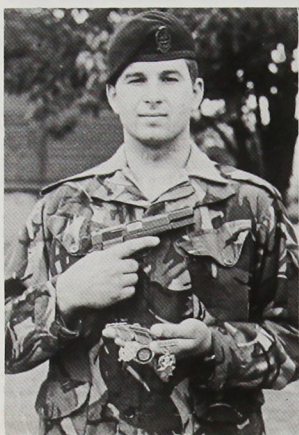


2 Queen's NEWSLETTER

2nd BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



Army shot, Pte Griffin, displays his Bisley winnings.

Queensman makes Army team

One of the highlights of our very creditable and successful team performance at Bisley this year was the selection of Pte Wayne Griffin of D (HW) Company for the Army Pistol Team, which won the Inter-Service Pistol Match. Pte Griffin who was runner-up in the individual Pistol Championship (to an ex-Queensman, Captain John Dawson RMP) also made the SMG 75. Other notable performances included our short range sniper team consisting of CSgt Mac McAndrew, Sgt Tony Martin and Pte Chris Marchant, who won the Queens Cup, CSgt Speedy White who made the Army Hundred on SLR and Cpl Tich Kirkaldie and Pte Chris Marchant (again) who also made the SMG 75.

Our overall place in the Major Unit Championship was 28th, compared with 38th last year. This encourages much optimism for a further improvement in 1984. For a full list of results see page 4.



The Army Short Range Sniper Champions display the Queen's Cup.

THE COMMANDING OFFICER BIDS FAREWELL

On the 5th July the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Packham, handed over command of the Battalion after nearly two and a half years as CO.

Having been dined out of the various Messes in the previous week, the CO finally handed over command to Lt Col Mike Constantine at 1400 hours on 5th July. He was then ceremonially towed out of barracks in a Land Rover pulled by his Officers and Warrant Officers, with the rest of the Battalion lining the route.

Under Lt Col Peter's command, the Battalion has had an extremely busy time. We have had a six-month unaccompanied United Nations tour in Cyprus, as well as two periods of Op Spearhead. We have taken part in a Field Force Concentration at Otterburn and have been involved in two highly successful ceremonial events—the march through the City of London in July 1981, and later that year, the visit of the massed bands of the Queen's Division to Hyderabad Barracks.

Later he has brought the Battalion across to Londonderry and seen us settle in on all fronts in this demanding and challenging posting.

We wish him God speed and good luck in his new appointment at the MOD in London.



The CO leaves the barracks for the last time.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM LT COL P F PACKHAM MBE

At the end of my tour in command of the Second Battalion I would like to express my thanks to all ranks for their loyal support and hard work over the last two and a half years.

It has been an honour and a privilege for me to command this Battalion and I am very sad to be finishing Regimental duty after so many years. However, I look forward to seeing many of you at Regimental reunions in the future.

I send all of you and your families my very best wishes for the remainder of the tour in Londonderry.

PETER PACKHAM.



Lt Col Peter Packham hands over to Lt Col Mike Constantine.

'A' Company



After another exhausting day Cpl "Jaws" Garrick fails to stay awake for this Section snap-shot.

A Company, are mourning the death this year of the Invicta Competition—yes, really! I do not wish to be smug but we have won the shooting, the boxing, the tennis and the tennis doubles. Our thanks go to HQ Company for complaining about the latter and putting us in first place. The shooting had a very moving finale, or rather it didn't, since the moving targets refused to move even after a sharp talking to by CSM REARDON! As for the boxing PTEs HENRY, BOVELLE (87), PATRICK and McPHERSON all distinguished themselves with energetic if not world-class style wins.

On the 29th of May we hit the city, and in return a great deal of it hit us. Since then A Company have not looked back. That is until PTE KNIGHT got hit on the back of the head with a milk bottle. The tour was very active, marked by the native's tendency to throw around large quantities of local masonry and other items normally confined to a DIY shop. We discovered that milk certainly has "got a lotta bottle" and wish the hell it would come in plastic containers!

Spurred on by our successes on the sports field we were tempted to enter the Londonderry marathon. No one, however, could find a 2 QUEENS tracksuit so we gave it a miss.

The event of the month was the visit by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. Michael HASELTINE and the CGS Gen Sir John STANIER. They received briefings both in the Fort George Ops Room and then out on the famous City Walls. The resultant publicity got the mug of one of our ugly subalterns on the front page of the Regimental Magazine and signed copies are now available for a modest fee!!

FIND OF WOODMASTER RIFLE



At dawn on 23rd May, A Company was tasked to provide a protective cordon for RE Search Teams who were searching unoccupied addresses in the Rossville Flats. The searches proved negative, but a find was made by a member of the cordon at one of the stairwells.

LCpl "FLID" BURR, not a search-trained NCO, but an inquisitive one, reached up into a pipe conduit and felt the butt and

trigger-guard of a rifle. Looking up into the conduit he could see the weapon, with a telescopic sight, wedged in the conduit. ATO was summoned and revealed a .306 Woodmaster Rifle in very good condition.

Although it cannot be proved, it is considered likely that the rifle was the one used against a patrol the previous week—a patrol of which LCpl BURR was a member.

'HQ' Company

HQ COY HQ

Since the last Newsletter a number of changes have occurred. Cpl GLEN BARKER has left us to become the G Trg Ck in Butlins (Bn HQ) and Cpl PETE ROGERS has joined us as his replacement. Pte DAVE JOY has left to join Dr Death's team at the MRS.

Cpl MICK FAGG's son PETER and four of his friends found an ammunition cache of 700 assorted rounds and various other items in an old farmyard behind the MSQ area in Eglinton. Pte RUSS RUSSELL is shortly to attempt his driving test and is also planning to get married in August. Mrs KIM ROGERS is expecting a baby sometime in July; congratulations to Cpl PETE ROGERS on getting it organised after six years.

The daily runs are flourishing under the CSM's (WO2 MICK REARDON) direction although with all the rain more often than often not they bear more resemblance to swimming tests. CSgt SPEEDY WHITE is away at Bisley with the Battalion Shooting Team at present and we wish him the best of luck.

Finally on a commercial note, the HQ Coy Video Library has sadly gone into voluntary liquidation. However to replace it we are now offering prints of some of the more famous Regimental paintings, which can be viewed during office hours and acquired at very modest rates from our gallery at the Coy Office. Apply in person to our Managing Director Major JAMES EWART.

MT PLATOON NOTES

Many miles have passed under our wheels since the last notes were written, which as far as this scribe is concerned seems like yesterday.

The pattern has been set (no comments from the security officer) for the tour, and this does allow leave etc, to be planned. Adjusting to this for 18 months is difficult after the fairly hectic life in Colchester.

Sgt CLIFFE WHEELER has the Q.S.M. (Queen's School of Motoring) functioning and four soldiers a month are trained on the Landrover. In addition a 1 Ton Humber Conversion Cadre is run to keep the Companies "topped up" with drivers. So many accidents have happened recently involving reversing vehicles into innocent gate posts, and other stationery objects, that a one week reversing cadre for the Companies is under serious consideration!

The MTWO has decided that after 20 years of working with vehicles, horses are a far more satisfactory mode of transport, and was seen walking around bow legged after completing a five day riding cadre. Rumour has it, he may be training for the Grand National next year having been seen running around the camp, or is it that there is no transport left, all of it being off the road.

The MT Platoon is busy reversing the downward trend of the British birthrate. Congratulations to LCpl BILL DOLLING (a son), Cpl KEITH CROUCHER (a daughter), Pte PAUL CHITTOCK (a boy), and of course their wives. We hope you are all well and not having too many sleepless nights.

An old friend of the platoon has recently left, and it proved to be a rather expensive farewell. LCpl "RAT" RATCLIFFE had the same problem as some other members of the platoon in making it back by one o'clock! The beer or something must be good outside that gate.

Welcome to two arrivals; Pte PIP AYRES who has been recruiting in Maidstone for 2 years, and Pte SMUDGE SMITH who has joined us from B Company. Our foreman Cpl SIMON BODDIE is pleased to have you join his diminishing gang.

A word on the Fort George crew of LCpl "BERNIE THE BOLT" BYRNE and Pte "CHRIS BONNINGTON" CARTY who keep the city Company Commander off the MTO's back, and it's suspected, rather enjoy being out of sight. We haven't been sent many fish lately from across the water perhaps they aren't biting at present.

News from the Quartermasters Platoon

Since the last edition of the Newsletter we have seen a change of Quartermaster. We have said goodbye to Maj "Stan The Man" BILLETT and have welcomed in his place Capt MJ AYLING. Another arrival is Sgt Carl FEARON who has joined us from 5 QUEENS. Also we have said farewell to Pte "Arsonist" SHAWLEY who has left us for civvy street much to the relief of the fire piquet and the local Fire Brigade.

Our latest pastime in keeping with "SINC" (Soldiers in Camp) is spot the Tech QM (who is rarer than a nine bob note). Anyone can play, any sighting is to be reported to the TQMS, Ext 375.

Finally the ROMS would like it known that he is not a season ticket holder with British Airways, however he does admit to being on christian name terms with the shuttle pilots.

SIGNAL PLATOON

The only event of any note to involve the Signal Platoon in the last few months was an inter-platoon league football match against 3 Platoon. This was played on Friday, June 17 and because of its importance, a neutral ground at Clooney was selected as a venue. Those who know this ground will remember that its application for acceptance as an international standard pitch was rejected on the grounds of its 1:4 slope, and the lattice of trenches, reminiscent of Flanders Field, which unfortunately covers 90% of the playing area. Comforted by the thought that pure football skills would overcome those trivial obstacles, the spectator prepared himself for a feast of attacking football.

He was not to be disappointed. Within five minutes of the kick-off the Signal Platoon attacking the goal to our right had opened their account. It was a telling psychological moment to score the goal coming about from a long through ball which was cleverly deflected into the path of "Pronto" by a 3 Pl centre back. Gathering the ball maladroitly, he found himself in the bewildering position of having only the onrushing goalkeeper to beat. Remaining cool he let fly with a sweet left foot which stubbed the ground sufficiently to wrong-foot the goalkeeper and send the ball stumbling into the net. 3 Platoon are always at their most dangerous when a goal down and so it was a surprise to the spectator to see the Signal Platoon selecting another psychological moment 5 minutes later, to go further ahead. This time from a set piece, Signaller Ticker Durham drifted a delightfully weighted left foot cross into the near post and once again that man Pronto popped up, dragged the ball down with his right foot, turned on a sixpence and drilled the ball into the back of the net.

3 Platoon came back like tigers and from the kick-off enjoyed a period of intense pressure which they eventually converted into a splendidly taken goal by Pte Smudge Smith. A penalty from Pte Lofty Farrant, the Signal Platoon's only international, at possibly the most telling psychological moment just before half time, saw the Signal Platoon stretch their lead to 3-1.

Following a half-time tongue lashing from their manager, 3 Platoon took to the pitch for the second half with an air of determination. Enjoying the advantage of the slope they embarked on a cold blooded examination of the Signal Platoon's defensive frailties which resulted in a flood of goals. The Signal Platoon midfield was overwhelmed by the more creative and industrious 3 Platoon trio and up front Pronto who faded badly, was eventually eclipsed by the increasing dominance of Jones and O'Connor.

The Signal Platoon defence leaking like a sieve, eventually conceded five goals in the second-half including a hat-trick to Pte Steve Wright, and 3 Platoon ran out easy winners at 6-3. In a post-match interview credit was given to 3 Platoon for playing the ball wide, running off the ball, finding a bit of space in the middle of the park and putting the ball in the back of the net. As the spectator was heard to comment as he wended his way home. In the final analysis at the end of the day, it's goals that count."

'B' (Invicta) Company

'B' Company have had a varied past 3 months, with a busy tour in the City, leave, adventure and military training.

During the month in the City the Company had a variety of different incidents to deal with, including:

- 21 hoax/false IEDs, with clearance operations.
- 2 attempted murders of SF personnel.



'B' Coy search team shows off the Mini Ruger rifle and two pistols found on the 25th April, in the Shantallow.

Among the traditional Company competitions, Cpl BRENNAN won the "oldest occupant" award, searching a house occupied by a man born in 1886. Pte GILL walked away with the PR award for helping schoolchildren across puddles, and Sgt MARTIN won the "hunt the bottle" competition although it appears he may have cheated (with Cpl JEFFREY'S assistance). 23E and 23F won the prize for the most obscure use of voice procedure when, chasing a car under Hawkeye's guidance, they reported to him that they "had the car on visual!"

A succession of marriages followed during leave—congratulations are due to LCpl ARTHEY (who was married complete with a black eye, following an excellent exhibition bout with the Army Heavy-weight Champion), LCpl CALEY and Ptes

A find and clearance of about 300 lbs. of ANFO, with booster, cordtex and a detonator in 3 beer kegs.

A find of 1 Mini Ruger 14, 1 x .38 Smith & Wesson revolver, 1 x VZOR 70 Pistol, 17 x 5.56 rounds, 4 x .38 rounds, 5 balaclavas and 2 pairs of gloves.

About 200 house searches/house checks.



'B' Coy QRF come to Sgt Martin's assistance.

Of those brave (stupid?) enough to climb the cliffs around Portrush, Ptes HUNT, JANNEY and TIBBLE proved to be the most ape-like of the Company. Sadly not everyone managed much adventure training—Pte GREEN enjoyed taking his APWT so much he has had no less than six attempts at it!

A very good relationship was established with the Royal British Legion at Portrush during the Company's stay at Magilligan, which led to a football match against them which 'B' Company won 9-1. A closely-fought return match was held at Portrush, with the Company team led by WO2 WHITALL (who had recently taken over from WO2 CORNICK); although "Cruncher" Whittall did not actually score, his gleaming tennis shorts so dazzled the much-altered opposition that 'B' Company won 4-2.

At the end of June the Company suffered its first real casualty. As LCpl HULME'S brick was returning from Letterkenny VCP, a petrol bomb was thrown through the driver's window, breaking on his visor; despite severe burns to his hands and arms, and burns to his legs, he managed to keep the vehicle under control, so avoiding injuring any civilians. He drove on, bringing the vehicle to a halt at the side of the road, despite being in severe pain. All the brick showed great presence of mind throughout the incident and deserve the highest praise for their actions.

All three Platoons in the Company are about to f-off, in turn, for Platoon adventure training camps, under a permanent Company adventure training staff, covering such diverse activities as canoeing, wind-surfing and off-shore fishing, to rock-climbing and horse riding. After this 'B' Company will look forward to another tour in the City when, much to his relief, Maj JACKSON once again will have a whole Company under his command and need not feel quite so guilty when he gets his pay statements.



Pte Gill counts them all out and counts them all back!

HEATHFIELD, BROOK and KENT. Congratulations are also due to Capt GAMLIN, LCpls BENHAM and BAILEY (35) and Ptes MORRIS, SHERGOLD and MILLS, who with Cpl MCCAULEY, Ptes FISHER and HUGHES (HQ Coy) and Pte GABLE ('C' Coy) pulled a Wombat around the Derby marathon.

In May the Company went to Magilligan to carry out range work and adventure training. Lt WILSON and Sgt LEMARE ran the ranges, Sgt BUDDLE ran canoeing instruction and Capt GAMLIN took rock climbing and abseiling. Maj JACKSON, assisted by 2LT HAYWOOD-SMITH, kindly volunteered to take trips around Bushmills Distillery. LCpls BENHAM and BAILEY (35) supervised fishing at Magilligan and Portrush, although they must have had divine support to make 2 fishing rods stretch between 14 men! LCpls EDE and ANDERSON showed their skills at canoeing (contrary to the current rumour, LCpl Anderson was using a canoe, not one of his boots), while Ptes SCOTT and NODDINGS were apparently being trialed for an underwater stunt team.



After three weeks in the City, Pte Hunt develops an alarming fixation for Pte Skinner!



LCpl Lyden reccees route for 'B' Coy Safe Driving Competition.

Visitors to the Battalion

VISIT OF MINISTER OF DEFENCE

On Wednesday 4th May, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP, visited the Battalion. He was accompanied throughout his visit by the CGS, General Sir John Stanier.

On arrival by helicopter at Ebrington Barracks, the visitors were met by the Commander 8 Bde, Brigadier Mattingley. Mr. Heseltine was then given an aerial recce of the city in a Gazelle helicopter, accompanied by the Battalion 2 i/c, Major Roddy Mellotte.

The helicopter landed at Fort George, where OC 'A' Company, Major Robin Christmas, welcomed the visitors, and together with the Battalion 2 i/c, briefed them on the role of the Battalion.

This was followed by a drive to Masonic Base, where the Minister had a chance to meet members of 1 Pl 'A' Company, he was also briefed by OC 1 Platoon, Lt Simon Garrett, from a position on the City Walls, overlooking the Bogside.



Capt O'Connor and LCpl Burr try to think of something to say to the Defence Minister.

VISIT OF GOC

The GOC Northern Ireland made his first formal visit to the Battalion on Wednesday 13th June, 1983.

The programme for his visit included briefings in the Battalion Headquarters, meeting members of the COP Platoon, and a visit in the afternoon to City Company at

Fort George, Masonic Base and Rosemount RUC Station.

The general had drinks in the WOs and Sgts Mess, followed by lunch with the Officers. Whilst in the SNCOs and Sgts Mess, he presented the LS and GC medal to the Drum Major, Sergeant Roger Ward.



The GOC in conference with LCpl Williams and team.

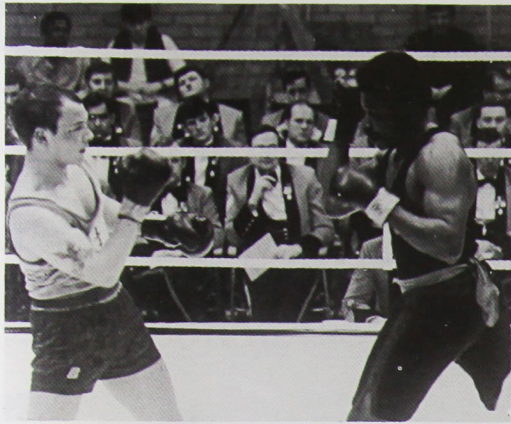
Visit of Paymaster in Chief

On Wednesday, June 8 the Paymaster-in-Chief, Maj Gen L Bartlett visited the Battalion. During the visit he met and talked to all members of the unit pay team. He was also taken on a guided tour of Londonderry by Maj Mellotte in a helicopter.

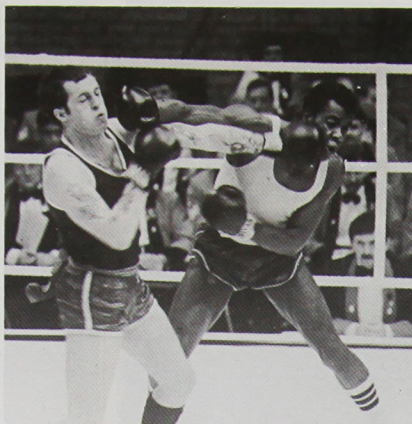


The GOC presents the LS and GC medal to the Drum Major.

A career-conscious SSgt Jones blows the Paymaster-in-Chief a kiss.



Our own LCPi Trevor Arthey and LCPi M. Myles RGJ, displaying a large degree of mutual respect.



Pte Kent and Pte McPherson slug it out in the Middle-weight final.

INTER-COMPANY NOVICES BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 18th-21st April the Inter-Company Novices Boxing Championships took place in an atmosphere that could only be described as electric!

Each Company was required to produce a boxing squad consisting of 9 boxers, encompassing all the weight classes from Bantam to Heavyweight, the Bantam and Featherweights causing the most difficulty. Only 'C' Company and 'A' Company managed to produce a full boxing squad.

Once the boxing teams had been selected the Company boxing representatives soon launched themselves into training and preparing their teams for the championships. Given the restrictions imposed through operational and leave commitments, they all worked hard to produce boxing squads that were a credit to their respective Companies. Special mention must be made of Lt STRUTT ('C' Coy) and Sgt FRIDAY ('A' Coy) whose contribution to training and managing their respective squads was outstanding.

In no time at all Monday 18th April was upon us and at 0730 hours the weigh-in commenced. This was the critical time, when all the dieting or excessive eating to make the weights was put to the test! All boxing representatives had anxious moments as their boxers stepped on to the scales, but with only one exception all the boxers made the weights. More anxious moments passed as the bout order for the prelims, due to take place that afternoon at 1400 hours, was announced.

At 1330 hours the Gymnasium began to fill with spectators, coming to cheer their teams on, willing their boxers to win. This without doubt contributed enormously to what amounted to a good afternoon's boxing. The standard of boxing was far higher than one would expect from novice boxers in the preliminary stages of a championship. All boxers produced gutsy and spirited bouts much to the enjoyment of all spectators.

The winners congratulated themselves on qualifying for the semi-finals, the losers nursed their hurt pride, but all tended their injuries. The afternoon's boxing completed, we all looked forward to the semi-finals, to be held the following afternoon, Tuesday 19th April. If the standard of boxing in the prelims was anything to go by, a good afternoon's sport could be looked forward to.

We were not to be disappointed. It turned out to be a very good semi-final. Once again, all the boxers rose to the occasion and gave their all. Every man was battling for a place in the final, their sole aim to score maximum points for their Company.

All the bouts were well fought, but the Light Welterweight bout between Pte

LEON NELSON ('C' Coy) and Pte JOHN HIPKISS ('A' Coy) deserves special mention. This was one of the hardest-fought bouts of the competition and one that excited the spectators almost to fever pitch. Sadly one or the other of the boxers had to lose and on this occasion it was Pte Hipkiss. As a consolation he was awarded the best loser's prize and presented with it by the Commanding Officer at the prize giving on the finals night.

Wednesday saw a day of rest for all the boxers who had qualified for the finals. A chance to patch up cut eyes, bathe split lips and ponder on what would happen in the bouts to come. A chance to weigh up the opposition and plan their strategy with their seconds and team managers.

Thursday 21st April saw the day of the finals, which started at 19.30 hours. There were not as many spectators as was hoped because of an unexpected operational commitment, but still, all who could attend were there. The Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, resplendent in their Mess Dress, brought a sense of occasion home to all the boxers. All the spectators were looking forward to a good night's boxing.

At 1930 hours the Commanding Officer arrived and boxing commenced. The first bout was an exhibition bout between LCPi T H ARTHEY ('B' Coy)—LCPi Arthey has held the following titles: Army Middleweight Champion, Army Open Middleweight Champion, Army Light Heavyweight Champion, Combined Services Light Heavyweight Champion and is currently holder of the Cameron Trophy for the Best Boxer of the Combined Services—and LCPi H MYLES of the 1st Battalion The Royal Greenjackets—LCPi Myles has held the following titles: Heavyweight Champion Malaysian Games, Army Heavyweight Champion and Combined Services Heavyweight Champion. It was apparent from the moment the bell went at the start of the first round that we were about to see a first-rate bout. Both boxers put on a superb demonstration of skills and hard-punching producing what was a very fitting start to the night's boxing.

Space does not allow for every bout to be described in detail and there are probably one or two boxers who would prefer it this way. Suffice it to say all boxers are to be congratulated on hard-fought contests.

However, two bouts do warrant special mention. Firstly the Welterweight contest between Pte PATRICK MOLLOY ('B' Coy) and Pte DALDAR SINGH ('C' Coy) deserves mention by virtue of the fact that Daldar Singh, who had been eliminated during the preliminaries, volunteered to box on the finals night knowing that he could not score towards the Company total. This

showed tremendous spirit and guts. He put up a very creditable performance and had good reason to feel proud of himself.

The second one is the Featherweight bout between Pte STEPHEN BRIDGER (HQ Coy) and Pte COLIN DAVEY ('C' Coy). As a result of the draw Steven Bridger had got all the way to the finals without actually boxing! This was soon to become very clear when the bell went at the start of the first round. Hopelessly outclassed, but undaunted, Steven Bridger boxed on, receiving some very hard punches from his worthy opponent. As the bout progressed it soon became clear to all the spectators as to what the result would be, and sure enough a won was declared for Davey. A well-fought bout by both boxers and a special well done to Bridger.

Towards the end of the evening it became clear that the only real contenders for the Inter-Company Novices Boxing Championship Shield were 'A' Company and 'C' Company. 'A' Company finally clinched it with a fine win by Pte ADRIAN BOVELLE over Pte MARK GABLE ('C' Coy) in the Light Heavyweight bout.

With all the bouts completed the Commanding Officer stepped into the ring to present the Inter-Company Novices Boxing Championship Shield and prizes to all who took part in the finals. 'A' Company were the worthy winners of the Shield, beating 'C' Company into second place. Well done 'A' Company.

The competition was an outstanding success. This was due to the enthusiasm of all the boxers who took part and to the efforts of the Company boxing representatives. No boxing competition could be run without officials. So a special thanks to all who officiated in whatever role, and to SSgt KENNY FINCH, APTC for his expertise.



Bloodies but unbowed, Pte Bone spots and opening.



Pte Davey ('C' Coy) attempting to blow Pte Bridges (HQ Coy) into submission.

Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting, 1983

2 QUEENS RESULTS

TEAM MATCHES

Major Unit Championship (66 Teams Competing)

(1982 Results (59 Teams) in Brackets)

Team Rifle Match	 39th Place (50th)
Team SMG Match	 10th Place (16th)
Team SMG	
(Para Regt) Match	 27th Place (6th)
LMG Match	 23rd Place (37th)
Section Match	 33rd Place (39th)
Team Snap-Shooting	
Match	 26th Place (32nd)
Overall Place	 28th (38th)

INFANTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

(43 teams Competing)

Team Rifle	 35th Place (39th)
Team Sniper	 13th Place (16th)
Night Shooting	 14th Place (35th)
Overall Place	 31st (35th)

OTHER TEAM MATCHES

Team Sniper Rifle	 1st (5th)
Pistol Team	 14th

BEST INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Rifle: CSgt White	 The Army Hundred
SMG: Cpl Kirkaldie	
Pte Griffin	 The SMG 75
Pte Marchant	
Pistol: Pte Griffin	 2nd in the Army
Sniper: Pte Marchant	 2nd in the Bisley Cup
CSgt McAndrews	 3rd in the Bisley Cup

GOLF

One of the benefits of a posting to Northern Ireland, for the happy band of fanatics, who spend their spare time hitting a small white object around the countryside with a lump of metal, are some of the best golf courses in Europe, and especially the notorious links courses which the American professionals love to play on.

The Battalion is lucky in having a membership agreement with Castlerock Golf Club which costs individuals £10 a month. This for full membership and entry to all club competitions. The 19th hole is a very pleasant bar, clubhouse and friendly members. Most of the regular players manage to play one sports afternoon a week and again on Saturday or Sunday. This is beginning to raise the standard as we get used to the courses, and scores are coming down correspondingly.

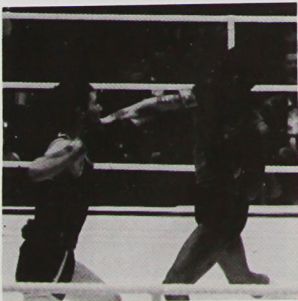
Early on in the tour the RQMSs, Colour Sergeants WHITE and DUFFIELD, and Sgt CULLINANE, entered the Northern Ireland Army Golf Society's Spring Meeting at the Malone golf course. That well known "bandit," Sgt "Chuck" CULLINANE, won the high handicap competition (16-24) cup, and for his efforts had his handicap reduced. A party also were invited to enter the Brigade Meeting and had a pleasant day's golf at Newtownstewart. A party from 1 QUEENS also played.

A rather exhausting and extremely wet 14th June was spent at Lisburn Golf Club playing 233 Signal Squadron in the first round of the Inter-Unit Knock-Out Cup. A team consisting of the MO, MTO, Sgt CULLINANE and Pte HARDING, each played 18 holes against their opponent, retired to the bar, and counted up the scores. To the teams' horror, the total holes won and lost were even. The rules were quite clear—every player had to play the first hole again. After three hours of golf in pouring rain and high winds the body did not relish more of the same. Unfortunately after each competitor had replayed the first hole the team had lost. A close-run match. Club competitions are run every week-end at Castlerock and players enter these when available.

Our numbers have remained fairly static since Colchester, with postings in and out. It is good to have fresh talent in the shape of Ptes HARDING and WOODJETTS playing regularly and threatening the "established" players in competitions. Golf is not expensive. A half set of clubs can be bought for approximately £40, and apart from the monthly membership fee there is no further cost. Lessons are available, and with a little practice, progress can be made reasonably quickly. For further information contact the MTO or MO.



The CO presents Pte Molloy of 'B' Coy with his Welterweight winners medal.



Pte Bone considerably stifles Pte Nelson's sneeze.

Rugby

2 Queens 'A' Winners of Plate in NI 7-a-Side

The Battalion rugby squad rounded off the season by entering two teams in the Northern Ireland ARU seven-a-side competition. This was held at HQNI Lisburn on a typically wet and blowy Saturday in April.

Despite scoring some good tries, with Pte NELSON in particularly sparkling form, the 'B' team were narrowly beaten by 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE in the first round of the main competition. They then suffered a similar fate in the first round of the Plate.

The 'A' team meanwhile, having lost to 1

D & D 'A' team by the narrowest of margins in the first round of the main competition, were making their presence felt in the Plate. (1 D & D 'A' went on to become the runners-up). A succession of comfortable victories resulted in them meeting 233 Sig Sqn 'A' team in the final. In quite appalling conditions of rain and wind the 'A' team played some sparkling rugby and ran out winners 24-6.

the team consisted of Capt PETER NEWMAN, Lt MIKE NEWMAN, Lt DUNCAN STRUTT, SSgt KENNY FINCH, Cpl BOB ANTHONY, Cpl LENNY SCULLY, Pte DUSTY MILLER and Pte DAVE BOYD. Special mention should be made of Messrs MILLER and BOYD who have only recently taken up rugby, particularly MILLER, who ended up as our top try scorer.



Sgt Bob Anthony gets to know Cpl Lenny Scully at the NI 7-a-side championships.

FISHING

BIG GAME HUNTERS

An often-repeated scene in the early hours each week-end, must be a source of amusement for any onlookers in the vicinity of the Guardroom. A fearsome band of desperados slowly assemble, staggering under the weight of giant packs and hold-alls. A Big Game Safari in Northern Ireland? Unlikely, you may say, but those who become more inquisitive will vouch that it's all perfectly true. The Bn Fishing Club is back with a vengeance! A truly dedicated organisation whose members pour more pounds into the Province's coarse fishing industry than the quantity of fish they catch, but, as guilty as the rest of them, who am I to mock?

On arrival at our highly secret and productive venues, all becomes deadly serious. The hunt is on and we know that somewhere in the shallows lurk the game. Umbrellas, float and tackle boxes, keep and landing nets, rod rests, bait, ground-bait, flasks and lunch boxes, are all laid out in a well-practised sequence, which leaves everything easily at hand . . . until it's

needed of course! Rods are made up and methods decided upon.

A barely distinguishable splash as another expertly-cast waggler glides effortlessly into exactly the right spot. The furrowed brow of supreme concentration and an hypnotic trance until that first tremble is spotted. A perfectly-timed strike and . . . another empty hook is reeled in. Undaunted, the procedure starts again, after all, why worry about one missed fish when some poor unfortunate two pegs down is struggling to get his end tackle out of the woods on the far bank? Time flashes by as tackle and tactics are changed, patience is stretched and believe it or not, fish are caught!

From novice to well-seasoned angler, the whole club is gaining in experience, and all are more than welcome. We manage occasional club competitions and even the odd match against other units. Prizes abound, and in case 1 QUEENS are reading —watch out, we'll have you next time!

Finally, a word of praise for the long-suffering wives of the married members, who must have the patience of an angler.

TIGHT LINES TO YOU ALL!



LCpl Schooling contemplating Catch 22 whilst awaiting Catch Number 1.

Albuhera Families' Day



Cpl Smitherman explains to the 'D' Coy tug-of-war team where they are going wrong.

Albuhera Day, 16th May, this year fell on a Monday and, in order to allow school children and working wives to take part, a families' day was arranged on the following Saturday—and what a day it was!

The Clooney playing fields were transformed in a matter of hours and the majority of the Battalion and our families were able to enjoy a variety of activities. There was 6-a-side cricket, 5-a-side football, tug-of-war, rounders, pony rides, and disco dancing. There were endless stalls, displays and even a dog show. Everyone enjoyed their day and it almost didn't rain!

Nearly every event seemed to have a prize but one prize which was not awarded was one deserved by the wives, who stole the show. They played rounders, produced tug-of-war teams and they ran a marvellous cake stall. But the icing on their effort was their fancy dress and the spirit with which they entered into the day. So, basically we'd like to say: "Thanks girls, you were grand!"



Having swept the board at the fun-day the Eglinton ladies clown around.



You put your right foot out and you shake it all about.



6 UDR pipers provide a touch of the Irish.



The Albuhera dog show champion, and friend.

BEAUTY QUEENS!

Wow! Delectable Doris certainly has a problem covering up her delightful assets! She is a cert to be favourite with all the lads, especially the MT Platoon, who all agree that two in the hands are worth more than one off the wrist!!

Doris is especially proud of her facial adornments, which set her apart from the run-of-the-mill busty bombshells.

Doris spends a lot of her free time keeping fit, greasing nipples and smoking her pipe. She has recently taken up horse riding, which should put her out in front in the Beauty Queen Stakes—and that's straight from the horse's mouth!!

Doris' assets proving to be quite a handful!



'C' Company

C/S 39 (Major CANN), fresh from a Cricket Umpire's Course, returned to the City to settle further disputes. On arrival a number of changes were noted which aroused suspicion, but at least the Ops Room at Fort George is now back to normal, having been re-designed by Sheba, Capt GAMLIN'S Old English Sheepdog.

Due to the considerable foliage growing in Fort George, 11 PI were issued with jungle hats and malaria tablets until, with drawn machetes, they cut down this secondary jungle. A further growth is anticipated by the time of their next City tour in September unless Alpha Company return from the swamps first.

The front gate area at Fort George, which caused concern to Bravo Company, had a safety chain re-established by Alpha Company. This is popularly believed to have been designed to restrain Alpha Company vehicles from leaving, as opposed to other vehicles entering. RUC Hotspurs have rammed and broken this chain twice in ten days, and Sappers have installed a more permanent obstacle.

At 5 a.m. one morning, a DMSU patrol had cause to question soldiers in the area of the Free Derry Wall. 39 and 31L (Lt NEWMAN) were observed standing there with a wooden toilet seat whilst 39's driver endeavoured to keep his shaking hand still in order to take a photograph. After explanations were given by the Coy Clerk, the DMSU were seen driving away muttering: "Who said the Irish were mad?"

Felix's popularity remains high. Last tour's incident, with his greater tactics lecture over a permanent send radio, is forgotten. This time his crew killed a Pelican Crossing with a Pig. His driver asked for compensation, but this was refused by the RSPCA.

Passage of information is as good as ever. 33L (Lt SCOTT) was instructed to send the QRF to Ebrington to collect CSgt PIPER from the stores, who had collected some signals from the Ops Room. QRF

Comd telephoned Fort George from the Ration Stores at Ebrington asking what he was supposed to be doing? On being told, he stated he had been instructed to go to the Ration Stores to pick up CSgt PARKER who had collected the bread. (Send three and four pence, we're going to a dance?).

After "Harry's Game," JONNY McEVROY has been P-checked too many times, and his car has caused Vengeful to have a nervous breakdown. Now, an embargo on all sightings has been imposed.

It was heard that Bravo Company were to assist Election Officials by moving them around the City in a number of Pigs. This information was passed to Civ Pop, who rapidly cleared the streets, fearing for the mortality rate.

RUC shot and killed a gearbox at RUC Shantallow and later shot and wounded an engine block at RUC Strand. This engine later ran riot, before being humanely destroyed by fire in the Shantallow that night.

Some members of Charlie Company returned to school for the day of the elections. Although there were no French lessons, Sgt MORROW learnt a variation of a nursery game called "Ring a Ring of Houses."

After 39C found his hoard of petrol bombs, everybody wanted a trip out. This was not tempered by Ptes "Call Me Paint" Carter and Berrick, who have found another meaning to exterior decorating whilst on Shantallow Patrols. Seagull has also found a new toy to play with—a pump-action organ in the local Fort George Church.

During a so-called VCP action, one driver who complained of being stopped four times, was promptly arrested for his subversive dicking habits.

As a post script Pte HORTON has applied for the job of OC's dog handler. When the Wagtails are fully employed, Rollo is to be used as an additional back-up. His speciality is finding explosive sausages.



M1 carbine found by Cpl Crossland-Page's search team on 10th June, in the Shantallow.

'C' BY THE SEA

During May the "young blades" of 9 PI, the "lazy saints" of 10 and the "video nasties" of 11 took the coastal road to Magilligan. Each PI Comd had planned a three-day adventurous training package (OC 9 claims that he had planned it and the others had copied). In true adventurous training style the day would begin with a run and a dip in the sea. The PI Comds (conspicuous in their wet suits) would show their leadership qualities and with a quick shout of "Diehard/Steady the Buffs/Only with My Life" would enter the sea. The PI Sgts would be at the back offering a more down to earth style of leadership. The majority of the activities were based on water. 9 PI pioneered a new sport called "Boating in the Range Danger Area," watched by an unappreciative audience which included the Battalion shooting team.

11 PI tried a number of original aquatic

activities such as "Drown the Section Commander" competition, Cpl Crossland-Page narrowly missing out on winning a prize. The other event was "abandoning the canoes to see how far they would float on their own." Cost prohibited this from becoming a major event.

10 PI led by their very own Spiderman (fresh from the north face of Bn HQ), practised being scared ****less halfway up a rock face.

The final event was the barbeque held on the beach, where, over a raging fire and after a few beers, there were many tales to be told. The water theme continues here for the Padre was a frequent visitor, and some say he walks on it.

The opportunity to escape from Ebrington was welcomed by all and hopefully we will be able to repeat this on a larger scale next year.

HOW I SURVIVED BLACK PAPILLOMA

By AGIN E PIGG, 2IC 'C' COY

In November of 1980 I attended a medical to be declared "fit for course" (a Military law course). During the examination the doctor discovered that I had Black Papilloma and would have to have an Excision Biopsy. I was of course shocked to be declared unfit for my Military Law course.

I was quickly rushed to hospital and on 4 July 1983 was admitted to the Musgrave Park Hospital (MPH) Military Wing. I will recap briefly on the procedures involved in going sick, for the benefit of those who have not yet attended a military sick parade. To a certain extent it is similar to a raffle with a number of unknowns. For example, is the doctor playing golf that morning? Have the Orderly Room lost your medical documents? Have you got the right things with you to enable you to go sick (at present just short of CEFO minus the entrenching tool)? If you are fortunate and everything works out in your favour, then you will be allowed to see the doctor. More serious (normally terminal) cases see Sgt Sullivan BEM.

The next stage is to see the "specialist." The "specialist" is a much-revered man in the medical world, normally a doctor who has drunk so much that his brain capacity is limited to one subject. You go to see the specialist by travelling via the edge of the world. At present the travelling time is approximately 3 hours (in each direction). The exacting part of this trip is to see if either (a) the driver will break down in Toomebridge, or (b) the escort has an ND and shoots you. Upon arrival you will be seen by the specialist for about 30 seconds. This normally occurs only on your second trip as usually the medical room have forgotten to give you your documents. It could well be that they give you someone else's documents (you can play an interesting game at home imagining what some people's medical documents must look like). I was fortunate, and had the correct medical documents (I knew he had mine from the distasteful look he gave me whilst reading them). The "specialist" confirmed my earlier fear that I had Black Papilloma and within six months he had me admitted to MPH.

The first few hours at hospital are reassuring, as you spend time filling in N of K forms and give away bits of your body to the

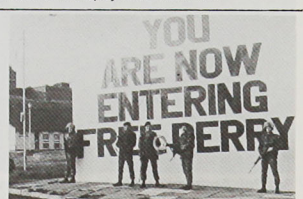
MPH Thrift Shop! You also meet the various people who will be operating on you. Of these obviously the surgeon is vaguely important. After formal introductions are completed, he examines your body with critical eye, subdues asides to his considerable retinue, and with a green felt-tip pen, rings those portions of your body to be surgically removed. However, one need not worry until he wrings your neck!!

I might add that at this stage there was a certain confusion as the 2 QUEENS medical centre had in fact thought it was 2Lt Haywood-Smith who was admitted. Fearing that I was about to be treated for "hoof-rot" I rapidly informed them of their mistake.

The most important man in all of this is in fact "Wally." Wally is a very jovial fellow (probably a Corporal in the RAMC). Sporting his white and green operating gown, pebble glasses, white clogs and purple socks he pushes you to the operating theatre. (This is probably the most dangerous point in the whole operation!)

To cut a long story short, I survived my Black Papilloma and am now back with the Battalion. Initially on light duties (posted to D (Hv) Company) I am now A1 fit. Unfortunately the Part 2 Order Clerk fined me £150 instead of admitting me to hospital, but that is part of the gamble. At least I can now lead a normal life (if you call life in 2 QUEENS normal!)

Editor's Note: This is a true story reproduced from Readers Digest. For the non-medical man a Papilloma is a mole. Excision Biopsy is to cut it off!



Major Cann presents the Bog Seat to Lt Newman.

9 PI Shine in the Toilet Seat Competition!

The merry month of May saw the whole of 'C' Coy, from the Gladiators to Coy HQ, locked in battle to see who could win the Company Toilet Seat. The competition involved nine different sports and was last competed for in Gibraltar, when 11 PI were victorious. This time, however, it was a different story.

The swimming competition was the first event and 10 PI emerged as easy winners. 9 PI were second and 11 PI, with the aid of London Counties swimming phenomenon, Pte Fuller, submerged into last place. This was in fact the last occasions that anybody could defeat mighty 9. Volleyball was next and thanks to a brave performance by Coy HQ, the favourites, 11 PI were pipped into second place by 9 PI. The result was repeated in the orienteering, hockey and BFT, whilst 10 PI edged 11 PI into last place in the cricket. The basketball is still finely poised between 9 and 11 PIs and the football and shooting are as yet undecided. Due to shining 9's success in the earlier rounds, however, they have already secured the toilet seat, which was presented to OC 9 PI by Maj Cann in front of the Free Derry Wall.

The Inter-Section competition which is being run concurrently, sees 31A and Coy HQ battling it out for the runner-up spot with 31C emerging as overall winners.

So we leave 9 PI "flushed" with success and look forward to August when battle is joined once again.

'C' Company Caption Competition

Which of the following captions do you think most fits the photograph?

- "Come out Sgt Morrow, I promise I won't do it again!"
- Lt Scott receives a career interview.
- Lt Scott looking for a safe place to park his car.
- 33L P-checking rabbits.

The second part of the competition is to complete this sentence in not more than 10 words:

To be a Platoon Commander in 'C' Company you must be.....

- FIRST PRIZE: £5 Gift Voucher to be spent in the PRI.
- SECOND PRIZE: £10 Gift Voucher to be spent in the PRI.

PLEASE NOTE: Your Voucher may be spent on any of the following items:

- Polo-Neck Pullovers
- UN T-Shirts
- Blue Lanyards
- Matches
- More Polo-Neck Pullovers



'D' (HW) Company

Since the last edition the Company has gone through the usual cycle, with leave as the highpoint for those who can remember it through the haze of alcohol.

The last few weeks have seen a number of comings and goings. We have said goodbye to WO2 WHITALL who left us to join B Company and CSgt JONES who has left the Battalion to join 6/7 QUEENS as a mortar instructor. Capt CROSS has seen the light and transferred from A Company to become OC Milan P1 and WO2 CORNICK, is now OC Tubes. Lt DIXON has had his school holidays broken by being recalled to the Battalion and has joined us for the current city tour.

The Company spent three days adventure training at Magilligan in arctic conditions where a number of people tried their hand at surf canoeing and managed to paddle their canoes upside down. The less hardy saw the Giants Causeway from the saloon bar, getting thoroughly soaked from the inside.

Mortar Platoon

After leave the platoon held a two week internal Cadre at Kilnapp to try and recapture all the old skills that will be required of us in the future. The last few days of the Cadre were spent at Magilligan where everyone managed to pass their training tests. Two members of the platoon have had nails inserted in their heads as part of a last attempt to give up smoking. LCpl HARMAN is complaining of a slight headache and LCpl LUCKHURST says that he can't feel a thing (not that he could in the first place).

Cpl GUYETT and LCpl HARMAN spent ten days at the UKLF mortar concentration telling everybody there how to do it, and have hopefully come back with more knowledge than they left.



'D' Coy attempting to break the world "number of men in a rubber dinghy" record.

Anti Tank Platoon

The months since the platoon returned from leave in April started on rather an uncertain note with Pte's BATEMAN, "Bun" TANNER (Honeybunch), "Fruit Bat" STAY and "Bushbaby" REEVES all returning a day late, with some excuse about "being on time but the plane being full." It could be that they were enjoying leave too much, or more likely they couldn't face another 4 months of LCpl "Ena" SHARPLES inspired guitar playing.

Anti Tank training started in the second half of April. The older DCs played a belated April fools joke on the Platoon by introducing us to a strange looking weapon that they had built from two landrover

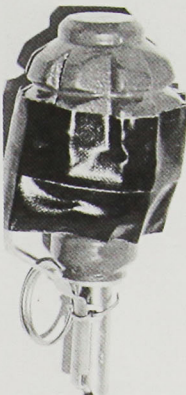


Find of a pistol and assorted terrorist artefacts, made by WO2 Bernier and the 'D' Coy search team at the Rossville Flats on 21st July.

wheels, bits of 84mm and a length of piping. This they claimed was an anti-tank weapon called CONBAT. The game was given away by the lack of a guidance electronics pack and mountings for the ammunition tube. However, we all played along, and still continue to clean them regularly.

Having no real anti-tank weapons has meant that training has concentrated more on the theoretical than the practical. It's not as much fun as working with the system itself, and we all hope that MILAN will arrive in the province shortly.

In April we went to Magilligan for 3 days shooting camp, which included firing the 84mm and throwing grenades. One of the highspots was a walk, in teams, to a nearby lake for a picnic. WO2 WHITALL stated



The Russian hand-grenade found by 'D' Coy on 27th July.

that any team arriving after 1130 hrs. would not get fed. Guess who turned up at 1320 hrs?? The camp finished with a company party during which CSgt "Desert Head" GAUNTLETT experienced his first "all-on."

After the training weeks we became Gobnascale/Duties company. 'Plug' HARRIS's wife continued to knit balaclavas which he then proceeded to "find" with monotonous regularity. LCpl SHARPLES whilst rummaging in a dustbin for the bottom half of one of his sweatshirts found a TPU.

Our successes in May meant that we were chosen to be the first company to put the new City Reinforcement Company into practice. We have helped C Company with all the operations that they were reluctant to do (leg late night lurks and lift ops in "hot" areas like the Shantallow).

All this activity has meant little time off, although we have had a few spare days. Captain GAMLIN took us to Portrush and showed us how to abseil off bar stools and climb back up again. LCpl STOCKWELL and Pte RIGHELATO recently escaped to do a search course and LCpl VAUGHAN is at present on a map reading course. We hope he will find his way back (and maybe give CSM B Company some lessons).

Finally on a more personal note, Pte IVIL has, we think, recently changed his religion, as he will shortly be going into hospital to have a small personal part of his body removed.

UKLF Mortar Concentration

The UKLF Mortar Concentration made a welcome break from our arduous duties in Londonderry write Cpl Guyett and LCpl Harman, and it was interesting to see the developments in the mortar world after the Falklands.

Both regular and TA platoons were put through their paces with a lot of emphasis on man-packing (Falklands factor). Our role as DS enabled us to give most other units in UKLF a suitably hard time. One interesting development is the creation of new appointment titles for the Pl Comd and 2IC, Birdman and Birdman-minor, a reflection of their ability to operate at 30,000 ft. Will this lead to the design of a flying command post?



The Drums Platoon fall in for morning sick parade.

UNICORN OR COY SECOND IN COMMAND

A question constantly on the minds of the members of this Company, and one long overdue an answer, is, just what is the function of D (HW) Company Second in Command?

While over the past four months our tasks have been many and varied, the person in question has often been found to be absent if not in body, then in mind. To clarify the situation once and for all, I shall undertake to analyse, month by month the sum total of activity (or inactivity) shown (or concealed) by this somewhat mythical individual.

He originally moved to the province on the advance party in January. An unusual occurrence one might suppose, as Coy 2ICs normally remain with the main body to amuse their CSMs. This individual threw himself unsparingly into devising a call out system which proved to be totally unworkable, (unless the entire Royal Corps of Transport were available for deployment) impractical, and unbelievable. However allowances were made on the assumption that his impressionable mind had temporarily been influenced by Communist Agents seeking to wreak havoc among Her Majesty's finest.

His inactivity in February can only be attributed to the exhaustion incurred by the employment of his usually comatose brain, on devising the call out system. Although science upholds the theory that electrical impulses were actually reaching his brain, he strenuously resisted all manual activities so that no movement could be detected by the naked eye until 1620 hours daily. He then occupied himself with deep breathing exercises, oxygenating his body in preparation for the seventy five metre spring to his car. The minute hand of his watch heralded an explosion of homeward movement. So fast was this animated action that words like, is it a bird?, is it a plane?, no it's-----! were heard along his route, uttered by astonished onlookers.

March saw the Company move to the City, where the intrepid CSM uncomplainingly undertook 28 hour Ops Stags. Unfortunately the Company Second in Command took the opposite tack and immediately went into hibernation, earning himself the appointment title "Sleeping Beauty," soon to be acknowledged Battalion wide. His resurrection strangely coincided with his R & R, where his by now customary homeward bound burst was only interrupted by the hurried explanation that he was "sleeping on behalf of the Coy." It was clear to all that he had taken the Coy motto "We support" to heart. Such was his belief that at the end of our city tour he showed surprise at our tiredness.

April and leave! It must be stated at this stage in all fairness, that he threw himself into the leave period with the vigour of a gymnast, and the stamina of a marathon runner. This enthusiasm uncharacteristically endured into the equestrian course he attended, on which he sacrificed himself whilst the remainder of the Company were enjoying themselves on Magilligan ranges. Word has it that were the course graded he would undoubtedly have achieved an 'A' grade for 'doing things to horses.' It was also reported that WO2 Doris Older also attended an equestrian course. The ques-

tions now arise is there something deeper to all this? Is the MT to be modified? Questions to which I have no answer, and which detract from my main theme.

It was clear by the dawning of May Day that maybe our Second in Command had been the subject of a miracle. Somehow, he had found a purpose in life. Present still was the frantic rushing to the car at close of play, but also present was the occasional movement to the tennis court, where he could be seen attempting to play, aided humanely by the CSM. Such was the increase in his activity that his OC directed that he be found his very own desk. This was done, and the desk conveniently located. This activity, hitherto alien to him, had been a source of worry to members of the coy, but now it was accepted and the fear of serious injury diminished. Accordingly the Medical Centre was stood down and the intravenous drip removed from the Company Office. Our Company Second in Command was alive!



Capt Wright conveniently placed to inspect members of 'D' Coy.

Well, what of the present. At the time of writing, it's June and movement can still be detected. He moves unaided and has been known to produce exciting signs of life such as a range detail. This rates as a literary masterpiece akin to the Beano, and causes as much amusement. Word has it that he is arranging (under the supervision of the Company runner) a Company Party. It is agreed within the company that jelly, party hats and pass the parcel will make a pleasant change from alcohol, dancing and buffets. All who know him are aware that he could take only a small incident, to cause the relapse that would plunge him into the inactivity expected from him in earlier days.

In conclusion it is clear that a man who can partially shrug off the inertia with which he was once afflicted must be a man of character, (however hard to detect). So maybe that is the answer to my initial question. Perhaps he is a figurehead, a symbol, moving with great economy, treading the military path hoping that life will continue to smile upon him.



The Mortar Platoon arm-wrestling team in training.

Families' FORUM

WIVES CLUB

The wives club continue to thrive and the wives enjoy coming to Frazer Lodge in Ebrington Barracks for the coffee mornings each week. They can now combine it also with a visit to the Nearly New Shop, which has been open for over a month and is being very efficiently run, selling a wide variety of clothes.

The evening gatherings once a month have included a bingo session, a most entertaining folk night and an Italian evening which consisted of delicious spaghetti bolognese, pizzas and lasagne for supper and a disco providing good music. Some wives from Brigade, RMP and the Cheshires also joined us for this evening.

There have been several shopping trips too. Belfast is always a popular place and the Coleraine Shirt Factory did well out of our wives in March. There must have been some lucky husbands! This last month a tour round the Old Bushmills Whisky Distillery proved a great hit.

The Albuhera Families day was great fun for everyone. The wives club ran a very

successful cake stall which included a "guess-the-weight" cake competition. There were some very entertaining rounders matches played by girls in superb fancy dress and would you believe, a tug-of-war!

We are helped enormously by the willingness of the Cooks who always provide delicious food for us and next month they are going to show us how to make pastry properly.



Mrs. Melloite presents Mrs. Packham with farewell gifts from the wives' club.

Babies born since the Battalion move to Northern Ireland

Pte and Mrs. Richardson (a son, Wesley) 6 February, 1983.
Cpl. and Mrs. Osborne (a son, Peter) 27 February, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Cuff (a son, Andrew) 3 March, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Warner (a daughter, Helen Marie) 9 March, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Dollings (a son, Trevor) 18 March, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Reynolds (a son) 21 March, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Geddes (a son, David Andrew) 21 March, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Brown (a daughter, Tony Louise) 3 April, 1983.
Capt. and Mrs. Wright (a daughter, Camilla) March, 1983.
Cpl. and Mrs. Cooley (a daughter, Leigh Ann) 19 April, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Bailey (a daughter, Lorna Jay) 21 April, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Richards (a daughter, Carly Jayne) 26 April, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Coleman (a son) 6 May, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Horton (a daughter) 11 May, 1983.
Cpl and Mrs. Croucher (a daughter) 23 May, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Parsons (a son, Conan David) 30 May, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Delaney (a son) 2 June, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Petherbridge (a son, Kevin) June 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Chittock (a son, Garry) 12 June, 1983.
LCpl and Mrs. Showcum (a daughter, Emma) 9 June, 1983.
Pte and Mrs. Burden (a son, Russell) 12 June, 1983.
Cpl and Mrs. Boddie (a son, Kevin) 16 June, 1983.
Sgt and Mrs. Tanner (a daughter, Joanne) 25 May, 1983.
Sgt and Mrs. Morrow (a daughter, Kelley) 21 June, 1983.



Mrs. Shakespeare demonstrates an aptitude for badminton.

Ballykelly Childrens Saturday Morning Disco

This disco started way back in February in the Acorn Club and has proved to be a great success.

The extra events that were held during the Easter break were:

BONNET AND DRAWING COMPETITION

TALENT COMPETITION
TREASURE TRAIL
SWOP SHOP

Since then there has been a snooker tournament and two "Disco Bus Runs," the first to the Lion Park and Castlerock where lots of games were played. The highlight this time was the 37 seater bus getting stuck on the beach, where children and escorts all helped to get it out without much success. Lots of cheers went up when the bus finally came free. The second bus run went to Portrush where a good time was had by all.

FOLK NIGHT 20th APRIL

After many weeks of planning and a hectic "dress rehearsal" in the afternoon, the excitement rose as the evening got underway. The show kicked off to a lively start with music from Doug Clarkson and the Small Group from the 2 QUEENS band. Also appearing was some of our own wives club talent in the form of Mrs. Joan Crossland-Page and Mrs. Betty Stamp singing a few of their favourite songs accompanied by their guitars. One of the highlights of the evening appearing live on stage for the first time was Mrs. Michele Dixon as the stripper.

The second half of the show consisted of songs and funny sketches. Also it featured George Carnell of the Army Air Corps singing and playing his guitar. To round off the evening Doug and the Boys played us out with some great disco music. Behind the scenes Elaine Clarkson and Keith Crossland-Page did a fantastic job with the props.



Cpl "Brian's Ball" Cook discusses life's ups and downs with the wives' trampolining class.

Eglinton Wives

We may only be a small community here at Eglinton (28 Queen's families out of 76 houses), but once we got ourselves organised things began to happen.

We certainly made our presence felt on Albuhera day when the wives team, the Eglinton Clowns, took the place by storm.

We had more than enough members for our team and romped home as winners of the rounders and the tug-of-war the trophy for which can be seen in the community centre. I think everyone decided that we wouldn't do it again next year as we were presented with a box of choccs each for our rounders success (we think they wanted to fatten us up to slow us down!!!). They don't know about our popmobility session every Thursday evening to keep us all fit. So watch out for us next year as the defending champions.

We have many regular weekly events in our community centre. There are two youth clubs, one for 5-7 year-olds and one for the 8's and over. Both are running successfully with lots of outings and activities already in the pipeline.

The 8's and over youth club run by Joyce Still and Linda Jordan have just enjoyed a weekend away in Roe Valley Park, Limavady. Joyce, Linda and their husbands, Joe and Steve, are to be congratulated for managing to cope with their own large family of 24 for the weekend, (apparently all with good appetites as they ploughed through 14 loaves, over 100 sausages, countless eggs and much more besides, between Friday evening and Sunday afternoon). A good time was had by all, and many parents enjoyed a peaceful weekend without their offspring. We wonder, could a weekend camp be held every weekend??

The 5 to 7-year-olds meanwhile had games in the gym, helped by Lynne Cogan, Pam Young and Mary Devlin, an evening in the local park, a film show and a visit from the local RUC to give a talk on road safety and bike maintenance. We've also been promised cycling proficiency lessons once it can be arranged and a weekend away over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Tuesday night is Bingo Night when husbands and wives alike sit and wait anxiously for that last number.

Wednesday night is mens darts night. Out of three matches played, they have won two and lost one. Of course they are open to offers of matches and any interested parties should contact the team captain care of the community centre. Meanwhile they are practising hard holding dart knockout competitions in the club every week.

Thursday night is ladies night when you'll hear lots of strange noises coming from the community centre between 7 and 8 p.m. whilst we put our bodies through their paces with the popmobility records. After that we all relax and have a quiet game of pool, darts, sit and have a chat or like last week, enjoy demonstrations by make-up experts.

On Friday nights the club is monopolised by the children again, as between 6 and 8 p.m. it is disco night. This is thoroughly enjoyed by all ages from toddlers to teens.

Saturday night both the club and the workers get a break as the doors remain locked all day unless there is something special going on.

The two functions we have had, a disco, and then a cheese and wine party, were both great successes and we are planning to organise something once a month.

So you see, we might live in a quiet little village, but the few of us that are here certainly know how to enjoy ourselves. Most of us have children and if you should

pass by on a sunny afternoon you will see us all sitting outside our houses having a "mothers meeting" whilst the children play nearby. On a really nice day its commonplace to see two or three paddling pools "out the front" being shared by all.

So far I don't think anyone can say that they are not enjoying our posting, as we are quite a close knit community where everyone knows everyone else. In our heart of hearts we will probably be sorry to leave when our time is up!!

Ballykelly Wives

As a result of the Ballykelly Thursday coffee mornings, the wives have formed their own darts team as well as a knitting circle, which encouraged Mrs. Johnston to knit like mad to present Master Peter Osbourne with his first matinee coat. On the 19th February we held a jumble sale in the Acorn Club in aid of the Childrens Saturday Morning Disco fund. There was a game night on the 23rd February against 1 CHESHIRE which resulted in a very pleasing win for the QUEEN'S wives.

We have also had a few outings such as a trip to Belfast on 2nd April and a trip to the Roe Valley Country Park on the 15th June. Last but not least we had a barbeque and disco in the Acorn Club on the 13th June which was a great success.

'Don't Call Him Sir—It's the Padre!

Since the arrival of the new Chaplain, certain discoveries have been made. In uniform "he" wears a certain insignia—but he dislikes being called "Sir"—in fact he's almost been known to charge a soldier for doing so (says the fine will go to "Wireless for the Blind"?!).

And then there's the question of a Church Service at Fort George. "Where are you going to have it Sir... er Padre?" A finger points to the view through the window in the Ops Room—there, lo and behold, is the sign of the cross! A Church in Fort George? Well, a double Portakabin tucked away behind the Ops Room. (Is this why the Almighty is so often called upon, in that hallowed place—the domain of the "Ops" and a somnolent RUC?).

So 'A' Coy led the way, and on 15th May at 1800 hours, it was "standing room only" for a short Company service. The singing may not have been up to St. Paul's Cathedral standards, but it was lusty...

'C' Coy followed on the 19th June—again after much finger-pointing through the Ops Room window (thought—we really must get a sign painted "Christ Church, Fort George this way"). Again, "standing room only," the same sepulchral (?) voices, but this time with the addition of a short celebration of Holy Communion.

And so the pattern of worship in the "City" has been established.

Back at the blunt end, we have started a similar pattern of sponsored Services at the Garrison Church, and several babies have been baptised.

For those who don't know, the times of Church Services, to which everyone is welcome, are as follows:

- Fort George (3rd Sunday of tour) 1800 hours
- Ebrington Barracks: 0900 Holy Communion; 1100 Morning Service (1st & 3rd Holy Communion, followed by coffee in Church Centre); 1200 Holy Mass—RC.

The Padre may be contacted on Mil Ext 340 (confidential "Anasophone" available); Londonderry Civil 41490.