

The Journal of the

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S



ROYAL REGIMENT

(BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)



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", "Epéhy", "Canal du Nord", "St. Quentin Canal", "Beaurevoir", "Selle", "Valenciennes", "Sambre", "France and Flanders 1914–1918", "Piave", "Vittorio Veneto", "Italy 1917–1918", "Dorian 1917, 1918", "Macedonia 1915–1918", "Suvla", "Saria Bair", "Gallipoli 1915–1916", "Gaza", "Nebi Samwil", "Jerusalem", "Megiddo", "Sharon", "Palestine 1917–1918", "Tigris 1916", "Kut al Amara 1917", "Baghdad", "Mesopotamia 1916–1918".

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

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

Colonel-in-Chief

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

Colonel of the Regiment

BRIGADIER W.A. MACKERETH ADC

Regimental Headquarters and Museum

The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire

1st Battalion

Catterick, Yorkshire

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel D.J.A. Stone

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

Ridgeway Area, Wessex Area, Sarum Area Wiltshire ACF



The refurbished Library of the Wardrobe.

FOREWORD BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Since the last issue the Battalion has completed yet another emergency tour in Northern Ireland where our Soldiers performed with distinction in particularly adverse conditions. Their tour was greatly enhanced by the visit of The Colonel in Chief, details of which appear later in the Journal. Following their safe return they quickly became immersed in the task of retraining for the Air Mobile role which has kept them fully occupied ever since.

It was with great disappointment that we received the news on July 23rd that the Regiment would be required, once more, to amalgamate. It was not altogether surprising as our recruiting performance over the past decade has been unable to keep pace with the need to sustain the Battalion and an examination of our future potential gave no cause for optimism.

The die is cast and we are to Amalgamate with our sister, West Country Regiment, The Glosters. Their Battalion, by good fortune, is co-located with our Battalion in Catterick Camp. Amalgamation means a merging of two equal partners and in practical terms being prepared to compromise in order that the

resulting Regiment can look to the future with confidence and determination as well as with great pride in its past history. General Grist, the Colonel of the Glosters and I have the responsibility of ensuring that the numerous decisions and plans that are required to be made before April 1994 are achieved and seen to be in the best interests of the future Regiment.

I must make it quite clear that we are not in any way abandoning our past. The Royal Berkshires, the Wiltshires and the Duke of Edinburgh's have earned their place in history by their gallant service and sacrifice and they will continue to be as important in the future as they have been up to this time. The Association will continue and members' interests will be fully taken care of by our staff at The Wardrobe.

I will endeavour to keep all Regimental members up to date on developments as they occur. May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have written to me with their offers of support and much welcomed advice – it has been greatly appreciated.

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THERE'S NO DRAM LIKE





How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, and make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital

role in our home defence and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.

And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.



The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.

REGIMENTAL GAZETTE

OFFICERS' LOCATIONS AS AT 1 JANUARY 1992

Colonel of the Regiment
Brigadier W.A. Mackereth ADC psc ph
Comd 160 Bde

Brigadier

G. Coxon CBE odc (US) psc SBLSO Abu Dhabi

Lieutenant Colonel

A.C. Kenway psc	CO BATAU Bulford
T.M.A. Daly psc jsdc ph	MOD D Def(OR)(for Colonel 1992)
S.W.J. Saunders BSc psc	BMATT Zimbabwe (for Colonel 1992)
D.J.A. Stone psc	Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
C.J. Parslow sq	MOD Project Officer
M.J. Cornwell MBE sq	HS Depot PofW Div

Major

A. Briard aic sq(W)	MOD MS3
R.B. Paddison sq	MOD (CD/BD INTER)
A.P.B. Lake psc odc (BE)	MOD ACDS (POL/NUC)
J.L. Silvester sq	BDS Washington
B.R.F. Franklin BSc sq	Trg Maj 2 WESSEX
N.J. Walker sq	School of Infantry (SWW)
P.E. O'R-B Davidson Houston BSc (Eng) psc	Second in Command 1st Battalion
S.E. Bowkett BA (Hons)	RARDE
S.G. Cook psc	HQ 20 Armd Bde
J.J. Edmonds	1 CHESHIRE
J.M.C. Rylands psc	1st Battalion
N.M. Smith BA	Depot PofW Div
P.C. Tomlinson psc	HQ SWDIST
R.N. Wardle psc	1st Battalion
F.D.F. Drury BSc psc	HQ 54 Inf Bde
R. Allen BSc (Econ) psc (AUS)	1 WFR
K.T. Haugh psc	HQ UKLF
G.P. Barlow MBE	HQ 19 Inf Bde
P.J. King BA psc (CAN)	MOD ACDS (Prog)
T.D. O'Hare	1st Battalion

Captain

R. Davis	Malaysian Staff College
J. Marsh BA	HQ NI (for RMCS Shrivenham)
W.H.C. Wilson BSc	HQ UKLF
F.J. Chedham (Acting Major)	1st Battalion
P. Dennis	1st Battalion
S.D. Gray	1st Battalion
C.J.S. Perkins BSc	Adjutant 1st Battalion
A.T. Smallbone BA	1st Battalion
G.J.H. Brown BSc (Econ)	1st Battalion
A.P.K. Fontana BSc	1st Battalion
N.S. Brain ph	4 Regt AAC
P.R. Flavell BSc (Hons)	1st Battalion



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you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take
on a new life.

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Address _____

Postcode _____

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Lieutenant

G.R.W. Griffin BSc
 R.J.G. Preece BA
 D.G. O'Hara
 K.M. Sayers BSc
 A.J. Rose

JIB Shorncliffe
 1st Battalion
 1st Battalion
 Depot PofW Div
 1st Battalion

Second Lieutenant

A. Gay
 A.P. Cooper

RMA
 1st Battalion

Regular (LE)

Major W.R. Stafford MBE
 Major S.J. Venus MBE
 Major R.G. Hicks MBE
 Major P.J. Mullings MBE
 Captain R.R. Luckwell
 Captain A.M. Turner

QM/Adj Bristol UOTC
 School of Infantry (SWW)
 JIB Shorncliffe
 1st Battalion
 QM 1st Battalion
 QM Tech 1st Battalion

Short Service Commission**Captain**

M.J. Lister BSc
 R.C. Boulter BEng (Hons)
 D.J. Gilchrist BA
 J.P.G. Boxall BSc (Econ)

Depot PofW Div
 JIB Shorncliffe
 1st Battalion
 1st Battalion

Lieutenant

S.C. Bailey BA (Hons)
 A.M. Turtle LLB (Hons)
 J.C. Woodhouse BSc
 A. Johnson
 R.E. Llewellyn-Smith BSc
 C.B. O'Connor

1st Battalion
 1st Battalion
 1st Battalion
 1st Battalion
 1st Battalion
 1st Battalion

Second Lieutenant

J.A.J. Telfer
 T. Way

1st Battalion
 1st Battalion

Short Service (LE)

Captain W.H. Sherman
 Captain D. Fedrick
 Captain N.W.J. Minty
 Captain P.R. Mehrlich
 Lieutenant M.K. Godwin

School of Infantry (SWW)
 Depot PofW Div
 1st Battalion
 1 D and D
 1st Battalion

Officers Serving with 1st Battalion from other Regiment/Corps

Captain A.J. Morrison BSc (Hons) RAPC	Paymaster
Rev D.J. Hart RACH D	Padre

University Cadetship/Bursary Holders

C.S. Maconochie	Kent University
D.S. Bradbury	Aberystwyth University

Warrant Officers and Colour Sergeants

Warrant Officer Class 1

WO1 North	RSM 1st Battalion
WO1 Hatton	
FTCL, ARCM, BBCM	Bandmaster 1st Battalion
WO1 Carpenter	RSM 31 CTT
WO1 Luker	RSM 3 CHESHIRE
WO1 Gardner DR	RSM 2 WESSEX
WO1 Coupland	2 WESSEX (RSM Des)

Warrant Officer Class 2

WO2 Brame	HQ NI
WO2 Samson	JIB Shorncliffe
WO2 Duran	
(acting WO1)	HQ PofW Div
WO2 Ficke	4 UDR
WO2 Chapman	1 WESSEX
WO2 McLeod	1st Battalion (RSM Des 1st Battalion)
WO2 Wareing	Band 1st Battalion
WO2 Watts	P&EE Pendine
WO2 Gardiner T J	1st Battalion
WO2 Snee	1st Battalion
WO2 Gill	1st Battalion
WO2 Christian	4 UDR
WO2 Hole	1st Battalion
WO2 Maynard	1st Battalion
WO2 Henwood	1st Battalion
WO2 Tadhunter	1st Battalion
WO2 Povey	1st Battalion
WO2 Porter	1st Battalion
WO2 Batty	1st Battalion
WO2 Tait R1	1 WESSEX
WO2 Nicholson	1 WESSEX
WO2 McIntyre	11 UDR
WO2 Decarteret	1st Battalion
WO2 Truman	1st Battalion
WO2 Nimmo	1st Battalion
WO2 Ward	1st Battalion

Colour Sergeants

CSgt Coleman	Depot PofW Div
CSgt Fennell	Y List
CSgt Higgs BEM	HQ NI
CSgt Harrill	AA College
CSgt Reading	School of Infantry
CSgt Evans	SCAINE
CSgt Traveller	RYT
CSgt Williams	1st Battalion
CSgt Stanley	1 WESSEX
CSgt Tait 54	2 WESSEX
CSgt Little	1st Battalion

CSgt Mallinson	1st Battalion
CSgt Sumner	1st Battalion
CSgt Maine	Chief Clerk 1st Battalion
CSgt Smith 78	1st Battalion
CSgt Davies	1st Battalion
CSgt Gibbs	1st Battalion
CSgt Goddard	1st Battalion
CSgt Holl	1st Battalion
CSgt Herbert	1st Battalion
CSgt Proberts	1st Battalion
CSgt Thomas	1st Battalion
CSgt Perkins	1st Battalion
ACSgt Foster	TAC Wg Brecon
ACSgt Sims	TAC Wg Brecon
ACSgt Truing	1 WESSEX

WO2 Lawrence	ACIO Oxford
WO2 Carter MBE	10 CCT Strensall
WO2 Morgan	19 CTT Corsham
WO2 Trench BEM	DNBC Winterbourne Gunner
CSgt Watton BEM	SSO MUNSTER
SSgt Fielding	SSO Osnabruck
Sgt Kendrick	Trg Bn & Depot REME

Long Service List

Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following on the awards as shown.

ADC To HM The Queen

Brigadier W.A. Mackereth

MBE

Major J Venus

Major P Bradley 6LI (late DERR)

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Congratulations to the following who have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

24359763 Sgt Bennett P.
 24405562 Cpl Carey N.C.
 24125999 WO2 Christian G.A.
 24408417 WO1 Hatton K.
 24385253 Sgt Murrel M.B.
 24355700 CSgt Parks J.A.G.
 24347654 CSgt Tait P.J.

Commissions

We welcome the following who have been commissioned into the Regiment and wish them the best of good fortune during their service with us.

2/Lieutenant A. Gay

2/Lieutenant T. Way

We congratulate the following on their selection for a commission in 1992.

WO1 S.P. North

WO1 M.D. Carpenter

Regular Commissions

We congratulate the following on their selection for a Regular Commission in the Regiment.

Captain G.J.H. Brown BSc
Captain A.P.K. Fontana BSc
Lieutenant A.J. Rose

Promotions

We congratulate the following on their promotion.

Major

Captain F.D.F. Drury
Captain R.C. Allen
Captain K.T. Haugh
Captain G.P. Barlow MBE
Captain P.J. King BA
Captain T.D. O'Hare

Captain

Lieutenant P.R. Flavell BSc (Hons)
Lieutenant N.S. Brain
Lieutenant R.C. Boulter B Eng (Hons)
Lieutenant (I.E) D Fedrick
Lieutenant (I.E) N.W.J. Minty

We congratulate the following on their selection for promotion to Colonel in 1992

Lieutenant Colonel T.M.A. Daly
Lieutenant Colonel S.W.J. Saunders

Retirements

The following Officers have retired from the Army during 1991. We thank them most warmly for their services to the Regiment and wish them the best of good fortune in their new careers.

Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Rose
Captain A.D. Thornell
Captain P.N. Clements
Captain J.I. Tozer
Lieutenant N.V. Shah
Lieutenant H.N. Robinson
Lieutenant M.H.P. Delf

Undergraduate Bursary

We congratulate David Bradbury who is at Aberystwyth University on his award of an Undergraduate Bursary.

Regimental Calendar 1992

February	4	Investment Sub-Committee Meeting London
March	13am	Regimental Managing Trustees Meeting
	pm	Regimental Association Trustees Meeting
	20	Wardrobe and Museum Trustees Meeting
April	24	Friends of the Museum AGM
May	8	Prince of Wales Division Golf Meeting Lichfield
June	6/7	Wiltshire Regiment Reunion – Devizes
	11/12	Regimental Golf Meeting – Tidworth
July	4	Officers Luncheon at the Wardrobe
	4/5	Regimental Association Reunion and AGM – Salisbury
	25/26	Royal Berkshire Regiment Reunion – Reading
August	29 and 31	Massed Bands Prince of Wales's Division Cardiff
	4	Investment Sub-Committee Meeting – Salisbury
	8	99th 1939-45 Officers' Reunion
September	26/27	4 and 5 Bns The Wiltshire Regiment Dinner and Luncheon Salisbury
	18	Officers' Dinner, School of Infantry, Warminster
	26	Society of Friends' Raffle Draw at the Wardrobe
October	3	Sgts Past and Present Dinner, Arborfield
	4	Dragon Club Luncheon
	23am	Regimental Managing Trustees Meeting
	pm	Regimental Association Trustees Meeting
November	30	Wardrobe and Museum Trustees Meeting
	14	Arakan Dinner – Salisbury



CSgt Parns DERR receiving LS and GCM from Brig. J.C. Holman CBE.



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

REGIMENTAL NOTES

Colonel in Chief

The Colonel in Chief, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the 1st Battalion on 11 February 1991, during its six month tour of duty in Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. An account of the visit is given in the Battalion notes.

The Future of the Regiment

All members of the Regiment, whether serving or retired, will have been saddened by the news that the 1st Battalion is to amalgamate with the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment in April 1994, particularly as it is only 32 years since our Regiment was formed. During this time the Regiment has evolved into a fine, professional County Regiment as the 1st Battalion notes in this edition of the Journal clearly illustrate. The Colonel of the Regiment worked extremely hard in preparing and presenting the Regiment's case against any possible amalgamation, but in the end our past poor recruiting record and our perceived inability to recruit and sustain a Battalion at full strength in the future told against us. We must now look to the future, and as we demonstrated in 1959, do everything we can to ensure that the amalgamation goes smoothly and the new Regiment which evolves is better and stronger than its predecessors. RHQ will do its best to keep everyone informed of decisions about the new Regiment when they are made in the form of periodic newsletters.

At the time of writing preliminary discussions have taken place with The Gloucestershire Regiment to try and identify the areas of likely agreement on the formation of the new Regiment. Both Regiments have formed amalgamation Committees. The purpose of these Committees is to formulate its Regiment's views on all matters relating to the amalgamation and to present them to the Joint Amalgamation Committee which will make the final decisions. Some of these decisions will be subject to the final approval of either HM the Queen or the Ministry of Defence. The Regiment's Amalgamation Committee consists of the Colonel of the Regiment; Major General D.T. Crabtree and Brigadier J.R. Roden, ex Colonels of the Regiment and also representing the views of the former Regiments; the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major representing the 1st Battalion; Lieutenant Colonel C Parslow representing those at ERE; Major J Venus representing the Sergeants Past and Present; and the Regimental Secretary. The Joint Amalgamation Committee consists of the two Colonels of the Regiment and is staffed by the two Regimental Secretaries.

At its first meeting it was agreed between the Colonels of the Regiment that their decisions would be based on the following three principles:

1. The long term value to the Regiment of a decision, ie would it make sense in 25 years.
2. The interests of those serving, which demanded that the new Regiment should get off to a flying start.
3. Fairness.

It is the Colonel of the Regiment's wish that the widest possible consultation takes place within the Regiment to ensure a broad spectrum of views are considered. Should anyone feel strongly about any particular point which they wish to draw to the attention of the Regimental Amalgamation Committee they should either contact a member of the Committee or forward it to the Regimental Secretary. We are fortunate to have the experience of the 1959 amalgamation and we will ensure that the lessons learned then are not forgotten. The following is a short history of The Gloucestershire Regiment:

The Gloucestershire Regiment (28th/61st)

The Regiment was formed in 1694 and will celebrate its Tercentenary in March 1994 just before amalgamation.

The Regiment carries 34 Battle Honours on its Regimental Colour and 22 on the Queens Colour. Its earliest Battle Honour is "Ramillies" where it fought with great distinction under Marlborough. Perhaps the Regiment's best known honour is the "Back Badge" which is worn at the back of their head-dress to commemorate the valour of the 28th Foot at the Battle of Alexandria on 21st March 1801. Both the 28th Foot and the 61st Foot took part in the Peninsular War, the 61st distinguishing themselves at the Battle of Salamanca on 22 July 1812. The 28th Foot were present at the Battle of Waterloo. In 1951 the Regiment fought with great distinction in Korea and has the honour of carrying a blue silk streamer on the Regimental Colour on the anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin River. The streamer is the unit emblem of the United States Presidential Citation for valour which is also worn as a brooch on the left sleeve in No 2 Dress. The Regiment has been awarded the Freedom of the cities of Gloucester and Bristol.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion has had a busy and full year consisting of a successful six month tour in Northern Ireland and conversion training for their new role as Airmobile Infantry. Both are covered extensively in the 1st Battalion notes and make interesting reading. In October they were able to find the time to fit in a KAPE tour of Berkshire and Wiltshire. Unfortunately financial restrictions curtailed the original plans and the tour had to be limited to the Regimental Band doing a number of Music Workshops in Schools and to

Freedom Marches being carried out in Abingdon, Wallingford and Chippenham. The latter was for the first time as the 1st Battalion was serving in Northern Ireland when the Freedom was originally conferred and were unable to attend the ceremony. The Command of the Battalion will change in May when Lieutenant Colonel D.J.A. Stone hands over to Lieutenant Colonel H.M. Purcell. The Regimental Sergeant Major will also be handing over to WO1 McLeod in September on commissioning. The Battalion is currently preparing for an exercise in the USA in March 1992 adding to visits to Northern Ireland and Germany since they left Hong Kong in August 1990.



Major J. Venus at Buckingham Palace with his family after receiving his award of the MBE.

Congratulations

We would particularly like to congratulate the following:

Lieutenant Colonel Daly and Lieutenant Colonel Saunders on their promotion to Colonel in 1992.
Lieutenant Colonel Carter on his appointment as a Life Vice President of the Army Rugby Union.

Major Chedham and Captain Marsh on their selection for Staff Training.

C/Sgt Hanson and C/Sgt Stevens on their selection to be instructors at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Marlborough College CCF

On Tuesday 7 May 1991 the Colonel of the Regiment was invited to present the new Standard to the Marlborough College CCF to mark the affiliation of the Regiment with the College CCF. The affiliation goes back to 1870, when the College Rifle Corps, as it was then known, became officially attached to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment. This is one of the oldest Cadet affiliations in the country and has been strongly maintained. Today the Regimental Youth Team provide regular support and often help out with their tactics cadres which are held at Sennybridge. The College CCF is currently commanded by Major Alison Sharp who is a biology teacher. She took over in September 1991 and is believed to be the Army's first woman CCF commander. Alison herself has strong connections with the Regiment as she is a niece of Major Mike Hartland who was commissioned into the Wiltshire Regiment and served with the Regiment at the time of the amalgamation.



Memorial to the late Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE

The above photograph shows the memorial plaque which has been put up in the Garrison Church of the Prince of Wales's Division Depot, Lichfield in memory of the late Brigadier W.G.R. Turner CBE.

Officers' Dinner

The 1991 Officers' Dinner was held at the Infantry Mess, the School of Infantry on Friday 11 October.

This was the first time that the dinner has been held in one of the two counties and the event was marked by 82 officers attending. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and the guests were Mr John Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Councillor Eric Smith, His Worshipful the Mayor of Thamesdown, and Major Alison Sharp, the Officer Commanding, Marlborough College CCF. The Regimental Band played during and after the dinner and were warmly applauded for their excellent performance. It has been decided to hold the 1992 dinner at the Infantry Mess on Friday 18 September. This date is the one most convenient to the School of Infantry and which fits in best with their course programme. It is hoped that the problems which arose over the allocation of accommodation last year will be overcome.

Friends of the Museum AGM

Sir Richard Luce MP, who served in The Wiltshire Regiment as a National Service Officer was the guest speaker at the Friends of the Museum AGM held at the Wardrobe on 15 April 1991. Councillor Geoffrey Canning, the Mayor of Reading was also a guest of the Society. Our photographs show Sir Richard being greeted by the Colonel of the Regiment and Councillor Canning being shown around the Museum by Major Peters, the Curator.



Officers' Luncheon

The Officers' Luncheon held for the first time on Saturday 6 July at the Wardrobe during the Regimental Association Reunion weekend turned out to be very successful. The day was warm and sunny and Brigadier and Mrs Mackereth welcomed Field Marshal Gibbs, the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mr and Mrs Anderson, Commander and Mrs Noble from HMS DRYAD, Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Bateman from 2 WESSEX, Lieutenant Colonel Purcell, CO designate of the 1st Battalion, 17 officers' widows, who were guests, and 107 officers and their wives. The Regimental Band had travelled down from Catterick for the occasion and played before and during the luncheon. It has been decided to continue with the luncheon in 1992 and not hold a Cocktail Party. It will be on Saturday 4 July at the Wardrobe.

100 Club

The 1991 Winners were:
JAN: Mr. N. D. Bailey
MAR: Maj T. Jennings
SEP: Maj A.S.P. Jeans
DEC: Mr. D. White

Deaths

Special mention is made of the following deaths reported to RHQ during the year:

Lieutenant Colonel Sirdar Afzal Khan MC. He was a descendant of the family of Yakub Khan, King of Afghanistan, whose army inflicted heavy losses on the British Force, which included the 66th Regiment at Maiwand in 1880. Colonel Khan was awarded an immediate MC during the first Battle of Alamein in 1942 whilst serving with the 2 Punjab Regiment. He emigrated with his family to England in the late sixties and was Guest of Honour at the Maiwand Centenary celebrations held in Reading in 1980.

Major Peter Weaver. He served with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Eritrea, Cyprus and Egypt during the period 1950-53 and is remembered with warm affection by all those who served in the Battalion at the time. Peter was commissioned into the Dorset Regiment and had an exciting and eventful war serving with the SAS. His obituary in the 'Daily Telegraph' described him as the traditional "Boys Own" hero, who, in spite of numerous hairbreadth encounters with death, treated danger as a joke. Peter was a brilliant sportsman, having captained England at hockey and played cricket for Hampshire. He was also an outstanding rugby player. Needless to say he was a great asset to the Battalion teams.

Major Douglas Carr. He was one of three brothers who served in The Royal Berkshire Regiment. Douglas left the army on amalgamation in 1959 and became

Assistant Secretary of Derbyshire Cricket Club, where his brother Donald, a former Captain of the County was Secretary. Douglas took over as Secretary in 1962 when Donald became Secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board. An obituary appears under Obituary Notices.

Mr Sidney Blythman. He has died in Australia aged 98. He was a member of the Wiltshire Regiment at Gallipoli in 1915. He left the Dardanelles on 8 January 1916 on the last ship bound for Port Said, Egypt and the Persian Gulf. He survived Gallipoli without a scratch, only to be seriously wounded a year later during a battle near Baghdad. Mr Blythman emigrated to Australia in 1969 and has been in frequent contact with the Regimental Association.



Maiwand Memorial

The Maiwand Memorial to the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment in Forbury Gardens Reading, known as the Forbury Lion, was daubed with obscene graffiti by vandals in August. "The Reading Chronicle", appalled by the vandalism, contacted the Borough Council and agreed to contribute towards the cost of cleaning the Lion if the Borough's own specialist graffiti squad could be called in immediately to deal with the damage. This was done and the memorial was restored. The Regiment is extremely grateful to the Editor of "The Chronicle" for his prompt and spirited action. The police have charged four men with criminal damage.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment in Burma

In the last edition of the Journal we mentioned the book "China Dragons – A British Rifle Company at War" written by Colonel John Hill and which chronicles the exploits of B Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment which he commanded during the Burma campaign. The Book has now been published and is available from the Regimental Museum price £14.95 plus £2 post and packing. A third of each sale goes to the Museum. A review of the book is printed below. Our photograph shows Colonel Hill standing by the Maiwand Memorial in Forbury Gardens Reading and is reproduced by kind permission of the "Berkshire News".

The China Dragons – Review

The China Dragons, By John Hill. Blandford. Villiers House 41-47 Strand, London WC2 5JE. Price £14.95.

This is a book that had to be written. It records the reality of war experience by the great majority of infantrymen in World War 2. Not the spectacular airborne assaults, commando raids and sweeping

armoured thrusts but the almost continuous tiredness, fear, discomfort, loss of friends, a miasma of noise and smell, and always with little sense of time or place. It was not usual for units in the European campaign to remain in close combat for weeks at a time without some respite. B Company were in close combat with a determined enemy for 86 days and sadly few survived to relate the experience in its entirety. Of the 196 Officers, NCOs and men who crossed the Chindwin in November 1944, 112 were to be killed or wounded on the 600 mile advance to Mandalay and beyond. Sickness and accidents accounted for many others so that only 27 remained with the Battalion in June 1945.

The 2nd Royal Berkshires had to wait 3 years for its chance. The years of preparation and training, together with the advance to Chindwin are well described and set the scene for what is to follow but it is the chapters recording the months of action against an enemy where every engagement was a fight to the death that are so outstanding. The importance of morale at platoon and section level could not be better illustrated and the part played by Regimental tradition shines through. Many individuals are named and their contributions to the Company's success are recorded but mistakes and failures are not glossed over. The strain of NCOs having to meet operational and regimental demands with so few men is well brought out. The sense of duty displayed by all ranks carried the company forward in the face of every adversity.

The maps and illustrations are clear and add to the reader's understanding and enjoyment. The appendices are relevant and sobering. Individual citations confirm that highly professional standards within the Company were often poorly rewarded. Those who know the author would hesitate to use the word diffident to describe him but it should be mentioned that John Hill did not want the citation for his well-earned MC to be included. He was over-ruled by the publisher and, in this reviewer's opinion, rightly so.

P.B.

Rank Ignorance

The following letter appeared in "The Times" from Rear Admiral E.F. Gueritz, who lives in The Close and is well-known to us in the Wardrobe:

Sir, General Trythall (August 2) has a point about uses and abuses of ranks in addresses. I can accept The Rear Admiral (my bank) or, better still, Real Admiral (the Soviet Embassy). My address may excuse Rev Admiral but I am not so keen on Rear Edward Gueritz and even less on Unknown R.G. Gueritz.

The salutation I like best is Dear Dear Admiral Gueritz (The National Trust).

Yours sincerely
Edward Gueritz

We have sympathy with Admiral Gueritz as we have our own problems at RHQ. We have received letters addressed to "My Lord Duke"; "Dear Duke"; "Dear Rhq Derr".

The Army's New Budget System or "Nothing Changes"

The following message from the Duke of Wellington to the Foreign Office written in Spain during the Peninsular War appeared in the magazine of the Old Boys of Wellington Society.

"Gentlemen:

Whilst marching from Portugal to a position which commands the approach to Madrid and the French forces, my officers have been diligently complying with your request which has been sent to H.M. ship from London to Lisbon and then by dispatch rider to our headquarters.

We have enumerated our saddles, bridles, tents and tent poles, and all manner of sundry items for which His Majesty's Government holds me accountable. I have dispatched reports on the character, wit and spleen of every officer. Each item and every farthing has been accounted for, with two regrettable exceptions for which I beg you your indulgence.

Unfortunately, the sum of one shilling and ninepence remains unaccounted for in one infantry battalion's petty cash and there has been a hideous confusion as to the number of jars of raspberry jam issued to one cavalry regiment during a sandstorm in western Spain. This reprehensible carelessness may be related to the pressure of circumstances since we are at war with France, a fact which may come as a bit of a surprise to you gentlemen in Whitehall.

This brings me to my present purpose, which is to request elucidation of my instructions from His Majesty's Government, so that I may better understand why I am dragging an army over these barren plains. I construe that perforce it must be one of two alternative duties, as given below. I shall

pursue either one with the best of my ability but I cannot do both:

1. To train an army of uniformed British clerks in Spain for the benefit of the accountants and copy-boys in London, or perchance,

2. To see to it that the forces of Napoleon are driven out of Spain.

Your most obedient servant,
Wellington"

The Army Benevolent Fund Raffle – Wiltshire Appeal

Our thanks go to all those who purchased tickets in the Army Benevolent Fund Raffle in support of the Wiltshire 1991 County Appeal. Overall 52,000 tickets were sold which after all expenses were deducted produced just over £22,000 clear profit for the Fund to which the Regiment contributed £1,802. It was a pity that no member of the Regiment won a Raffle prize. The full list of prize winners is published under Notices.

The 99th 1939-45 Annual Officers Reunion

On 10th August 1991 another successful lunch party was held at the Wardrobe. Thirty-nine attended on this occasion which is a great tribute to so many who have fond memories of past 'goings-on'.

Again our thanks are due to the officers and staff at the Wardrobe and to Mrs Wilson for excellent catering.

1992 hopefully at the Wardrobe on 8th August.

Cpl David Maynard

Cpl David Maynard is perhaps the most successful Regimental sportsman in recent years. Born in 1964 he joined the 1st Bn in 1985 and moved with the Battalion to Aldergrove in November of that year for a residential tour of duty. He came to sporting prominence in the 1986/7 football season, when he became an automatic choice for the 1st XI. During the 1986/7 season the Battalion enjoyed a successful run in both the Army and Infantry Cup competitions. Cpl Maynard stood out as an outstanding skilful player and was nominated for the Army Squad. In 1987 he represented both the Army and Combined Services teams. In early 1988 the battalion moved to Hong Kong where along with several other battalion players Cpl Maynard became a regular member of the Hong Kong Combined Services Team. On the Battalion's return to the UK Cpl Maynard was posted to the Army School of Recruiting as a Physical Training Instructor, an employment which he currently enjoys.

He has been a regular member of the Infantry, Army and Combined Services football teams since his return and is currently attracting the attention of professional English First Division teams. Our congratulations go to Cpl Maynard on his achievement and for the honour he has given to the Regiment through his sporting skills. Well done.

The Sergeant's Past and Present Dinner Club

Once again we were delighted to be able to hold our Dinner at the Bailleul Sergeants' Mess, REME Arborfield. One hundred and fifty Members and guests attended, the maximum that can be seated, with a large representation from the 1st Battalion.

We were privileged to have the Regimental Band in attendance. Our guests this year were Brigadier Mackereth Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel A Rose and Major B Paddison. At the AGM, held before the dinner a presentation was made to WO1(RSM) Gardner on behalf of the Dinner Club for all his hard work in assisting with the arrangements.

A Post Horn was presented to the Regimental Band as a mark of our thanks for all the pleasure they have given all of us over the years at our dinners. The Bandmaster then asked WO2 Wareing the Band Sergeant Major to test the new instrument. He immediately handed his Post Horn to the Colonel of the Regiment, which he had presented to the Band when he was Band President. They then both gave us a rendering of the 'Post Horn Gallop', which was very well received.

A presentation of a framed memento was made to the Bailleul Sergeants Mess as a mark of our thanks and appreciation for allowing us to use their Mess for our Dinner. Frank Young and Steve McPherson did a marvellous job in organising the raffle. Over £200 being raised to offset the cost of the Dinner, our thanks to all members who donated prizes.

The Chairman raised the subject of the venue for the next Dinner. After a lot of discussion it was proposed to hold it at Catterick with the 1st Battalion on the 5/6 September 1992. A letter was circulated to all members regarding this proposal but the response has been very poor so a decision has been made for the 1992 Dinner to be held at Arborfield on Saturday 3rd October 1992.

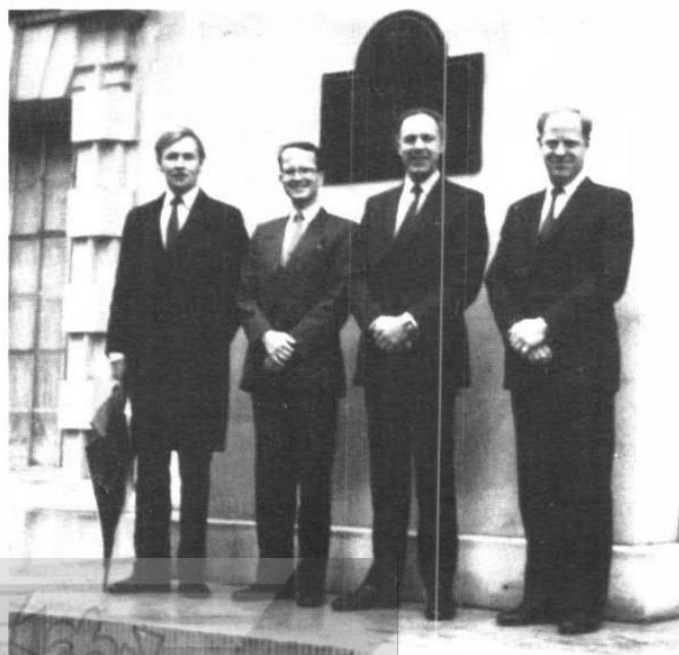
Finally our thanks go to WO1(RSM) Gardner and WO2 Tait, for their hard work and detailed planning which helped make the 1992 Dinner a huge success.

WHITEHALL WARRIORS

(The Farmers Boys In Town)

Most officers dread the day the posting order arrives from the Military Secretary advising them to report to the Ministry of Defence, London to take up a staff appointment. Some feel that if they had wanted to wear a suit all day, work in a London office and commute in from Greater London, they would not have joined the Army, the Household Division apart!

Sharing the tube or a Southern Region railway carriage with high priced stockbrokers, young secretaries and troubled civil servants can be quite a novelty at first – but not for long. After a while one really does miss the short walk from the Officers Mess or married quarters around the drill square to the company offices.



From left to right: Maj Davidson-Houston, Major King, Lt. Col. Daly and Major Lake.

Unless you reach 2 star rank, the standard MOD office is a grey drab affair, with a window with a short view to a brick wall covered in cast iron drainpipes, not that it matters, as carefully designed net curtains and windows, kept deliberately dirty to prevent snooping, deny the occupant of the office the handsome view. MOD policy is to pack as many grey desks into an office as possible each with a desk top computer and then decide how many Lt Cols can be slotted in or civil servant equivalents known as Grade 7s. Some believe a factor of 1:5 is used, if the office is to be occupied by majors or lesser beings. At least the married officer can look forward to going home to the "Keep" at Kingston. It is rumoured that these houses are so efficiently designed, that specially small G-Plan furniture has had to be designed to fit everything in!

It all sounds very grim being a Whitehall Warrior, with DPM combat kit being exchanged for pinstripes, fellow soldiers for unknown civil servants, operations in Northern Ireland for the Battle of Waterloo station. Not an ideal environment for any Farmer's Boy, one might think. In fact the five officers serving in various parts of the MOD, Lt Col T.M.A. Daly, Maj A. Briard, Maj A.P.B. Lake, Maj P.E. O'R-B Davidson-Houston and Maj P. King have found it both interesting and stimulating. Although well divorced from the field soldier, it is the real world of politics, commitments, resources, operational requirements, procurement and commerce, with the cut and thrust of London thrown in.

Lt Col Terry Daly, Majs Anthony Lake and Philip King are working in MOD Main Building. Lt Col Daly is being promoted to full Colonel and sent off, with his brand new Range Rover Vogue, to HQ Allied Forces

Northern European Command (NATO) in Norway, not a bad trade-off for the grey office, V8 Audi and flat south of the river. Maj Anthony Lake has managed to get a London District married quarter at Wandsworth so avoiding the bliss of the Keep at Kingston.

Maj Philip King, newly arrived in the MOD from the Canadian Staff College, is a very busy young man trying to mix, match and merge under 'Options for Change'. Maj King is an occupant of the Keep and says that it is alright, if you do not spend much time there.

Maj Patrick Davidson-Houston finished his 2 year tour at the Procurement Executive in St Christopher House, across the river from St Paul's Cathedral in December 1991 and has just rejoined the 1st Battalion in Catterick as Second-in-Command. Unfortunately, he is not his usual athletic self, as he is recovering from

an operation to his back. This has been treated with relief in some quarters of the 1st Battalion, who feared with D-H's return the 0600 hours daily runs would start again.

Maj Tony Briard is located in suburbia out at Stanmore. He is receiving large sums of lodging allowance to live in digs near Stanmore and commute home at weekends to Warminster.

Lt Col Colin Parslow, ex-Co Depot Prince of Wales's Division and Maj Barry Paddison ex-Training Major of 3 WFR are due to arrive in the MOD in January/February 1992. They should find that the MOD is not such a horror show as often envisaged, but it can be very stimulating, always busy and often a challenging experience for "the Farmer's Boys in Town".



"THE FARMER'S BOY"

This photograph is of an original painting which was presented to Lieutenant Colonel John Stone by the Staff of the Intelligence Corps Centre, Ashford to mark his service to the Centre as an RO when he retired in 1991. The painting depicts the words of our Regimental March "The Farmer's Boy". Our attention

was recently drawn to the following research which has been carried out by Mrs Ena Jones, the wife of the Reverend Kenneth Jones, the padre to the Windsor Branch of the Regimental Association.

"The song originated in North Oxfordshire as a folk ballad (a "story song" handed down orally by village

singers), and the tune is that of a patriotic song of the Napoleonic Wars – “Ye Sons of Albion”. “The Farmer’s Boy” was collected and written down in 1909 by Janet Blunt, the lady of Adderbury Manor, who lived from 1859 to 1950; she heard it from the village singers at Barn Dances and Harvest Socials in Adderbury. The story contains the Christian ethic of good deeds, and the promise of a better life – while the chorus emphasises the nostalgic pleasures of country life (all very uplifting when farm workers worked long hours for little money).”

For those readers not familiar with the words here they are as generally known:

1. The sun had set behind yon hill,
Across the dreary moor,
When weary and lame, a boy there came,
Up to the farmer’s door,
“Can you tell me where I be,
And one that will me employ.
Chorus:
To plough and sow, to reap and mow,
And be a farmer’s boy,
and be a farmer’s boy?
2. The farmer’s wife cried “Try the lad,
Let him no longer seek”.
“Yes, father do! the daughter cried,

While the tears rolled down her cheek:
“For those who would work, ’tis hard to want
And wander for employ”.

Chorus:

Don’t let him go, but let him stay,
And be a farmer’s boy,
and be a farmer’s boy.

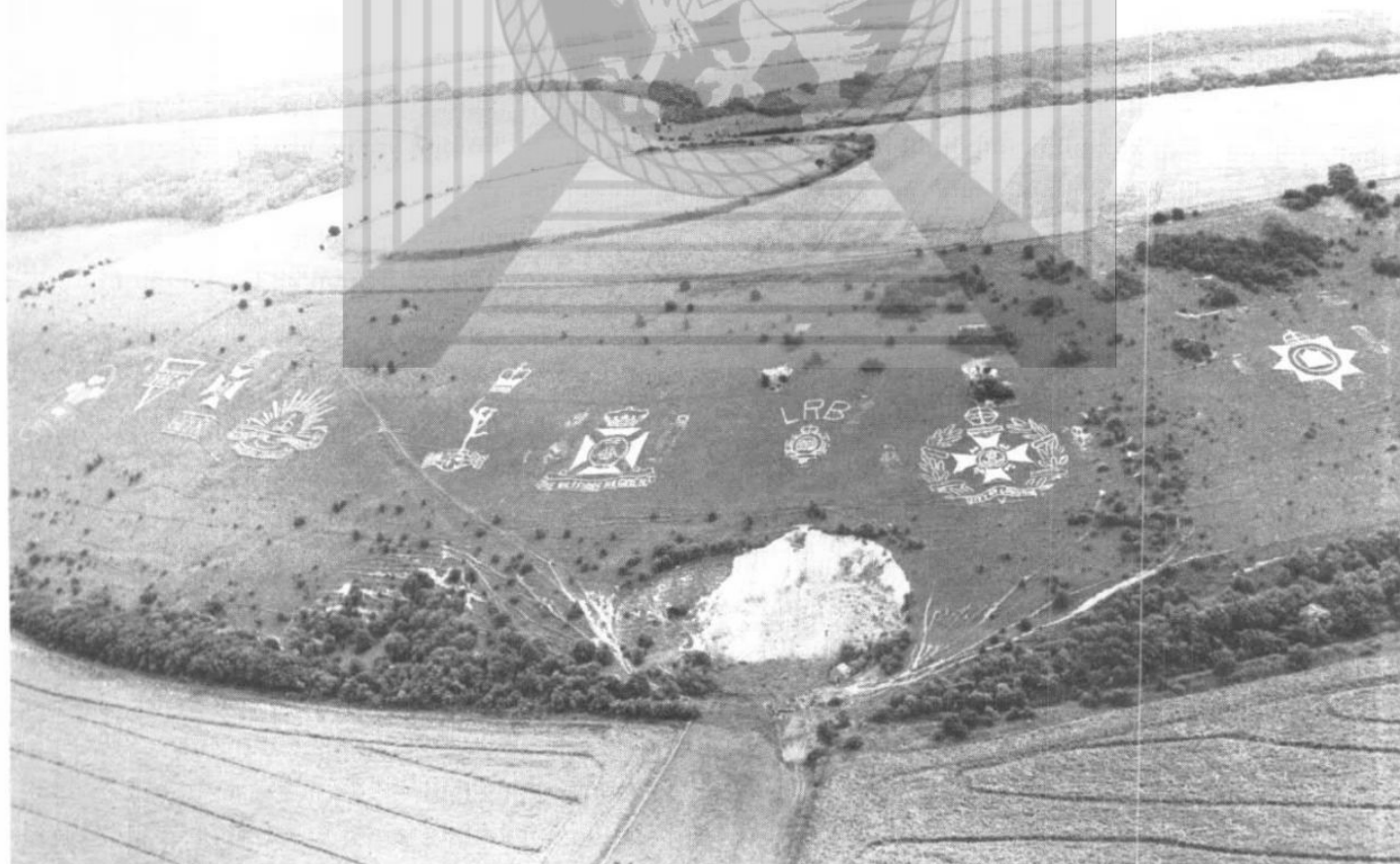
3. The farmer’s boy grew up a man,
And the good old couple died,
They left the lad the farm they had,
And the daughter for his bride;
Now the lad that was, the farm now has,
Oft he thinks and smiles with joy.

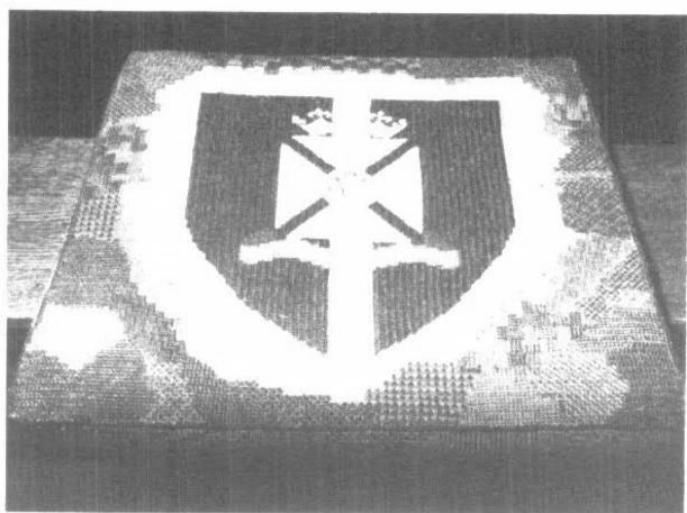
Chorus:

Oh, happy day he came that way,
To be a farmer’s boy,
to be a farmer’s boy.

Fovant Badges

The photograph of the Fovant Badges was recently taken by Mr Brignall father of Matthew Brignall our Museum Attendant. The Wiltshire Regiment badge is maintained by the Wilton Detachment of the Wiltshire ACF. An open air Church Service is still held each year in early July close to the site by the Fovant Badge Society who have the responsibility for the upkeep of the Badges.





Wiltshire Regiment Kneeler

The Wiltshire Regiment Kneeler in the Cathedral was recently stolen. The ladies of the Cathedral Broiderers came to the rescue and produced a magnificent new one. Unfortunately our photograph is black and white and does not show up the lovely colours which have been used.

Regimental Golfing Society

The 1991 Regimental Golf Meeting was again held at Tidworth Golf Club on 6 and 7 June in blustery, showery weather with twenty-seven players taking part in the various competitions. We were pleased to have a leavening of six Royal Navy guests from HMS Dryad and it soon became apparent the Lt Col Norman West's game had not suffered after his Safari at BATLS Kenya or his recent retirement and service with 2 WESSEX at Brock Barracks.

Prizes were kindly presented by Mrs Primrose Carter so naturally, our Chairman was not among the prize winners!

After two victories over Tidworth Golf Club in 1989 and 1990 we suffered a decisive defeat this year despite strong Naval support in stormy weather. Results were as follows:

Stapleford Singles

Winner JAMES Cup

Mr Tony Flay (15)

Scored 39 pts.

Runner up SHORNCLIFFE Cup

Major Dickie Waymouth (21)

Scored 38 pts.

Stapleford Foursomes

Winners

Lt Col Norman West (11)

Major Jimmy Loe (22)

Scored 45 pts.

Scratch Medal

Winner GILSON TROPHY

Captain Robin Higgs (7)

74 Gross

Runner Up THE BEAKER

Mr Frank Yiend (9)

80 Gross

Handicap Medal

Winner GILLSON BOWL

Captain Robin Higgs (7)

67 Net

Runner Up GAMBLE CUP

Major Dickie Waymouth (21)

67 Net

Winner (19-24 Handicap) EDUCATION CUP

Major Ted Ingles (20)

74 Net

Chairman's Prize (13 holes)

Winner Mr P Mallows

Runner Up Mr R Povey

The Annual Divisional Golf Meeting 1991

In contrast to the 1990 meeting this year's meeting was held in truly desperate conditions - winds of gale force, driving rain, sleet and snow and temperatures only a few degrees above freezing. The Royal Welch Fusiliers were unable to attend but the remaining eight Regiments did all they could to combat the weather and in the end produced a very close finish to the team championship which the Regiment won for the third successive year. Our success was largely due to a remarkable round of 82 (net 69) by Sgt Kendrick, which also won him the individual championship. The other members of the team were Major General Crabtree, Majors Ingles and Edwards, WO1 Flay and WO1 Green and WO1 Mallows (reserve).

Details of the team championship are as follows:

1st DERB	302
2nd R Hamps	303
3rd WIR	304
4th D and D and RRW	307
6th STAFFORDS	320
7th CHESHIRE	322
8th GLOSTERS	354

The Regiment has now won the team championship on six occasions.

Regimental Golf Meeting 1992

The 1992 Meeting will be held at Tidworth Golf Club on Thursday, 11 June and Friday 12 June when we hope to enjoy a strong challenge from the 1st Battalion players refreshed after their games at Fanling, Shek O and Deep Water Bay and Yorkshire Pudding à la Catterick!



Primrose Carter presenting the Gillson Bowl and Trophy to Robin Higgs, with Hugh Gillson in support with the cup presented by his father in 1924

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator: Major (Retd) J.H. Peters MBE

Last year's notes concentrated on the efforts being put in train to try and reverse recent trends which had shown a steady decline in the number of visitors to the museum.

For those concerned in the project therefore, the year started with a great deal of enthusiasm and expectation. From the start however, there were a number of factors which had not been foreseen. One was the effect of the deepening recession on the Tourist Industry in general. Another was the delay in getting planning permission for the Tea Room project which eventually meant delaying it until the current year. Objections to the Dean and Chapter's proposals for the development of the Close, not to mention the start of a review into military museums brought about by Options for Change all added to a general feeling of marching one pace forward and two back.

Despite this however, many of the smaller projects did go ahead and, as is usually the case, the simpler they were the more effective they turned out to be. The new logo "Redcoats in the Wardrobe", backed up by new signs, were particularly effective. The employment of part time help at weekends, which meant that we were able to extend the seven day a week opening from June through to October, was also very beneficial. The end result was that we saw the number of people visiting rise by a highly satisfactory 54% over the previous year.

This year we aim to consolidate, and improve where we can. The Tea Room should be open by Easter when light lunches, in addition to the normal fare, will also be available. In summer refreshments will also be served on the patio when the weather is fine. The full weekend opening of the museum will commence in May until the end of October and, providing the signs are right, Sunday opening will continue into November.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The behind the scenes work of the museum continues apace, especially with research as a result of enquiries. Much of the material turned up is of great interest. This year, by way of a change therefore, I have gone back to fifty year intervals to see what our predecessors were up to.

50 YEARS AGO – 1942

The following appeared in *The China Dragon* (Journal of The Royal Berkshire Regiment) which was still being published three times a year in wartime.

"A Commando's" Letter.

Home Forces.
12th Sept., 1942

To: – Editor, *The China Dragon*.
Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of The Royal Berkshire Regiment now serving with – Commando.

We have been given to understand that *The China Dragon* is still being published. Naturally we are still interested in our Regiment, and if you would be so kind as to inform us of how we can obtain regular copies of the Journal we would be very grateful.

I am both proud and pleased to inform you that The Royal Berkshire Regiment was well represented at Dieppe. All ranks fought well and upheld the traditions of the Regiment.

Hoping to receive an early reply.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgnd.) Sig. Cannell, J.

"A Prisoner of War's" Letter.

Stalag XXA, Germany.
5th August, 1942.

Dear Sir and Fellow Comrades,

I am writing these few lines thanking you for the two clothing parcels you have sent to me, which I received quite safe.

I have met about fifteen of the boys who were in France with me and they are all looking well. We get plenty of sport, concerts and dances. The Red Cross parcels are coming more regularly now, so we get plenty to eat, but the main problem is getting the smokes, but leave it to the boys of the 1st Battalion to get them.

Well, I must close this short note.

From your obedient Servant,
(Sgnd.) Pte. B. H. Rowland, No 5337976,
P.O.W. No. 13936.

Meeting of the Tofrek and Maiwand Battalions

It was quite an historic occasion when these two famous Battalions were together in the same station last month, even if it was only for twenty-four hours.

The convoy in which the Tofrek Battalion arrived lay out in the harbour for two days. This was very irritating as we were all anxious to see them, get all their news from home, and do what we could for them after their long voyage.

On the third day they came ashore for most of the day. The troops were entertained in the Institute and the Band played selections. Unfortunately, there was a shortage of beer. A rather elaborate programme had been laid on, but had to be abandoned owing to the short time the Tofrek Battalion had ashore.

The men also wished to see round the town and indulge in some much needed shopping. Officers were entertained in the mess to lunch, and both C.O.s. made short speeches to mark the occasion.

A combined photograph was taken. The afternoon was hot, the sun strong and two hours' celebration had taken place before we trooped out for the photo. The result, however, was quite successful and makes a pleasant memento to mark the occasion.

Next morning Tofrek Battalion marched from the docks to the railway station, headed by the Band and Drums of the Maiwand Battalion, and a short while later they left for their new station up country, where we have since heard they are settling down as comfortably as the monsoons and local conditions will permit.

It was very pleasant meeting old friends and comrades once again. Let us both hope we shall see a lot of each other in the future and, who knows, even fight side by side in the battles to come.

Note: The meeting took place at Bombay in India. The Tofrek (1st) Battalion, part of 2nd Division had just arrived from UK. The Maiwand (2nd) Battalion had left home in 1934 for Palestine moving on to Egypt in 1935 and arriving in India in 1937.

100 YEARS AGO – 1892

The 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment was stationed at Jhansi in India. The following editorial was published in the Battalion's newspaper on 15 October:

A British Regiment Today

We quote elsewhere a correspondent who remarks on the fact that, while in his day most of the men "touched pen", when signing their accounts, meaning, of course, that they were unable to sign their own names, there is now a newspaper print at "The Nines" Press. When one reflects on the many comforts now provided for the soldier, one cannot but wonder what our forefathers would think could they be suddenly brought to life again, and see, instead of the idle, useless existence led by men in their day in the piping times of peace, our Printing Press, our Mineral Water Factory, our Carpenters' Shop and all the rest of them in active operation. That they would be surprised is a mild way of expressing their feelings. Again, their surprise would surely turn to something much more intense could they but look into the Coffee Shop about seven in the evening, and see the troops getting outside a good supper, at a very nominal cost, eaten off good plates and with a spotless table cloth thrown in. From

thence were they to go up the road a bit to the Wad Shop, and see other men again playing "all fours", "dominoes", and other games of chance and skill, and shifting cups of tea the while, they would soon think it time they left.

Let us now conduct them to the Canteen. Here at least they would be at home among the same fumes of beer and baccy, the same language, and the same free and easy style, as they had been used to in their day, for we fancy there is one thing that has resisted, and will continue to resist, the march of civilisation and the hand of the ruthless military reformer, and that is Mr ATKINS taking his wet in the Canteen. In all probability the only place wherein a soldier of fifty years ago would find himself at home now is in the Canteen. Coffee Shops and Wad Shops he knew not, and the Library, with its books circulating throughout the men, has transformed the life and talk in the barrack-room quite beyond his recognition. Cricket and football he probably knew slightly, but our wonderful Company clubs, with their gay trappings their patent bats and all their little fakements, would probably make him open his eyes.

Then again there is another thing, or rather class of things, unknown to our predecessors, if not entirely at any rate in its present finished state. We refer to the very excellent "Gaffs" to which we are frequently treated. No doubt THOMAS ATKINS of old had his sing songs in the Canteen just as chaps have them now but, you bet, in those days they never came up, in style, variety, or anything else, to our present shows – such for instance, as was held on the 7th instant, wherefore an account appears elsewhere. What scene could be more impressive, or more indicative of the soldier's comfort nowadays, than the sea of good-natured, smiling faces of Wiltshiremen, and Gunners, with Lancers and Dragoon Guards from the Rest Camp, that surged about the temporary stage outside our theatre on that Friday night. No, the fact is Mr ATKINS is a very lucky man these times, though he will not always allow it.

The men who drop into the Coffee Shop for a bit of English cheese, Wiltshire bacon, a stick of baccy, or what not, or for a supper in the evening, who crowd round the Color Sergeants' bunks on the 15th of the month to get the first look at THE NINES, or who stand round and applaud or criticise the songs, etc., given off for their amusement at the "Gaffs", little think or know of the many troubles and difficulties wherewith the promoters and managers of these different concerns have to contend. The rate of exchange must be watched carefully by the Coffee Shop people for a favourable time to remit money to England in order that the prices of stores may not be increased; the Stock Book must be seen daily in order that the supply of the individual articles may be kept up, and a host of other things have to be seen to, not much individually, but in the aggregate a great

responsibility. Of the production of THE NINES we can, of course, say but little. There is the constant anxiety as to whether our correspondents – than whom, luckily, no more constant and reliable contributors could be found – will have their letters up to time, and, failing them, as to where the “copy” is to come from, as very little matter we print is not original. A correspondent who knows, wrote to us the other day: “None but those who have had to do it have a conception of the many troubles of an editor, notably when he has to edit, to write, and ‘to make up’. It looks so simple; a quick reader would run through a copy of THE NINES in, say, 20 to 30 minutes, but let anyone sit down to write a column, say one twentieth part, etc.”

Then again about the “Gaffs”. They, too, look so simple. One man comes up and sings, and is duly applauded, and up comes another, and so on the thing goes as smooth as you like. Few, however, think of the pains those men have taken to learn those songs, of the hours and hours the untiring Bandmaster, Mr COOK, has worked to get the parts and all that written out, and the singers properly trained, or of the difficulties that he and the officer running the show have had with men, who, for one reason or another, refuse to sing, as often as not at the last minute.

Do men imagine that the mineral waters they lower with so much gusto grow on trees, or come out of the well as soda, lemonade, or whatever it may be? The supply of sugar, acid and syrups is a constant source of anxiety to those in charge of the Factory, to say nothing of the chances of the machines breaking down.

The men at the present day are so well looked after and provided for that they hardly know what discomfort is, at any rate in the service. When therefore, things do not seem to go just as they would like, they must bear in mind that there is probably some very good reason for it, which may not be apparent to them. The vast majority of men who “grouse” at this and that do so, no doubt, through ignorance.

150 YEARS AGO – 1842

The 49th (Hertfordshire) Regiment of Foot was in the second year of the “Opium War”. This is an account of the operations on 13/15 March.

305 Rank and File of the Regiment under the Command of Lieut Colonel Morris CB forming a portion of a small force under the Command of his Excellency Lieut General Sir Hugh Gough KCB embarked on the Honourable Company’s War Steamer “Queen” and proceeded up the River to within 4 miles of Tzeki, marched to the City and were engaged in the taking of the Heights of Segoan, the 49th formed the centre Column and attacked the largest of the encampments. 3 Officers and 4 Rank and File were wounded on this occasion.

Part of Lieut General Sir Hugh Gough’s subsequent

dispatch was as follows:– “The steepness of the mountain gorge by which the Royal Irish and Rifles ascended notwithstanding the enthusiasm of their advance occupied more time in surmounting than I anticipated, and finding that the Naval Brigade might suffer more by the delay than in an immediate attack and that the enemy appeared to gain confidence by this delay I ordered the advance to be sounded. The 49th Regiment with their accustomed spirit dashed up the hill overcoming all opposition and crowned its heights within a few minutes driving everything before them.”

200 YEARS AGO – 1792

The 62nd Regiment was in Jamaica. The Regiment was still getting over a most unfortunate affair which had occurred the previous year.

The news broke in a letter sent by the Governor, The Earl of Effingham to Sir George Younge at the Horse Guards informing him of the death of one of the Officers of the 62nd Foot, Edward Eyre White, who had died as a result of a duel fought with a brother Officer George Hervey.

Lord Effingham wrote:– “It is with great concern I have to inform you of a most unhappy affair which has fallen out in the 62nd Regiment. A duel took place the 2nd ultimo between Messrs Hervey and White owing to a trifling dispute at the Mess. I am sorry to add that it might have been early prevented and the life of a very fine and promising young man saved”.

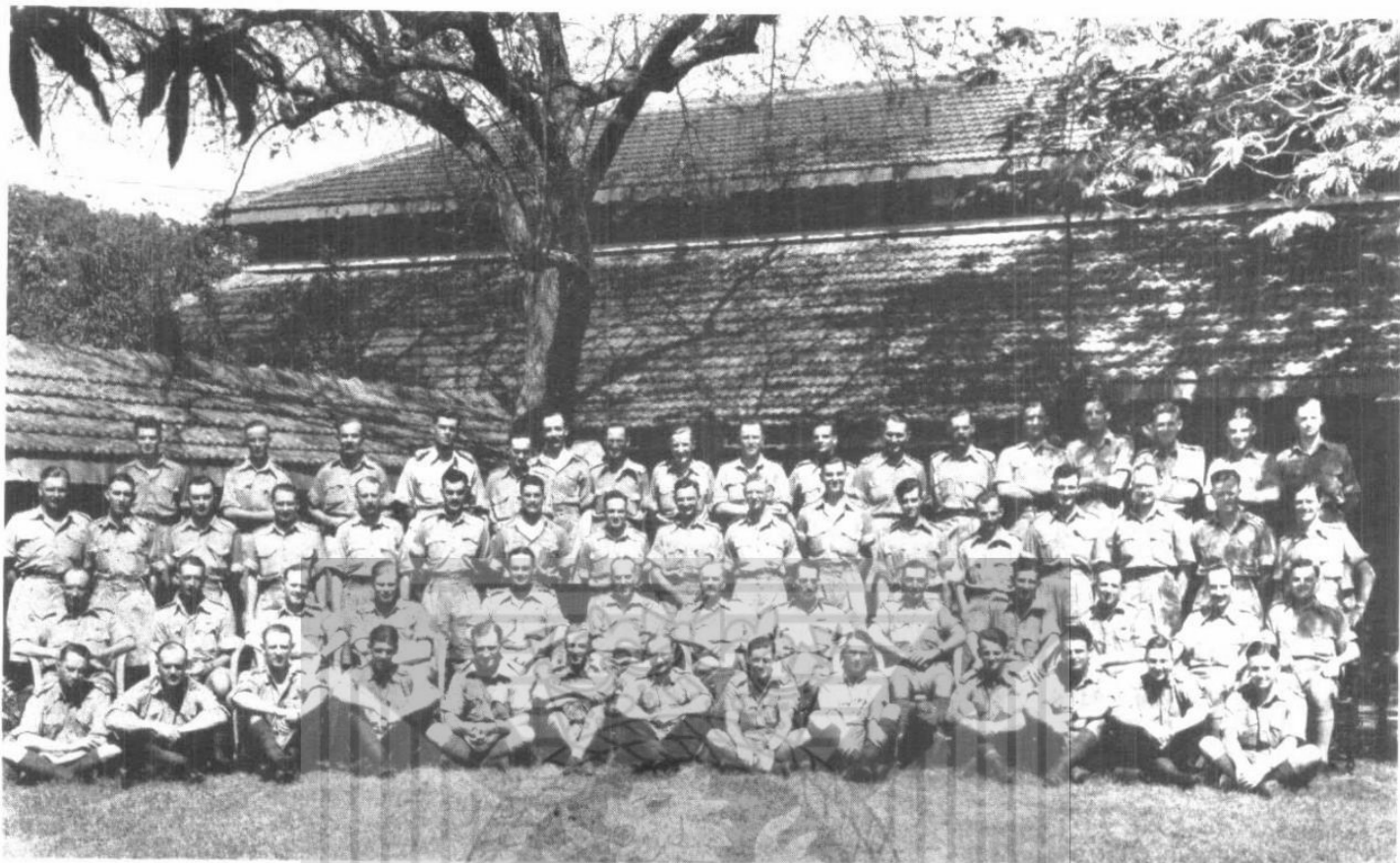
The seconds at the duel were also 62nd Officers – Blackwell and Hardwick. The four had been dining in Mess when Hervey announced that he had purchased some wine on reasonable terms. White replied that “it was too cheap to be any good”. Hervey told him that his remarks were “childish and silly”. White took offence at this reply and later sent Blackwell to Hervey demanding an “ample apology”. When this was not forthcoming White challenged Hervey to “settle” the matter the next day.

Both principals, with their respective seconds in attendance, turned up on the Race Course in the early morning and exchanged shots at twelve paces. White received a wound to the abdomen from which he died the next day.

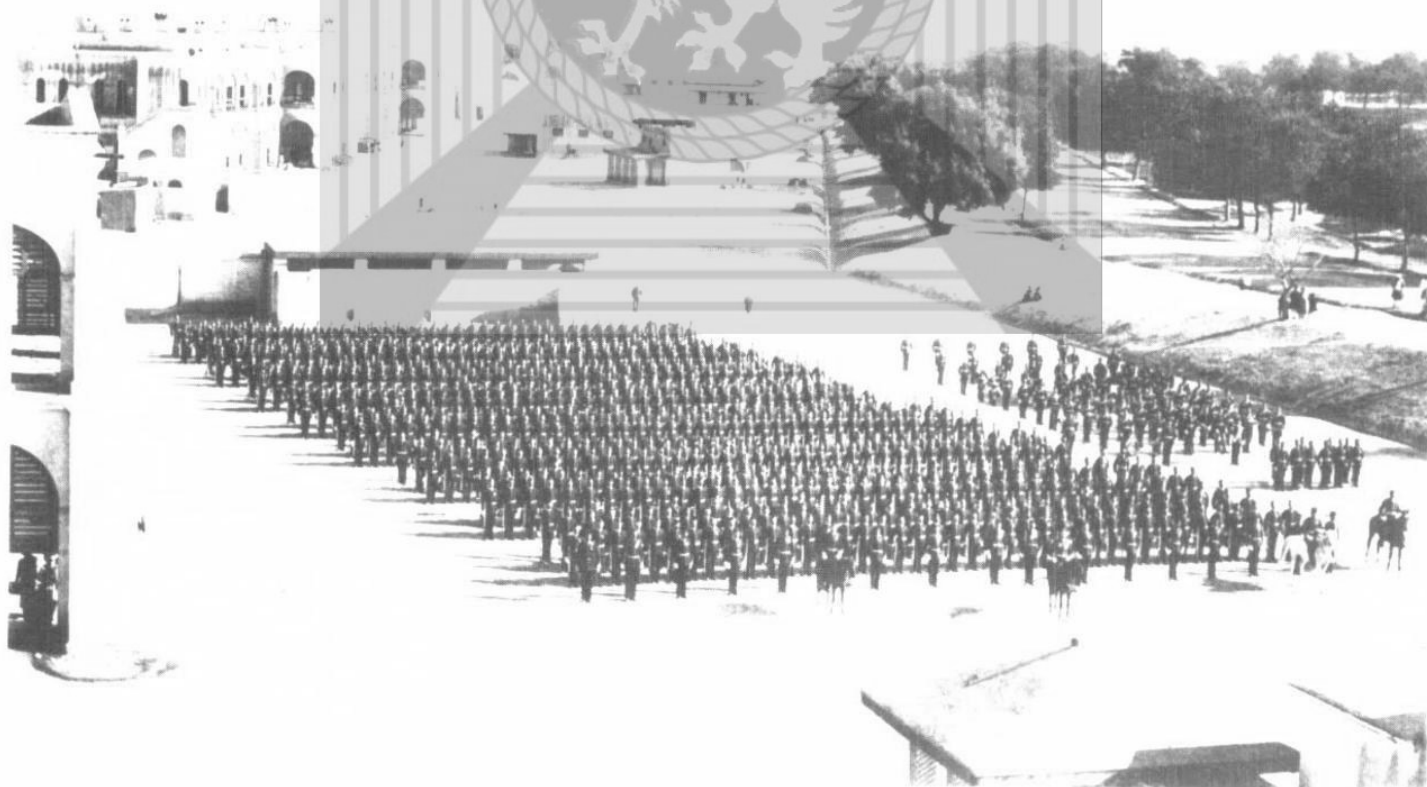
Hervey was subsequently tried for murder but was acquitted because the evidence produced proved that the duel was conducted in accordance with accepted procedures and the Code of Honour prevailing at the time.

250 YEARS AGO – 1742

Still in Jamaica where the Garrison then consisted of eight Independent Companies. Two of which were from the 22nd Regiment of Foot – now the Cheshire Regiment – left behind when the Regiment returned to England some years previously. These companies were to form the greater part of a new Regiment authorised to be formed on 25 December 1743. It would be titled the 49th Regiment of Foot.



Tofrek Battalion and Maiwand Battalion Officers, Bombay 1942.



2nd Wiltshire Regiment, Peshawar 1887. Strength 1066.

MISCELLANY

2/Lt. F. Powell MC, DCM, MM.

The following is an extract from a letter to Mrs W.K. Perry about her late father, 2/Lt F. Powell who served with the 5th Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment during the First World War.

10633 Sergeant F. POWELL was awarded the MM in the London Gazette of 28 September 1917 and a Bar to it in the London Gazette of 2 November 1917. Regrettably there are no citations so we cannot say why the awards were made.

As an Acting Corporal he had already – London Gazette 11 March 1916 – been awarded the DCM

“For conspicuous gallantry. He rallied men by his cool example and led them to the assistance of a few bombers who were being hardly pressed in the front, and held on till ordered to retire”.

He won all three awards with the 5th Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment. As a Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion, he was – London Gazette 2nd April 1919 – awarded the MC. The details were published in the London Gazette of 10 December 1919, as follows:

“On 4th November 1918, during the attack on Mormal Forest, he displayed fine leadership and determination, and led his company straight to its objective under heavy fire, while troops on either flank were unable to advance. On reaching the objective, he held on with both flanks in the air for three hours with an officer and thirty six men, and entirely surrounded by the enemy. Owing greatly to his fine work, the remainder of the Brigade was able to advance”.

Captain H. Ackroyd VC, MC, RAMC

It may not be generally known that Captain H. Ackroyd RAMC was awarded the VC and MC while serving as the RMO with the 6th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment during World War I. Extracts from the archives state:

“Captain Ackroyd, our usual MO, was not with us in this action, as he had had to leave soon after Delville Wood with a breakdown. We missed him sadly. He meant so much to the battalion. It can be imagined what a wonderful MO he was when it is realized that, on the 1st July 1915, eleven reports from officers outside the battalion were sent in with reference to his gallantry. He was recommended for the VC, but was only awarded the MC. He was exactly the same at Delville Wood, and there went out into the wood and brought in some German wounded, although sniped at by Germans in the trees.”

“It was on this day that the Medical Officer of the

6th Royal Berkshire, Captain H. Ackroyd, who had already so highly distinguished himself at Delville Wood, gained his Victoria Cross. A man of mature years, no young surgeon fresh from the medical schools, he behaved throughout with the utmost courage and coolness, attending to the wounded in the hottest fire, and attending to them without hurry and with the greatest care and skill.

It is said that his recommendations for the Cross came from no less than twenty-three different sources. He died without knowing that he had gained it, for he was killed on the 10th August.”

PIG-STICKING

One of the principal amenities which Fyzabad offers as a station is the proximity of excellent pig-sticking country. There are few stations in India where one can indulge in this most fascinating sport almost on one's door-step. The Fyzabad Tent Club, which had not functioned since the war, was resuscitated last year largely owing to the keenness of certain officers of the Battalion. Nine pigs were subsequently speared, which was not a bad effort considering that the majority of spears were novices. This year, however, a number of unavoidable circumstances have militated against the successful season which had been anticipated. Leave, courses, and moves to the Hills have taken away most of our enthusiasts; an epidemic of lameness and the exorbitant price of horse-flesh have limited us to the use of “Gunner Hairies” – very lovable animals, but not exactly endowed with the qualifications of Kadir Cup winners. Finally, the pig themselves are, I think, less numerous and more cunning than last year. In spite of these drawbacks we have on occasions enjoyed some excellent sport. Lieut. Sinclair secured the first spear of the season, on “George,” after a good run across the eastern end of the Manja. Lieut. Stevens' horse, “Flash Alf,” apparently resented the fact that the honour of first spear had not gone to his rider and accordingly vented his indignation by kicking Lieut. Sinclair in the face. Up to the present we have only speared three other pigs, for, although we have put up innumerable pigs and have had some great gallops, they have usually effected their escape in the thick *jhow* which abounds on these *manjas*. We still have six weeks left, and with a little systematic burning of the *jhow* and long grass, and the creation of sanctuaries we may have better luck in the near future.

Even though we have not actually speared many pigs our endeavours to do so have afforded a number of amusing incidents. Lieut. Hall's disastrous effort as a Toreador, certain Rodeo performances by other officers on refractory “Hairies,” the elusiveness and cunning of an old pig well known to us all by an amazing lack of bristles on his quarters, and, finally, the “bon camaraderie” of our week-end camps at Tulsipur have all added to the enjoyment of our meets.

To those who are fond of hard riding and have never

had the opportunity of indulging in pig-sticking I recommend the latter as the most exciting and exhilarating of all equestrian sports. Many experts who have indulged in both sports maintain that pig-sticking beats fox-hunting, because in the former sport you yourself are both hound and hunter, therein lies the fascination. On a good horse, with one's eye firmly fixed on the boar speeding along in front, one traverses at full gallop country which you would think twice before walking over in cold blood. As you draw nearer your excitement becomes intense: hell-fire or the Himalayas wouldn't stop you now. You think that you have got him, but not a bit! He just keeps in front of you, out of spear length. Then he jinks to the right or left, continuing to bamboozle yourself and the other members of your heat. At last he shows signs of fatigue and deciding to sell his life dearly comes charging at you. Incidentally, he may do a lot of damage with those sharp little tusks of his, but he has been stuck by two

or three spears and the grand old fellow expires. One thing about pig-sticking is that the hunter has not got things all his own way. I believe that a few years ago a party consisting of seven spears went out on the Manja one day and that five of them were admitted to hospital with various kinds of fracture and dislocations. Fortunately, there have been no serious accidents up to date this year. The greatest ambition of all Fyzabad pig-stickers at the moment is to spear that great old boar to whose amazing capillament deficiency I have already referred.

The following Officers of the Regiment have supported the Fyzabad Tent Club during the present season:—Major Gordon, Capt. K. P. Smith, Lieuts. Hall, Watney, Finch, Bickford, Sinclair, Robinson, Drake-Brockman, and 2nd Lieuts. Stevens, Skeen, Annesley.

This article was taken from The China Dragon and concerns the 1st Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

"I WAS THERE"

Stories behind some of our Battle Honours

TOFREK 22nd MARCH, 1885, AS I SAW IT.

By No. 41B/1960 Ex.-Sgt. Charles Duggan,
1st Royal Berkshire Regiment.

We paraded about 3.30 am in front of our tents, in line, for inspection by Sir Gerald Graham and Staff. That over we advanced in column for about three-quarters of a mile, then formed square and waited for the remainder of the forces.

The 28th Punjab Regiment and 47th Sikhs formed a square around the transport animals, and the Royal Marines square brought up the rear.

When all was ready we advanced nicely, till we reached the mimosa trees about two miles from Suakin. They were very thick in places and, in others, more scattered, but still very awkward for the loaded camels and mules to pass, and occasionally some unshipped their loads, so we were constantly halted – sometimes ten minutes, or more, then we advanced again till we reached Tofrek zereba.

I was in "A" Company, the leading Company of the square, and we had an awful time, constantly breaking off files and running around the mimosa trees to get in line again; some were high enough to stoop under, but the majority were in our way.

About four miles from Suakin, at one halting place, the sailors from a man o' war with two Nordenfolt guns, pulled by hand, appeared from the rear and joined "A" Company; they were ready to take their position at the corner of the square if we were attacked. They had a hard time, as the wheels appeared to sink in the sand and, being so hot, it made

them sweat immensely. These guns had five barrels, horizontally placed and worked by a lever – went off like a volley – five rounds each time fired. After they joined us we were halted for some time, and the Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* started to sketch them, and the guns – I looked over his shoulder and thought what a good job he was making, as he sketched them exactly as they were, sitting or standing. Little did I think then that before 2.30 pm the officer and eleven sailors would be killed, out of one officer, one warrant officer, and fourteen sailors. However, we reached the appointed ground ("Tofrek" square). The engineers marked out the ground, the left half Battalion were ordered to start cutting down the mimosa trees, these have enormous thorns about one and a half to two inches long, but a great defence against the Soudanese, armed mostly with spears and shields.

The trees, being close to them at the start, the left half Battalion cleared over one hundred yards all round our zereba and almost completed the job, except for thickening the zereba more in many places. So, whilst they were working, we, the right half Battalion had our dinner (bully beef and biscuits) and then marched up to be ready to relieve them. The time given us for dinner was not up, so we piled our arms and accoutrements inside the zereba and were allowed to fall out, some scattering towards the mimosa trees for shelter from the sun.

I went to one about 120 yards away and found Moore and another man under one that was shaped like a large beehive; we lay there for a time in the shade.

Being a Prov. L/Corporal, I thought it time to get back, but they said they would stay a little longer; they must have been there when the alarm was given – Moore was killed, and I guess the other man with him. They had no arms to defend themselves. (The two Indian Regiments were falling in now to return to Suakin but, when the alarm was given, the Sikhs rushed into our zereba, and I guess the Punjab Regiment into the Marines' zereba).

"A" Company had started to cut down and bring in the mimosa trees to strengthen the zereba in places and I joined up with them. I guess it was the second trip from the zereba – we were near the cuttings again when we saw two Indian scouts on horseback rushing in and halloaing.

C/Sgt. Ford understanding the "bat" ordered us to double back to our arms and never mind our coats. We got our brace straps over our shoulders, fastened our belts, and seized our piled rifles – my right pouch fell off my belt, so having no time to put it on, I had to load from my left pouch. Many men were not there to get their rifles so we dropped them on the ground.

Lieut.-Col. Hayshe rode over to us and ordered Lieut. McClintock to take his Company to the far corner of the square. We rushed over like a pack of wolves – no time for falling in, as we had already heard shots fired. I guess it was the sailors Nordenfeld guns, but both their guns jammed after the first round. The sailors were compelled to fall back on "B", "C" and "D" Companies, as they were then alone but, having only revolvers and cutlasses, were mown down getting there.

Pte. Geelan and I found ourselves together in battle. We made for Joe Burton, who was lying on his stomach leaning on the zereba. I placed the helmet on his head, the sun being so hot. We did not know whether he was dead or alive and with the enemy coming on fast, holloaing their war cry and flags flying, we could do no more. A big gap in the hedge which had closed up at the top, but left the bottom wide open for the enemy to get in, told the tale, a frightened horse had broken loose, rushed through the zereba, and kicked Burton to death. We then knelt down and fired through the gap at the enemy, some rushing by us within twelve feet without seeing us.

About five minutes later I heard desperate yelling from the Company's direction on our left; the Sikhs were shouting and pointing towards the guns and we saw the enemy coming over the sandbags into the zereba, making for "B", "C" and "D" Companies. We retired towards the Sikhs and I knelt down in front of them, when I saw one of our men engaged in combat with a Soudanese near the guns; he appeared to have bayoneted the Soudanese in the chest, but not hard enough, and the Soudanese rushed on him, speared him in the chest and, when he fell, stabbed him about three times more. I was loaded, but afraid to fire in case I hit our man.

As another enemy war cry started and hundreds of them moved towards us again, I rose up and joined the Company and we had a lively time, as they were rushing across our front toward the transport animals away to our left. They did not see "A" Company, their eyes were on the camels and mules. They seemed tired and fagged out as they jogged along past us, that is, those that did get by, and they were very few. No doubt we saved a lot of the transport by downing them, still they managed to hamstring some camels and mules. "A" Company was never in real danger as the enemy did not seem to notice us till too late to escape. They passed or rushed within three yards of us, but never had a chance to get near enough to use either sword or spear, *i.e.* those outside the zereba.

During the shooting, Lieut. McClintock, being a very short officer, kept placing his left hand on our shoulders and, with revolver in his right, kept giving us words of encouragement. We were then three or four men thick, and the Sikhs coming in made it more, we were ready to form a rallying square at any time, if necessary. Many rifles jammed as they got hot, and we had to open and shut the lever several times before the cartridges would come out of the breech. Our ammunition was bad, and so were the bayonets (made in Germany).

Lieut.-Col. Hayshe shot one Soudanese out of two making for him and General McNeil, someone else shot the other. There were some gruesome things to see at Tofrek. A Sergeant of the Sikhs had his head cut off with a double-edged sword. A sailor got a horizontal blow from a double-edged sword right in line with his mouth. Pte. Kelly ("A" Company's mad Irishman) smashed the head of a Soudanese with the butt of his rifle.

Pte. Davis, a short very dark complexioned man, had a dirty short stem clay pipe in his mouth during the battle, and when I asked him if he was smoking during the fighting he replied: "Prov. L/Cpl. Charles Duggan I did not know it was in my mouth, please forgive me for smoking in battle before the enemy."

Not one man in "A" Company (except Pte. Burton, killed by the horse) who was in our corner of the square, was killed or wounded. It was a surprise to us at roll-call to find we had six killed and six men wounded. We suffered the most of any Company engaged. The left half Battalion, "E", "F", "G" and "H" Companies did well during the battle, also the Marines.

We had no artillery at Tofrek till the following day, when two R.H.A. guns arrived.

No transport animals were near our square, as many people believe, they were about two hundred to three hundred yards to our left.

Everywhere around us now seemed to quieten down, after twenty minutes of battle. The Marines gave three cheers and we responded gladly – the enemy heard us and they moved faster away through the mimosa trees.

I then crossed the square and met Pte. Cox of "C" Company who came over to see if I was alright. We shook hands and congratulated one another on our safety, little did I think for the last time. During the night we had a false alarm and we all opened fire: I fired one round only before the cease fire sounded. A revolver was accidentally fired during the alarm and my friend, Pte. Cox, was shot through the body and killed, and so ended the 22nd March, 1885, from morning till dark.

[Note.—Sgt. Charles Duggan and Pte. Moore were under twenty years of age, and had to obtain the permission of Sir Garnet Wolseley before they could proceed on the above campaign.—Editor.]

KOHIMA – Night of 23rd April 1944

By Pte Purslow 14 Platoon C Company 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment

I was rudely awakened by someone shouting JAPS!! Sounds of firing, bursting grenades, were miles off. Then everything seemed to lit up. Lucy, by my side, shouted "Oh I've been hit!" Then our Bren Gunner Harry, opened up.

Harry, Les, Bill, Chippy, I firmly believed are the only reason why I am alive today. I was helpless, it seemed as if my whole inside was pushing its way through my stomach. I felt like vomiting but couldn't. During these emotions, somehow I was still alert enough to hear shuffling noises. I know now that the Japs were on top of our trench!

To give some idea of our position, I will firstly explain the area we were holding. Known by all the lads as 'Hell Fire Corner'. It was a small plateau (attached to Garrison Hill), to the right of the road coming from Dimapur. On this plateau was a large tin shed, right of our trench, overlooking the road. Also to our right and slightly rear, was a large mound, (this also held a breath-taking experience which was to come later). Our trench consisted of 2 dugouts. To enter we had to approach from the rear which took us into the main pit (our sleeping quarters). The other part was the Bren pit. To enter we had to crawl through a small opening 2' wide, 3' high.

Returning to the night of April 23rd. I was feeling steadier and taking in what was happening. The Japs were crawling within a few yards of the Bren pit and throwing grenades into it. These were hastily picked up, thrown back at the Japs and inflicting casualties. During this time a disastrous thing happened. Pl Comd was sitting at the trench opening, throwing and firing grenades. At that moment I turned to see how he was faring, there was a hissing sound. A FLASH!, a detonator had gone off in his hand. To save others injury, and to avoid the flash giving our position, he

wrapped his hand in leather jerkin and held the detonator – his hand, arm and face were burnt. Although badly shaken he carried on. His batman was also injured by the blast. Following this disaster there was a lot of commotion in the Bren pit, 6 grenades had been thrown in together – 3 landed amongst the occupants and the others put the Bren gun out of action. Harry, Les and Bill were seriously wounded, Chippy getting off unhurt, so out of the 9, 3 were left able-bodied. Joe, Chippy and myself.

Dawn was just breaking, the air was stuffy with fumes of grenades. It was almost impossible not to step on the wounded who laid in the bottom of the trench. They bore it well, not a murmur from one of them. I was quite worried, fearing another attack. I was ordered to take over the Bren pit. On entering, a grenade exploded just in front of me. How I managed to scramble back, I don't know and all for my trouble two pieces of shrapnel in my leg. I took up position in the entrance with a sten gun, ready for whatever may happen. The air had cleared, firing ceased, cautiously crawling into bren pit, took up position. It was then I saw my first Jap, 5 yards in front of me, digging in. All I could see was his hand, I fired and missed. There must have been more because all positions opened up. The battle was still raging, the Japs still attacking, our position taking the brunt. Chippy joined me, shouted "down Chico". I needed no second telling. A grenade exploded just in front of the trench.

The rest of the morning was spent in the same way. By noon the Japs were withdrawing, their attack had failed.

At last we could get the wounded out and we were to be relieved within a few hours.

ARAKAN 1945

The jungle in Burma is mostly dense and humid and filled with insects and creatures that sting and bite. I was with the 1st Bn The Wiltshire Regt and we had been fighting the Japanese there for months. It was 1945 and we were in the midst of the ARAKAN campaign. Our Battalion was with a force pushing along the MAYU range trying to relieve part of the Division which had been cut off. It was hot and tiring work.

Late one afternoon my platoon had just moved forward along a spur when we came under fire and a corporal was killed. Being unable to spot where the enemy were, we withdrew to the end of the spur where we spent the night. Next morning I was ordered to take out a patrol with a corporal and six men to locate the Jap positions. As we crawled along the spur on our bellies it seemed far longer than the ¼ mile or so which it must have been. We reached the main ridge and found a track where considerable digging had been done to improve fields of fire. The pile of spent

cartridge cases indicated where the enemy had been when they opened fire the previous day. 60 yards down the track to the left was a stream which I decided to investigate, so, leaving my Bren gunner to give covering fire the rest of us crept down to the water. As we reached it through the foliage we spotted the legs of some Japanese soldiers who were washing in it barely 10 yards from us. Hoping to get between the Japs and their positions I crossed the stream and 15 yards further on found an empty 'foxhole'. Suddenly I saw a head pop up from another trench hidden further back in the bushes. I told my corporal to be ready to give covering fire and moved round to the right. When I was only five yards from the trench the Jap appeared again. I thought he was unarmed but as I raised my Sten gun I heard a shattering noise in my left ear as a round hit my tin hat and knocked me over. What had happened to my covering fire? Head whirling, I was crawling back to the corporal when a burst of machine gun fire tore through the leaves of the bushes above my head. I threw a grenade in its direction and after the explosion there was silence. I put my head up to the tickling sensation on my neck and discovered that I had a nasty bullet gash from which blood was flowing freely. I told the corporal to circle right and get the Jap while I covered him. I could see a pack beside the trench and thought that the odd shot in his direction would either hit him or cause him to look up. In fact he was dead with a hole in the head and there was no sign of the rest of the enemy.

By then I was feeling decidedly queer so, leaving the corporal to secure our position, I set off back to where my company was. I staggered in and explained the situation to my company commander who reinforced my small patrol and I then reported to the first aid post. There I was told that the bullet had torn a lot of flesh away and that my jugular vein was exposed. The Doctor filled the gouge with a whole tube of sulphonamide ointment and applied a field dressing. A machette scabbard was then lashed to the back of my neck and between my shoulder blades to give my head support and I began the nightmare journey back to hospital.

I was put on a mule which had had a metal ring fixed to the saddle for me to hang on to and led by an Indian Sepoy armed only with a rifle, we set off on the 12 mile journey through no-mans land to find the Advanced Dressing Station. That journey was agony as whenever the mule stopped the Sepoy hit it on the nose, which made it move very suddenly and gave me a painful jolt. Eventually we arrived and my wound was treated under anaesthetic. I later heard that when I left the battalion position they feared that I might not reach the destination. However, next morning after a very painful mile being carried on a stretcher, I arrived at the airstrip and a waiting ambulance Dakota, which flew me back to Comilla. From thence by ambulance to the Burmese port of Chittagong and so to Calcutta in

India by ship. Then we had an indescribable four days in a train heading for a base hospital at Bettia. It was insufferably hot and the stench of wounds was appalling. Later I was taken up to a hill station in beautiful country where I was given skin grafts. What a relief that place was. It was only a brief interlude. After six weeks, including two weeks leave, I was back at duty with my battalion.

ANZIO- 1944

The 10th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment was formed in May 1940 and saw its first actions in Iraq and Egypt in 1942. It then played a major part at Anzio in February 1944 where it took so many casualties that it was disbanded very shortly afterwards.

In January 1944 the Allies carried out an amphibious landing at Anzio, some 30 miles south of Rome with the aim of turning the flank of the German army defending that city. At first the landings went well but reinforcements were slow in arriving and soon the strong enemy counter attacks made the situation extremely serious. The battalion went ashore on 2nd February under the command of Lt Col Ian Baird MC and by the 5th found themselves in the frontline defending the right flank of the bridgehead. Enemy probing attacks started on the 6th and then began four days and nights of constant attrition which ended in the destruction of the four rifle companies of the battalion. It was eventually discovered that the three British battalions in the defence were attacked by twelve German Panzer Grenadier battalions.

Major Jones, D Company commander in the left forward position, describes the events of the following days and nights:

"The enemy were in woods 300 metres in front of us and my company was in the vicinity of two farm houses and a road junction with a frontage of about 500 metres.

The attacks on us took place every night, and were bold and determined. We in the forward companies were 'fire fighting' trying to keep the probing attacks at arms length, helped by the gunners repeatedly firing our SOS defensive fire tasks, which had a lot to do with saving us from being over run.

There was a lot of counter-attacking within platoon areas to eject the enemy infiltrators. The big problem was mounting casualties from these attacks and the incessant enemy bombardment.

On the night of 7/8 February B Company came forward to relieve C Company and both got involved in a considerable battle. We were attacked too, soon after dark, then again at 11.30pm and again at 3.30am, when A Company came forward to help us supported by two tanks. All the battalion reserves had been committed and all companies were now at about half strength.

The 8th February was relatively quiet except for constant shelling and we could hear tanks moving in the woods. We all had no doubt that the enemy was preparing to attack again.

Sure enough, at midnight on 8/9 February we and the London Irish on our left were heavily attacked, which continued for the rest of the night. My platoon at the road junction was overwhelmed and the forward platoon position 100 metres from me, commanded by Lieutenant Pat Dillon of the South African Army, was in similar danger. With the help of two tanks I led a counter-attack which restored the position and we captured 18 Germans. Thus morale was high at 6am on 9th February, but not for long.

At 7.30am we were attacked again, by a classic infantry/tank assault. I thought the large body of infantry charging out of the woods towards us were coming to surrender because their weapons were hidden by their waterproofs. But 100 metres away they went to ground and opened fire at the very moment that three enemy tanks advanced from our right, having over run the original C Company position. Our anti-tank guns knocked out the leading tank but then the whole of our positions were blinded by smoke from the other two tanks."

At 8.35am Major Jones passed his last report over the wireless: "All platoons now over run" but the remnants continued to fight on. Of the 79 men of D Company who took up these positions plus the 36 reinforcements who joined them only 2 officers and 15 other ranks survived.

With no troops left on their front, in support or in reserve, Battalion HQ with two sections of C Company and a few mortar and carrier men, got ready for the final battle. Then came the miracle, or so it seemed. No further attacks. No advance. The Germans, depleted and exhausted, could not – or did not – walk on but halted in the forward companies position.

That afternoon the remnants of the 10th were relieved and the defence of the Anzio bridgehead held.

MOUNT PINCON 1944

Shortly after D-Day in June 1944, 5 Wilts landed in Normandy where they were soon in action. By 5th August they were involved in fierce fighting in hilly and thickly wooded country south west of CAEN. They had encountered extensive minefields and strong armoured opposition on the approaches to MONT PINCON, a prominent hill rising to 1200ft. At this point they were leading the Divisional advance together with their sister battalion 4 Wilts and with 4 Somersets in reserve. After stiff fighting the advance was brought to a halt a mile or so short of the feature. The Brigade was ordered to make a new plan of assault and zero-hour was fixed for 1430 hours on 6th August.

An eyewitness account by Captain Peace, the Adjutant, who ended up commanding the battalion now follows:

"The speed of our advance had evidently taken the enemy by surprise but it was plain that our position was by no means secure. The leading company was pinned down by enemy machine gun and mortar fire, the bridge over the stream which lay between us and the key village of LA VARINIERE was mined and there were pockets of German soldiers everywhere.

We had infiltrated their positions but had suffered many casualties in the process. During the night of 5/6 August our battalion reorganized into three weak companies of some 70 men apiece in preparation for the attack. In the morning we took more casualties from the shelling but luckily mist masked much of our movement.

Shortly before zero-hour our pioneers lifted the mines on the bridge, the artillery barrage began and our leading troops started to wade across the stream. Within quarter of an hour it was clear that things had gone badly wrong. Enemy counter fire was heavy; the crossing points over the stream were covered by enemy machine gun and mortar fire and our two leading companies took heavy casualties as they tried to cross and soon became disorganised. Seeing his men pinned down in the bed of the stream, our CO, Lt Col PEARSON, deliberately strode forward down the road to the bridge, swinging his walking stick, a red rose defiantly showing under his steel helmet. The men cheered this fine gesture and pressed forward once more as the CO fell, shot through the heart by a German sniper. A few minutes later two of our supporting tanks from the 13/18 Hussars found a way across the stream and a new plan was quickly made. Largely by bluffing the enemy into thinking there were more of us than was the case, some 20 minutes later we had advanced about 1000 metres and had occupied the crossroads in the village of LA VARINIERE. In clearing the farm buildings and the village we captured about 100 prisoners – more men than we ourselves actually had now in all the rifle companies."

Captain Peace had taken command when his CO was shot and had led this advance. His narrative continues . . .

"I now had the conviction that the enemy had had enough of it. It is a platitude that in war there comes a time when both sides think they are beaten. We had certainly thought that we were, but now I felt strongly that the Germans felt that we were on top of them. If only we could press home our advantage we could pull it off yet.

At about 1630 I passed this idea back over the radio to the Brigadier. The situation was bad despite our advance and capture of the key

crossroads. 4 Wilts and 4 Somersets had both been involved in heavy fighting, were very tired and depleted in numbers. We were by now reduced to barely half a rifle company with some 5 officers and 70 men left in all. The Brigadier encouraged us to push on to Mount Pincon itself and offered us two squadrons of tanks in support. While I felt convinced that we would get there I pointed out that we would have insufficient men to fight off any counter attack. We made a fresh plan of attack with the tanks to lead the advance and zero-hour at 1745. All this time the crossroads area had been intermittently shelled by German 150mm guns and

just as we were about to start our advance I was wounded by the shellfire and unable to continue."

With their acting CO out of the battle it was clear that 5 Wilts could achieve little more and they were told to hold the crossroads. 4 Wilts were ordered to capture the mountain instead and taking a different line of advance they succeeded in doing so, joining a lonely tank commander on the summit just before dark. Despite counter attacks the depleted Brigade held Mount PINCON. The Wiltshires had fought perhaps their greatest battle and certainly one of the most important in the Normandy campaign.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

General

1. Major plans for Museum improvements have been put on hold to await the findings of the MOD studies into the future support for Regimental Museums and RHQs.

2. It has been agreed to assist with the financial provision for the purchase of furniture and electrical fittings for the Restaurant project which will go ahead in 1992.

1992 Raffle

3. The launch of the Raffle, delayed from 1991, is now fixed for the period May to September 1992. It is hoped to sell 40,000 tickets at 50p each in order to reach the financial target of £12,000. The draw will be Saturday 26 September at The Wardrobe, with the lucky winner having the main prize of a Caribbean Cruise. In addition there will be many other prizes, including a weekend in Paris and £500 cash prizes.

Annual General Meeting

4. The 1991 meeting on 16 April 1991 was well attended. The guest speaker was Sir Richard Luce MP who gave a fascinating talk with many amusing anecdotes on his interesting career, both as Minister of the Arts and as Under Secretary at the Foreign Office.

5. The 1992 AGM will be held on Friday 24 April at 1400 hours when Lt Col Leslie Bond RA will speak on his responsibilities for the Conservation of Salisbury Plain.

Projects Funded in 1991

6. The Committee approved funding of the following projects which were completed during 1991:

- a. £900 for the recording and storage of all photographic archive material by Mr Boris Mello.
- b. £170 for the purchase of a revolving display stand for the sale of books.
- c. £40 for plants for the garden and tubs.
- d. £86 for the purchase of tubs and urns.

Committee

7. Lt Col Tony Rose has succeeded Colonel John Hill as Chairman of the Museum Management Committee. Lt Col Alan Kenway is the new Chairman of the Friends with the Committee for 1992 comprising:

Major S.J. Venus MBE	Member
Mr D. White	Membership Secretary
Major J.J. Thompson	Treasurer and Secretary
Mrs Sue Kenway	Member
Major N.J. Walker	(Proposed)
Captain W.H. Sherman	(Proposed)

Appreciation

8. For the record, the devoted service of Lt Col Tony Rose, who has been a member of the Committee since 1986 and Chairman since 1987, is greatly appreciated, as is the valuable contribution made by his wife Gill, who has helped run the Museum desk each Thursday afternoon throughout the year.

1st BATTALION



Introduction by The Commanding Officer

In my introduction to the 1st Battalion Notes I wish to take account of the particular achievements of the Battalion as a whole, as well as setting in context the unique and historic nature of this remarkable period in the life of the 1st Battalion. I hope that this introduction to the more detailed accounts of the events of the last 12 months will clarify and explain, particularly for those members of the Regiment serving away from or not in regular contact with the 1st Battalion, the background and several influences against which we have had to set all that has been accomplished since 1 December 1990.

As a subaltern, captain and company commander, I can remember successive Commanding Officers talking relatively infrequently to the Battalion as a whole. This happened typically on change of command and to announce a forthcoming arms plot move or operational tour; but in any event, to ensure that momentous news was passed to all ranks accurately and fully before it leaked out of the system by other means! During the last 12 months it has been necessary for me to address the whole Battalion to pass on such news or major changes of Army plans and policy on no less than seven occasions, and this is an indication of the extent of the significant changes that have affected the Battalion during the period: most occasioned directly or indirectly by Options for Change.

Undoubtedly the most poignant such briefing was that conducted at Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plain on 23 July 1991: when I announced the decision of the

Army Board of the Ministry of Defence that the Battalion would be required to be joined with the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment: an amalgamation that (assuming no changes to current plans) we now know is scheduled to take place in April 1994. Just as the Battalion took energetic but measured action through its retention campaign and a clear statement of what is believed to be a strong case to avoid involvement in Options for Change prior to the fateful Army Board decisions being made, so we are now determined in the light of those hard but unavoidable decisions to work effectively to produce a Battalion and Regiment displaying all the best qualities of our own when the amalgamation takes place in 1994. The Battalion that will deploy fully manned to Cyprus in January 1995 for an accompanied tour of at least two years in the Sovereign Base Area Garrison will I am convinced be second to none in the Infantry.

Linked to the amalgamation issue have been the ever-present concerns with recruiting, retention and recovery. As a supplementary concern I should also mention redundancy consequent upon Options for Change. Indeed, manning in its many forms has continued as the primary issue and concern for commanders at all levels. Recruiting has continued to be the major problem that it has been for the Battalion for at least the last decade (and the simple fact that statistically the Regiment's potential recruit manpower base could not change in the foreseeable future was the major factor in the amalgamation decision). In simple terms we continue to suffer a situation in which the natural wastage or outflow of soldiers at the predicted end of their engagements equals or just exceeds the inflow of trained soldiers from the Depot. The long-term implications of this for a Battalion that is already under-strength are self-evident.

However, in contrast with this, the Battalion's retention record has improved dramatically: with the extension and sign-on rates of soldiers being such that by February 1991 the Battalion had moved from the bottom of the Prince of Wales's Divisional 'league' (nine regiments), where it had been for a number of years, to a clear second place; which it has maintained to date. This simple fact is a clear and very pleasing indication of the state of morale and professional satisfaction that exists currently in the 1st Battalion. The Battalion's positive recovery campaign has also proved successful, with a number of soldiers who left during 1990 and early 1991 now seeking to re-join. My only regret is that time was against us using these tangible manning successes to avoid selection for amalgamation: just as the accidents of geography and successive Battalion deployments (West Germany,

Canterbury, Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Catterick) have conspired against the mounting of a sustained Battalion recruiting effort in Berkshire and Wiltshire for some 15 years. More recently, the progression of world events (in Eastern Europe in particular) produced the assessment of future defence requirements that resulted in Options for Change: with consequences for the 1st Battalion of which we are all too aware. I do not underestimate the considerable uncertainty generated by these matters, and have been most grateful for the leadership demonstrated by the 1st Battalion's Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs in particular in allaying, reducing and discussing positively these concerns and worries where they have been identified.

So much for the background to the major issues that inevitably have influenced much of that with which we have been involved directly during the last 12 months. However, there has also been much to divert the minds of most members of the Battalion from these weighty issues!

Since the return from Hong Kong and incorporation into 24th Airmobile Brigade, it has proved necessary for the Battalion to re-organise completely in order to meet the operational requirements first of the Operation BANNER tour as Fermanagh Roulement Battalion (FRB), and then in order to convert for our primary operational role as an Airmobile Infantry Battalion.

Detailed accounts of the Northern Ireland tour and airmobile conversion appear elsewhere. However, I would make three points. First, despite the inevitable turbulence occasioned by these fundamental re-organisations and retraining, all ranks of the Battalion have responded magnificently and to excellent effect to all of the consequent challenges: attracting unequivocal praise from a wide range of senior officers and other units with and alongside whom we have served.

Second, the Battalion's successful tour in Fermanagh was of particular significance to the overall campaign in Northern Ireland for two reasons in particular. First of all, the operational effectiveness of 1 DERR prevented any of the incidents launched by terrorists against the Battalion being carried out other than on the border or boundary of the Battalion's area: where a safe haven or safe escape route was immediately available. This effective constraint on the terrorists' capability to operate ensured the maintenance of the rule of law within our operational area throughout the tour. Next, the Battalion created the necessary security climate in which to effect reductions in the static Permanent Vehicle Check Points (PVCs) in Fermanagh. To quote the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland this represented "the first real progress and change in the security situation in Fermanagh for at least ten years".

It is also worth re-stating the fact that, despite the

Battalion's involvement in six major cross border shoots (including one at a helicopter) and three significant bombings (two targeted specifically at the security forces) during the tour, all those soldiers who went to Fermanagh on the Operation BANNER tour did return safely at its end. This in itself was a significant failure for the terrorists and an important achievement by the Battalion.

My final point concerns the airmobile conversion: achieved in just three months rather than the nine or ten advocated as the ideal conversion period. The consequent changes of pace, organisation, training and concepts occasioned in May 1991 by the requirement to be fully operational as one of the British Army's three Airmobile Infantry Battalions in time to play a major role in the NATO Multi-National Airmobile Division (MNAD) Trial on Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD 91 in Germany during September, were breathtaking. Suffice to say that the Battalion more than met the requirements of this not inconsiderable challenge; and in so doing has played a very significant part in the formulation of a concept that will affect directly the development of the British Army and NATO Rapid Reaction Corps into the 21st century. It has achieved an enviable reputation in its airmobile role; within both the 24th Airmobile Brigade and the UK Field Army as a whole.

All this and the many other activities, events, sporting achievements, military training and exercises described in the Battalion Notes have occurred or been achieved during the last twelve months!

By the time that this Journal goes into print I am very conscious that I shall have left to me only some two or three more months in command of the 1st Battalion. Undoubtedly interesting, enjoyable but in some cases difficult times and challenges lie ahead for the Battalion. But in paying my unreserved and most sincere tribute to all ranks with whom I have served since November 1989 in Hong Kong, Fermanagh, Catterick, Germany and the United States of America for their professionalism, cheerfulness, friendship, unstinting support and dedication throughout an unusually turbulent and busy period, I know that not only will these qualities endure as ever during the eventful period to 1994, but that they will also be projected and carried forward to excellent effect into whatever the future may have in store for the 1st Battalion of a justifiably proud British Infantry Regiment.

1991 Diary

The 1st Battalion ended 1990 and began 1991 with an operational tour of County Fermanagh, NI. The Battalion deployed on December 10th after a hectic period of training and settled into a routine of manning permanent vehicle checkpoints and general patrolling activity.

A Company was collocated with D Company and Battalion echelon at St Angelo camp whilst B Company operated from Lisnaskea and C(Sp) Company from Clogher. Tac HQ for the tour was based in Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen, the home of 4 UDR. From this central location the HQ controlled the Company Operations Rooms and carried out a great deal of routine administration.

The Colonel in Chief visited the Battalion on 11 February and there were also a number of other VIP visits which included Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, Major General D.P. Thompson CBE MC, the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey KCB CBE.

On return to the mainland the Battalion enjoyed 3 weeks well earned leave and then found itself straight into a period of intensive training for the conversion to an airmobile battalion. The number of platoons in a company was cut from 3 to 2 with one of these equipped with the MILAN anti-tank missile. Battalion and Brigade exercises were held to practise and confirm that SOPs were understood at all levels. The major exercises being held at Otterburn and on Salisbury Plain, the latter being the most testing. The training culminated with a Divisional exercise, CERTAIN SHIELD in Germany where language barriers were put aside and the battalion 'fought' next to the Dutch, Germans and Belgians all forming the Multi-National Airmobile Division (MNAD). The Battalion had undertaken a conversion process designed to take nine months and achieve it within three.

On return from Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD the Battalion held a week long sports jubilee which included the Nines Cup, won by LCpl Pullen C(Sp) Company and shortly afterwards the Mortar Platoon departed for a live firing exercise, firstly in Otterburn and then back to Salisbury Plain. It was announced at this time that Major John Venus had been awarded the MBE.

The band departed for the South of England for an intensive programme of Music Workshops in schools in Berkshire and Wiltshire and they were joined by an A Company group who undertook Freedom Marches in Abingdon, Wallingford and Chippenham all of which were very well received.

November was dominated by a large Potential NCO Cadre run by Capt Bill Wilson (50 students) who enjoyed the delights of Catterick in less than sunny weather and by Exercise RED SHANK, a Territorial Army exercise in which TA Company and Platoon commanders were given the opportunity to command with our Officers becoming radio operators and runners!

Fortunately the pace of life slackened slightly at this time and the Battalion has been able to play sport competitively again with the rugby team in particular

doing well. That only leaves Ferozeshah before another busy and successful year draws to a close yet as I write this the Catterick weather is doing its best to scupper the best laid plans with a blanket of snow covering the Square.

1 DERR AS FERMANAGH ROULEMENT BATTALION (FRB) – 10 Dec 90 - 04 May 91

Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey KCB CBE, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, in his Foreword to the 1 DERR Booklet commemorating the Battalion's operational tour as FRB remarked:

"You had a most successful tour and you can all feel extremely proud of what you achieved". He continued with the words "... your firm and thoughtful handling of events demonstrated a mature and professional approach to your task ..."

The following notes, accounts and summaries of incidents by a wide range of authors from within the 1st Battalion chronicle an eventful and memorable tour: the undoubted success of which was well-summarised by Lieutenant General Wilsey. They also provide a series of 'snapshots', impressions and images that provide a feel for the nature of the 1st Battalion's tour as FRB. And now read on ...

Operations Fermanagh West (A Company)

The Fermanagh Roulement Battalion (FRB) area is divided into two Tactical Areas of Responsibility (TAOR). A Company was responsible for controlling and coordinating operations in the Western TAOR.

Fermanagh West is a very large area. It has over 100kms of border and 43 recognised Border Crossing Points (BCPs) plus 4 Vehicle Check Points (PVCP) which controlled and monitored legal traffic. Several unapproved BCPs were closed by A Company or the Operations Company, D Company. At the end of the tour, no BCP in Fermanagh West had been re-opened: a considerable achievement that contrasted favourably with the BCP opening campaign in the east of the County.

Other operations included OPs, ambushes, searches and soft target protection. Most patrols were inserted and extracted by helicopter, though vehicles were sometimes used for certain operations. Police or Army boats were also used to vary patrol profiles.

Patrols varied in length from 8 hours to 5 days. However, most were for about 36 hours. The personal administration of the soldiers improved dramatically and living relatively comfortably from a bergan was common-place. Some patrols were forward-mounted from PCVPs or RUC Stations. Spare rations are held

at these locations and tasks can be changed or extended to meet developments. The PVCs usually employ a manoeuvre element to provide support to the troops manning the location.

Much patrol tasking was aimed specifically at supporting the Battalion Intelligence Collection Plan but a great deal was the result of close liaison at local level between the RUC and the Army. The Company Commander attended Enniskillen Sub-Divisional Action Committee meetings, and the Company Operations Officer held weekly meetings with the RUC Operations Inspector. The result was a varied and interesting programme that fulfilled the needs of the RUC and of the Battalion: and jointly guaranteed the inability of the terrorist to mount a successful operation in Fermanagh West from December 1990 to May 1991.

Operations Fermanagh East (B Company)

During the Op BANNER tour B Company was responsible for the south-eastern corner of Fermanagh. The region is predominantly rural and contains only a handful of towns of any significance; including Lisnaskea where the Company was based. Two smaller towns, Brookeborough and Maguiresbridge, lie to the north on the main A4 road to Belfast and there are a number of small villages to the south of Lisnaskea. These are essentially Republican, the most significant being Rosslea and Donagh.

The Company's primary role was to man the six Permanent Vehicle Check Points (PVCs) strung along the border and also to patrol the area within boundaries. Operations of various types were mounted by the Company and by other elements of the Battalion. They included large search operations with the aim of seizing terrorist munitions and equipment; border closure operations to increase the effectiveness of the Company's control of cross border movement, which also improved the effectiveness of the PVCs; and latterly the complete removal of Derryard PVC in conjunction with the closure of selected border crossing points. This particular operation involved a reinforcement Battalion (1 CHESHIRE) deploying into Fermanagh and temporarily taking command of B Company's area of responsibility. The operation lasted for a week and involved the use of a wide range of military resources and assets.

B Company's principal effort and manpower throughout the Operation BANNER tour centred upon the PVCs. The Company had dedicated many hours of training in England to preparing to operate, defend and live in a PVC. The PVCs are check points located very close to the border which allow the Security Forces to exercise some control over cross-border traffic. These days they are heavily-armed and protected places equipped with .50 heavy machine guns, 'crash barriers' designed to trap vehicles



The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Peter Brooke MP with Sgt Proberts.



A Coy at Rosscar Bridge PVC.



LCpl Pugh Deploys the Drums Pl.

inside the checkpoint, 'skunk barriers' to keep people out and (in most cases) mortar-hardened accommodation blocks and extremely thick concrete blast walls designed to keep proxy bombs and mortars at bay. The regime within a PVCp can be not only extremely monotonous but arduous too. A location would typically have a manoeuvre element conducting external operations by day and night; irrespective of bad weather or freezing temperatures.



Arriving at St Angelo by Chinook.

B Company's patrol multiples were often augmented by other companies from within the Battalion or from the Ulster Defence Regiment. Patrolling was always the preferred option for a soldier because of the variety of tasks and tactical alternatives that they offered; as well as the greater comforts he could enjoy when off-duty! The patrols covered the whole of SE Fermanagh, protecting off-duty members of the Security Forces at home in the north of the area, framework patrolling with the RUC throughout the region and conducting aggressive patrolling in and around the PVCps in the border zone.

The Company suffered a significant level of terrorist activity in SE Fermanagh. The manning of the PVCps for long stretches of time (a task shared with A Company to the west) was probably the most difficult and arduous task in the Battalion during Op BANNER tour. Credit must go to those soldiers and their commanders who maintained such high standards throughout the five months of the tour, many having spent over 40% of the tour in a PVCp.

Operations in the Clogher Valley (C Company)

The Clogher Valley was the responsibility of C Company for the duration of the Battalion's Operation BANNER tour. Although operating a demanding TAOR, the Company had the advantage of not having to maintain any static locations; this allowed the

Company's manpower to be concentrated on patrol activity and planned operations, which were routinely conducted in support of the RUC. As a rule, patrol operations took place on foot but making extensive use of support helicopters for insertion and extraction. Patrols had to adapt to working and living in the open for extended periods; often being resupplied from their base location.

The Clogher Valley is literally 'home' to an unusually large number of security force personnel. The close proximity of their homes to the border leaves these 'soft targets' feeling very vulnerable and protection and reassurance of the community (as well as keeping an eye on the 'undesirable' elements of the population) was a continuing theme throughout the Company's tour in the Clogher Valley.

Another theme was countering the activities of various local action groups. These organisations were extremely vigorous in re-opening unapproved border crossing points. They presented to the community the alleged 'benefits' of an open border policy as the justification of their actions. However, when these BCPs were open, the threat to the soft targets in the Clogher Valley from cross border attack increased significantly and it proved necessary to reclose Border Crossing Points quickly, to ensure the continuing integrity of the border as an obstacle to terrorist operations.

Throughout the tour, the success of military operations was dependent upon the Company's good working relationships with both the UDR and RUC. The Company worked hard at nurturing a professional bond and created a healthy atmosphere of trust and co-operation between the various security force agencies working in the Clogher Valley.

Despite the determination of the terrorists to persist with their activities, the co-operation and resolve of the Security Forces in the area, combined with well planned and executed operations, were successful in presenting the terrorists with little opportunity to carry out attacks in the Clogher Valley December 1990 - May 1991.

Airmobile in Fermanagh (D Company)

Concentrated in St Angelo Camp was D Company, the Operations Company, with orders to operate across the Battalion's whole area of responsibility. By making the best use of helicopters the Company was able to move long distances at short notice with all the equipment necessary for long operations; or to conduct short operations using the minimum equipment and manpower and relying on speed, surprise and unpredictability to achieve success.

In Hong Kong the Company had used helicopters on Battalion and Company exercises, and it had added to its experience during pre-Northern Ireland training at Stanford. It was well-prepared to make maximum use of the aircraft available in Fermanagh.

Nearly all D Company's operations were mounted from St Angelo, using helicopters to deploy. The Company used every type of helicopter in Northern Ireland: from the three-passenger Gazelle for reconnaissance, through Lynx, Wessex and Puma, to the enormous Chinook which carried more than 40 soldiers in one lift. On a number of occasions the RAF were able to concentrate their aircraft; and using six at a time it was possible to deploy up to 50 soldiers to six different landing sites at one time, so cordoning an area without giving any warning of the Company's approach.

Buzzard, the helicopter tasking cell, was at St Angelo, right next to the Company's Operations Room. The close proximity of the two planning rooms made very easy the coordination of helicopter support by Lt Minty (BUZZARD) and Lt Delf the Company Second-in-Command.

D Company used helicopters to mount Eagle Vehicle Checkpoint operations. Swooping from the sky in a pair of helicopters a patrol was able to select any vehicle moving anywhere without giving any warning to the occupant. While the checkpoint was being operated the helicopters provided top-cover protection for the soldiers on the ground.

The Battalion's patrolling programme was driven by the need to gather information, to protect the RUC doing their police tasks, to protect A and B Companies' Permanent Vehicle Check Points, and to provide reassurance to the population of Fermanagh. Most of this centrally coordinated patrol programme was carried out by D Company, again using helicopters to deploy from St Angelo. The helicopters provided the safest and quickest means of moving to and from a patrol task, and helped to stop patrols being left unnecessarily long on the ground once their tasks had been completed.

As an extension of the D Company mission it was natural that the Company should provide the Airborne Reaction Force (ARF) for the Battalion. The ARF was at 10 minutes notice to move in reaction to any incident in Fermanagh. The best example of the use of this force was when it supported B Company as they dealt with a hoax proxy bomb at Kilturk Checkpoint. The force was on the ground in exactly the right place within minutes of B Company being attacked.

The Fermanagh Roulement Battalion – Air Operations

Operating from one of the busiest heliports in Europe, the FRB Air Co-ordination and Tasking Cell commanded by Lt Norman Minty, affectionately known as BUZZARD, ably assisted by WO2 Gill (BLACKBIRD) and Pte Monger (BUDGIE), co-ordinated the day-to-day operational and administrative helicopter requirements of the Battalion through the tour.

BUZZARD's responsibilities are diverse and there

were many variables to be considered. A casual onlooker at the door of BUZZARD's 'nest' could well have been excused for thinking that he was witnessing the beginnings of Armageddon; with the constant radio chatter and incessant warbling of telephones.

In order to ensure that helicopter crews and users were evenly balanced and that all parties received the support that they wanted, the cell had to juggle flying hours, flying times, safe landing sites, top cover requirements in border areas, passengers, freight (both internal and underslung) and refuelling. Any number of spanners can be thrown into the works by weather and urgent operational changes: such as reactions to incidents and medevac. A carefully worked out plan at 0200 hrs can be in the wastepaper bin by 0210 hrs!

The FRB was allocated approximately 260 Support Helicopter flying hours per month. On average 275 troops with 130 bergans were moved each day. The record stands at 636 troops and 315 bergans in a 24 hour period!

During March, at a conservative estimate, an additional 200 SH hrs were used for Op MUTILATE: the major operation to remove two of the Fermanagh Permanent Vehicle Checkpoints.

Life in PVCPS

The FRB was responsible for a total of 10 PVCPS manned by the personnel of A and B Companies, with the Drums Platoon being under command of B Company. This meant that a total of ten multiples were dedicated to PVCPS operations. The remaining multiples of A and B Companies were involved with taskings which often involved the protection of the PVCPS, directly or indirectly. With the removal of the Derryard and Boa Island PVCPS in March 1991 the number of multiples committed to PVCPS reduced to eight.

The soldiers serving with B Company saw three different PVCPS during the tour, with periods of up to 8 weeks in one check point (or in other words 40% of the tour). The quality of life and nature of the work vary enormously between PVCPS. PVCPS 3 (Annaghmartin) for example has separate team rooms and a Multiple Commander's Room; while 2 kilometres away at Killyvilly PVCPS the accommodation is a single Portacabin split by a 'see through' partition! Wattlebridge PVCPS 7 processes about 1000 cars a day, while Clonatty Bridge (PVCPS 5) receives about 5 cars a day.

Despite these differences the working day generally revolved around 3 shifts: QRF/patrols, duty and rest. Duty varied in detail between PVCPS, but usually involves the tasks of roadman, coverman, sangar sentry and commander. In some cases there is also a RMP. Throughout the tour, as the threat remained high and constant, the QRF or manoeuvre element spent most of its time outside the confines of the

PVCP: as the weather improved and the outside of the PVCP became more attractive, this tactical option became less unwelcome!

All the check-points lived on fresh rations, and the quality of the food generally depended on the effort expended; although as the food ran out the troops were generally forced into 'healthy eating' just to reduce the mountain of frozen food!



Boa Island PVCP



Pte Bishop at Mullan Bridge PVCP.



Pte J.M. Mason.



Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey KCB CBE General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland.

PVCPs are not always the most exciting places to spend 70% of a tour and the Battalion was not too sorry to see the back of them. However, they

continued to offer the best potential for a direct confrontation with the terrorist, as the only known military quantity for the enemy in a TAOR in which all other operations sought to achieve unpredictability and a range of tactical options. The PVCPs did provide some opportunities for tactical innovation: and the success of this is demonstrated by the failure of PIRA to mount a successful direct attack on a PVCP throughout the tour.

VIP Visitors to 1 DERR

The Battalion had a range of VIP visits from military and non-military figures the highlight of these was the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief which is described elsewhere in the Journal.

The military visitors included the Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, Major General D.P. Thompson CBE MC and the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey KCB CBE both of whom welcomed us to the Province soon after our arrival. The CLF visited as escort to one of our most important civilian visitors: the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Peter Brooke MP, who came to view the Permanent Vehicle Check Point at Annaghamartin following a major proxy bomb attack that had occurred just before the Battalion's arrival in the Province. The GOC came to wish the Battalion a Happy Christmas at Tactical HQ at Grosvenor during the Christmas Lunch. Both he and the CLF came to see the Battalion for a full day later in the tour, visiting all Company locations. The Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Belstead, journeyed to Fermanagh for a longer visit. Lord Belstead came to Grosvenor on the morning of New Year's Day, and then went on to St Angelo for a special lunch with Officers of the Battalion.

During the whole tour the Battalion was visited by one member of the Royal Family; two very senior members of the Civil Service, four Generals and three Brigadiers, as well as five unit recces, five visits by instructors from NITAT and five visits by members of the press (including two TV crews, one news team from a national newspaper, reporters from local newspapers based in Berkshire and Wiltshire, and a team from SOLDIER Magazine). In addition, we also hosted teams studying our clothing, equipment, vehicles and bases, and inspecting our arrangements for catering, hygiene, fire and physical recreation.

Logistic Statistics with a Difference

The Quartermaster Platoon (whose long standing historical traditions prohibit the issuing of stores or clothing on any grand scale) have perused their 'accounts' and discovered some interesting facts.

Since arriving in the Province the Battalion have

daubed on the contents of 729 tubes of cam cream and marched their way through 223 pairs of Combat Boots High. They have patrolled through 463 pairs of combat trousers and fired 56,150 rounds of training ammunition. After firing they have cleaned their weapons with 3.04 miles (a BFT and a bit) of flannelette. They have found their way in the dark and have spoken on radios using 144,537 batteries. The MT Platoon (marching nowhere) used 33,680 litres of fuel and 22 tyres whilst driving 282,932 miles. Feeling peckish after these activities the Battalion consumed 128,880 eggs, 33,612 meat pies, 56,100lbs of potatoes and 11.066 twenty-four ration packs. This was washed down with tea made from 340,176 tea bags, 29,856 pints of milk and 20,058 lbs of sugar. They then ate 30,780 packets of crisps. The debris from this feast was cleared away in 7,400 black plastic bags.

Whilst eating, drinking, driving, marching and shooting their way through the above, the Battalion still managed to find time to watch 402 different video films.

Kilturk Proxy Bomb

The 20th December 1990: another dull, wet day in SE Fermanagh. Just after 1000 hrs a yellow Transit milk float jumped the traffic lights at the eastern end of Kilturk PVCP.

The vehicle stopped short of the command sangar; on approaching the vehicle the roadman was confronted by the driver hastily abandoning the float (but not forgetting his cash box!) and informing him that there was a bomb on board!

The Proxy Bomb Alarm was sounded and all the members of the PVCP moved under the command of Lieutenant Sayers to the rear of the check point in good order but in various states of undress. A rapid evacuation was then carried out. On arrival at a predetermined rendezvous, brief orders were given and teams were despatched to cut off the roads entering the checkpoint, clear civilians from nearby houses, and also to find a telephone, as communications back to the Company Operations Room were proving difficult. The whole scenario closely resembled a pre-tour training exercise!

Once the cordon was established the ARF and RUC were quickly on the scene. ATO arrived soon after these agencies, but decided to wait until the following day before dealing with the incident.

A very cold and wet night passed slowly. This was especially so for certain of those who had so hurriedly left the PVCP dressed only in basic combat clothing and not wearing their socks! All however had helmets, INIBA, weapons and equipment.

The next day ATO returned and at approximately 1900 hrs declared the device an elaborate hoax.

The checkpoint was soon re-occupied and then business went back to normal, with most people feeling

that the end-product had been something of an anti-climax! However, the benefits of fresh milk, cream and orange juice over Christmas did brighten up a relatively dull festive season . . . although milk floats providing these small comforts were always scrutinised with more suspicion after the events of 20/21 December!

Annaghamartin PVCP

On Thursday 27 December 1990 at about 16 minutes after midnight Annaghamartin PVCP was engaged by heavy bursts of machine gun fire. The 'Christmas cease fire' had officially ended. The PVCP was manned by B Company at the time. In all, about 150-200 rounds were fired from across the border and the PVCP sustained a number of hits around the accommodation block, command sangar and road area. Pte Belcher in the fighting sangar returned GPMG fire immediately, firing in all about 75 rounds.

Meanwhile Sgt Proberts, who was in an ambush position, engaged the PIRA firing point from the flank: catching the terrorists by surprise and forcing them to withdraw.

At the time of the shooting there were five civilian cars in the checkpoint area, of which two sustained hits. However, there were no injuries and during a lull in the firing the two roadmen led by Pte Connolly evacuated them from the checkpoint to safety before returning to assist in the fire-fight.

The joint follow-up with the Gardai the next day established the firing point to be 1100m from the PVCP. The accuracy of hits sustained by the PVCP indicated the skill and competence of the terrorist machine-gunner. No hits were claimed and no casualties were sustained.

The incident could have been a significant PIRA success had it not been for the quick, accurate and heavy weight of fire returned by the soldiers at the PVCP.

Murder at Brookeborough

On 21 January 1991 at about 1745 hrs, Mr Cullen Stevenson was returning to his home in Brookeborough, when 4 gunmen ambushed him as he stepped out of the car. Mr Stevenson, a retired RUC Reservist, was hit a number of times and died of his wounds. The terrorists made good their escape into Knock Hills.

A patrol of 4 UDR was close by at the time and responded with RUC at the scene. Meanwhile B Company instigated a call out of C Coy 4 UDR part-timers into cut off positions between the border and Brookeborough in an attempt to catch the fleeing gunmen. Concurrent with this the Battalion implemented various contingency plans to seal border areas and main through routes. C Company positioned a VCP on the A4: the main road between Brooke-

borough and County Tyrone.

The getaway car was found in the Knocks and was cordoned through the night. Unusually, it had been abandoned close to the scene of the crime.

The next day an intensive follow-up and clearance was carried out by 4 UDR and B Company 1 DERR. This was complicated by reports of an abandoned IED in Brookeborough. The device was finally located and made safe by ATO, together with the getaway car which had been crudely booby-trapped with an incendiary device to destroy forensic evidence. The bucket filled with 'Dockyard Confetti' was obviously left to catch follow-up troops but failed to detonate.

On the night of 5 February 1991 reports were received that a pistol had been found in Brookeborough by children. B Company with ATO responded to the scene. A Brazilian Taurus 9mm pistol was recovered, which had probably been left or dropped by terrorists involved in the murder some two weeks previously.

As on so many previous occasions in Fermanagh, this was yet another soft-target murder of an ex-member of the Security Forces: it achieved nothing in terms of political gain, but merely underlined the inhumanity of terrorists prepared to take human life in order to secure a one-day newspaper entry.

Helicopter Shoot – 15 February 1991

Helicopter operations close to the border have proved to be a potentially dangerous undertaking. Despite the variety of manoeuvres employed by helicopter pilots the terrorist still regards the helicopter shoot as a relatively easy and prestigious operation. At the conclusion of one of a number of border operations conducted by C Company the terrorists took the opportunity of attempting to shoot down a helicopter which was about to pick up a patrol.

The patrol was ready for pick up at a landing site close to the border with the Republic of Ireland. The Lynx swung low over the tree-tops and flew parallel to the border as it approached the landing site. As it was about to land, a burst of automatic fire, which included tracer, was fired at the helicopter. Fortunately the aircraft was not hit, and the pilot took instant evasive action, aborting the landing and using the tremendous agility of the helicopter to extricate the aircraft from the situation.

The pilot then flew north along the border looking for the terrorist gunman, but whilst doing so the terrorist showed his determination to achieve his mission by engaging the aircraft a second time. Again the pilot was forced to take evasive action, but this time he believed the aircraft had been hit by the enemy fire: his fears were fortunately unfounded – and not wanting to risk his aircraft further he returned to his base.

The pilot had managed to locate fairly accurately the position from which the terrorist had fired and passed

the information back to C Company Operations Room. A careful search of the firing point area, which was located right on the border with the Irish Republic, identified the position that the terrorist had used. The subsequent clearance of the area recovered 360 GPMG empty cases and links, as well as an ammunition box used in the incident.

Although the operation had been well-planned and executed in a determined fashion by the terrorist, the pilot through skilful flying and quick reactions averted a much more serious incident.

A Company Work by Moonshine

A search in the Doon Mountains, West of Derrylin, offers the chance to see some of the most picturesque parts of South Fermanagh. Consequently CSgt 'Duke' Sumner and his search team, commanded by Cpl Bard, found that on the sunny morning of Saturday 13 April they were accompanied by most of the A Company hierarchy!

Unusually they found a hide within half an hour. In the well at the rear of a house were 16 bottles of potteen (or Moonshine: for those who didn't understand the witty title) together with a half-full plastic barrel containing the same. The owner was cautioned by the RUC. "Never seen it before in my life" was the predictable reply. HM Customs and Excise visited the scene and seized the evidence. No doubt charges will follow.

Afternote: Yes, we did only find 16 bottles. No, we don't know what it tasted like (and nor does anyone else on the operation!).

Operation Mutilate: Removal of Boa Island PVCP

Operation MUTILATE involved a series of concurrent operations throughout Fermanagh, involving 1 DERR, 4 UDR and 1 CHESHIRE, plus a host of engineers and other agencies. During the operation the PVCPs at Derryard and Boa Island were removed, together with the closure of a number of unapproved Border Crossing Points (BCP). 1 DERR was responsible for all aspects of the operation except convoy escort and the operation in the Derryard area.

Before dawn on Tuesday 19 March engineers began the reduction of Boa Island PVCP. Work continued into the day, when the first of a series of engineer convoys arrived to continue the demolition. Concurrently, Support Company 1 CHESHIRE (commanded by Major Joe Edmonds DERR) under command of 1 DERR provided security adjacent to the PVCP and on Boa Island. A Company 1 DERR conducted border security operations and prepared to close BCPs 211 and 212. The rain teemed down throughout.

By Friday 22 March Boa Island PVCP was no more,



Maj. Gen. H.M. Rose meeting soldiers of A Coy.



*The Chaplain General, The Reverend J. Harkness
OBE QHC RChD.*



LCpl Pugh and Pte Davies on patrol.



Pte Scott and Pte Dobin (A Coy).

many tons of rubble had been dumped in local tips, and on the border it was simply a case of watching the concrete dry! Notwithstanding some mobility problems encountered by the engineers, the operation was a great success and had proceeded more or less as planned: except for the fact that it had been conducted well ahead of time.

In a subsequent conversation with the Commanding Officer the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey, said: "Operation MUTILATE was a terrific success. The Battalion can be proud of having played the main part in an operation that has produced the first significant forward movement in the security situation in Fermanagh for 10 years". The Battalion should be well-pleased to have contributed positively to improving the security situation in Fermanagh by reducing the static commitments that are so manpower-intensive and which reduce the effective military patrol capability.

Through Operation MUTILATE 1 DERR created a small piece of military and Northern Ireland history 19-23 March 1991. All involved should be justifiably proud of a job well done!

The Belleek Bomb

Monday 8 April 1991 at St Angelo began with OC A Company, Major Russ Wardle, and 2IC D Company, Lieutenant Mike Delf, discussing how boring life had become. OC A Company was of the opinion that a small incident would speed the passage of time. No sooner said than done . . .

At 0815 hrs, Mrs Elliott, the RUC Belleek cleaner, was being driven to work by her husband as normal. They were not particularly surprised to be stopped by an "Army patrol" 3kms south of Belleek. Unfortunately for the Elliotts the patrol were terrorists

dressed in combat suits with berets and balaclavas! They were taken into a nearby house where Mr Elliott was tied up. Mrs Elliott was handed a bag containing a primed bomb and was told to take it into the RUC main building.

The Elliott's car had been damaged during the hijack and a degree of panic now sent in as the terrorists realised that they had a ticking bomb and no transport! Luckily another car came along and was quickly hijacked. Mrs Elliott was taken to the border and left to run 300 metres to the RUC Station. Pte Jones, on duty in the Belleek gate sangar, did not let her in. He told her to place the bag down and to move away. She did so very quickly! Pte Jones then sounded the alarm and the station was evacuated. The local health centre was cleared by telephone. No troops were deployed due to the high risk of a come-on. The bomb exploded causing no casualties but extensive damage to the main gate.

OC A Company with the follow-up troops, agencies and ATO deployed by RUC Rigid Raider along the River Erne. This was an unusual deployment option and it earned good coverage on the National news programme. It avoided the risks inherent in a more conventional deployment.

ATO quickly cleared the scene and handed it over to the RUC. The next stage was to redeploy to the hijack scene, cordoned by the Battalion ARF commanded by Sgt Hanson, to clear the Elliott's car and the house. The dilapidated condition of the car was ample evidence as to why it had not started. It also explained Mr Elliott's insistence that ATO should blow it up! However, the insurance company was spared and nothing was found. In the house ATO recovered the bomb arming pin but nothing else. Five hours gone and 3 clearances complete!

The second car had been abandoned at a Border Crossing Point. This was cordoned overnight by Lieutenant Preece and his multiple and cleared the next morning. Nothing was found in the car.

This relatively straightforward incident was cleared quickly and efficiently. The professional reactions of Sgt Parsons and his multiple (the same one that was shot at in Gortmullen PVCP!), and Sgt Davies and his admin team helped the RUC avoid a major disaster.

Shooting at Gortmullen PVCP – 20 April 1991

Gortmullen PVCP was the scene of a major shooting incident on Saturday 20 April 1991. At that time a continuing high threat existed against PVCPs in South West Fermanagh. As a result COP had placed additional overwatch OPs around the PVCP.

At 1755 hours two long bursts of machine-gun fire resulted in 7 strikes on the lower, unmanned, sangar. That was the only moment at which the terrorists had the initiative. The response was immediate, controlled, and devastating. All COP positions

responded with SA80 fire. Pte Byrne, in the main sangar, saw the enemy tracer and returned fire with the GPMG. Cpl Alden sent a contact report, activated the attack alarm and dropped the anti-ramming barriers. He then gained his place in Northern Ireland campaign history by being the first man to use the .50 inch Browning Heavy Machine Gun in action!

The PVCP Commander, Sgt Rowley, moved to the GPMG sangar. Once he had assessed the situation he used the GPMG to indicate the enemy position. At the same time Pte Bond (on a "S" type engagement from the TA) brought a second GPMG into action from the lower sangar. Sgt Rowley collected together an ad hoc force and left the relative cover of the PVCP. He then began to assault towards the enemy position using fire and manoeuvre. The terrorists withdrew further into the Republic of Ireland. Three men were briefly seen by a COP team commanded by Sgt Griffith. Unfortunately they were at extreme range and, though engaged, were not hit.

The only casualty was Pte Thompson. He had been acting as No 2 on the .50 inch, as well as engaging the enemy with his personal weapon. Cpl Alden ordered him to fetch more ammunition and in the excitement he fell from the 12 foot high sangar, badly cutting his leg. He later received 16 stitches and treatment for shock after being evacuated by helicopter.

During the engagement only one man did not return fire; and that was due to him administering first-aid to the casualty.

Ferozeshah Parade 1990

The Battle of Ferozeshah, fought on 21 December 1845, is usually commemorated by a Battalion Parade. In December 1990, with the Battalion scattered throughout Fermanagh on an operational tour, the normal Battalion Parade was obviously out of the question. However, Ferozeshah 1990 had of course to be marked by some ceremony, and the Adjutant and RSM were tasked to produce a format which would be compatible with the circumstances of the Operation BANNER tour.

The big day arrived. The Colour Parties consisted of Lt Gilchrist (Queen's Colour) and Lt Delf (Regimental Colour), with CSgt Williams (Queen's Colour) and CSgt Sumner (Regimental Colour). The charge was delivered by the Commanding Officer and the ceremony to effect the handover of the Colours to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants was conducted flawlessly. All Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Officers in station then sat down for a very enjoyable meal in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, entertained by a piper provided by 4 UDR. The ceremony to return the Colours to the Officers was conducted at midnight. Operational considerations dictated that the celebration of Ferozeshah then finished; but everyone present felt that this important

Regimental Day had been marked with as much style as circumstances permitted.

Postscript

On Thursday 28 November 1991 Brigadier C.F. Drewry CBE, Commander 24th Airmobile Brigade, presented Northern Ireland Campaign Medals to some 179 members of the Battalion during a simple Parade, which was followed at the Garrison Memorial Church by a Service of Thanksgiving for the safe return of the 1st Battalion from Northern Ireland. At this Service the Battalion presented to the Garrison church for Dedication two Hymn Boards made by the Domestic Pioneers.

These events and ceremonies provided an appropriate conclusion to a most successful operational tour in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

Visit of the Colonel-in-Chief

St Angelo Base, 1230 hours Monday 11 February 1991: the flight of four Wessex helicopters flew low over the base before setting down on the helipad. The last to set down was a bright red Wessex of the Queen's Flight. A pause while the rotor blades ceased turning, then HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh alighted, and the most recent visit of the Colonel-in-Chief to the 1st Battalion had begun.

Prince Philip was greeted by the Commanding Officer, the Colonel of the Regiment, and Brigadier Sutherell, Commander 8 Infantry Brigade. The party then moved to the Briefing Room, where Lieutenant Colonel Stone briefed the Colonel in Chief on the final months of the Hong Kong tour, the preparations for Operation BANNER, the tour in Northern Ireland and the future of the Battalion in its airmobile role.



The Colonel-in-Chief, the Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer touring St Angelo Camp.



The Colonel-in-Chief with A Coy.

Prince Philip indicated a particular interest in the Battalion's border operations during the subsequent discussion.

The Commanding Officer and the Colonel of the Regiment escorted the Colonel in Chief to the Officers' Mess, where he met the Officers and Warrant Officers informally for pre-lunch drinks. Representatives of the Royal Marines, Intelligence Corps and REME were also present.

After a light lunch with the Officers the Colonel-in-Chief was hosted by the RSM during a visit to the Main Dining Room, where he met the members of the Battalion and its support elements based at Angelo. He spoke to most of those present, during a very relaxed and happy, informal 'walk-about'.

Eventually it was time for the Colonel in Chief to depart, and the party moved back to the helipad, taking a moment en route for a formal photograph with the Officers. In his final words to Lieutenant Colonel Stone as he boarded the helicopter Prince Philip



The Colonel-in-Chief taking culinary advice from Pte Docherty, Cpl Clarke, Pte Burnham, WPte Barnett, WPte Faramus.



The Colonel-in-Chief arriving at St Angelo Camp meets the Commanding Officer.

indicated how very much he had enjoyed his all too short visit and that his previous visit to the Battalion had also been during an operational tour on border security duties: but on the other side of the world, on the Sino-Hong Kong Border.

At 1500 hours the bright red Wessex lifted off into a brilliant blue sky and the short but memorable visit was concluded.

AN AMALGAMATION HAS BEEN ARRANGED: AN ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF 23 JULY 1991

July 1991 found the 1st Battalion engaged in an intensive period of airmobile training on Salisbury Plain. It was based at Westdown Camp near Tilshead, Wiltshire.

Tuesday 23 July dawned with a hazy sun obscured by the thick mist and fog typical of The Plain in the early hours. By 0830 hours however the mist had cleared completely and another hot and humid day was in prospect. The Battalion had concluded a Battalion exercise 24 hours earlier and was scheduled to embark on a Brigade Test Exercise on the evening of 25 July.

In normal circumstances no particular significance would have attached to 23 July: a day of clearing up from one exercise and preparing for the next one. However, this was the day on which the Secretary of State for Defence, The Right Honourable Tom King

MP, was to announce to the House of Commons the long-awaited details of the way in which Options for Change would be implemented, and which regiments would be required to amalgamate, disband, merge or go into suspended animation in the period 1992 to 1995.

The 1st Battalion had for some 12 months been aware of its possible vulnerability to involvement in Options for Change due to its continuing manning difficulties: a situation that had obtained for at least a decade due to the Regiment's historical problem of recruiting sufficient numbers of soldiers from Berkshire and Wiltshire. Ironically, whilst the recruiting situation could not be disputed or rectified in the short term, it was in early 1991 that the Regiment achieved a clear second place of the nine Regiments of the Prince of Wales's Division for the retention and prolongation of service of its soldiers, having been at or just above the bottom of 'the league' for the previous six years. In light of the recruiting situation the possibility of amalgamation was well recognized and had been an open topic of discussion for many months. Indeed, the issue had progressively dominated life in the 1st Battalion and it was good that, one way or the other, the future of the Regiment was at last to be determined.

On 21 July the Commanding Officer had received a triple-enveloped letter marked in the green ink used by CGS, with the imperative 'Not to be opened before 231330A JUL '91', 'Not to be divulged before 231530A JUL '91' and bearing the stamp and seal of the Chief of the General Staff. This letter quite clearly contained advance and confirmatory information of that which the Secretary of State would announce in the House of Commons.

Tempting though it was to open the letter before the designated hour, the Commanding Officer determined to delay until 1500 hours on 23 July: knowing only too well that, without saying a word, he would be unable to conceal from others whether or not the news was good or bad once he knew what the future held.

He arranged to meet the Second-in-Command, Major John Silvester, and the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) North at the Nissen hut being used as the exercise Officers' Mess at 1500 hours, in order that they would be present at what promised to be an historic occasion. The Battalion was to assemble in the main Dining Hall at 1515 hours, with the contents of the letter being announced to all ranks simultaneously at 1530 hours. At 1540 hours the news would be telephoned through to Captain Mike Godwin (the Unit Families Officer and OC Rear Party at Catterick) in order that the families and Rear Party soldiers would be as up to date on the news as the 1st Battalion at Salisbury Plain.

At 1455 hours the Officers' Mess cleared as the officers joined the rest of the Battalion at the Dining Hall. The Commanding Officer and Second-in-

Command were left alone, to be joined a few minutes later by the Regimental Sergeant Major. The trio sat down around a coffee table on which was one of the Royal Berkshire silver dragons and Lieutenant Colonel Stone proceeded to open the letter from the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir John Chapple GCB CBE ADC Gen.

He scanned the letter briefly, then read it in full to Major Silvester and WO1 (RSM) North. The full text of the letter stated:

"Dear David,

At 1530 hours today the Secretary of State will be making a statement in the House of Commons on the effects of Options for Change upon the Army. At the same time an Army White Paper will be published, attached to which will be the names of Regiments and Battalions affected by these changes.

I have to inform you that the Army Board chaired by the Secretary of State recommended to Her Majesty's Government that your Battalion is to amalgamate with the First Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment and that this recommendation has been accepted.

This letter, in advance of the announcement in the House of Commons, will allow you the opportunity to inform your Battalion of this decision in the most appropriate manner.

Your Regiment has upheld the finest standards and traditions of the British Army for many years and I know that I can look to you and all who serve under you to maintain these standards and traditions in the new Regiment.

Yours sincerely
John Chapple" (signed)

There was at once a sense of impending loss but also of the inevitability of the decision contained in the letter. The key information not included was when the amalgamation was to be effected and, in the course of a brief discussion of the impact of this news, the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and Regimental Sergeant Major determined to plan for an arbitrary worst or earliest case of January 1993 (we now know that the amalgamation has been considerably postponed: to April 1994).

Following a further brief discussion, the two officers and WO1 (RSM) North set off in sober mood to walk the 100 metres down the road that runs through Westdown Camp to the Dining Hall there to break the news to the Battalion as a whole. For the Commanding Officer it was a long walk, as he composed in his own mind exactly that which he would say; whilst at the same time trying not to betray, before he spoke, the momentous news that he was about to impart.

The memories of that address to the 1st Battalion are several.

The Regimental Sergeant Major had preceded the Commanding Officer by a minute in order to ensure silence: there was no need, as all wished to hear what was said. As Lieutenant Colonel Stone entered the Dining Hall he was conscious of the sea of faces confronting him from the Battalion, seated on the floor, with officers and senior ranks standing at the rear and to the sides. The concentration of the 1st Battalion into this one building underlined the number of people, lives and careers that would be affected in many ways by the impending announcement.

An almost tangible air of expectation was instantly felt in the Dining Hall, and the silence as the Commanding Officer began to speak was absolute.

Lieutenant Colonel Stone began by reminding the Battalion of an address he had made to them as recently as 48 hours earlier, when he had expressed his personal opinion that the Regiment was unlikely to avoid involvement in Options for Change to a greater or lesser extent; and that an amalgamation or similar arrangement should be viewed as a possibility in light of the manning and recruiting situation.

Despite this element of forwarning, there was an audible intake of breath as he stated the simple facts that the Regiment was to amalgamate on a date then unknown, and that the amalgamation would be with the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. A large number of soldiers were visibly very moved by the news and the significance of the dramatic future change to the fortunes of the Regiment was lost on nobody: from Major to Private soldier.

The Commanding Officer continued by stating that, given the apparent inevitability of amalgamation, the Regiment was fortunate to be joining with a Regiment that enjoyed traditions and a history as illustrious as that of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. A significant bonus was the common operational role and subordination of the two Battalions within the 24th Airmobile Brigade. The common ties of the two Regiments within the former Wessex Brigade and now the Prince of Wales's Division would ensure a relatively straightforward and happy amalgamation, in which the best elements of both Regiments would be combined to produce an amalgamated Battalion that would be second to none in the Infantry.

Finally, he pointed out the significant manning advantages that would fall out of the amalgamation. Neither Regiment was able to recruit to establishment or had any prospect of being able to do so, but together the amalgamated Battalion would be fully manned and therefore able to carry out any operational, domestic or recreational task or duty demanded of it, without the all-too-common recourse to seeking reinforcements from outside the Regiment. There would be advantages and disadvantages, but on balance the former would outweigh the latter for the Battalion in

the longer term if not necessarily in the short term or for the Regiment as a whole.

Lieutenant Colonel Stone spoke for 15 minutes, then turned and left the Dining Hall with Major Silvester.

There was an instantaneous buzz of conversation: what would it really mean? When would it happen? What would the new Regiment be called? How could two Regiments join into one? What badges would they wear? Would it mean redundancies? Would the Battalion have to move before amalgamation? . . . A thousand questions and concerns, but no answers at that stage (although the picture has now become much clearer with the passage of time).

As the soldiers filed out of the Dining Hall and back to their places of work, exercise preparation and other tasks, the Commanding Officer standing on the verandah of the Battalion HQ building noticed that many were deep in thought, talking earnestly in small groups, or silently keeping their thoughts and feelings to themselves. Gradually they dispersed in their many directions; but the normally ever-present sparkle of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment soldier seemed temporarily to have been extinguished.

For the remainder of the afternoon the impact of the news was evident. But, to their everlasting credit and in the best traditions of the Regiment, the Infantry and the British Soldier, by the next morning all had apparently come to terms with the impending change of the 1st Battalion's circumstances. The saluting was as snappy as ever, there was again a spring in their step and a smile on the faces of these West Country soldiers as they looked forward positively to a future that, whilst not sought or desired, had been accepted as inevitable; and possibly even beneficial to them as individuals and to the Regiment as a whole.

And this positive, constructive attitude to the amalgamation in 1994 has continued ever since. As at date we know not what we shall be called, the details of our uniform, battle honours retained, Colours or indeed what the future holds. However, there is a clear determination to make the very best of the situation. When the amalgamated Regiment forms up in April 1994, subsequently to deploy to Cyprus for an accompanied tour in January 1995, there is no doubt that it will be one of the finest Line Regiments of the British Army: being based to a very great degree upon the firm foundations provided by the historical and recent record, traditions and proven operational professionalism of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

. . . 23 July 1991 was a memorable day . . .

AIRMOBILE INFANTRY: 1 DERR CONVERSION TO THE AIRMOBILE ROLE

For an Airmobile Battalion 'airmobility' is more than a

mere concept: it is a way of life. These notes attempt not only to provide a summary of the 1st Battalion's transformation to the airmobile role, but also to capture the ethos, excitement and atmosphere of the world of the Airmobile Infantryman in 24th Airmobile Brigade.

0700 hours on an early September day some 20 kilometres to the South of Munster in Germany; already the damp, chill air of the previous night was dispersing as the sun reluctantly penetrated the low cloud, the ever-present morning mist and the stands of trees surrounding a large stubbed cornfield. It promised to be a fine day: typical of those enjoyed since 1945 by generations of British soldiers engaged in exercises on the plains and in the hills, valleys, forests, villages and towns of the former West Germany.

As the mist dispersed, to be replaced temporarily by clouds of steam rising from the rapidly warming corn stubble, it was clear that the field was by no means the deserted landscape that it might at first have appeared. To one side of it, but well away from the trees, were stacks of boxed mortar ammunition, isolated land-rover trailers packed full of equipment, landrovers with their trailers connected, and pairs of the six-wheel Supacat ATMP vehicles peculiar to infantry battalions of 24th Airmobile Brigade. All of these items of equipment were shrouded by nets, straps or chains, or a combination of these. To each load, for that is what they were, was attached a board emblazoned with a serial number and destination, shown as a grid reference.

At the edge of the field there was movement in the cover afforded by the trees and nearby foliage. Groups of heavily-laden soldiers waited patiently but expectantly in their sections, platoons and companies. In addition to their bulging rucksacs and rifles they carried GPMGs and SF tripods, mortar barrels, base-plates and their tripods, LAW 90s, large numbers of MILAN firing posts; and in virtually every soldier's



D Company Anti-Tank (MILAN) Platoon moves to the helicopters. Note the quantity of MILAN missiles and size of the rucksacs!



On wings of eagles . . . well almost! Riflemen move to their Pumas on the Pick Up Point prior to a fly-out.

hands were the immediately identifiable transit tubes in which the deadly MILAN anti-armour missiles are packed.

As the infantrymen at the edge of the field formed into double-files angled into the open area, so other individual soldiers, some on foot and some with motorbikes, moved out to the centre of the field and to the piles of netted stores and chain-draped vehicles.

The mist had now dispersed entirely and was replaced by a clear blue sky from which the sun shone warmly on the scene of increasing activity beneath. A steadily rising noise of engines intruded upon the scene: the 'wokka - wokka - wokka' of many helicopter rotors cutting through the morning air. Suddenly the helicopters burst upon the site in a controlled stream of Chinooks, Pumas, Hueys and CH-53s; which moved as if guided by an invisible force to specific pick up points about the field.

In an instant the cornfield was transformed into a frenzy of activity as men hooked loads onto helicopters, troops moved purposefully to board aircraft, and marshallers and riggers directed, moved and assisted the fleet of transport helicopters that was now concentrated on and above the field. Everywhere they worked they were buffeted by the unseen force of the down-draught of the many whirling rotor blades. The whole scene was submerged in a giant, tumbling cloud of dust and blowing chaff, together with a numbing volume of sound that made sign language the only practicable means of communication. However, the need for such communication was minimal as it was instantly evident to an observer that the events unfolding in the field were doing so in accordance with well-known and well-practised drills and procedures.

Within a matter of minutes the flock of helicopters had lifted off with its multiplicity of precious human cargo and material. The dust began to settle, the marshallers moved off the battalion pick up point (for such it was) and a degree of tranquillity returned to the cornfield in Germany. The fly-out of the first wave of



Final checks pre-deployment . . . B Company riflemen aboard a German CH-53 'Jolly Green Giant'.



Debut . . . ATMP of the Mobile MILAN Platoon with soldiers of A Company.

the 1st Battalion en route to a counter-penetration position in the area of Bad Driburg some 100 kilometres to the East was complete. This also signalled the fact that Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD 91 was well and truly under way; representing the culmination of three months of intensive training by the Battalion to convert to the airmobile role in which it was to be thoroughly tested as a unit of the NORTHAG Multi-National Airmobile Division (MNAD) during the exercise. This was the largest deployment of helicopters by NATO since the Alliance's formation.

On 27 May 1990 the Battalion was nearing the end of its two and a half year tour of duty in Hong Kong, which it left in August that year. On 27 May 1991 the soldiers of the 1st Battalion were returning to duty after completing an exacting, eventful but successful five month Operation BANNER roulement tour in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. The order of the day now was conversion to the airmobile role; the third complete change of organization and operational role required of the Battalion within a twelve month period!

The task given to the Commanding Officer, by the Commander 24th Airmobile Brigade, Brigadier Christopher Drewry, was straightforward: the Commander expected the Battalion to be in all respects operational as an Airmobile Infantry Battalion by the time that the Brigade took part in Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD in September. In real terms the Battalion had to achieve the required standard by mid-August as the Brigade Commander had indicated his intention to test the Battalion in its new role on Salisbury Plain at that time! Of course, planning for the conversion had begun even before the Northern Ireland tour, but that tour had prevented anything more than planning being done until May 1991. It was clear that 1 DERR could expect the full support of the Brigade to achieve the task, but that the one commodity that the Brigade Commander could not give the Battalion was additional time, due to the importance of the impending Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD, when the validity of the airmobile concept and way ahead for that concept in NATO would be tested. The Battalion had therefore just under three months in which to achieve a conversion for which nine or ten months is considered normal and desirable!

The nature of the Airmobile Brigade's operational tasks – most of which involve the destruction of large quantities of enemy armoured in huge 'anti-tank ambushes' or counter-penetration positions – means that the level and scale of MILAN anti-tank guided missile expertise within the Battalion is very high: it means some thirty-eight MILAN firing posts. Consequently, there was a requirement to train about eighty soldiers to a formal qualification standard on the weapon and the balance of the Battalion to varying degrees of MILAN competence. The aim was for every soldier to be able to load and fire MILAN, irrespective of his normal job.

This training continued in parallel with a host of helicopter-associated courses and specialist training on the extensive range of vehicles used by an airmobile battalion, some of which are flown forward but many of which join the battalion and the battle at a later stage. One of the most popular cadres was that to train motorcyclists: a very effective means of moving commanders and other key personnel about a devastated battlefield once landed from helicopters. The six wheeled Supacat all-terrain vehicle also proved very popular! In addition to this specialist training the Battalion attended a Brigade-sponsored Airmobile Commanders Cadre at the end of May which set the operational, procedural and training scene for the subsequent months.

During the first half of June the Battalion carried out its first Battalion-level airmobile training exercise at Otterburn Training Area. Despite mixed weather the opportunity to practice 'live' with a variety of AAC and RAF helicopters that which had only been learnt in theory to date proved an invaluable and

unforgettable experience. The incongruity of watching landrovers with trailers moving unsteadily skywards and then swinging gently as they hurtled away firmly attached to the underside of Chinooks will be forever imprinted on the memories of all ranks . . . as will the sight of the landrover released 'accidentally' in mid-flight during the Brigade's fly-out demonstration to the Battalion. The vital role of the riggers and marshallers who make up and check the underslung loads was emphasised most effectively! It was at Otterburn that the use of the fluorescent 'flash cards' that all ranks carry was well-tested . . . infantryman revelling in the ability to 'beam down' a helicopter for a task just by indicating with a card that it was required! By the end of this training period the Battalion felt confident in all of the basic fly-out procedures, and now the time had come to superimpose tactical situations upon those procedures.

A MAPEX involving elements of the MNAD that would train with the Brigade on Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD took place at the Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer (North) (BBGT(N)) in late June and afforded the Battalion an invaluable chance to relate simulated operational scenarios to the procedures practised at Otterburn. This time at BBGT(N) also provided a foretaste of the multi-national nature of the Division of which it would be a part in Germany during September.

The Regimental Signals Officer, Captain Andy Fontana, with the Operations Officer, Captain Peter Dennis, had been experimenting with 'Airmobile Command Posts' for some weeks: trying to meet the need to accommodate the Operations, Intelligence and Indirect Fire Support Cells in a single, portable, low-profile and easily-established shelter that could be attached to the Command Vehicle landrover. By the time that 1 DERR again appeared at the BBGT(N) to exercise at the beginning of July, Tactical HQ had a cut-down 12' x 12' shelter that filled the bill absolutely . . . following a series of in-house 'trials' that would have done justice to a Monty Python programme! During this second period at BBGT(N) the Battalion command teams exercised the counter-penetration operations and procedures that are the primary mission of the Brigade, together with counter-descent and other airmobile operations.

By now, Exercise EAGLES FLIGHT, the Brigade test exercise on Salisbury Plain, was drawing very close indeed. But so also was the end of the period of specialist external MILAN and other courses. So just as the Battalion was about to be formally tested in role the remaining strands of the conversion training were drawing together to a common point.

Without a doubt, the two and a half week period spent on Salisbury Plain was one of the high spots in an overall thoroughly enjoyable conversion training period. An Army-wide lack of pyrotechnics and other training resources simply did not matter, due to the



Language no barrier in NATO! . . . The Mobile MILAN Platoon with CSgt Mallinson and WO2 Maynard on the motorbike load into a German Jolly Green Giant.



Multi-national! A Company R Group with German UH-1D (Huey) helicopter.

apparently unlimited availability of the helicopters that were by now the Battalion's stock-in-trade. There were RAF Chinooks and Pumas, there were AAC Lynx and Gazelles; but in keeping with our multi-national role there were also the UH 1-Ds and CH-53s of the German Armed Forces; the Hueys and 'Jolly Green Giants' of Vietnam War fame.

On The Plain the Battalion became a truly Airmobile Battalion: carrying out all of the tactical operations of which the 24th Airmobile Brigade's battalions are masters. In addition to airmobile operations it conducted a wide range of other tactical training, including the extensive use of the excellent Copehill Down FIBUA facility.

The FIBUA obstacle/assault course will long be remembered by the soldiers of the 1st Battalion . . . and by OC B Company, Major Graham Barlow, in particular (specifically the tunnel complex!) The Commanding Officer, Second-in Command (Major

John Silvester) and the Operations Officer wisely tackled the course without an audience! This training period will also be remembered for OC A Company's (Major Russ Wardle) 'vertical envelopment' with his roof landing from a Lynx helicopter!

At last on Salisbury Plain the soldiers who had persevered with the dead-weight of MILAN missiles, firing posts and MIRA on the early training exercises at Otterburn and Catterick were able to appreciate how those weapon systems fitted into the overall tactical scheme and were complemented by the speed and flexibility of airmobile deployment.

The Battalion test exercise set and directed by Commander 24th Airmobile Brigade culminated in an operation to attack an enemy position at the other end of The Plain by a Battalion air assault: utilizing about thirty helicopters for a one-wave airlift. The image of a sky virtually black with stacked helicopters, the surging dust clouds, the noise of the rotors and the sight of the assault companies' riflemen moving rapidly into the support helicopters, swiftly to be whisked



Airborne! . . . Command Vehicle 2 in an unfamiliar element!



Truly 'all terrain vehicles': even airborne!! Two Supacat ATMP whirl skywards on fly-out.

away skywards and to the forthcoming battle, will live in the memories of all ranks for many years to come: epitomizing as it did the essence and true nature of airmobility. Suffice to say, the Battalion was judged to have well-passed its trade test on Exercise EAGLES FLIGHT and was now entirely ready to take its full place in the 24th Airmobile Brigade order of battle.

The Battalion left Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plain confident of its ability to fulfil its professional obligations on Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD 91 and looking forward very much to doing so.

In the pre-dawn darkness of a German autumn morning the schloss (or small castle) in which Headquarters 24th Airmobile Brigade had established itself looked somewhat sinister and forbidding: the more so due to the blackout imposed to achieve concealment. From time to time a splash of light would illuminate part of the area as a door was opened and hastily shut again. The only permanent illumination was that of the green-glowing beta light arrows, guiding vehicles and pedestrians along the muddy lane leading past darkened fields and hedgerows to the schloss.

It was to this scene that the Battalion Reconnaissance Group (the 'R' Group'), (comprising the Commanding Officer, Operations Officer, Battalion Anti-Armour Officer (Captain Bill Wilson), Mortar Officer (Captain Andy Smallbone), Intelligence Officer (Captain Graham Brown) and supporting 38th Field Battery Royal Artillery Commander (Major Keith Miller), was summoned just after midnight in order to commence the planning sequence that would ultimately launch the Battalion into battle.

They worked on rickety folding tables, surrounded by the personal weapons, equipment and other paraphernalia of war, in the uncertain light of a series of low-wattage and generator-powered bulbs. They were



A Super-Cat or sixwheel "moon-buggy" with (from left) Privates Paul Mead, Neil Keenan and Michael McCann, all from Reading.

fortified with steaming mugs of well-stewed tea and coffee, as they listened to the Brigade Chief of Staff, briefing on the developing Army Group, Corps and Brigade concepts for the forthcoming counter-penetration operation; they then began to make appropriate contingency plans. An atmosphere of constrained urgency, expectation and confidence in the application of well-proven procedures prevailed over the scene.

As the first hint of dawn streaked the sky outside the barn being used as a planning area so the MNAD and Brigade plans were confirmed by the arrival by facsimile (fax) of an Initial Map Plan (IMP) from the Brigade Commander, who at this stage was at the Headquarters of the NMAD. The unit IMPs, in embryo at this time, were rapidly produced as detailed deployment plans which, after coordination with all other battalions, as well as with 9th Regiment AAC and the Royal Engineers supporting the Brigade, were photocopied and passed by unit couriers to the company commanders waiting about 30 kilometres away in the unit concentration areas.

Once the Battalion IMP had been received, the company commanders refined the unit plan into the even more detailed plans and orders necessary to produce a matrix of anti-armour positions on the ground, from which no enemy armoured force could hope to escape once the trap was sprung. Concurrently, the Battalion Pick Up Point (PUP) staff, headed by the Battalion Second-in-Command with the RSM, WO1 (RSM) 'Toby' North, and the Air Adjutant, Captain Norman Minty (who, as MTO, never quite understood the correlation between wheels and air that had landed him one of the busiest appointments in the Battalion!), developed the detailed movement and fly-out plans that would produce the Battalion at the right place and with the correct equipment in order to carry out its mission.

Some time after the despatch of the IMP to the Battalion Headquarters the R Group lifted off from a field adjacent to the schloss in a Lynx helicopter. This was some 90 minutes ahead of the rest of the Battalion in order to allow the R Group to conduct a final confirmatory reconnaissance in the deployment area. This 'Reconnaissance Wave' was the first time that the commanders would see the ground on which the battle would be fought: all planning so far having been based solely upon map appreciations.

The original scene of activity at the Battalion PUP South of Munster was mirrored on a smaller scale and with a reversal of procedures at the several company, headquarters and special task Drop Off Points (DOP) to the South of Bad Driburg. A steady stream of helicopters plied to and fro, disgorging troops, under-slung vehicles, trailers and other loads, equipment and motorcyclists; also ferrying and repositioning soldiers and equipment within the deployment area. Within a couple of hours the main elements of the Battalion

were on the ground and the air movement reduced to the movement of follow-on logistic stores, together with two Pumas carrying out a miscellany of on-site tasks for the Battalion and its companies.

The airmobile role is by its very nature one of extreme contrasts, and this is never more so than where the operation involved is counter-penetration. The deployment is preceded by feverish activity to plan and set up the deployment, which is then often followed by long hours awaiting the fly-out or a critical change of weather; such as the lifting of mist and fog to facilitate flying. There is then a short period in which everything seems to be happening at once as the Battalion is lifted out and over a distance usually in excess of 100 kilometres to its deployment area. Whether for an essentially defensive operation such as counter-penetration, or for the more heart-quicken- ing offensive options, such as air assault, there is an almost tangible excitement or 'buzz' evident throughout the Battalion as its first waves soar skywards to achieve their mission.

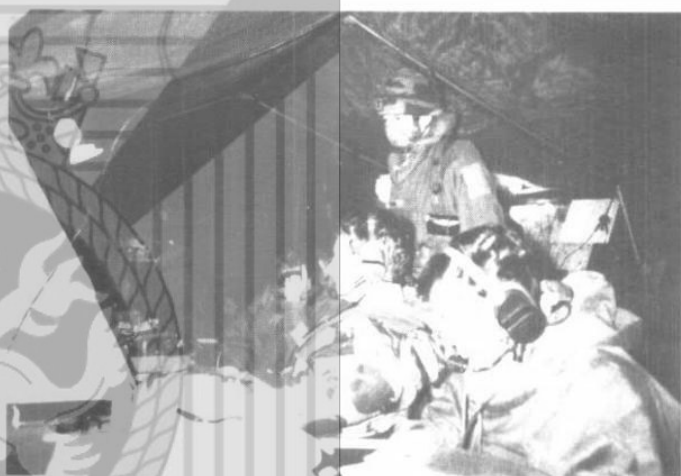
However, once separated from the helicopters, the 'sky soldiers' of an airmobile unit exhibit capabilities no different from those of ordinary infantry, their only means of movement being on foot, or by use of the small number of light vehicles air-lifted forward with the fly-in waves. This situation continues for up to 48 hours (the earliest probable time of arrival in war of elements of the Brigade's road party), during which time the Battalion must be entirely self-sufficient. The rationale for the dead-weight of the hundred pound-plus rucksacs and the need to hand-carry so many MILAN missiles on fly-in is self-evident.

After the excitement of the move, the subsequent period of time spent preparing the MILAN positions, laying communications wire, building obstacles, digging rifle and GPMG trenches and generally carrying out on the ground all that which the use of airmobility for deployment has made possible, is something of an anti-climax. It is also a period of sheer hard work by all members of the Battalion! This perhaps underlines the stage which the concept of airmobility has achieved within 24th Airmobile Brigade: it is currently a means to several tactical and operational ends rather than an end in itself. However, it is a concept that continues to evolve.

During its conversion to the Airmobile role the Battalion practised not only the Brigade's operational staple of counter-penetration, but also its part in the whole range of tactical options open to an airmobile formation commander. Within the Brigade the Battalion is tasked specifically with leading on the offensive application of airmobility, which in its most advanced form involves air envelopment and air assault. It is intended that limited offensive operations will be practised extensively during what may be one of the Battalion's last formal exercises in the airmobile role at STANTA during May 1992. The Battalion is



Embus! B Company Anti-Tank (MILAN) Platoon load onto a Chinook prior to the fly-forward.



Home from home! The Commanding Officer and Operations Officer with others in the TAC HQ Command Post on Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD.

also scheduled currently to carry out a major demonstration of air assault for members of the Army Board whilst at STANTA in May.

The anti-armour role of the Brigade means that great emphasis is placed upon maximising the enormous potential of the MILAN weapon system, and the Battalion will validate its anti-armour operational capability during a live-firing Battalion counter-penetration exercise staged as the finale to Exercise TRUMPET DANCE 2 in the United States during March 1992. A number of MILAN missiles will be fired by up to thirty firing posts in the course of this Battalion-level anti-armour engagement. Other airmobile and infantry skills will also be practised during this major overseas exercise using and in some instances supported by US Army and USAF resources and units.

The days, weeks and months from 27 May to the end of Exercise CERTAIN SHIELD 91 on 20 September 1991 was for the 1st Battalion not only an intensely busy coordinated period of training but also involved



"A fine piece of equipment, which gives our anti-tank missiles that extra mobility and speed," was the verdict of (front, from left) Lance Corporal James Bowman, Private Graham Pearce; (rear from left) Private Andrew Jones, Colour Sergeant Peter Mallinson, Privates Duncan Banks and Ty Baines, all from Swindon.

FEROZESHAH 1991

The Parade to mark the 146th Anniversary of the Battle of Ferozeshah contrasted significantly with recent parades in several respects. Not only was the scale (with four guards) much larger than that practicable in the active service environment of Northern Ireland in 1990 but the climatic conditions were very different from those of Hong Kong in 1989.

Applying the principle of 'ready for anything' the parade rehearsals took place in driving rain, gales, dense fog, sunshine, bitter cold, pleasant warmth and in snowdrifts: all during a three week period! In view of the weather for which Catterick is notorious much attention was also paid to developing and rehearsing the indoor or 'wet weather' parade: utilizing the extensive covered space afforded by the Battalion's Airmobile Training Centre. Daily projections by the RAF Catterick Meteorology Office all indicated that an indoor parade was highly probable. Indeed, the Dress Rehearsal on the Thursday (at which the

the complete re-organisation and re-rolling of the Battalion. This necessitated a fundamental change in philosophy, outlook and priorities for all ranks: from the more familiar and straightforward requirements of Northern Ireland and Hong Kong, to the wider General War and multi-national concepts of air-mobility and the all-arms battle in Central Europe. That the task set by Commander 24th Airmobile Brigade was achieved reflects great credit upon all ranks of the Battalion. But it would be wrong to imply that meeting this challenge was in any case anything less than thoroughly enjoyable and professionally most satisfying. This made for an absorbing learning experience to which the whole Battalion was totally committed.

Mere words cannot fully capture the atmosphere and ethos of airmobile operations within the United Kingdom's only Airmobile Brigade. Suffice to say then that only those who have experienced the role at first-hand can truly appreciate its uniqueness, its modernity, its breath-taking speed (often contrasted with periods of relative inactivity), its demands upon commanders for flexibility of thought and action, as well as for their breadth of vision. However, it is only by the further expansion and extension of that which has been developed so far that the potential capability of airmobility within the British Army will be fully realised. The soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment are justly proud of their not inconsiderable contribution to the advancement of a concept that will unquestionably dominate the military thinking and capability aspirations of many nations into the next century.

Inspecting Officer was Colonel (Retd) Desmond Redding (late DERR)) was conducted in a biting east wind; this was followed by blizzard conditions on the Friday, necessitating the use of snow-ploughs and HQ Company personnel to clear and grit the Battalion Square in the apparently vain hope of a fine day on Saturday 21st December. The Commanding Officer had indicated that 0930 hours would be 'decision time' on the day of the Parade and, after the very hard work put in by all ranks on rehearsals, fingers were firmly crossed for the Parade to be conducted in full, on the Square as planned.

Saturday dawned cold, with mist and light, drizzly rain. The snow of the previous day showed no signs of recurring, although the small white mountains dotted about the edges of the square testified to the amount that had fallen the previous day. Decision time drew nearer, with the RSM, becoming more apprehensive as it looked increasingly as if an indoor parade would

be ordered. A thick drizzle drifted across the Square.

At 0915 hours the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and RSM met by the spectator stands. "Right, we'll go for it, and hope that the weather doesn't become any worse!" the Commanding Officer said. The die was cast, the spectator seats were positioned in the covered stands, and the Battalion was informed that the Parade was on. In deference to a gradually increasing wind the order was also given to march on with chin-straps down.

At 1030 hours the Inspecting Officer, Major General M.J.D. Walker OBE, GOC NEDIST and 2nd Infantry Division and Mrs Walker arrived at Battalion HQ for coffee. All other official guests were hosted to coffee in the Airmobile Training Centre before being ushered to their seats in the covered (and heated) stands. The official guests included the Commander 24 Airmobile Brigade, Commander Catterick Garrison and the Commanding Officers of all the 24 Airmobile Brigade units.

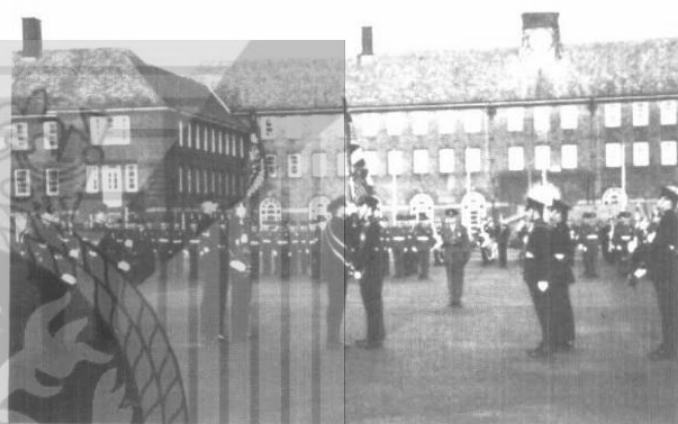
At 1045 hours the Battalion marched onto the Square just as gusting easterly winds carried increasingly heavy showers across Catterick. At 1055 hours the Commanding Officer took command of the Parade and the Escort to the Colours (found by A Company commanded by Major Wardle) marched on parade; the Colour Ensigns (Lieutenants Bailey and Woodhouse) battling manfully (and successfully) to maintain control of the Colours in the strong winds.

The Parade proceeded faultlessly through the sequence of General Salute, Inspection and March Past to the point at which the Charge was delivered to the WOs and Sergeants by the Commanding Officer. Remarkably, it was as if the weather had become of no consequence as the drill movements were performed immaculately, giving the 'feel' of a memorable Ferozeshah Parade in the making.

With the Charge delivered, the handover of the Colours to Colour Sergeants Mallinson and Sumner



The WOs' and Sgts' Colour Party.



The handover of the Colours.

proceeded. The WOs' and Sergeants' Colour Party was commanded by WO2 Maynard.

The Parade continued, with the change of No 1 and No 4 Guards, followed by the Trooping of the Regimental Colour and the second March Past. The RSM's Guard was found by C (Support) Company, of which WO2 (CSM) Hole is the Company Sergeant Major.



Maj Gen Walker inspecting A Company escorted by Maj Wardle and the Commanding Officer. The Queen's Colour ensign is Lt Bailey.



Maj. Gen. Walker inspecting the Corps of Drums escorted by the Commanding Officer and the Drum Major.

Finally, the Commanding Officer reported to Major General Walker for permission to march off. In granting this, the GOC commented at length upon the turnout, bearing and steadiness of all on parade, as well as upon the excellence of the drill achieved: apparently unaffected by the now very adverse weather conditions. He commented later to the Commanding Officer that the performance on parade exemplified the reputation for professionalism that the Battalion had earned in NEDIST. He further directed that all ranks were to be granted an additional day of leave!

As the Colours, escorted by the RSM's Guard, and then the Battalion marched off the Square that wet and windy day in December, the Band and Drums struck up 'The Farmer's Boy'. Many soldiers' thoughts must have turned to wondering how many more such Regimental occasions there would be prior to 1994. But that is for the future, and for now all ranks on parade took immense and justifiable satisfaction in

having participated in a memorable and historic Ferozeshah, that more than lived up to the standards of the Parades of previous years.

An unforgettable day culminated in the Ferozeshah Ball: a lavish evening of entertainment, which included the Corps of Drums Display and (on monitors in the background) an 'action replay' of the Parade on video, as well as an extensive buffet, excellent music and unfailing good company. The return of the Colours to the Officers at midnight formally ended Ferozeshah 1991: a day that epitomised the Regimental pride, steadiness and professionalism of the 1st Battalion. It also rounded off most effectively the two years that had passed since the last full Ferozeshah Parade in Hong Kong: a period of 24 months that has been breathtaking for its turbulence and the range of events in which the Battalion has been involved, but during which sight has never been lost of the firm base of Regimental tradition for which the Regiment is renowned.

FREEDOM MARCHES



Officers and SNCOs Freedom Marches 1991

During the period 24-26 October 1991 the Battalion exercised its right to the freedom of Wallingford, Abingdon and Chippenham. The first two towns for the first time since 1983, and Chippenham for the first time ever. The freedom march party consisted of the Band and Drums, a Colour Party and a composite guard based on A Company and commanded by Major Russ Wardle. Only one week was available for drill and rehearsals, but thanks to the hard work of WO2 (CSM) Andy Henwood, an excellent standard was achieved. This was despite some horrendous tailoring problems! The AYT deserve mention for their liaison and administrative help.

Security considerations means that Freedom Marches are, inevitably, over a very short distance so, in order to justify the effort put in, a Band and Drums performance was staged along each route. This proved to be very popular with the spectators though less popular with the troops who had to stand still throughout.

Despite limited publicity, large crowds were attracted to each venue. Just before stepping off at Wallingford the police informed us that the local youths had bought up the town's stock of fireworks and we should expect to come under fire. Happily the parade passed without incident, with the Colonel of the Regiment taking the salute alongside the Mayor. The SNCO's and Officers were hosted to an excellent cocktail party, and the Mayor and Town Council seemed to enjoy themselves greatly.

At Abingdon the crowds had a double length Band display, much to the discomfort of the Escort to the Colours. This was due to the elderly Mace Bearer having difficulty with the regulation 116 paces per minute, which resulted in the Lady Mayor being late. The Lady Mayor was particularly pleased when, during the civic reception, one of the drummers told her, "You're not like a Mayor, you're more like my Mum!"

The last march, through Chippenham, managed to get the local television cameras to attend. A short spot on HTV was the result. The bad sides of the Chippenham march were that the OC was bayoneted by Pte Coney just before the march resulting in much blood on the Council Chamber floor, and worse still, the coach journey back meant no one saw the Rugby World Cup Final – the sacrifices we make!

What was achieved? Some publicity, a lot of goodwill, confirmation that all three towns hope to honour the amalgamated Regiment and, purely coincidentally, an enjoyable week for everyone involved.

Exercise Red Shank

As part of the Regular Army Assistance, 1 DERR was tasked to assist the All Arms Tactics Wing at the School of Infantry on EX RED SHANK. This was the final exercise of the TA Company Commanders Course, when aspiring TA Company Commanders were given the opportunity to play with a "real train set (A and B Company)" in the field in a non mechanized general war setting during all phases of war.

The commitment called for two full rifle companies to support the Demonstration Battalion (1 R IRISH) and along with A Company 7 GR would form the infamous 1 WARMINSTER VOLUNTEERS. Both A and B Company required considerable reinforcement to meet the task and then only with the help of the PNCO cadre, who used it as their final exercise.

It was on a cold November morning that we finally met up with the students who came from a considerably mixed and varied background ranging from one member of the TA SAS with 14 years regular Army experience to a Captain in 2 YORKS with 20 years in the TA having begun as a Private. They all had two things in common: they had given up two weeks of their holiday to attend and they were very keen. Each Company received 5 students to fill the command appointments with the real commander acting as his runner. Unlike the regular company commanders course the TA students, who were often very inexperienced in the All Arms battle, required a great deal of advice and coaxing, and some more than others!

Over the four days the companies were worked hard only pausing for appointment changes. To say that the exercise went smoothly would be an understatement, but great credit must go to the JNCOs and soldiers who despite some very dubious orders by the students (and a lot of running about by the real commanders) made the plan work. The exercise culminated with a Battalion attack on the Soviet trench position with A and B Companies as the lead assault element. The attack was pushed home in true Regimental style which must have been reminiscent of the bloody trench warfare days of World War One.

Considering that the Battalion has not worked in a true all arms environment with armour in close support since OSNABRUCK we did extremely well, and the TA students all agreed that it was not easy being the OC in charge of a large and demanding "trainset". It did however bring to a welcome end an extremely busy and demanding year . . . apart from the preparations for FERROZESHAN.

NOTES FROM THE MESSES

Officers Mess

Ostensibly based at Catterick it may be, but the Officers Mess has literally been a movable feast throughout 1991.

The end of 1990 saw the colours, silver and pictures packed up and moved to St Angelo camp for the "Op Banner" tour as the Fermanagh Roulement Battalion. Though St Angelo was the battalion mess, members lived all over the TAOR, either permanently, as in the case of B and C/Sp Company and Battalion Headquarters, or temporarily, as in the case of the long-suffering young Officers in charge of the remote and vulnerable PVCs – of which much more is said elsewhere in the Journal.

Despite the high tempo of operations several functions were enjoyed by the mess. A successful cocktail party reinforced our friendships with 4 UDR, and several senior Officers and politicians, including the Brigade Commander, the GOC, and Lord Belstead, the Northern Ireland security minister, were entertained to lunch. The highlight of the tour was the private visit of The Colonel-in-Chief on 11 February 1991.

Despite a hectic schedule in Belfast, time was made for the Colonel-in-Chief to fly to St Angelo for lunch in the mess. The mess photograph recording the visit is evidence of the pace of life; 16 Officers present and 18 on operations! The tour finished with lunches for the

RUC and the UDR Officers who had become firm friends and allies during the tour.

After a well earned leave the Battalion began its conversion to the Airmobile role in Catterick. Major Simon Cook was not too unhappy to hand over the onerous task of PMC to Major Russ Wardle as quickly as he could, and Sgt Murrell and the staff soon found themselves shifting the mess to Otterburn Training Area. An exhausting training schedule and lack of a handy local pub ensured high bar profits during this period.

The next move was to Salisbury Plain, and more specifically to West Down Camp. The mess highlight of the exercise was an excellent cocktail party held in the garden at the Wardrobe and attended by Officers from Brigade Headquarters and every unit, minor and major in the Brigade. A lovely summer evening, the Regimental Band, and the superb setting of the event ensured that nobody present failed to have a good evening. Rumour has it that the Glosters present began to warm to the amalgamation that night! Finally, from a travel point of view, the mess partly occupied a corner of a German barn for 2 weeks in September 1991 during Exercise Certain Shield, the multinational Airmobile exercise that was the real test of the conversion period.

Immediately on return from Germany an Autumn Ball was held. Almost 250 people enjoyed a weekend



The Colonel in Chief with the Officers, St. Angelo Camp.

of clay pigeon shooting, the Band and Drums, a superb supper, dancing and an extremely professional casino. The evening was so well organised that the Commanding Officer even managed to win back the price of his tickets! Torrential rain failed to ruin the evening, even for the officer who used the "Bouncy Castle" at midnight only to discover that it had become a swimming pool. For those with an iron constitution, a Jazz brunch occupied much of the Sunday.

Various Brigade and Garrison Officers have been entertained to Mess Dinner Nights, and a Ladies Dinner doubled as a farewell to John and Eileen Silvester. The highlight of that night was a very amusing, and largely true, "This is Your Life" about John organised by Pete Mullings. Finally, a wet Ferozeshah was followed by a very enjoyable lunch where our Officers steamed gently alongside our many guests. In all cases our reputation as a friendly and generous mess has been enhanced.

What about Officers leaving the mess, and those joining us? If the last Officers Location list had an Officer listed as 1st Battalion and this Journal does not, they have left us. If they were away and are now 1st Battalion, they have joined us! We extend our thanks and best wishes to all those who have moved on and welcome all new arrivals, hoping they have an enjoyable tour here in Catterick.

WOs and SGTs Mess

On our return to Bourlon Barracks from the Op BANNER tour we held a summer ball which was the first time we had been together with our wives in the newly refurbished Mess since early November 1990. Unfortunately the PMC experienced a lot of difficulty planning other Mess functions due to exercises on Salisbury Plain and later in Germany.

In September we held a routine Mess meeting at Stonehenge. The event which was designed to give the Regiment some favourable publicity was misrepresented by the Press which published a story linking the meeting to a protest against the recent announcement of the forthcoming amalgamation with the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. It was of course nothing of the sort. During EX CERTAIN SHIELD in Germany a contingent of our members visited Joe le Strange's wife, Anneta, and also laid a wreath on Joe's grave from all WOs and SNCOs.

Just short of 50 members attended the Eighth Annual Sgts Past and Present Dinner at Arborfield, which was again thoroughly enjoyed by us all. The Mess is ready to take on the challenge of hosting the dinner at Catterick in 1992 if commitments permit.

Preparations for this year's Ferozeshah celebrations are well underway with WO2 Andy Henwood being tasked with a small Committee to prepare all



WO's and Sgt's Mess, Summer Ball 1991.



WO1 (RSM) Toby North with WO2 Pete Maynard.



WO2 Nimmo, WO2 Gill. At the wreath laying in Germany on J Le Strange's grave.

arrangements for the ball. WO2 Pete Maynard has been nominated for the Colour Party along with CSgts Duke Sumner, Phil Watson, Pete Goddard, Sgts Bob Owens, Paul Brightman and Jim Parsons.

Pete Maynard is especially pleased with his selection as the Colour Party Sergeant Major as this will be his last Ferozeshah before he is due to complete his 22 years.

The WOs' and Sgts' Mess now look forward to the challenges that await us in 1992 with, of course, excited anticipation for Ex TRUMPET DANCE in America in March.

The Mess has welcomed into the fold on promotion:

Sgt Boris Alden

Sgt Ray Bowler

and welcomed back:

CSgt Goddard

CSgt McIntyre

Sgt Brightman

Sgt Coombs

The following are congratulated on promotion:

WO2 to WO1 – WO2 John Coupland

WO2 Paul Miller

WO2 Ginger Nicholson

CSgt to WO2 – CSgt Geoff Williams

CSgt Jerry Decarteret

CSgt Martin Truman

CSgt Stewart Nimmo

Sgt to CSgt –

Sgt Hall

Sgt Herbert

Sgt Probets

Sgt Goddard

Sgt Watson

Sgt Davies

WO1 (RSM) S.P. North

RSM (Toby) North enlisted into the Army on 9th March 1970. After completing his basic training at the Wessex Brigade Depot Exeter he joined the 1st Battalion in Catterick on 30th June 1971. In 1972 he attended a Potential NCO's Cadre and was promoted to Lance Corporal. It was around this time that his skill at boxing came to light when representing B Company in the inter-company boxing. His successful boxing career continued for many years, from representing the battalion in the Army Open Finals at Ballykinler until the battalion won the BAOR novice and intermediate championships in 1980/81.

He remained in B Company as a Section Commander serving in Berlin, Ballykinler and Shoeburyness from where he was posted to Depot Lichfield as a Corporal Instructor with the Junior Soldiers Company. On returning to the 1st Battalion, he rejoined B Company as a member of the Brecon Demonstration Platoon acting as Pl Sgt.

In 1978 he was promoted to Sergeant.

In 1981 he attended the selection course at Sandhurst to become a Weapon Training Instructor. He was posted to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst from 1981 until 1983 when he returned to the 1st Battalion as Company Quartermaster Sergeant of A Company in Canterbury.

On promotion to Warrant Officer class 2 he remained with A Company as Company Sergeant Major. It was during this time the battalion moved to Aldergrove and he narrowly escaped injury in Dungannon when an IRA mortar attack completely destroyed the portacabin he and other members of Company headquarters were in at the time.

After a successful tour as Company Sergeant Major he was again posted to the Depot Lichfield in November 1986. It was here in April 1989 he was promoted to Warrant Officer class 1 and posted as RSM to the Depot Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

The 1st Battalion at this period was also serving in Hong Kong. He played a major role during this time in fostering memorable social events between the Battalion and his mainly Chinese Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess.

His tour with the Hong Kong Military Service Corps was cut short for him to assume the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major with the 1st Battalion on its return to Catterick in July 1990.

At the time of going to press it has been announced



WO1 (RSM) S.P. North

that WO1 North is to be commissioned in 1992 and will be posted as Coy 21C to the Junior Leader Regiment Bramcote.

The Corporals Mess

Towards the end of Hong Kong the Corporals Mess said farewell to some of its older Mess members like Cpl Jimmy Wright BEM, Cpl Dave Rose who used to be the long serving Mess Manager running the bars in Canterbury and Hong Kong, and Cpl Andy Cook.

From patrolling the borders of HK to the borders of Fermanagh which was real testing ground for the JNCOs to show their skills and control over their fire teams. The tour was very successful considering some of the events that occurred. Cpl Boris Alden (now Sgt) was the first soldier in the Province to use the .50 Browning HMG at Gortmullan on 20 April, which I'm sure the terrorist did not appreciate. Cpl Dean Coupland didn't appreciate missing his heli-lift due to a contact on 15 February when 360 GPMG empty cases were found close to the border after two attempts were made on shooting the helicopter down.

Cpl Bard considered celebrating in April after his section came across a hide consisting of several bottles of poteen which was later seized by HM Customs. Talking of celebrations the boys at Kilturk nearly missed out on Xmas when Ernie drove his milk float into the PVCP on 20 December not to deliver a present – but a hoax device.

After getting back home from the wet boggy land of Fermanagh and going on a well earned leave, we had to change our operational role and get into Airmobile warfare. This meant a change of weapon system to the MILAN which we soon realised had to be carried everywhere. Congratulations should go to all those NCOs who have completed the MILAN DC's course and to Cpls Brown and Harper who both gained a distinction, well done.

There has been very little discussion on Mess matters, due to the fact that there hasn't been a Mess as such. The NAAFI has run the bars but the PMC, Cpl Carey, is still trying to get our own Mess and has been since June 91 with Cpl Tiny Parrett waiting impatiently to run the bar as Mess Manager.

The PMC, and his Committee have arranged a few functions, the restaurant night in June and the summer ball in July, when the Mess said farewell to some more veterans, Cpl Dave Hawkins BEM, Cpl Keith Bennett and Cpl Ray Coates.

It was a quiet month during August and in October certain members tried out their vocal cords at a Karaoke night with Cpl Steve Harris and LCpl Pike Calcutt being the main contenders. Also in October there was a casino night which went well and members enjoyed their flutters with the horse racing and roulette.

Hopefully with more functions planned for the future members will support the Mess and take advantage of the Satellite TV, pool table, darts, snooker and, of course, the traditional dice nights on pub nights each Wednesday along with a chance to win £60 from the draw.

The Mess has said farewell to those members who have left on promotion to sergeant, Cpl John Crew, Cpl Ray Bowler and to stay, hopefully! this time Cpl Boris Alden. The Chairman, PMC and all Mess members wish them all the very best for the rest of their careers.

The Cpls Mess now looks forward to the Xmas Draw, Ferozeshah Parade and a well earned Christmas and New Year leave.

Regimental Band

1991 has been something of an unsettling year for the Regimental Band with the uncertainty of how 'Options for change' is likely to affect Army Music. Rumours, of course, abound with the permutations of how Army Bands are to be organised almost endless but never the less despite all that the Band has enjoyed a successful year both musically and militarily.

Op Banner took the Band away from music for the first quarter of 1991 with the musicians spread amongst the Rifle Companies. Although Soldiering is fairly unfamiliar ground for the majority of the Band it was most refreshing to hear the reports from Company Commanders and Sergeant Majors on how well the Bandsmen had settled into the role and the success with which they carried out their duties.

After leave the Band became musically operational again on the 17th June when we travelled to the Depot Prince of Wales Division Lichfield where we amalgamated with the Band of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment for the County Military Reception. Bandmasters Hatton (1 DERR) and North (1 DWR) shared conducting and the performance on the Square was warmly received by a large audience.

Engagements soon came rolling in and the Band has travelled extensively throughout the Country with performances in Scotland, York, Harrogate, Berkshire, Wiltshire and many more too numerous to mention.

Certainly the most notable engagement of the year was held in Portsmouth on the 1st August when we joined the Band of the Royal Hampshire Regiment for the Battalion's Minden day celebrations. The Parade was held in front of the Guildhall in the presence of their Colonel in Chief HRH The Princess of Wales.

The parade was excellent and viewed by thousands of spectators. As expected the rapport between both Bands was superb and WO1 (BM) Calum Grey was particularly delighted with our support. This relationship is bound to continue as we have invited the

Royal Hampshire Band to joins us on Exercise Trumpet Dance 2, an event we are looking forward to enormously.

Sadly, each journal usually means a paragraph about departures and we are to lose LCpl Chris Wilson after 12 years, LCpl Chris Minton to the Norfolk Constabulary after 9 years and LCpl Mark Hutchinson



Longest serving Bdsn Cpl Wayne Thomas (no substitute for experience).



The Fanfare Trumpets

to transfer to the Royal Engineers Staff Band. All these have given excellent service to the Regimental Band and will be sadly missed. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

1992 also sees Bdsn Chris Shields and Steve Fricker on their Pupils course at the Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall and the return of Bdsn John Trounson and Paul Thompson. John Trounson, in



The Regimental Band 1991



CSgt Finley playing fanfare for the Princess Royal.

particular should be congratulated on winning the Piano prize at Kneller Hall and Jason Wrobel who was this year voted Bdsman of the year (DERR) by the Band WOs' and SNCOs'.

At the time of publication we should know our future but whatever the outcome we are sure the singing in harmony of 'The Farmer's Boy' will continue for many a year.

"Dukes Help Dukes" by Bandsman Reed

After the Regimental Band had rushed to the aid of the 1st Battalion the Royal Hampshire Regiment to "enhance the sound of the band" (theirs not ours) on Minden Day, three members were again asked to aid yet another band. This time venturing beyond the realms of the Prince of Wales' Division to join the Regimental Band of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) on their recent tour of Denmark.

After the long trek to Picton Barracks, Bulford, the three musicians (Cpl Morgan, Bdsman Reed and Bdsman Fricker) were met by Band Sergeant Major Mick Haydock and, after sorting out our accommodation, we were introduced to some other members of the band who took us out to "see the sights" of Amesbury.

We finally departed Picton Barracks at 2215hrs. It was yet another prime case of "hurry up and wait", since we arrived at LEAROSE, Denmark at 0830hrs local time.

Finally reaching our accommodation (with of course, an en suite shower and two basins), and despite our lack of sleep during the night, we awaited the arrival of the instruments ready for our first engagement in Denmark that evening – this was not to be however, as the Band instruments arrived at 0059hrs after travelling overland to join us. The little rest we managed to receive before our first rehearsal with the band the following day proved well needed as the days unfolded.

Since the evening after our rehearsal was left to ourselves, we decided to venture into the nearest town, BIRKERÖD (aptly pronounced as "Beer-ker-roll"). It wasn't until we had walked about 1km that we discovered that we were headed in the wrong direction!

After adjusting our course, we attempted to cross the road. A lesson was quickly learned, for had it not been for his well trained ear, Bdsman Reed could have been fatally injured after instinctively looking right instead of left.

We finally arrived at a Pub with a barman who spoke colloquial American and, Denmark being renowned (amongst other things) for its brewing of Carlsberg, we each ordered a bottle. It was then we realized how expensive Denmark is in relation to UK, a small bottle of Carlsberg costing 17Kr. (about 1.55 sterling).

It didn't take us long to notice that almost all the females in Denmark are stunning blondes. So, playing the "We've just arrived in Denmark, where are the best places to go?" routine, we managed to befriend some of the local lasses. Lise and Nene took us under their wings, after telling us the name of the local discotheque, we were introduced to their clique of friends and a bit of colloquial Danish (avidly scribbled down, practised and demonstrated countless times by Bdsman Fricker).

For our first engagement we had the honour of playing incidental music at a cocktail party in the large grounds of a mansion south of LEAROSE. The Band were, of course, the main entertainment, not only for their musical performance but also for the (what must have been hilarious) moments as they grabbed for their music blowing in the tornadic wind caused by a helicopter landing. It was at this function that we also discovered what a marvellous "Dance" Band the Duke of Wellington's Band have (caused by the blood-hungry mosquitoes darting amongst us), with

Sgt Dave Cropper mimicking an unpractised Morris Dancer sans bells.

After liaison (and "financial persuasion") with a Danish MT driver, an afternoon trip to Copenhagen was organized. Copenhagen proved to be a wondrous city, aesthetically comparable to Edinburgh or Oxford. We spent the afternoon souvenir shopping and enjoying the musical delights of the many buskers dotted around the city before taking a well-earned break in a Karaoke bar.

Our first Sunday morning was spent rehearsing for an AMF(L) parade that afternoon. After fighting through the rehearsals, Cpl Morgan unfortunately had to be excused the parade insisting that it wasn't the alcohol content in his blood or the fact that he had only slept for an hour the previous night, but that he had a "mosquito bite" on his ankle (which, after the parade, he insisted on showing everyone since no-one had believed him).

The following week was spent with various PR engagements, playing stand-up concerts in different shopping precincts, with varying audiences of 2 to 50.

On the Saturday we played a Beating Retreat at an Army camp somewhere in Denmark (I think even the driver was unsure as to where). We arrived at 0900hrs to find, after much confusion caused by the language barrier, that we were playing a Beating Retreat preceded by a cocktail party to commence at 1900hrs (only 10 hours early – surely this is a record?!). The Beating Retreat went extremely well, considering that no-one in the band could see all of their music all of the time since dusk arrived long before play.

The highlight of the tour occurred on the day before our departure from Denmark when the Band and Drums merged for a musical extravaganza in the grounds of the British Embassy. With almost every other piece being a solo, the audience of 1500 enjoyed every moment of the performance with the one exception being a dog who attacked the solo Trombonist.

On reflection, Denmark is a beautiful country, one I would happily visit again, with many wondrous sights and friendly people who have a marvellous grasp of the English language, and are not afraid to demonstrate the fact. Our thanks go not only to the Regimental Band of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) but, of course, to all concerned in giving us the chance to have such wonderful experiences in such a wonderful country.

SHOOTING

The Battalion has managed to maintain a good level of shooting training throughout what has been a very difficult period. Despite the constraints of the Northern Ireland tour the very busy Airmobile conversion period and ammunition shortages we have

produced some very creditable results in both Match 72 The Company Shield (better known as the Tickle) and the Young Officers' Skill at Arms Competitions. Thanks largely to Captain Minty there was also a fruitful full bore competition which ran throughout the duration of the Northern Ireland tour.

The results of the Company Shield were especially encouraging, when compared with other units who devote much more time to shooting. A special mention must go to A and B Companies but the whole Battalion deserves congratulations for a fine performance. The results were as follows:

Position	Unit	Score (HPS 2550)	Cash prize
1	D Coy 1 WFR	2525	£110
2	C Coy 1 WFR	2511	£106
3	A Coy 1 WFR	2504	£102
4	B Coy 1 WFR	2421	£96
5	B Coy 6 GR	2371	£92
6	C Coy 6 GR	2329	£88
7	Sp Coy 6 GR	2278	£84
8	B Coy 3 R ANGLIAN	2262	£80
9	B Coy 1 DERR	2221	£76
13	A Coy 1 DERR	2203	£60
35	D Coy 1 DERR	2011	
48	HQ Coy 1 DERR	1920	
59	C/Sp Coy 1 DERR	1796	

In terms of cash prizes awarded 1 DERR came 8th in the Infantry.

The Young Officers' Skill at Arms Competition revealed a number of Subalterns keen to take on the Battalion Shooting Team Captaincy in 1992. The Prince of Wales Division top ten places were:

Position	Rank	Name	Unit	Score (HPS 85)
1	Lt	Dickenson	1 WFR	85
2	Lt	Shawcross	1 WFR	84
3	Lt	Matthews	JIB	84
4	Lt	Griffin	1 DERR	82
7	Lt	Sayers	1 DERR	79
9	2Lt	Cooper	1 DERR	78
10	Lt	Delf	1 DERR	77

The Northern Ireland full bore competition was excellent considering the problems. The competition demanded monthly shoots which were somehow squeezed in between the operational commitments. Congratulations go to the winning team which consisted of the Commanding Officer, Battalion Second in Command, Captain Lister and the Regimental Sergeant Major. Maybe if the Close Observation Platoon had taken the competition more seriously they would have hit someone at Gortmullan.

Looking forward we can anticipate an upturn in the standard of shooting within the Battalion. Exercise TRUMPET DANCE will give companies the chance of some excellent range work, and the Commanding Officer's Training Period in September should reinforce the improvement. Given sufficient support

the Shooting Team should be able to win the North East District Skill at Arms meeting on 16 May 1992 which will qualify them for Bisley. Once we can start going to Bisley regularly then we will start to move up the Army placings, and there is no reason why 1 DERR should not look forward to winning Bisley.

SPORTS JUBILEE 91

During a very busy year we at last found time for sports.

This year's Sports Jubilee took place from 30 Sep - 3 Oct and the Companies were in competition with each other on a league basis. The events were football, rugby 7s, hockey, tug-of-war, squash, basketball, volleyball, .22 shooting and swimming. The final event was the Nines Cup.

The whole week went extremely well and was a masterpiece of control and organisation by our resident muscle bender Sgt Carey APTC. Sports officers were able to confirm and talent spot and the Battalion rugby team is now well on the road to success and hopefully the football team will have recovered from a lay off of well over a year.



The Power and the Glory. HQ Coy Tug o' War Team. Coach Cpl Barrett (Tiny), Pte Batts, Pte Rogers, Sgt Garner, Cpl Sims, Lcpl Minton, Cpl Roe, WO2 (AQMS) Sherburn.



Mrs Stone presenting winners medal to Sgt O'Doherty, B Coy (football champions).



L/Cpl Pullin Winner of the 9's cup.



All arms dwarf throwing.

In order to ensure that as many soldiers as possible were involved the final day consisted of "fun" events

and the Nines Cup. Companies were tasked to provide a challenge for a 10 man team. A Coy's consisted of a greasy pole and a large tank of ice cold water, some 4ft deep. The idea was to cross the pole with a bucket of water and fill a container. Sounds easy, but when the remainder are hurling heavy wet sponges at each competitor on the greasy pole, things can become quite interesting.

C Coy under the resident comedian, Sgt Cowley, staged All Arms Dwarf Throwing which involves the team throwing 2 dwarfs as far as possible. The Dwarfs were volunteers and were suitably attired in NBC suit and crash helmet. Dwarf throwing demands coordination by the team members which was clearly demonstrated on D Coy's practice throw which projected one of the dwarfs vertically like a Saturn rocket. Everything that goes up must come down as they say!

The Nines Cup was a huge success and the course laid out by Capt Mandy Morrison, the Paymaster, was gruelling. The tank driver training area is no place to run. Pre-race grumbling is still a fact of the Nines Cup and older members, usually from the Sgts Mess, try to lobby and drum up support for what is mistakenly called 'tradition'. The rules however are simple: The Nines Cup is a cross country race for any number of competitors but only the first 9 in count. The distance is not defined and depends entirely on circumstances. It is not 9 miles, 9kms or 9 anything – so there!

A good week was had by all and the winners were:

Football	– B Coy
Rugby	– A Coy
Hockey	– HQ Coy
Basketball	– HQ Coy
Volleyball	– D Coy
Squash	– HQ Coy
.22 Shooting	– HQ Coy
.22 Shooting Individual	– Cpl Ballantyne
Tug-of-War	– HQ Coy
Swimming	– HQ Coy

The Nines Cup produced a good race over 10.2kms and the results were:

1st	C Coy
2nd	B Coy
3rd	D Coy
4th	A Coy
5th	HQ Coy

Individual winner – LCpl Pullin – C Coy in 45 minutes 49 seconds.

RUGBY

RESULTS

GREEN HOWARDS	D	3- 3
2 DIV SIG REGT	D	12- 12

RAC TRG REGT	W	46- 4
RAF BOULMER	W	43- 4
2 DIV RCT REGT	W	38- 0
RAFCATTERICK	W	54- 0
RAFLEEMING	L	0- 4

The Moonrakers RUFC played their first game of the season on 9 Oct 91, having had an enforced break since Easter '90 due to Op BANNER and Airmobile commitments. The period saw a fairly drastic restructuring of the side after the loss of the likes of Major Farren Drury, WO2 Paul McLeod, Cpl Ezra Legister, LCpl Gary Cross and Pte Andy Silvey, and the return after posting of Major Russ Wardle, Lt Dave O'Hara and WO1 (RSM) Toby North.

The pre-season preparation was fairly limited, although the die-hards managed a fairly regular touch-rugby session. The inter-Company 7-a-side tournament was emphatically won by A Company. In fact, only one of the A Company squad has not played for the Battalion this year, which highlights the success of the tournament in spotting new talent.

The season started fairly slowly with 2 draws, including that against 2 INF DIV SIGS REGT which saw us out of the Army Cup, losing the game after extra time due to the number of tries scored. We also entered a scratch side in the Brigade 7's competition and managed a creditable runners-up prize in the plate competition.

There followed 4 emphatic wins, with the forwards dominating the opposition in all areas of play. In fact, one try resulted from a push-over effort which started on our own 22 metre line! Cpl Tiny Parrett deserves mention for his effort, which saw some startling loose-forward play, stunning cover tackling and incisive running. It is even rumoured that he jumped in one of the line-outs (although this remains unconfirmed!). Mention should also be made of the front row grouping of Cpl Don Smith (40), WO1 (RSM) Toby North (37) and Sgt Ray Bowler (36), whose combined age puts even the England front row to shame!

These wins showed a better strength in depth than in recent years, in that despite the absence of key players at various times, the side lost no momentum and still recorded excellent results. The first half of the season, however, ended on a low note with the loss to RAF LEEMING, the hardest match of the season, where our forwards were outplayed for the first time and the backs could achieve little penetration in the face of some excellent tackling.

The success of the club so far has also engendered a lot of interest, both socially and playing. To date we have managed one 2nd XV fixture versus 1 GLOSTERS. Although the game was lost, it provided good match experience and we will try to organise some more games in the New Year. The Christmas dinner, in a local pub, was an excellent evening with 35

members and ladies enjoying a full evenings entertainment of various kinds.

The club has provided players for the Infantry side in Capt Jon Boxall, Lt Dave O'Hara and Pte Mark Morgans-Hurley. Capt Paul Flavell (now on posting to JIB Shorncliffe) also played. With Capt Flavell and CSgt Dave Foster both due to return in the New Year, the Moonrakers RUFC can look forward to an even more successful second half to the season, in which the aim will be to win the Brigade Sports Competition.

Moonrakers RUFC

OIC Rugby : Maj Wardle
 Fixtures Sec : Lt O'Hara
 Coach : Capt Dennis
 Captain/Assistant Coach : Capt Boxall

Squad: Maj	Wardle	LCpls	Ambler
Cpts	Boxall		Boocock
	Fontana		Boyd
	Smallbone		Hassett
	Griffin		Gallagher
Lts	O'Hara		Lea
	Woodhouse		McDermid
2Lt	Telfer		Simms
WO1	North		Watt
Sgts	Bowler	Ptes	Burrell
	Garner		Ballinger
	Parsons		Boocock
Cpls	Blannin		Cleary
	Clarke		Collister
	Hayes		Charlesworth
	Parrett		Gunter
	Smith 10		Last
	Smith 36		Morgans - Hurley
	Stacey		Phillips 33
	Roe		Woodroof

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Since returning from the Op BANNER tour the Battalion football squad has been reformed and now trains twice weekly. The squad of 20 men has a balance of youth and experience and is coached by WO2 Truman.

One of the encouraging features this season has been the emergence of new players, including Ptes Dalton, Hillier, Kirtland and Cpl Gilham among others. Of the "less youthful fraternity", WO2 Truman, CSgt Tait, Sgt Probets and Sgt O'Doherty have all been regulars in the first team. Early November saw CSgt Tait "hanging up his boots" on his transfer to 1 WESSEX after many seasons of loyal service. His determination and driving personality on the pitch will be sorely missed.

The season started with the Battalion Sports Week and, after some fine performances, B Company eventually ran out as winners. The competition gave the Battalion a good chance to assess the depth of talent, and many previously unknown players who showed their skills were quickly snapped up for the Battalion team. The intensity of matches in the first two weeks resulted in the new players being quickly blooded. Despite some initial set-backs the team soon settled down and is now holding its own in the first division.

The Battalion was beaten in the first round of the Army Cup by our neighbours and cup favourites 8 Signal Regiment. The Infantry Cup however, saw a rousing Prince of Wales's Division derby match with 1 CHESHIRE. In a close, well tempered match the Battalion was unfortunate at going down to two late goals. The form shown by the team, in this and many of the other matches bodes well for the future. Both 1 CHESHIRE and 8 Signals Regiment are well established teams. The Battalion is quickly learning about the higher level of skills, tactics and speed of the game here as compared to Hong Kong, and our own standards are improving correspondingly.

Of the established players, LCpl Murtagh has been selected as a member of the Infantry side, and it is hoped a large DERR contingent will be selected for the District team. The team is run by QMSI Tarmy who is well aware of the Battalion's footballing prowess having managed the British Forces team in Hong Kong during our time there.

Overall the team is in a rebuilding phase this season, but there has been enough potential shown, especially from the younger players, to suggest that the Battalion will be a force to be reckoned with in the very near future.

GOLF

Playing golf in Hong Kong many wished for the day when we returned to England to put on woolly pullovers to know that when a round of golf had finished, one didn't have to camouflage a burnt nose. It was a shock to the system in June 91 to learn that the weather in England was just as hot as Hong Kong. For the first time in many years Catterick Garrison Golf Course was short of water. I hasten to add not for too long! By November the course was covered with snow and the opportunity to play became very difficult.

Unfortunately due to many operational commitments, many of the Battalion golfers had not swung a club for some time. Consequently, our first Battalion meet made a few think that taking up fly fishing might be the better option. Nevertheless, those who took part enjoyed the day and seeing old faces like Reg Carter and Noel Warke made the day more interesting. Especially Reg Carter, he is the only

person I know that can swing a club and talk at the same time.

We did however, manage a winter meet last November to see if anyone had improved. The day consisted of one round of stapleford followed by prize giving in the afternoon. As a matter of interest to others or maybe a warning order for the next Regimental Meet, here are some of the scores for that day!! Capt Norman Minty (24) 39pts, Capt Mike Godwin (18) 39pts, RQMS Roy Povey (19) 38pts, Capt Dave O'Hara (24) 36pts, WO2 Pete Miller (18) 34pts,

LCpl Dave Prendergast (16) 33pts, Sgt Paul Brightman (28) 34pts. The only comment I wish to make is thank goodness they do not get out to practice more often. It is sad that we were unable to put a team in for the Garrison League and unfortunately, in 1992 because of commitments we will not do so. However, we will be sending a small contingent of golfers to the Regimental Meet hoping for some big upsets.

Finally as the Golfing Officer and the Unit Families Officer I myself find it increasingly difficult to get out to play despite what rumors you all may have heard!!!

DEPOT PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION

With the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Depot at this point last year, it is with some relief that the future survival has now been assured, although there will be a number of major changes starting in January 1992 and continuing throughout the year.

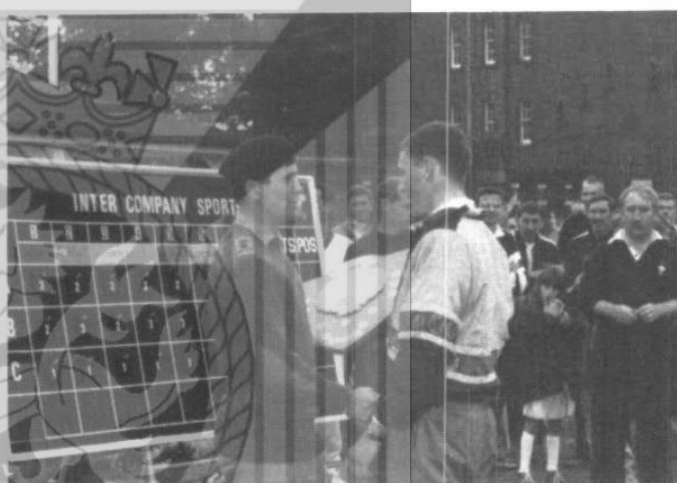
The first change is that as of January 1992 the Depot will be responsible for the Phase I training of RAMC recruits. This change will then continue with the training of female recruits for a number of Corps such as the Intelligence Corps, ACC and RAOC. Both of these developments should bring an interesting change to the Depot, not least of all it should liven up the NAAFI Disco a bit on Wednesdays!

The other major change affecting the Depot will be the fact that by January 1993 we will have ceased to exist as the training Depot for the Prince of Wales's Division and will have assumed the new title of an Army Training Regiment. This should allay the fears that the Depot may close altogether and will guarantee an interesting future for Whittington Barracks.

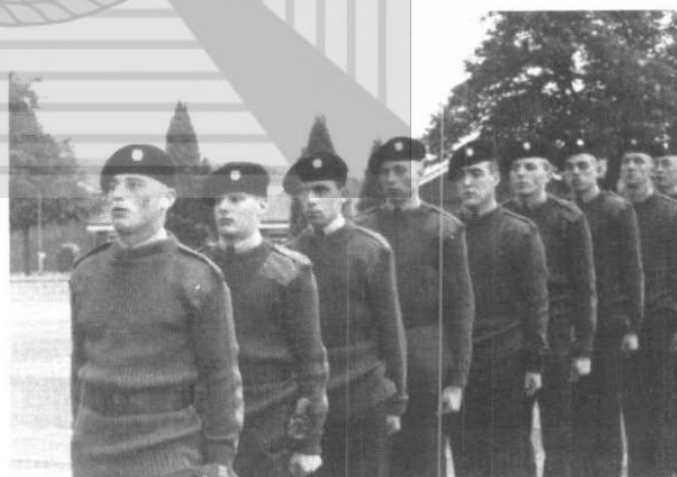
As for the last year, recruiting has not dropped. We are currently recruiting and training up to the maximum numbers allowed, although the largest number of recruits still seem to have a somewhat Welsh accent. At present there are approximately 35 recruits all in different stages of training who are cap-badged to the Regiment. At the same time there are some 20 Permanent Staff from the Regiment although this is continually changing.

There have been numerous newcomers to the Depot over the last year including Major Smith (OC B Coy). Lt Sayers, Corporals Simmons, Lewis, Sayer, Hart and Ledgister and Sergeant Major Todhunter at Divisional Headquarters.

Departures from the Depot have included Captain Sherman, Sergeant Rogers, Corporal Quashie and, after a long and distinguished career, Colour Sergeant Coleman who has finally retired after 31 years service. We wish these people all the best in the future, whether it be in civilian life or continued service.



Lt. Col. Parslow presents The Depot Sports Day Trophy for the last time.



DERR recruits are still arriving at the depot in large numbers!

As for sporting activities, this has again seen the Depot participating in a wide selection at all levels. Notable successes included third place in the Minor Army Units athletics championships and a semi-final

place for the Rugby team in the Army Cup.

The Commanding Officer has now finally retired from hockey but still continues with tennis, cricket, squash and badminton. He has also been seen playing golf on a frequent basis and I am reliably informed that this is in preparation for his next job.

By the time the journal is published the Commanding Officer will have moved on to new

pastures after nearly three years in command. It is with deep regret that we see him relinquish command after such a long time in which he saw over 2100 recruits start at the Depot and attended 40 passing out parades. We wish Lt Colonel Parslow and Kathryn all the best in the future and thank them for all that they have done for both the Depot and the Regiment throughout their time here.

JUNIOR INFANTRY BATTALION SHORNCLIFFE

The Regiment has maintained a strong and forceful presence throughout the last twelve months at the Junior Infantry Battalion. Major Rod Hicks, as Quartermaster, has had the hardest job, preparing the unit for handover. Shorncliffe is to cease training on 31st July 1992. From then onwards Junior Leaders from the Prince of Wales's Division will be trained at Bramcote near Nuneaton, presently home to Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery.

The two other Officers at Shorncliffe, Captains Flavell and Boulter are both playing sport regularly for the Infantry (Rugby and Hockey respectively), and keeping the Regiment in high profile.

Currently there is no member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeant Mess at Shorncliffe, the last WOII RQMS Samson having left for Cyprus in July.

The two Corporal Instructors Cpl Panting and Cpl Southern, have both made a significant impact at JIB. On Cpl Panting's second day at Shorncliffe he opened the batting for the Battalion in an Army Cup game, and in only his second over he managed to run out the Battalion Skipper, thankfully he went on to top score for the side. Cpl Southern is learning how never to speak without thinking. At the end of his intakes's first seven weeks a Junior Leader's Grandmother came down for 'Parents Day'. The lady in question told Cpl Southern that she kept Parrots.

"Oh, I've always wanted a Parrot" said Cpl Southern.

A week later the Junior Leader approached him and said:

"I've got your Parrot for you, Corporal."

So far, it does not sing, it does not talk, but it has managed to master the sound of Cpl Southern's alarm clock, and is kept under lock and key to protect it from the other Permanent Staff.

Cpl Southern also did well to coach his Company Boxing Team to a very creditable third place and in so doing produced seven boxers for the Battalion Team.

LCpl O'Connor maintains the Regimental presence in the Guardroom, in a job which, with increased sensitivity throughout society as to how minors are treated, is extremely difficult.

We continue to produce high quality Junior Leaders, with many familiar names undergoing training, at present we have the next generation of McIntyre's, Mortimer's and Fitzgerald's in our care.



Cpl Southern coaching the Coy Boxers.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

President: Brigadier W.A. Mackereth ADC

Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel V.H. Ridley MBE
QGM

Vice Chairman (Berkshire): Captain G.P. Savill

Vice Chairman (Wiltshire): Colonel D.I.M. Robbins
OBE MC

Secretary and Treasurer: Assistant Regimental
Secretary

It is good to be able to report that the benefits predicted by our President in his amalgamation letter to all members in August 1990 were confirmed in 1991.

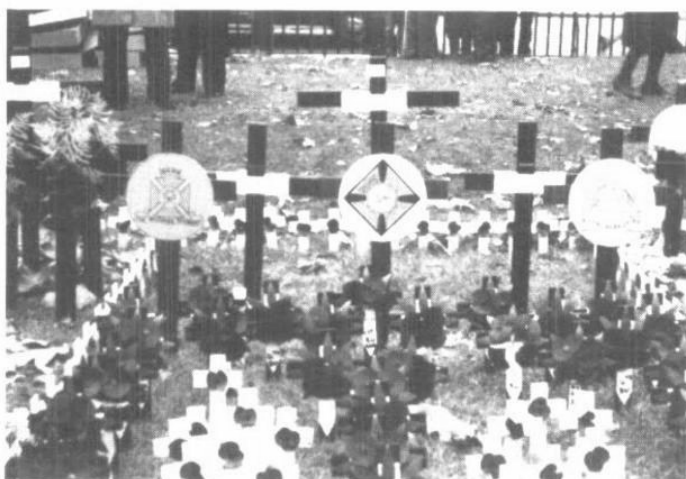
With strong representation on the new body of Managing Trustees from both the former Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA and the former Wiltshire Regiment OCA, the interest of all Association

members and their dependants have been fully considered and realized in their deliberations. Since the rationalisation there have been great improvements in the administration of the Association's affairs in the most important areas of Welfare, Reunion Organisation and Publication of the Annual Newsletter.

The number of Welfare Cases and the grants they have received have both increased substantially. Attendance at the three Reunions in Devizes, Salisbury and Brock Barracks were at record levels with increased financial support provided from Association Funds to keep down costs to members, who often have to travel long distances and have especially high accommodation expenses when accompanied by their wives and families.



*Remembrance Sunday. Brock Barracks Cenotaph
(Photo courtesy of Reading Newspapers Co. Ltd.).*



Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey.

The new format of the first edition of the combined Newsletter was generally well received, and the Trustees have tasked RHQ to produce a suitable Christmas Card which will be available later this year for sale to Branches and Members.

It would be appreciated if members could consider the future of the Association after amalgamation with the Gloucestershire Regiment, which will take place in April 1994. It is proposed to discuss the way ahead at the AGM in Salisbury on 5 July this year.

Despite the sad loss of so many of our loyal members with wartime service, it is heartening to report a gain of over 220 new members registered during the past year. The efforts of Branch organisers and the great enthusiasm of individual members to keep in touch and

support each other in changing times, can only be good, both for morale and for their families' welfare.

Finally, a special plea for strong support for the 1992 Raffle in aid of your Regiment's Museum and other Army charities. Raffle Tickets can be obtained along with your order for the 1992 Reunion Tickets and the aim is to sell all the 40,000 tickets which have been printed!

Remember please we cannot keep in touch unless we have up-to-date addresses. Last year over thirty Newsletters were returned as "Gone Away" or "Not Known at This Address", in short they are now out of touch and we have no easy way of regaining contact, until we receive information about their new location.

1st BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (RV)

In December 1990 the Battalion bade farewell to C Company in Dorchester as it rebadged to become part of the 4th Battalion the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Its place in the Orbat was taken by N Company at Newbury which had been raised from the base of a platoon of 2 WESSEX. The Company, now retitled C Company is fully operational within the Battalion. The two permanent staff of the new company who put tremendous efforts into its expansion are WO2 Paul McLeod and CSgt "Dickie" Vincent both from 1 DERR.

1991 saw Lieutenant Colonel P.J. Cable (GLOSTERS) assume command and Ex DERR, Major S.A. "Jimmy" Durant take over as Battalion Second in Command. Other changes included a new Training Major, Major E.D. Brown (GLOSTERS) and Adjutant Captain J. O'Brien (CHESHIRE).

Beside company training weekends, the Battalion organised its first exercise "EXECUTIVE

STRETCH" held on Salisbury Plain. This exercise is designed to raise the awareness of the Territorial Army within the business community by inviting young executives on a TA weekend and offering physical and intellectual challenge and to demonstrate that the leadership skills inculcated within the TA have wider relevance and application. Along with forty young "executives" from various walks of life, a reporter, Jim White, from "The Independent" newspaper, also participated which resulted in some excellent national coverage. The exercise included navigation, off road driving, survival techniques, command tasks and shooting. The majority of the administration for this exercise was mounted by HQ Company from Devizes.

In addition to normal training requirements, the Quartermasters department under Major Colin Burnett have endeavoured to meet a host of demands for equipment from NBC equipment to OP GRANBY and 1 Tonne vehicles to OP HARRIER with

considerable effort being made by a small group of permanent staff and a handful of TA who met the short notice challenges. The ever active Sgt Kim Foy was replaced as Signals platoon staff instructor by Sgt "Moc" McGuire who has endeavoured to build up the Signal platoon with the new RSO Capt Robert Hiles.

Departing from the pattern of previous years the Battalion skill at arms weekend in May concentrated on realistic field firing rather than the more conventional competition shooting. B Company now commanded by Ex DERR Major Jon Wort, based in Swindon proved to be the sharpest shooters of the day carrying off most of the prizes which were presented by the UKMF Commander, Brigadier J.G. Williams, OBE.

Battalion Annual Camp in July took place on Otterburn Training Area with everyone deploying into the field for the 2 weeks except for a small administrative echelon. This allowed companies to practise and build personal and basic skills and to shake off the cobwebs. The first phase concentrated on developing individual and specialist weapon skills as companies rotated around a series of field firing ranges which became progressively more complex and demanding. This training culminated in a realistic and exciting company battle run with both our Mortar platoon (Andover) and Anti Tank platoon (Gloucester) firing live in support.

During the second week the Battalion deployed to the Kielder forest in a counter-insurgency operation against a terrorist enemy formed by Support Company. The operation involved 4 days of long hard patrolling through thick country with full kit carried in hot and sometimes wet conditions. After clearing large areas of the forest the Battalion crossed the Kielder reservoir at night and assaulted the enemy training camp located in a quarry, defended by great swarms of biting flies as well as the enemy terrorists.

In August a composite company provided enemy to 24 Airmobile Brigade during their work up training on

Salisbury Plain. They proved a tenacious and formidable opposition and all enjoyed and made full use of the 24 Brigade helicopters.

In addition to those already mentioned other DERR soldiers continue to serve:

Mitch Mortimer is with the RRTT – suffering at Camp when his independent range team received no rations for 48 hours. Will he never let us forget? Sgt Ron Mitchell and Cpl Jimmy Billet serve with the MT Pl and WO2 Charlie Stone (the chicken strangler) is CSM. Well known buffet king SSgt Brig Frayling continues to encase everything in aspic, restrained by Master Chef WO2 Alan Smith, and Sgt (NRPS) Jimmy Jones is still looking smoothly regimental in the URS. WO2(ORQMS) Mark Nicholson left us for promotion and a tour in Saudi and we welcomed CSgt John Lindsey as an accomplice to Sgt Pete Legge.

In addition to the military training this year, there have been several events happening across our five counties. The annual Ypres march, involving some twenty volunteers marching 100kms in 3 days, raised funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. A sponsored 30 mile run from Newbury to Devizes along the Kennet and Avon Canal by permanent staff and TA, raised £3,000 for a local charity.

One officer and seven soldiers have served in Belize with the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment whilst six others have been attached to the German Reserve Panzergrenadiers and the US National Guard and three to the BATUS training team in Canada. It is planned to send more volunteers with 1 DERR to America for exercise "TRUMPET DANCE" in February 1992.

Like the rest of the TA, the Battalion awaits the outcome of Options for Change and the effects this will have on its shape, size and role. Whatever the changes, 1 WESSEX will continue to offer the TA volunteer what he seeks: a challenge, a sense of achievement and fun.

2nd BATTALION THE WESSEX REGIMENT (V)

C (Royal Berkshire) Company

C Company has spent the majority of the training year concentrating on FIBUA, and by doing so has spent a great deal of time becoming acquainted with the many training villages around the country. Longmoor Village in Hampshire, our first venue, saw the Company practising skills from section to platoon level and developing the necessary operating procedures required to fight effectively and successfully. Our skills were tested to the full a few weeks later when the Company acted as enemy to 5 RGJ during an FTX in

the area of Copehill Down Village on Salisbury Plain. The exercise proved to be very demanding, some would say more so for the Green Jackets!

The Battalion's annual 2 week exercise, held this year in September, became reduced to a 9 day camp due to the restrictions in Man Training Days (MTDs). The Battalion deployed from its TACs onto Sennybridge Training Area for the period and conducted a two sided free play exercise known as Exercise Dragons Duel. The training concentrated in

and around the excellent FIBUA Village at Sennybridge with platoons rotating through a number of activities such as field firing, assault courses, night movement areas and a 24 hour NBC Battle Run. The Company was joined for the exercise by 25 regular reservists, many of whom had only recently left the Regular Army. It did not take them long to pick up where they left off and overall were a worthy asset to the Company. Overall the exercise in Sennybridge was excellent training and as usual many lessons were learnt, in particular the fact that it does not always rain in Sennybridge, rather to the contrary as the complete package was blessed with blistering sunshine throughout!

As well as concentrating on FIBUA this year we have also managed to train up a pair of snipers and a very useful SF Team on Battalion run Cadres; this has helped further knowledge in the Company on varying skills and deployment aspects of these supporting elements.

Recruiting and retention have been successful in many aspects throughout the year although the trend

has seen a decline in the number of soldiers enlisting. We have been fortunate however to have been able to retain the majority of those soldiers we have enlisted and overall attendance figures are up. We have also increased our recruitment of ex-Regular soldiers over the period which has certainly improved our knowledge and expertise amongst the JNCO/SNCO element. In particular we welcome Sgt Harry Mills, ex 1 RHF, who joins us as a Pl Sgt and replaces Sgt Farnborough in 7 Platoon. We also welcome Lt Mark Moriai who joins us from B Company to replace Lt McLintock. In November CSgt McIntyre DERR finished his tour with us and was replaced by CSgt Tait DERR. CSgt 'Mac' leaves a very clear desk and we thank him for all his sterling work throughout his 2½ years with us.

During the summer we held an all ranks dinner at Maidenhead TAC to celebrate the anniversary of the raising of the Battalion; a splendid evening which was enjoyed by all and enhanced by the successful procurement of the Regimental Band. We also re-instated the Officers' and SNCOs' dinner by having



CSgt Parns (left) and CSgt Tait (2nd from left) after receiving their LS and GC medal from Brig. J.C. Holman CBE.

such an event in October; traditionally an annual occurrence which will now take place on a regular basis.

This has been a very good year for C Company and we are looking forward to a new training year, which starts with us going back down to Maidenhead and Slough town centres recruiting!

D Company, Reading.

It has been a busy year, made all the more challenging by a constant struggle to balance the need for interesting training with the sometimes irritating restraints on man training days, fuel and ammunition allocations.

However, the Company has been fortunate to have had a full and varied training programme over the last few months, the main theme of which has been FIBUA, with the Company taking part in no less than three such exercises; once on a Company weekend and twice as part of the Battalion. Luckily these events were blessed with generous stores and ammo allocations, allowing for protracted exercises, without soldiers having to engage the LIAI "GOB" ("bang, bang"), or like Sandhurst Cadets, resort to football rattles.

However, we tried to ring the changes, and one of the popular events was the weekend spent stretching boot leather and map reading skills on Pen-Y-Fan.

We have also been busy trying to fill the available course space; Brecon, Signals, SF, Asslt Pioneers and Snipers. The last one being the first time for a long while that the Company has the skills of two snipers to call on, in the shape of LCpls Forrester and Gregory.

We have also continued our participation at the Devizes to Westminster Canoe race, with our best positions to date: LCpls Scarlett and Hancox came 3rd and LCpl Walker and Pte Powell 4th. There were 116 entrants. This is an outstanding achievement, and next year increased sponsorship, and the addition of a Bn HQ team will provide a better supported and better equipped challenge.

This year we say goodbye to Maj Gavin Pass, after 4 years command, and even longer (sshh) as a member of D Coy as 21C and Platoon Commander. He moves on to the RRTT, where we wish him well, and look forward to seeing him produce the standards there that he has in the Company.

New appointments include CSgt Slade as CQMS and Maj Marshall from 21C to OC.

Promotions include:

From Pte to LCpl: Walker, Scarlett, Hancox, Gregory, Forrester and Batterbee.

From LCpl to Cpl: Edwards

From Cpl to Sgt: Crerand

Looking forward to next year (don't mention "Options"), members of the Company are making their new years resolutions; Lt Carmichael will celebrate his passing the Lt to Capt promotions exam

by finding a radio that works, Pte Franco will get some longer legs and Sgt Chalker (ex gunner cdo) will wear his cap badge over his left eye rather than his left ear.

Training at Longmoor.



Headquarter Company, Reading.

Headquarter Company has had a very rewarding year of training.

Time spent at the Battle Group Trainer (BGT(s)) at

Bovington in March provided an opportunity for the Commanding Officer to go to 'war' with a motley collection of attachments under command who together pitted their wits against a computer and the devious permanent staff of BGT(s). Notable victories included a whitewash of the BCs Party from the Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery in the bar, and a bold counterstroke against a numerically superior force to turn the tide of the battle.

May and June saw much revision of competition shooting practices in an effort to snatch the Skill at Arms Trophy from B Coy during our Annual Skill at Arms Meet at Ash Ranges. The effort paid off with Headquarter Company beating three rifle companies but failing to become Champion Company by only 5 points out of a total of 200; who knows 1992 may be the Company's year.

When Sennybridge was heard to be the venue of Annual Camp this year much wailing and gnashing of teeth was expected on the barren, soggy expanses of the Training Area; what actually happened was somewhat different. The Battalion was split into two opposing factions, Red and Blue, with Headquarter Company split between the groupings and manning a small higher formations. Exercise control was set up and manned by members of the Signal Platoon. For seven days the new FIBUA Village at Sennybridge was the objective for each force. The major battle culminating the exercise lasted some 4-5 hours on the last day of the Camp and was declared an eventual draw by the Commanding Officer who, keen to see fair play, had weighed up the merits of each side's tactical implementation and planning accordingly.

On the personality front the Training Major, Major M.G.A. Barratt GLOSTERS leaves the Battalion in December to start a 2 year MSc at Shrivenham. The consensus within Battalion Headquarters is that he will find the 25,000 word guide for his Masters dissertation somewhat limiting! A warm welcome will be given to his successor, Major Brian Franklin DERR, who paid a brief visit to the Battalion during Annual Camp. Leaving the Army shortly will be WO1 (RSM) Gardner DERR who has proved to be a tower of strength both within Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company with his efficient and thoroughly professional approach to training.

Major Chris Protheroe, Officer Commanding, continues to make the Company a lean, mean fighting machine, especially with the redoubtable Lt Monica Taylor, OC WRAC as his guide for all things. As OC WRAC Lt Taylor has shown an exceptional lead to her as yet unknown successor, as her husband is being posted to Hong Kong in April. She will be sorely missed both for the grip she has had of all WRAC ranks within the Battalion and for the enthusiasm she has shown in tackling the various problems that have come her way.

Overall the 1991 training year has been a busy and rewarding period. Retention is now on the increase and although recruitment has dwindled, a better class of soldier is coming forward to swell our numbers. Equipment has gradually started to show signs of improvement with the 5.56mm SA80 due to arrive at unit armoured in the New Year, some 2 years ahead of schedule.

We await 'TA Options for Change' with nail biting curiosity!

ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

The dramatic changes which will affect the Regular and Territorial Armies in the immediate future have left us virtually unscathed. Our healthy recruiting figures and high training standards have been thoroughly examined by a host of visitors, especially at Annual Camp which this year took place at Penhale in Cornwall. Clearly they were impressed for their recommendation, that we should not be forced into an unwelcome and unnecessary grouping with neighbouring Counties within the present SE District, has been accepted by MOD. Perhaps the musicians of the impromptu Band of the Sergeants' Mess anticipated this outcome when strains of 'Farmer's Boy' punctuated our sleep throughout the early hours of mid-Camp Sunday. If practice makes perfect then the final March On to Church Parade a few hours later was greatly enhanced by their efforts.

Our high-on 600 cadets are not all badged DERR but the support given to all our Detachments by the DERR Army Youth Team (AYT) throughout the year is unstinting. At Camp the Team was quite simply magnificent throughout. Under the OC, Capt Charlie O'Connor, they organised and ran the 26-strong 3-star cadet course with great verve, building up an esprit-de-corps which ensured that the cadets would achieve their objective with deceptive ease whatever obstacles lay in their path. Lt Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett, Chairman ACFA, was himself inspired by observing the 3-star course moving into all-round defence on their Bodmin Moor position after a 6-hour patrol in particularly unpleasant weather.

Cpl John Ledgister, Lepls Jamie McCann, Garth Franklin, Pete Speck, Mark (Banny) Palmer, Wayne Dicker and Amanda Harvey all played their part in

good humouredly coaxing and cajoling a very willing company of cadets.

The influence did not stop there however because WO2 Stephen Traveller elected to assist Capt Tony Rogers with the conduct of the SCIC (4-star) course which was running concurrently. The top cadet from this latter group was Cdt Sgt John Emery of Bracknell who, tho' badged DERR as a cadet, went straight into the Paras at the end of Camp well prepared to start his new career. Another cadet to start in the Army proper after Summer Camp was Stephen, son of WO1 Drozdziol, RA, RSM of 15CTT, who joined the Regiment at Folkestone. Perhaps Sgt Paul Dodswell, the present Regiment representative on 15CTT, persuaded Stephen. No doubt there will be many more outstanding recruits from Berkshire during the coming year. Our best wishes go with them.

On the social front, we were very pleased to host the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Bill Mackereth, with his wife Ann at the Spring Reception in our County Headquarters at Brock Barracks and Lieutenant Colonel Alan Kenway at Annual Camp.

For our part, where once the Regiment was represented by only two ex-Regulars, Capt Bob Hollister and SMI Trevor Allen, this number has now been swollen by the return of Sgt Instructors Delroy Tucker and Gary Kimber. In addition, six of the newly commissioned officers in the County are badged to the Regiment. With the exception of 2Lt Ian Borland BEM – the former RSMI, they were all selected at SE District Assessment Boards for ACF Commissions. They are Tracey Tampsett – a former Lord Lieutenant's cadet, Colin Dockerill, Chris Sloper, Glynn Jones – ex 3 Para – and his wife Eirlys – ex WRAC.

Last but not least we are pleased to record the presentations during the year of a first Clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal to SMI Norman Nicholls (Bracknell) by our Hon Col, Brigadier Tom Sneyd, as well as of Cadet Forces Medals to RSMI Peter Sharp and to SSI Robert Partridge (Thatcham).

Finally Lieutenant Colonel Barry Jefferies MBE



Winners of the 1991 "Blundy Trophy". Left to right: Cpl Ross Cownley, Cpl Sharon Rogers, Cdt James Wilsdon, Cdt Nigel Belcher.

succeeded Colonel Pat Jolliffe as Commandant at the end of the year. Colonel Jefferies, who has served exclusively in the ACF as cadet or adult since 1954, will be well known to recent AYT Commanders as the former County Training Officer. We wish him many congratulations and every possible success in his new appointment. To Colonel Pat we say a big "Thank you" for all he has achieved during a splendid 5-year tour.

WILTSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

Annual Camp in 1991 was spent at St Martins' Plain in Kent – new ground for us. We made the most of the excellent local ranges and training areas and on the lighter side everybody had a day out at Margate, some went to France and we all now realise just how big is the Channel Tunnel project. In 1992 we are set to go to Penhale which is always one of the more popular camps.

Currently we have about 400 Cadets divided in to 19 Platoons across the County. Although we have girls in

8 of these Platoons they are only 12% of our total strength. It is difficult to quantify but we estimate that about 40 youngsters with some Wiltshire ACF experience join the Services each year. It would be interesting to know how many are in the First Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Maurice Hinder will retire as Deputy Commandant early in 1992 having joined the ACF as a Cadet in 1943. He will be replaced by Major Paul Dobson. We welcome as our new Quartermaster,

**1st ...for
convenience.**

...on camp

...on ships

...on active duty.

Always there
when you need us.

Naafi

David Fielding, ex DERR RQMS and a Cadet in the Devizes Platoon in 1956. Captain Ron Graham moves to TAVRA in Bristol.

Senior Cadet appointments in 1991 were RSM John Piper (Marlborough, now CFE) CSM Brett Sinclair (Tidworth, now RE) CSM Martyn Cox (Church Place, now RM) CSgt Craig Peale (Corsham now REME) and CSgt Simon Johnson (Tidworth, soon to be AI). Also Sgt Ian Bowers, Downton, is at RMAS and headed to Royal Signals.

Lord Lieutenants Cadets for 1992 are Cpl Lisa Davison (Tidworth) and Cpl Ian Peale (Corsham).

Two new events in 1991 were our participation as the Arena Party at the Badminton Horse Trials and as car parking staff at the Army Benevolent Fund Spectacular at Spy Park. The ABF benefited by some £80k. Both events were fun but hard work and produced many kind comments. At camp we had a visit from the Canadian Cadets Bisley team and appropriate plaques were exchanged.

1991 has seen so many changes in both the Regular Army and the TA and we wonder what the effect will be on the ACF. In the meantime we believe we provide

a useful Youth Club in uniform and are grateful for all the support we get in Wiltshire.



The Honorary Colonel, Major General Sir Jeremy Moore, presents Cadet Derek Tillyer with the Champion Shot Medal at our SAM at Mere in May.



Canadian Bisley team – exchange of plaques.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

We congratulate the following:

To Lt and Mrs O'Hara, a daughter, Katherine
To Sgt and Mrs McGinnes, a daughter, Kimberly
To Cpl and Mrs Brennan, a son, Lee Michael
To Cpl and Mrs Griffiths, a son, Owen
To Cpl and Mrs Parrett, a son, James Phillip
To Cpl and Mrs Stonard, a daughter, Aimee
To LCpl and Mrs Dicker, a daughter, Nikita
To LCpl and Mrs Snowball, a daughter, Jessica
To LCpl and Mrs Rich, a son, James Paul
To LCpl and Mrs Rea, a daughter, Kayleigh Aimee
Jennifer Bryony
To LCpl and Mrs Platten, a daughter, Rosemarie
Karen
To LCpl and Mrs Monger, a son, Shen David
To LCpl and Mrs Littlejohn, a son, Stephen Kai
To LCpl and Mrs Farrell, a son, Sean Edward
To LCpl and Mrs Dolby, a son, Ryan
To Bdsn and Mrs Wrobel, a son, Jacob
To Pte and Mrs Tofte, a daughter, Chelsea Louise
To Pte and Mrs Booth, a son, Josh John
To Pte and Mrs Connolly, a son, Michael James
George
To Pte and Mrs Gardner, a son, Jack Edward
Davidson
To Pte and Mrs MacLeod, a daughter, Kirsty Anne

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following:

Capt Preece to Ruth Joyce Cox at the Parish Church,
Cockington, Devon on 11 May 91
Capt Thornell to Beverley Sunderland at the Military
Chapel, Chelsea on 3 Nov 90
Maj Drury to Carolyn Evans at St Martins Church,
Worle, Weston-super-Mare on 10 Aug 91
Capt Brain to Capt Jenny O'Brien RADC at Detmold
on 26 Oct 91
CSgt Evans to Nicola Joy Bright at the Registry Office,
Newbury on 16 Mar 91
CSgt Thomas to Violeta Basas Lan at Malate Catholic
Church, Malate, Manila on 10 Dec 91
Cpl Craig to Merly C Balinag at Tuba, Benguet,
Philippines on 16 Aug 91
Cpl Hayes to Kirsty Ann Tuck at the Registry Office,
Basingstoke on 13 Nov 91

Cpl Marshall to Nichola Jayne Hodge at St John's
Methodist Church, Bloxwich, Walsall on 10 Aug 91

LCpl Beckett to Sharon Marie Worthington at St John
the Divine Parish Church, Horwington, Stafford on 18
May 91

LCpl Boocock to Joanne Mary Bennett at the Church
of the Sacret Heart of Jesus and Mary, Hawarden,
Clwyd on 24 Aug 91

LCpl Evans to Joanne Evans at the Registry Office,
Wallingford, Oxon on 17 Aug 91

LCpl Kirby to Maxine Louise Bowdler at Minsterley
Church, Minsterley, Shropshire on 17 Aug 91

LCpl Lea to Barbara Michelle Husband at All Saints
Church, Ascot on 17 Aug 91

LCpl Lomas to Nicola Jane Axon at the Registry
Office, Farnside on 14 Dec 91

LCpl Watt to Pamela Jane Hole at St Peter's Church,
Crewe on 17 Aug 91

Pte Connolly to Clare McAllister at St Joseph's
Catholic Church, Darlington on 23 Mar 91

Pte Gunning to Sarah Louise Spencer at the Registry
Office, Swindon on 16 Aug 91

Pte Jenkins to Riane Marie Norris at the Registry
Office, Banbury on 16 Feb 91

Pte Osborne to Hazel Angela Molyneux at St
Thomas's Church, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire on 11
May 91

Pte Ridley to Caroline Anne Knowles at the Registry
Office, Chorley on 16 Aug 91

Pte Stockley to Vivienne Hamilton at the Registry
Office, Richmond, N. Yorks on 2 Nov 91

Pte Hiles to Lilibeth De Ocampo on 15 May 91

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of the following:

DERR

Captain D.J. Allan on 13 August 1991 aged 54. (See
obituary notice).

Major R.E. Matthews on 8 August 1991 aged 53. (See
obituary notice).

WO2 R.E. Allcock on 3 January 1992 aged 63. Enlisted
in The Royal Berkshire Regiment 1945 and transferred
to The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment on
amalgamation.

Regimental Families

Mrs K.T. Rumble wife of Corporal G.T. Rumble on 27
September 1991 due to a road traffic accident in
Slough.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel A.H. Thornhill in September 1991 of Cambridge.

Major D.A.H. Hartley-Russell OBE, TD, JP, DL in January 1992, of Bucklebury, ex Chairman of Berkshire Council, and High Sheriff of Berkshire.

Captain C.L. Childs, February 1991, of Reading, ex RSM.

Major D.J. Carr on 13 August 1991 of Repton, Derby, ex 6th Battalion. (See obituary notice.)

5330818 Mr E.C. Martin on 17 June 1990.

537323 Mr A.T. Claydon on 10 July 1990, ex WO2.

5182231 Mr H.W.J. Miles on 20 November 1990, ex WO2.

22356118 Mr L.M. Pepper on 2 December 1990 of Cheltenham.

5347924 Mr A.L. Dance on 28 January 1991 of Salisbury, aged 79, ex 9th and 10th Battalions.

5333310 Mr J. Avey on 7 March 1991.

5333214 Mr B.S. Arnold MM on 21 March 1991 of Reading, aged 87, ex RSM 10th Battalion.

5179017 Mr R.H. Low BEM on 24 April 1991 of Buckingham, aged 82, ex 1st Battalion Fyzabad and Dinapore.

5334640 Mr W.H. Payne on 8 May 1991 of Redditch, aged 78, ex Sergeant.

5335381 Mr H. Clarke on 31 May 1991 of Windsor, 1st Battalion 1936-37, 2nd Battalion 1937-43.

22036017 Mr E.R.J. Cheesley on 2 July 1991 of Sydney, Canada, ex WO1, served R. Hamps and Wilts.

5344622 Mr J.C. Higgins on 4 August 1991 of Reading, aged 77, served in Burma as Colonel Bickford's bodyguard. Battalion heavyweight boxer.

Mr E Russell on 21 September 1991 of NSW Australia, aged 69, 1 Royal Berks. (Known as "The Duke", Pay Sergeant 1955-59.)

5339110 Mr H.A. Evans MM on 7 October 1991 of Wellingborough, aged 74.

5334812 Mr F. Campbell on 31 October 1991 of Richmond, Surrey.

5333473 Mr W. Bennett on 20 November 1991 of Reading, aged 81, served 1930-1946. Army Boxing Champion of India.

5497112 Mr R. Kingswell MM on 1 January 1992 of Southampton, R Hamps 1933 CQMS R Berks 1952-57.

5335286 Mr C.W. Collins on 5 August 1991 of Cambridgeshire.

5332670 Mr A.J. Southey on 14 December 1991 of Reading aged 81 ex WO2 1st Bn and ex Chairman of Reading Branch.

The Wiltshire Regiment

Major R. Hudson in 1990 of London, aged 82. 2nd and 5th Battalions 1939-43.

Captain J.B. Bailey on 28 January 1991 of London aged 88. 1st and 2nd Battalions 1917-48. Hong Kong, India and Shanghai.

Captain A.J.S. White CMG, OBE, on 18 February 1991 of Mere, aged 94 (see obituary notice).

Major W.C. Hawkins MBE on 1 April 1991 of Ramsey, Essex, aged 91

Major R.C. Wilkins MBE, TD, on 6 June 1991 of Calne

Captain J.L. Vallier on 8 June 1991 aged 70. International pianist and composer of London.

Major J.O.S. Redman MBE on 19 October 1991 of Sussex, aged 79.

Colonel A.E.G. Brain OBE, TD, on 28 October 1991 of Canterbury, aged 74 (see obituary notice).

Lieut Colonel J. Marriot Doddington on 7 January 1992 of Chobham, aged 94. Served 1 Wilts 1914-18.

14007267 Mr M. Crocker on 11 May 1990 of Swaziland aged 62. 1945-59 Wilts. 1959-61 DERR. 1962 GLOSTERS.

Mr D. O'Neill in December 1990 of Plymouth.

5568035 Mr H.W.J. Smith on 7 January 1991 of Hanworth, Middlesex aged 81. Ex WO2 1st and 2nd Battalions 1931-52.

5566470 Mr W.J.H. Rogers on 10 February 1991 of London aged 89. 2nd Battalion 1925-33 and 1939-45.

5568628 Mr G. Brooks on 27 March 1991 of Marlborough, aged 77. Ex Sgt 1933-45.

5576165 Mr J. Long in March 1991 of London, aged 84. Ex Guide Tower of London 1964-74.

Mr R.G. Simkins on 18 April 1991 of Chippenham aged 64. Wilts Home Guard.

5565388 Mr F.P. Parker on 23 May 1991 of Warminster aged 85, ex CSM 4 Battalion.

5568194 Mr D.J. Baker on 18 May 1991.

5568401 Mr B.A. Tanner on 16 June 1991 of Urchfont aged 78. Served 1932-46 1st and 2nd Battalions.

5567024 Mr P Hobbs BEM MSM of Tidworth aged 79, ex RQMS and POW 1940-43.

5723711 Mr L.G. Cotterell on 21 July 1991 of Wootton Bassett. 1st and 2nd Battalions 1934-48.

5570360 Mr W.J. Mills in June 1991 of Devizes aged 68. Ex Sgt 4th Battalion.

19130 Mr H.L. Shore on 13 June 1991 of Devizes aged 90.

5566040 Mr E.W. Chapman on 18 August 1991. Ex L/Cpl.

5496952 Mr S.J. Shayler on 28 August 1991 of Gosport, aged 76. 1st Battalion 1933-45.

5566557 Mr R.W. Radclyffe on 1 September 1991 of

Devizes aged 83. Ex Sgt 1st and 2nd Battalions 1926-45.

5566493 Mr F. May in September 1991 of Trowbridge aged 69. 4th Battalion and Wessex TA.

5497026 Mr L.O. Spicer on 5 September 1991 of Devizes aged 75. 4th Battalion 1935-45.

5573113 Mr B.C.F. Bodman on 1 October 1991 of Warminster aged 74. Served 2nd and 5th Battalions.

5680983 Mr B. Harris on 7 October 1991 of Camborne aged 71. 2nd Battalion.

201343 Mr A.D. Robbins on 22 October 1991 of Poole aged 97.

14960605 Mr B.F. Bird on 3 November 1991 of Potterne aged 71. 4th Battalion.

5568082 Mr G.A. Goodman MM on 4 November 1991 of Bracknell aged 81. 2nd Battalion 1931-38. 4th Battalion 1939-45.

5569469 Mr F. Swift on 6 November 1991 of Royal Hospital Chelsea aged 74. 1st Battalion 1936-46. Chelsea Pensioner 1987-91.

10794 Mr S.W. Blythman on 9 November 1991 of Belmont, NSW, Australia, aged 98. Gallipoli veteran, wounded Kut, Iraq 1917. Served 5th Wilts 1914-19. Home Guard 1940-45.

Mr C.S. Lye on 12 November 1991 of Bath aged 85. 1st Battalion 1923-30. 2nd Battalion 1939-45.

5566943 Mr P.G. Regan on 26 November 1991 of Devizes aged 78. 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalion 1927-68. Ex President and County Secretary Wilts Royal British Legion. French Horn player Wilts Band.

5567936 Mr E.W. Hibberd on 28 November 1991 of Salisbury aged 79. Served 1930-37.

5565536 Mr W.G. Ockwell in December 1991 of Malmesbury aged 86. Joined 1st Battalion October 1923.

14135 Mr W. Poore on 23 Nov 91 aged 99.

5680764 Mr H.E. Radford on 4 Jan 92 aged 81 of Highbridge, Somerset 2nd Bn 1940-46.

5567684 Mr E.L. Long on 1 Jan 92 aged 80 of Westbury ex Sgt 1, 2 and 4th Bn and Joint Services Athletics Gold Medal Winner Malaya.

OBITUARIES

COLONEL A.E.G. (George) BRAIN, O.B.E., T.D.

Colonel A.E.G. Brain, O.B.E., T.D. died recently at his home near Canterbury. He was the son of the late Albert Harry Brain, County Surveyor for the County of Wiltshire. Educated at Bishop Wordsworth School, Salisbury he entered the Westminster Bank in 1935. During the thirties George served as a trooper in the Northwest Somersetshire Yeomanry, becoming an able horseman, which later stood him in good stead in India.

George Brain was commissioned into the 4th Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment, in 1939. The first years of the war were spent with the 4th Battalion in the 43rd Wessex Division in the defence of the south-east of England. In 1942 he was seconded to the 6th Battalion, 9th Jat Regiment, Indian Army. The first task was to learn Urdu. He joined the Jats in the Khyber Pass on the Northwest Frontier, and was successively Adjutant and then a Company Commander in command of Fort Jamrud under Colonel J.D. Guille. While at the Jungle Warfare School at Bangalore he contracted scrub typhus and survived. No mean achievement in those days before antibiotics. Later he saw active service with his Battalion in Burma. The Battalion was Divisional Reconnaissance Regiment for the 17th Indian Division (Black Cats). He took part in some of the major battles for Burma including the crossing of the Irrawaddy and

Meiktila. In 1945 he was appointed Military Secretary to the G.O.C., Ceylon, General Sir George Taker. In 1946 he returned to civilian life and banking.

George Brain rejoined the Territorial Army when it was reformed in 1948. Subsequently he held various appointments including command of D and S Companies of the 4th Wiltshires. He assumed command of the 4th Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment in 1956, after being second in command to Colonel George Wort. While in command he took a keen interest in all aspects of regimental life. In particular, he fostered the Band and Drums and the motorcycle team. Mysteriously the Band and Drums paraded in red coats at the time when only Guards Bands were permitted to do so! At this time the Battalion won the Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy on several occasions. During this tenure of command, the bicentenary of The Wiltshire Regiment occurred. Since the 1st Battalion was in Cyprus it fell to the 4th Battalion to provide the celebrations. The high spot was the Trooping the Colour Parade at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes. 1958 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Territorial Army and, again, the Battalion was called on in a ceremonial role. George Brain retired from the Territorial Army in 1959.

Throughout his army career George pursued a highly successful life in banking. He was successively an able manager for the Westminster Bank at Chippenham, Canterbury and Maidstone, later, Area

Manager at Maidstone and Chief Executive of the Ulster Bank. Finally, he was Regional Executive Director for the National Westminster Bank for the South-West of England and South Wales. He is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.

MAJOR R.E. MATTHEWS

Ronnie Matthews was born and brought up in Reading. He was commissioned into the Royal Berkshire Regiment in August 1958 and transferred to The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment on amalgamation. He was a Training Officer at the amalgamated Depot at Devizes in early 1960.

After service with the 1st Battalion in Tidworth, the IJLB Oswestry and then I.D. and D. he applied for secondment to the A.A.C. and eventually transferred to its Permanent Cadre. He had a very successful career with the A.A.C. eventually becoming a Squadron Commander in B.A.O.R.

After retiring from the Army he was in business in Westbury and Reading but had to give this up in 1990 due to poor health. He died aged 53 on 8th August 1991 and very sadly his death occurred unbeknown to the Regiment. He will be much missed by his contemporaries.

CAPTAIN D.J. ALLAN

Derek Allan was born and brought up in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

He was commissioned from Eaton Hall OCS in 1956 joining the 1st Bn The Wiltshire Regiment in Cyprus that year. He served as a rifle platoon commander at Ayos Amvrosios and at Aghirda.

In 1958 he became a Training Officer at the Depot, Devizes later serving in the 1st Bn in Tidworth and Malta. After a tour of duty as an Instructor at the School of Infantry, Hythe he returned to the 1st Bn in Minden retiring in December 1966.

He embarked on a successful second career with BUPA and was only prevented from reaching Board Room level by a most severe illness in early 1991. He died aged 54 on 13th August 1991. A Memorial Service was held at St Clement Danes Church at which the Regiment was represented. He will be greatly missed both by his BUPA colleagues and by his many friends in the Regiment.

CAPTAIN A.J.S. WHITE CMG OBE

Captain White died at Mere aged 94 on 18th February 1991 where he was born on 28th August 1896. He was commissioned into the 4th Wiltshires at Cheddar on 26th August 1915 from Marlborough College. He

served in France from 1916-17 with the 1st Wiltshires and was evacuated to England after the Battle of Messines near Ypres, serving until 1919 at Phoenix Park Dublin. After Cambridge he entered the Indian Civil Service and served in Burma until 1937 as Education Secretary. He served with the British Council in Latin America as Deputy Secretary until 1940 when he was appointed Secretary General. He visited China in 1947 flying from Poole Harbour in a Sunderland flying boat! He finally retired in 1968 at the age of 72 having been Controller of the British Council for the last 15 years of his service. During his retirement he attended happy gatherings of the Wiltshire Regiment, the Burma ICS and the British Council. His memoirs were published by the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) in 1991, the title being 'The Burma of "AJ"'.

MAJOR D.J. CARR

Douglas Carr who died on 13th August 1991, aged 70, will be remembered both as an excellent Regimental Officer and for his love of cricket – indeed most sports.

Like his father before him, Douglas was commissioned into The Royal Berkshire Regiment and joined the 6th Bn in C1940. His war service took him to the Far East where, towards the end, he was very much involved with the impending invasion of Malaya: however, hostilities ceased before the event. On the orders of General Sir Miles Dempsey, Douglas was posted to the 2nd Bn who were stationed at Kalaw in Burma. When the Bn moved to Mingledon near Rangoon, Douglas was the moving force that resulted in the Bn cricket XI (which included Donald – his younger brother) winning the SEAC Championship. In 1948, the Bn sailed for Egypt: whilst afloat Douglas and Donald organised and played a lot of bridge – they were unbeaten. On arrival in Egypt, there is no doubt that cricket was to the fore but beating the Egyptian Professional at squash was something about which Douglas often talked. Amongst other postings that followed were secondment to the Malay Regiment, a spell at the War Office; and – where many of us have such happy memories of him – Adjutant of the 4th/6th Bn (TA) at Reading. All along, Douglas proved to be a first class officer in every way and – in particular – was meticulously careful in looking after those under his command. He was very popular with all ranks.

In 1958 Douglas left the Army and soon afterwards he first assisted and then succeeded Donald as Secretary of Derbyshire County Cricket Club – until about 1975. This was an appointment for which he was ideally suited and it gave him great pleasure.

Not long after this, Douglas developed severe heart problems. He suffered these, with almost incredible

fortitude and cheerfulness for the rest of his life.

Douglas was an excellent companion who joined in every activity with enthusiasm. He was a quiet and kind man – also one of the straightest that one could ever wish to meet. He had a most endearing sense of humour and a great sense of the ridiculous. None of us will forget his inimitable smile and laugh. Perhaps Douglas's greatest attribute was his loyalty; to his Regiment, his Cricket Club and to his friends. If

anyone needed a helping hand, some advice or some of his time, Douglas would give it.

In 1958, Douglas married Pamela daughter of the late Major-General and Mrs A.C. Temperley (he was at one time military correspondent of the Daily Telegraph) Douglas is survived by Pamela, one son and two daughters. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to them all.

His Friends

EDITORS NOTE: Other obituaries will be published in the Regimental Association Newsletter.

NOTICES

The following letter from Mr D. Roberts is published because RHQ does not have a copy of the photograph. Should any reader be able to help will you contact Mr Roberts direct.

1, Biss Meadow,
TROWBRIDGE,
Wilts.
BA14 9SA

19 July 1991

Dear Sirs,

**PRIVATE N.A. CABLE SERVICE No 24493987
LATE OF "A" COMPANY 1st BATTALION DUKE
OF EDINBURGH's ROYAL REGIMENT (Berkshire
& Wiltshire)**

I am writing on behalf of the Mother of the above soldier. Unfortunately he died in a road accident after leaving the Army and his Mother's copy of a photograph taken of "A" Company 1st Battalion in Londonderry in November 1979, in which he appeared, has now been damaged accidentally by having water spilt over it.

I am anxious to ascertain whether the source of the photograph can be traced and, if so, whether I can obtain another copy after such a long time.

The original print is in colour and measures 15 inches by 8¼ inches. It is mounted on stiff white paper and the full title printed at the top is "A Coy 1st Bn The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire & Wiltshire)". In the bottom left hand corner we have "LONDONDERRY" and the date "Jul – Nov 1979" appears in the bottom right hand corner. The names of all those in the picture are also printed in seven rows at the bottom.

Please could you assist me in this matter? Of course I am prepared to defray any expense incurred in obtaining a copy if it is not possible to put me in direct contact with the photographer.

Yours faithfully,
D ROBERTS

Foundationers at Wellington College

When Wellington College was founded in memory of the great Duke, a main purpose was to provide an education for the sons of deceased Army officers. Over the years the original Charter has been liberalized, and the Foundation can now also help the sons (13-18) and daughters (16-18) of Commissioned Officers in all branches of the services who have died whilst still serving and of ex officers provided they were in receipt of retired pay at the time of their death. This help takes the form of an education at Wellington on reduced fees, the size of which depends on the means of the surviving parent.

It has become apparent that a number of people who could have benefited from the Foundation in the education of their children were not aware of its existence. It is not necessary for Foundationers to be registered with Wellington before they apply for election; in other words, a late change in circumstances will not debar someone seeking election to the Foundation.

All enquiries about the Foundation, including potential admissions, should be addressed to the Bursar, Colonel David Cook, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 7PU.

The Armed Forces Art Society

The Armed Forces Art Society exists to help people in the Services who draw and paint, make sculpture or engrave glass by holding an exhibition in London each year at the National Army Museum in Chelsea at which about 400 works go on show. Many of the exhibitors are professional artists who have served in the Forces thus ensuring a high standard of work. This also provides a great opportunity for the less experienced to see their work in a major exhibition and to benefit from professional advice. The Prince of Wales, a distinguished watercolourist, is the Society's Patron.

Further details can be obtained by sending a sae to: The Assistant Secretary Captain Bill Blake, D Block, Duke of Yorks HQ, London SW3 4SE.

Regular Forces Employment Association

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, 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 addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1st April 1990 – 31st March 1991 the Association assisted 11,322 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4833 in employment. Of those placed 2212 were men and women from the Army and 13 were from DERR.

Army Benevolent Fund – Wiltshire Appeal The Lottery Prizes – drawn 30th June 1991

A Mini Cooper Car

No: 180613

Major Joe Owen TD RAPC (V), Shrivenham, Swindon.

Holiday for Two (8 Days)

No: 032672

Mrs W Ouwehand, c/o 22 Fitzgibbon Square, Larkhill.

£200 Voucher – includes: £50 Marks & Spencer, £50 W.H. Smith, £50 Boots and £50 Halfords.

No: 087508

Mrs T.H. Baker, Ballyach, Buttermere, Marlborough.

Dinner and Overnight Accommodation for Two

No: 041691

Debbie Ettles, 20 Park Street, Charlton, Malmesbury.

Colour Television Set

No: 042548

Mrs Munro, Great Somerford.

3 Litre Bottle of Whisky

No: 032897

H. Glen, Larkhill

Patchwork Quilt

No: 027838

Mrs J. Eburne, 5 Falcons Way, Salisbury.

£50 Voucher

No: 193438

Julie Tyler, Calne.

£20 Voucher

No: 182855

A. Richards, Lydicut Millicent.

½ Case of Wine

No: 026437

Cpl Lowe, 3 Fd Wksp, Tidworth.

Rail Ticket for two for day out to London from any Wiltshire station

No: 072303

C Risk, Winterbourne Dauntsey.

Poppy Care

1992 is a year when echoes of the Gulf War and stories of difficulties caused by a reduction in the size of our troops, make the work of the Poppy Appeal even more poignant. Troops in the Gulf fought in alien conditions far away from home at a time when they could have been with their families at Christmas.

The Gulf War was the latest of some 75 'peacetime' conflicts since 1945. Each one has created untold suffering and misery. These servicemen, their wives and children have sacrificed much to preserve world peace and freedom. Today it is the role of the Poppy Appeal to help and care for them in their time of need. This care touches all age groups and not only war veterans of World War II and before.

However, The Poppy Appeal's greatest immediate commitment is for the tens of thousands of World War II veterans and their dependants numbering hundreds of thousands. Their early years were spent fighting for the freedoms we enjoy in Britain today. As they reach the later stages of their lives they are turning to the Poppy Appeal for help in ever increasing numbers.

Some 18 million people are eligible for help from the Poppy Appeal. Over 100,000 were given assistance last year. Benevolent and welfare services given by the Poppy Appeal include residential care, pensions advice and finding employment for ex-Service people starting life on Civvy Street. However this is just a small part of the work which directly addresses the needs of so many people in this country; other services include holidays for disabled people, hospital visits to the long term sick and pilgrimages. Last year, 850 widows and loved ones were taken to 141 cemeteries in countries as close as France and as distant as the Far East.

Last year £12.8 million was raised, which shows that even during these difficult times the British public will not let the Poppy Appeal down. It is a British Institution – universally recognised and respected. Tremendous public support comes from the knowledge that the Poppy Appeal is a cost effective charity – 92 pence in every pound donated goes directly to meet the particular needs of the ex-Service community.

In Aid of the Army Benevolent Fund A Soldier's Dream

A children's book which is the story of a young lad who joins the army during the Napoleonic Wars and has a dream with an amusing consequence. Mr. John Ryan of 'Captain Pugwash' renown has illustrated it.

The book, including p & p costs £2.75 and due to the illustrations will be enjoyed by all the family. It is only available by mail order. All proceeds go to the Army Benevolent Fund so please make cheques/postal orders out to the Army Benevolent Fund completing the order form below.

DIRECT ORDER FORM (UK & BFPO ORDERS ONLY)

To: Peter Stewart-Richardson,
Creake Abbey,
North Creake,
Fakenham,
Norfolk NR21 9LF

Please send me copies of 'A Soldier's Dream'

and I enclose a cheque/PO for £

Signature Date

Name & Address with Post Code

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MUSEUM SHOP

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.

ITEM	Cost	No Reqd	Total Cost
Brochures.	.50		
Cap Badges (DERR, R BERKS & WILTS)	3.50		
Cuff Links	5.90		
Key Fobs	1.10		
Ladies Pendants	2.65		
Ball pens	.95		
Pencils	.60		
Postcards	.40		
Prints (Battles of Ferozeshah, Maiwand, Tofrek, Sgt Rogers VC) each	3.10		
Regimental Plaques (DERR)	17.95		
Tie Slide	3.40		
Regimental Ties (DERR, R BERKS & WILTS) each	8.25		
Ice Buckets	19.50		
Bookmarks	1.05		
Lapel Badge (DERR only)	1.75		
1pt Beer Glasses	2.20		
½pt Beer Glasses	2.20		
Stick Pin (Tie)	3.10		
Cassette Tapes: DERR Band, Corps of Drums, Air Mobile Infantry each	5.50		
Compact Disc – Air Mobile Infantry	9.95		
Mugs	1.95		
Thimbles	3.05		
Egg Cups	1.60		
Cloth Badges	.65		
Windows Stickers	.55		
Bullet Key Rings	1.90		
Framed Emblazons	19.50		
Horse brasses (DERR, R BERKS & WILTS) with leather martingale straps each	7.25		
Blazer Badges DERR, R. Berks, Wilts	12.20		
Blazer Buttons (DERR & WILTS Regt)			
Large	3.95 ea		
Small	3.65 ea		
Regimental Table Mats (new design)	7.50 ea		
Brass Pin Trays – DERR, R. Berks, Wilts	7.50		
Brass Paper Weights – DERR, R. Berks, Wilts	7.25		
Medal Holders – Civilian wear	2.20		
“Bobbies” – statuettes	17.95		
Telephone Notebooks	.90		
TOTAL COST			

Cheques/POs should be crossed and made payable to “DERR MUSEUM TRUST”









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