbers have been steadily on the increase throughout the year and on a recent weekend we had well over 70 strength all up. We are still actively recruiting and hoping to improve our turnover rate to retain our trained soldiers.

CSgt. Stone was awarded a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for meritorious service to the Territorial Army. This presentation is obviously very well deserved and he continues to do a sterling job as CQMS – our heartiest congratulations to him.

The Company helped the Battalion to raise funds for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal and we raised over £3,000 as our contribution. Our major fund raising event was a "Stretcher Race" through the towns of Basingstoke, Reading, Maidenhead and Slough. To help us we had nurses from the Hospital and we finished the day off with a monumental party at which a good time was had by all.

C Company also organised an "Executive Stretch" weekend where we took 30 executives from local businesses to Exmoor and put them through a series of demanding and gruelling initiative tests. This gave them a good insight into the Territorial Army and they all promised to encourage their employees to join and gain the benefits the Territorial Army has to offer. It is worth noting here that a special vote of thanks should go to our PSI CSgt. Griffin and NRPS CSgt. Burlow without whose hard work the event would not have been nearly so well organised and enjoyed by all those taking part. They made the weekend constructive, professional and a shining example of what the Territorial Army can offer to anyone who wishes to do something out of the ordinary.

At the time of writing the Company is looking forward to the Christmas break and another good training year in 1989.

# ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE ACF

## 'Wearing the Badge with Pride'

The Royal County of Berkshire, Army Cadet Force maintains its ties with the Regiment. Nearly half of our 500 plus cadets, both male and female, wear the cap badge – with pride!

Details are given here of just three, all prominent senior cadets

DERR. It shows him receiving his badge of office from the retiring County Cadet RSM, Keith Gwyther, 13 PI Burghfield (also badged DERR).



### **Cadet RSM A. Bigwood**

Adrian is an outstanding cadet with over four years service in the ACF. A tremendous asset to his unit. His Detachment Commander, SM/PA Sharp, speaks highly of his value over the years as an organiser, instructor and for his all round ability. He enjoys shooting and is a good competition shot. He became County Cadet RSM immediately following this summer's annual camp (Isle of Man) and officially received his badge of office from our Honorary Colonel, Brig. Tom Sneyd, at the ceremony shown below. Since leaving school he has worked as a trainee engineer. No current plans to join the regular army but is a possible ACF adult instructor of the future.

The photograph was taken in Oct 88 during a parade at his unit location, 2 PI Maidenhead. The unit is badged

### **Cadet Sergeant Major T. Tampsett**

Tracey Elizabeth Tampsett, aged 17¾ yrs is a student at Theale Green Comprehensive School. A star pupil, prefect and games captain, she is intent on getting to University and then joining the OTC. An enthusiastic and dedicated cadet for 4½ yrs with 13 PI Burghfield she has progressed steadily to her present rank. She became a 4 Star cadet at Annual Camp 87 and attended the demanding Cadet Leadership Course at the CTC, Frimley that same year. Selected by the County to be the ACF representative Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for this year. A unique honour, as she is the first girl to perform these duties within the Royal County.

The photograph was taken at Shire Hall, Reading in early October. At that time Tracey was a Cadet Staff Sergeant. It shows her holding up her newly presented Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Certificate.

### **Cadet Sergeant C. Jopling**

Chris, aged 18 yrs, belongs to 14 PI Newbury (badged DERR). A quiet, yet enthusiastic, dedicated and competent cadet. A 4 Star Cadet since this year's annual camp, and a very good shot. Always interested in shooting, he was a member of the successful Berks ACF Team (and an individual prize winner) in the highly competitive SEDIST Cadet Shooting competition recently. He also successfully completed the Cadet Parachute course in May 87. Despite an earlier unsuccessful attempt at Pre-RCB, Chris is still very interested in joining the regular army – possibly DERR.

# WILTSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

We have had representation in all the District sport competitions and although we won no trophies there were some creditable performances by individual Cadets. The most notable being Girl LCpl. Maidment from Wilton who won the national 1500m and was second in the 800m. The August Cadet Journal printed the following:

"One admired in particular the sheer courage of Cadet Maidment, who having tripped on the kerb within one hundred metres of an easy victory in the 800 metres, then proceeded, knee bandaged, to take the 1500 metres title. Wiltshire (and all auburn-haired girls!) have cause to be very proud of her".



*LCpl. Maidment winning the National 1500 metres.*

The Trowbridge Detachment has reformed a Drum and Bugle band which is doing well and is much in demand for local parades and carnivals. B Company were the winners of the inter Company Competition which is held throughout the year and hold the DERR Challenge Shield for another year.



*The Commandant presenting the DERR Shield to Cdt CSM O'Conner B Company.*

After 5 years as Commandant, Colonel B.R. Hobbs hands over to Lieutenant Colonel J. Reid on 1 January 1989. Colonel Reid is another D and D joining the CEO and Major Mellin. It would be nice to see more ex members of the Regiment joining us as Adult instructors and we would welcome an interest from anyone leaving the Regiment and settling in Wiltshire. For our part 40 ex Cadets joined the Regular Army last

year and there are a significant number currently serving with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong.

Finally we have said goodbye to our Senior Padre, Rev Ed Bennett. He has been a great friend and confidant of the Cadets and will be sadly missed.



*The Rev Ed Bennett with a group of Cadets.*

At the beginning of 1988 we welcomed Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE as our new Honorary Colonel. He was "dined in" during his visit to Annual Camp which was held at Leek in Staffordshire.

Annual Camp is always the highlight of the year and 1988 was no exception. Despite the wet weather it was a good camp; well attended and with good training results. All Cadets had an opportunity to shoot, climb, abseil, canoe, swim and carry out individual and group training including the use of radio and applying their knowledge of first aid. The CQB training organised by two SASC instructors from the School of Infantry proved very popular as did the day out to Alton Towers.

A successful Three Star Cadre was held and 29 Cadets successfully completed a 48 hour expedition in the Peak District and qualified for their third star. Apart from the Honorary Colonel, visitors included Brigadier Starling the TAVRA Secretary and Lieutenant Colonel C. Parslow and Captain P. King who came over from Lichfield. £200 was raised during the Camp for the Sudan Flood Appeal.

Girl Cadets are now firmly established in six of our 24 Detachments. They are making their presence felt in all aspects of Cadet training. During the year the first Lady Adult was commissioned and there were Girl Cadets in the Ten Tors teams and the County Shooting Team which went to Bisley. The Shooting Team did particularly well and Cadet RSM Rice is to be congratulated on winning a place in the Cadet Hundred. The results auger well for 1989 because some of the younger Cadets competing this year will again be available.

Other highlights during the year included a skiing exercise in the Cairngorms for 20 Cadets, and a two day Parachuting Course at Netheravon which was attended by 8 Adults including 3 Lady Adults and 12 Cadets including 1 Girl Cadet. Three Cadets attended the Marlborough College CCF Summer expedition in the Lake District.

# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

We congratulate the following:

Maj. & Mrs. Davidson-Houston a daughter, Camilla on 8.1.88.

Maj. & Mrs. Bowkett a son, William on 3.5.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Harris a son, Luke on 25.2.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Lerpiniere a son, Michael on 27.5.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Lynch a son, James on 2.4.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Oland a son James on 2.4.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Pavitt a son, Robert on 28.1.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Coupland a son, Ashley on 12.10.88.

Cpl. & Mrs. Rumble a daughter, Roxanne on 29.3.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Spurway a daughter, Shauna on 21.10.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Smith a son, Gethin on 9.1.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Scott a son, James on 11.2.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Rowell a daughter, Naomi on 11.10.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Patrick a daughter, Kylie on 2.4.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Panting a daughter, Nichola on 31.10.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. McKee a daughter, Leona on 13.4.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Lomas twin daughters, Victoria & Joanne on 21.7.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Garrad a son, Nathan on 22.9.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Fear a son, Daniel on 2.9.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Costema a daughter, Laura on 30.8.88.

LCpl. & Mrs. Brennan a daughter, Sheena on 19.4.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Arnold a daughter, Ruth on 30.5.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Finlay a daughter, Nathalie on 19.7.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Franklin a daughter, Kirsty on 29.4.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Hingston a daughter, Carla on 13.7.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Hutchinson a daughter, Rebecca on 15.8.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Knapman a daughter, Maxine on 7.5.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Lavender a daughter, Danielle on 3.5.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Lees a daughter, Jennifer on 28.6.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Minton a daughter, Alexandra on 20.4.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Pugh a daughter, Sarah on 25.3.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Smith a son, David on 2.5.88.

Pte. & Mrs. Somers a daughter, Anita on 5.1.88.

## MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following:

Lt. Gray to Louise Sarah Terry at the Parish Church Bishop's Waltham on 19.11.88.

2Lt. Harland to Tracy Ann Doidge at White Church on 23.7.88.

2Lt. O'Hara to Julie Anne Maloney at Salisbury on 23.4.88.

Pte. Boyle to Miss Julie Shannon at the Parish Church West Retford on 1.10.88.

Pte. Brown to Miss Karen Andrews at Bracknell Registry Office on 27.2.88.

Pte. Cheetham to Miss Karen Louise Hewitt at Crewe on 7.5.88.

LCpl. Coleman to Susan Jean Lewis at Wigan on 30.1.88.

Cpl. Coombes to Anna Helen Hancey at Bristol on 30.1.88.

Cpl. Coupland to Joanne Marie Wiles at Bedworth on 9.1.88.

LCpl. Feeney to Dianne Bridgit Sherrif at Reading on 11.1.88.

Pte. Finley to Naomi Purchase at Ascot on 30.1.88.

LCpl. Garrad to Suzanne Enid Wiggals at Grendon-Under-Wood on 13.6.88.

Pte. Gibbings to Carolyn Delia Skarratt in Tamworth 30.1.88.

Pte. Green To Suzanne Rosemary McGuinness at Reading on 22.7.88.

LCpl. Hebron to Dawn Nena Harrison at London on 30.1.88.

Pte. Hingston to Amanda Jane at Tamworth on 7.3.88.

LCpl. Hughes to Marina Holyoak at Pwllheli 30.1.88.

Pte. Learoyd to Barbara Reeves at Aldergrove on 9.1.88.

Pte. Lee to Samantha Maitland at Cranbrooke on 23.1.88.

Pte. Martin to Helen Ruth McMaster at Wellingborough on 29.1.88.

Pte. Mason to Clair Vennsa Almond at Northampton on 11.1.88.

LCpl. Mathews to Margaret Mary Gilsse at Torquay on 6.8.88.

Pte. Morgan-Hurley to Anne-Marie Philips at Haverford West on 30.1.88.

Pte. Morris to Rachael Alison Smith at Barnstable on 23.7.88.

Pte. O'Connor to Anne Marie Elliot at Warminster on 16.1.88.

Pte. Ormandy to Teresa Jane Long at Ballymena on 9.6.88.

Pte. Palmer to Ellane Edith Maxwell Orr at Kingsclere on 9.1.88.

Cpl. Parrett to Christine Caroline Marshal at City Hall, Hong Kong on 25.8.88.

Cpl. Ponting to Jill Elizabeth Wilson at Crumlin on 7.1.88.

Pte. Sargent to Sharon Jane Webb at Southampton on 9.1.88.

Pte. Smith to Jill Farington at Pontypride on 25.6.88.

Pte. Smith to Pamela Victoria Ewing at Lisburn 16.1.88.

Pte. Southall to Caroline Louise Lloyd at Newport on 30.1.88.

Pte. Stockley to Jill Bennett at The United Reformed Church, Market Lavington on 15.10.88.

Cpl. Stonard to Louise Mary Hollingsbee at Canterbury on 30.1.88.

Pte. White to Julie Betteridge at Derby on 23.1.88.

Pte. Whitley to Joy Benson at Enniskillen on 16.1.88.

Pte. Worbel to Elaine Margaret Richmond at Bishops Cannings 23.7.88.

## DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of the following:

### DERR

Captain T.J. Freelove on 30 September 1988 at Lichfield. Enlisted DERR 1960. Commissioned 1980. (See Obituary notices).

24493987 Pte. N.A. Cable on 22 May 1988 at Trowbridge as the result of a road traffic accident. Served 1978-81.

22805216 Sgt. W.M. Paterson on 8 January 1988 in Scotland. Served 1972-1980.

23143476 Cpl. R.W.E. Smith on 4 April 1988 at Poulshot, Devizes. Served 1954-65.

24399930 Pte. J.M. Waters on 27 February 1988 at Middle Wallop as the result of an explosion. Served 1976-80.

### The Royal Berkshire Regiment

Brigadier D.W.B.T. Hogg CBE on 17.5.88

Brigadier J.A. Mellsope CBE on 4.12.88

Brigadier Barbour on 20.9.88

Lt. Col. D.J. McLeay on 1.9.87

Major W.G. La T. Cockcraft on 24.10.88

Major Harbourne on 31.12.87

Major R.P. Wheeler on 26.8.88

Capt. J. Ridley date not known

Capt. S.C. Eves on 2.3.88

5332393 Mr Ross on 14.12.87

5377433 Mr E.A.J. Jones on 8.12.87

5338047 Mr G. Kane (Cpl) on 8.10.87

5334773 Mr A.J.F. Stone (Pte) on 20.11.87

5335823 Mr Smith (Cpl) on 2.3.87

5329084 Mr J.C. Dimsdale (WO2) on 30.12.87

5335942 Mr A.J. Bennett on 21.1.88

5334460 Mr J.H.C. Aolen (Sgt) on 19.2.88

5330037 Mr W. Forward (Sgt) on 21.12.87

5332204 Mr R. R. Slatter (Sgt) on 28.1.88

5351785 Mr I.A. Lewis (Pte) on 9.3.88

5329378 Mr H.F. Smith (Pte Dmr) on 18.6.86

Mr F.A.J. Howett on 15.4.88

5335214 Mr Renn on 15.4.88

4077741 Mr W.V. Trusler on 19.3.88

53331591 Mr F.G. Hostler (S/Sgt) on 31.3.88

5335135 Mr W. Grothers on 10.10.87

839665 Mr S.J. Draper (Sgt) on 12.12.87

5330321 Mr A. H. Newland (WO2) on 8.5.88

5334457 Mr A.G. Tribe (WO1) on 2.8.88

5381053 Mr A. Maund on 25.6.88

14362944 Mr A.E. Newbold on 27.4.88

05331557 Mr W.C. Harper (Pte) on 5.8.88

5338358 Mr V. Waters on 20.10.88

5348135 Mr M. Sheenan on 17.11.88

5347131 Mr P. Bishop (Pte) on 1.12.88

533145 Mr A. F. Hughes on 14.11.88

Mrs G. Whitewick in October 1988 following a road accident. Wife of CSM G. Whitewick BEM

### The Wiltshire Regiment

Lieut. Colonel T.R.M. Ottowell of Southwold on 24.2.88 aged 72. 2nd & 4th Bns.

Major N.G. Motion of Redhill on 21.2.88 aged 68. 1st Bn.

Mr A.S. Ashley (5562933) of Devizes on 4.3.88 aged 86. 2nd Bn.

Mr C.L. Adams of Stratton St Margaret on 17.5.88. 2nd Bn and SASC.

Mr E.H. Arthur (5573083) of Camborne on 11.8.88 aged 70. 4th Bn.

Mr W.T. Aplin (5562432) of Devizes on 17.7.88 aged 91. 1st, 2nd & 5th Bns. 30 years Service.

Mr E. Atkinson of Meriden on 17.7.88.

Mr R.W.J. Burgess of Westbury on 12.1.88 aged 73. 4th Bn.

Mr H.R. Brazier (5572600) of Southsea in Dec 87 aged 70. 5th Bn.

Mr E. Bailey (10895) of Melksham on 10.3.88 aged 91. 2nd Bn.

Mr T.H. Burge (5562297) of Stoke on Trent on 17.8.88 aged 89. 1st, 2nd & 6th Bns, Cpl, lied about his age to enlist at 16 in 1915.

Mr D.C. Brown (22467506) of Bristol on 18.9.88 aged 77. 1st Bn.

Mr H.A. Chappell (5566021) on 23.9.88, Sgt.

Mr S. Cobb of Bath in Oct 88 aged 68. 5th Bn Coy Storeman.

Mr K.H.G. Dunn (5574204) of Trowbridge on 27.2.88 aged 75. Sgt 4th Bn.

Mr W.E.J Evans (5563791) on 29.4.88. SSgt.  
 Mr J. Edwards (2653129) on 19.1.87.  
 Mr W.J. Earney (5573664) of Warminster on 2.9.87 aged 67. 4th Bn.  
 Mr S.J. Fitcher (5569890) of Abbots Ann in Feb 88 aged 68. 4th Bn.  
 Mr F.J. Frost (5568058) of Taunton on 12.4.88 aged 73.  
 Mr Forsyth of Telford on 7.5.88. 4th Bn.  
 Mr J. Gunson (5571654) of Dunstable in April 88. 4th Bn Sigs Pl, Bn Boxer.  
 Mr E. Gingell of Melksham on 14.2.88 aged 86.  
 Mr G. Garrett (5570744) of Downton on 14.5.88. Sgt 4th Bn.  
 Mr H. Hart of Bradford on Avon on 25.11.87. 5th Bn Stretcher Bearer.  
 Mr W.J. Hatton (9094) of Hankerton on 21.10.88 aged 91.  
 Mr H.J. Holloway (5569467) of Devizes in Sep 88 aged 70. Dmr 2nd Bn.  
 Mr R.P. Jackson (5567347) on 24.5.88. CSgt.  
 Mr S. Johnson of Aldershot on 16.7.88. WO2 1st Bn.  
 Mr J.D. Kirton (5562799) of Loughborough on 19.12.87 aged 83. Band 2nd Bn.  
 Mr J. Lock of Salisbury on 30.3.88.  
 Mr R.E. Maidment (5570202) of Mere on 1.6.88 aged 66. 4th Bn.

Mr R.E. Macklin of Warminster on 15.6.88.  
 Mr H.C.S. May (5608458) on 22.9.88. WO2.  
 Mr E.G. Perkins (5573020) of Birmingham on 17.6.88 aged 71. 5th Bn Sigs Pl.  
 Mr S.H. Pike (5565864) on 4.7.88 aged 82. 2nd Bn.  
 Mr R. Powell of Bradford on Avon on 18.4.88 aged 65. 5th Bn Sigs Pl.  
 Mr F.W. Reeves (5567083) of Chippenham on 16.11.88 aged 80. WO2 1st, 2nd, 5th & 7th Bns.  
 Mr M.B. Suter (5573308) of Gillingham in July 88. Sgt. 4th Bn. Awarded Croix de Guerre with Palm.  
 Mr H.V. Strange (5569200) of Faversham on 17.9.88 aged 72. 5th Bn.  
 Mr F.G. Stokes of Warminster on 2.11.88. 4th Bn.  
 Mr W.P.C. Taylor of New Milton on 3.4.88 aged 83. 1st Bn.  
 Mr R. Trollope (5566788) of Warminster on 6.8.88 aged 82. Sgt 4th Bn.  
 Mr G.P. Taylor (5566322) of Fairford on 8.8.88 aged 77. Band 1st & 2nd Bns.  
 Mr P. Wilson (5577383) of Chippenham on 13.2.88 aged 65. 5th Bn.  
 Mrs. M. Houghton-Brown on 28.3.88. Widow of Colonel J. Houghton-Brown DSO TD of Lower Pertwood.

## OBITUARIES

### BRIGADIER D.W.B.T. HOGG CBE 1903-1988

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Brigadier D.W.B.T. Hogg CBE, last Colonel of The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's), was held in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Yattendon, Berkshire, on Tuesday, June 14th. His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel in Chief The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), was represented by Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE, Colonel of the Regiment. The service was conducted by the Rev Richard Crew assisted by the Rev Phillip Allin. The Lesson was read by Rear Admiral Robin Hogg (son).

Among those present were: Mrs Hogg (Widow) Rear Admiral and Mrs Robin Hogg (son and daughter in law), Mr and Mrs Nigel Hogg, Vice Admiral Sir Ian and Lady Hogg (brothers and sisters in law), representatives of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, The Royal British Legion, Bradfield College and the Dragon School.

The following address was given by Major General D.T. Crabtree CB.

We may have to remind ourselves that we are here not to mourn but to give thanks for a life of duty and shining example and to hope that, united, we may be of some service to Nancy.

Dudley was the last Colonel of The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's), which adds poignancy to this occasion. He was commissioned in 1923 and served with the second battalion in Plymouth, Wiesbaden and Aldershot. In the latter station he made the most important and most laudable decision of his life: that of marrying Nancy.

1923 was an interesting time to be joining the Army. Although the inter war decline of the forces was gathering momentum a large majority of officers and senior NCO's had war medals; there were even a few from the South African war, and some from North West Persia and the Indian frontier were appearing. There were giants in those days. Dempsey, Furlong, Leslie, Aveline, Hanbury Sparrow were all junior captains or subalterns and became Dudley's life long friends as did the National Service subalterns and young regulars of later years, so that his personal time span can be said to cover most of the century.

Dudley was fluent in French and German and was a master of spoken and written English. It was therefore

not surprising that he gravitated towards Intelligence work. In 1932 he was lent to the French Army, as Instructor in English at the Military College at Saint Cyr. When, after three years there, he left the College, the Commandant wanted Dudley to receive a decoration. But this was not countenanced by Whitehall. So, with typical Gallic wit, he was presented with a kepi, epaulettes and gloves such as French cadets wore on their passing out parades. These unique distinctions are now in the regimental Museum at Salisbury.

After Saint Cyr Dudley returned to his Battalion and served with it for a year in the Canal Zone before entering the Staff College at Camberley. By the time his course ended war was approaching apace. Dudley's mobilization appointment was as Liaison Officer with French headquarters in Northern France where he witnessed the collapse of the French Army and of the country which he and Nancy loved. He himself managed to reach La Panne and embark for the U.K.

After commanding the 9th Royal Berkshires, succeeding Lionel Tremellen who had been his first company commander, Intelligence claimed him. He began a succession of increasingly senior staff appointments both at home and in the Middle East. This was not entirely to Dudley's liking and he made great efforts to serve in a more active and dangerous role. He particularly had his eye on the 10th Royal Berkshires when they were in Italy commanded by another old friend, Ian Baird, but it was not to be; his contribution was too important for him to be released. Little did he know that Lord Louis Mountbatten himself was writing letters asking for Dudley to be a Senior Intelligence Officer in Headquarters Combined operations. He had to possess his soul in patience until hostilities ceased and he was free to command the first Battalion at Mildesheim. With this behind him he resumed his career on the staff as BGS(I) Middle East. His last active appointment was as Deputy Director of Military Intelligence in the War Office before he and Nancy retired to their home at Frilsham. He was awarded the MBE in 1940, and in 1947 the United States of America bestowed on him the honour of Officer of the Legion of Merit. In 1956 he was awarded the CBE.

Dudley retired but not to idleness. He became Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Regimental OCA Trustees and later a life vice president. He embarked on a new career in teaching, first at the Dragon School, Oxford, and later at Bradfield College. He became President of his local Branch of the Royal British Legion. In 1957 he was appointed Colonel of The Royal Berkshire Regiment in succession to General Sir Miles Dempsey but, before his tour expired and after receiving the freedom of many Boroughs in Berkshire on behalf of the Regiment, he was involved in the amalgamation which was to produce The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) of which he became

Associate Colonel. His last military appointment was as Honorary Colonel of the 4/6th Battalion which he held until the reorganisation of the Territorial Army removed this, the last unit of his Regiment, from the Army List.

Dudley Hogg, a good and regular performer at most games, was also a gentle, modest man of great charm and kindness with an almost self deprecatory, mildly humorous manner of speech. A scholar by inclination, he never raised his voice or spoke brusquely. He thought it self evident that logical opinions, courteously expressed, would carry conviction and he was sometimes non-plussed by men of grosser clay. He had the highest sense of duty. His house at Frilsham, with Nancy at his side, was a focal point for many generations of Royal Berkshiresmen and their wives. He was as Chaucer put it: "A very parfit gentil knight".

As most of us knew, his last years were clouded by illness. With Nancy's unfailing support he bore it with uncomplaining fortitude, even cheerfulness. He once said, in answer to a well meant expression of concern and sympathy and with a little more determination than usual in his voice: "What is a Christian for if not to suffer?"

I had known him for only 30 years; I wish it had been longer. I liked and admired him greatly as I am told his pupils and fellow teachers at The Dragon School and Bradfield also did.

We can all be thankful that we have had the great pleasure and privilege of knowing Dudley, and as Shakespeare so beautifully put it "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world "This was a man".

The following obituary has been translated from *Le CASOAR*, the annual magazine of the St-Cyr Association. The writer, Colonel de Castelnau was an instructor at St-Cyr when Brigadier Hogg was the British Liaison Officer

An officer in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, Brigadier Dudley Hogg was detached for several years to the Ecole Spéciale Militaire in France. Not only did he teach English, as was the custom, but he was also liaison officer to the Commandant of the school and helped with the management of the school. He carried out this mission with such tact, efficiency and friendly devotion that the Commandant – one General Frère – sought for his nomination as Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. This was refused by the War Office who said that this award could only be given to a British officer after 4 years spent in France and they posted him before he had completed this period. The Commandant therefore presented Hogg (then a captain) officially with the school's shako, the *Casoar* (plume) and white gloves. The recipient later donated these to the Regimental Museum.

**MAJOR W.G.La T. COCKCRAFT**  
**1912-1988**

Cocky, as he was always known in the Regiment, was commissioned from the RMC, Sandhurst, in September 1932 and posted to the 2nd Battalion then at Shorncliffe but soon to embark on the protracted foreign tour of those days. After service in Palestine, Egypt and India, Cocky was seconded to the King's African Rifles, serving with the 4th Battalion with which he took part in the Abyssinia and Somaliland campaigns. He returned to the UK in 1942 to become second in command and chief instructor at the Commando Depot. In the same year he married Diana Mitchell. In 1944, after a course at the Senior Officers School, he was posted to Normandy where he became second in command of 1/7 Queens in the famous Queens Brigade of 7 Armoured Division. He was invalided home from Holland in January 1945, later to join the War Office Selection Board where he remained until January 1947. There followed a brief spell commanding the Royal Berkshire company at the Group Training Centre, Bulford, before moving on to Q(Ops)I at the War Office. This was his last appointment before retiring. He was recalled at his own request for the Korean War.

His active service over there followed fifteen years as RO II at the Parachute Regiment Headquarters, putting to good use the experience gained in high level staff appointments in the War Office. It was typical of his eternal youthfulness that his last working day at Aldershot was spent making his first parachute jump, into Studland Bay. In 1977 he became Assistant Regimental Secretary The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment at Brock Barracks, Reading. Here his devoted and meticulous work achieved striking results including the Maiwand centenary and the acquisition of the Welch V.C. With the closing of the Reading office he became, for the second time, a trustee of the Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA and ultimately a Life Vice President. In 1985 he became President of the Reading Branch of the OCA where his influence proved as beneficial to his old soldiers as it had fifty years before when they were all young together.

With his varied experience, natural aptitude and engaging personality Cocky was the best Regimental officer of his time and deserved to go to the top of the tree. His was a truly noble character based on integrity and sincerity with a pronounced love of life and of his fellow men. His refusal to dissemble or to compromise with his profound Christian and soldierly principles sometimes rebounded to his personal disadvantage. He bore disappointment with good humoured fortitude, without trace of jealousy or resentment and whatever befell him he turned to his eternal credit. His last painful illness was a triumphant test of the magnificence of his spirit.

J.L.R.M.

**CAPTAIN T.J. FREELove**  
**1938-1988**

Terry Freelove passed away at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich on 29th September 1988. Many of his friends and colleagues met to pay their last respects, on Friday 7th October 1988, at St Georges Church, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. It was a solemn occasion, but all those present realised that Terry would not have wished us to be sad, for here was a man larger than life, compassionate, humorous, a gentle giant indeed. This was the man one wanted around when the going became rough, when spirits were at rock bottom. His presence, sense of humour and infectious laughter were a guarantee that nothing was as bad as it seemed.

Terry enlisted in The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in 1960, and it became apparent at a very early stage that this soldier was destined for the top. It was at Tidworth in 1961 and in Malta a year later that I became privileged to know him well. At this time he was a Corporal in the Signals Platoon. He was an excellent shot, and was a member of the record breaking Smallbore Rifle Team.

As a Sergeant, 1965-68 he was a Permanent Staff Instructor with both County Territorial Battalions, 4 WILTS and 4/6 R BERKS. In 1970 he was selected for that prestigious posting for senior non commissioned officers, as an instructor at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. During this tour he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. He was 'A' Company Sergeant Major in 1972, and here his strengths were clear for all to see, confidence, bearing, intelligence and efficiency. During the long tour in Ballykinlar he served with distinction and natural authority, tempered with good humour and a sound professional knowledge, borne out by the affection shown to him by his soldiers.

On promotion to WO1 in 1977, Terry was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of 2 Wessex, here his adaptability, and flexible attitude of mind, won him the respect and admiration of the TA soldier. He was selected to be the RSM of the 1st Battalion, but a family illness prevented him taking up this appointment. He was instead posted to 4UDR, where his strong personality, good humour and enthusiastic participation in all aspects of the Battalion's and community's life, combined with an uncompromising demand for a high standard of performance from his NCO's, earned him wide respect.

Commissioned in 1980, Terry became the Families officer of the 1st Battalion. His compassion, understanding and love of family life helped many a young family over the hurdles of military married life. Of course the older families were also appreciative that such an outstanding, experienced soldier had their interests at heart.

At the Depot, Whittington Barracks, in 1986, he assumed the appointment of OC HQ company, and it

was here that his illness was first diagnosed. An illness borne with great dignity and courage. With the help of Josie his wife and his three wonderful daughters he fought with the determination that had always been his forte. His humour and sense of fun never deserted him. He quietly informed the Dental Hygienist on her arrival at the Depot, that it was customary for female members at the Depot to curtsy to the Commanding Officer. On performing this feat for the first and only time, the

CO was in no doubt who had initiated the prank.

I would close this testimony to a great friend and servant of the Regiment by stating that in all the years that it has been my privilege to have known Terry, Never did I hear him utter a bad word about his friends and comrades, but then neither have I heard anyone say anything detrimental about Terry Freelove.

P.M.

## NOTICES

### **Regular Forces Employment Association**

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence, the Employment Service of the Department of Employment 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 Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their address 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 1 April 1987 - 31 March 1988 the Association assisted 10,269 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5017 in employment. Of those placed 2321 were men and women from the Army.

### **The Corps of Commissionaires**

The Corps of Commissionaires has been successful in finding work for a large number of men and women who are either ex-Servicemen or who are just leaving the Service, placing them in employment which can best use their particular skills. All who have served in the ranks at any time, and who have achieved a suitable character assessment on leaving, are eligible for membership of the Corps.

One of our concerns is that we are losing good job vacancies because men and women who are eligible are not aware of what may be on offer. We would like to remind those members of Corps/Regimental Associations who are looking for work, as well as those who are still serving, that the Corps of Commissionaires would be delighted to help in any way possible to find employment, whether in uniform or in plain clothes.

The important thing is for those who are interested to get in touch with the nearest Corps office so that his or her details and requirements can be recorded.

Naturally, we can give no guarantee of success, the employment opportunities varying as they do from one part of the country to another, but we do guarantee all possible assistance to those who visit one of our offices to register.

Anyone wanting further details may obtain them from RHQ.

### **Royal Cambridge Home for Soldier's Widows**

The Home, which was founded in 1851, offers 32 places for elderly but reasonably active widows whose husbands served in the ranks at some stage of their Army career, and it cares for them for the rest of their lives. The Home has links with the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and receives some financial support from the Army Benevolent Fund.

There are comfortable bed-sitting rooms for each of the residents, who are encouraged to take part in local life, go on outings, have visitors and prepare some simple meals for themselves. As they grow older, there are Care Assistants to help them, and if they become infirm they are looked after in a nursing ward.

At present, the Home has two or three places available, and the Superintendent, Mrs A.M. Webb, will be glad to give more information if required at the following address:

82/84 Hurst Road  
East Molesey  
Surrey KT8 9AH

### **PARA 90 The Golden Jubilee of Airborne Forces**

The first parachute unit, No 2 Commando, formed in 1940 and its members came from many different parts of the Army: since then every cap badge must have had officers and soldiers serving in the Airborne Forces. Of course, there were a good number of regiments providing battalions for the Airborne Forces, and a good number also of battalions who converted to parachuting and changed title to become part of the Parachute Regiment: members of these battalions are mainly in good contact with us, as also are members of the other arm, corps or service units or detachments.

The aim of the Golden Jubilee of Airborne Forces is that all those who served should celebrate this

anniversary, that a permanent memorial should be set up, and that funds should be raised to cover these as well as boosting the Airborne Charities.

You will know that the Airborne Museums at Aldershot and Normandy are for Airborne Forces as a whole. But you may not know that The Airborne Forces Security Fund is able to assist any Airborne or ex Airborne soldier or his dependents, even though other benevolent funds may also be involved.

Our main concern in The Security Fund is that the 1990s will show a threefold increase in the demands for money. The Controller of the Security Fund has done a first stage projection which shows a considerable increase in demands on the Fund in the 1990s as those of the wartime group reach their 80s.

It is hoped that those who served in Airborne Forces will make contact with a view to taking part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations either for the very special Airborne Forces Day on 7 July 1990 in Aldershot or at one of the Regional Open Days that are being held in other parts of the UK. Enquiries should be made to:

RHQ The Parachute Regiment  
Browning Barracks  
Aldershot  
Hampshire

### **“Anzio Beachhead. Diary of a Signaller”**

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### **“Oral History of D Day”**

Mr Miller of Mallards Court, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire HP14 3TQ, is producing an “Oral History” of D Day for publication before the 50th anniversary of the landings. He wishes to tell the story entirely from first-hand accounts of those who took part and he is hoping to get in touch with as many D Day veterans as possible. Anyone who wishes to contribute can contact Mr Miller at the above address.



## ITEMS FOR SALE

The following items may be purchased from the Museum Shop. Remittance should be enclosed with the order which should be sent to the Curator, The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Please note that prices include Postage and Packing in the UK only.

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Plastic Soldiers (49th Foot)	1.10		
Bobbie the Dog (Mascot 66th)	1.70		
Postcards (set of 8)	1.00		
Prints (Battles of Ferozeshah Maiwand and Tofrek)	1.95		
Regimental Plaques (DERR)	12.15		
Tie Slide	3.20		
Regimental Ties (DERR, R BERKS & WILTS) each	6.10		
Ice Buckets	17.25		
Bookmarks	.95		
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Lapel Badge	1.45		
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Blazer Buttons (DERR & WILTS Regt)	4.90 ea	Large	
	4.30 ea	Small	
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