



INVICTA

NEWSLETTER OF 2nd BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



The Commanding Officer deeply regrets to announce the death of Pte Alan Stock who was murdered by the IRA whilst on patrol in Londonderry on Saturday 15th October.

Farewell visit from The Colonel of the Regiment



Maj. Gen. Mans surveys the Bogside accompanied by the CO.

Maj Gen Rowley Mans, the Colonel of the Regiment, made his farewell visit to the Battalion in early October. He spent a very busy three days with us during which he visited all the Coys and was entertained in both the Officers' and WO's and Sgts' Messes. General Rowley has held the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment since taking over from Maj Gen Fergus Ling on 1 Jan 1978.

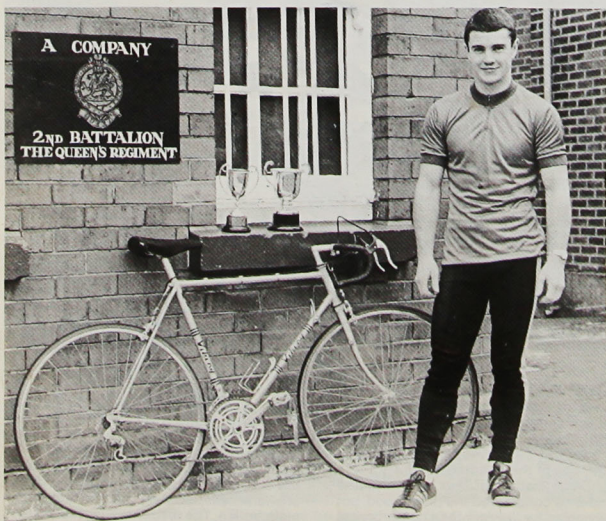
We would like to register our thanks for all his hard work on behalf of the Regiment, and also look forward to welcoming his successor.

PRIME MINISTER SENDS BEST WISHES



Photo: Courtesy of Hendon Times Newspaper Group

When our KAPE team met the Prime Minister at the Finchley Carnival in July, she took the opportunity to express her thanks to all members of the Battalion and their families serving with 2 Queens here in Londonderry. She in turn was presented with a Regimental ice bucket by Sgt Bob Anthony, an appropriate gift in view of the sweltering heat. For a full report of the KAPE tour see inside.



Cycling success story

Congratulations are due to Cpl Tim Rogers of A Coy for achieving our most outstanding sporting success of the year. For the second year running he dominated the Army cyclists competing in the annual inter-service cycling festival. In the trials he achieved wins in the 10, 25 and 50-mile events and was second in the 30-mile race. This was a truly praiseworthy performance made even more commendable by the training problems he encounters here in Londonderry. He has his sights set firmly on achieving parity with the RAF cyclists who are at present dominating the services scene.

Although not a particularly popular sport, and one requiring tremendous self-discipline and dedication, the Battalion is presently establishing a cycling team which Cpl Rogers is convinced could have wide success. Anyone interested in taking up the sport should contact either Cpl Rogers or Capt Noble of C Coy.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The observant amongst you may have noticed that the title of this newsletter has been changed. INVICTA is a Latin word meaning unconquered, and is traditionally associated with the White Horse of Kent. It was carried by the Kent Militia, passed on to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and likewise to the Queens Own Buffs. It can nowadays be found in it's translated form, in the Queen's Regimental Motto, Unconquered I Serve. At each corner of the new title can be found the badges of one of our four founding regiments.

'A' Company



Lieutenant Garrett, the traditional words of command are "March off the colours" NOT "go and hang the flags in the Mess."

Question: Where was Robin when Batman was pulling his wire?

Answer: Standing next to him!

Yes, if you were to speak to WO2 George France and ask him for his warmest memories of his time spent in Londonderry then it would surely be the occasion when, single handedly, he provided his own solution to the central heating problem in the Rossville Flats. At the same time, our resident wine expert managed to educate the RUC. They now know that crates of petrol bombs are not to be thrown into the back of Hotspurs so that they can get some money back on the empties!

Moving further back in time—the months of July and August saw Alpha Company taking to the outdoors in a big way. Mention must be made of the fine effort produced by our Rugby 7s teams, one of which finished as runners up to Bravo Company in the final.

The Company Boxing Team, under the beady eye of Sgt Pete Friday, had their noses firmly to the grindstone. Not even the move into the city could halt the training programme. All our pugilists did well, with Ptes Hipkiss and O'Reilly distinguishing themselves.

August saw the company trekking across the Sperrin Mountains on Ex Indian Comfort—designed to test such skills as night navigation, signals, map reading and locating of peat-bogs. A noteworthy feature of this exercise was the inclusion of helicopters in the preliminary instructions. Sure enough, on the appointed day, 2 platoon was choppered out to its respective LZ. 1 and 3 platoons also chose to avail themselves of this facility but their

helicopters looked suspiciously like 4 tonners to anyone but the casual observer. Full marks for deception, most cunning!

Since the last newsletter Sgt John Vann has become the proud father of a baby daughter—rumour has it that this is purely to keep up with Sgt Lee Tanner. Congratulations to them both (what is Sgt Friday up to?).

"Local boy makes good" read the headline proclaiming the arrival of Cpl "Wonkeye" Dunstan. Fresh from a stint at depot and straight into the middle of a city tour, he just managed to scrape a pass on his 2 platoon selection cadre. A fine achievement indeed. Another new/old face is that of CSgt Bert Pragnell; now a well established member of our ORBAT, his coffee percolator being an enticing, aromatic feature of the company stores. 3 platoon have a new leader; 2Lt John "The Calsign King" Fisher. A master of radio deception, his frequent use of any callsign other than his own certainly had the Ops Room on their toes, if not on their backs.

Staying in the Ops Room for a moment, Capt "Every Little Bit Alps" Morris, ran a very tight ship. Lashed down with ropes and pitons, in case he was blown away by gale force winds, a box of crampons could be found by his side just in case he felt hungry!

Moving to Masonic, 2Lt Jeffrey RAPC (Rochdale and Accrington Printing Company) entertained a number of visitors who included the Director of Infantry and the new CLF, Maj Gen Pank. Fort George, den of iniquity that it is, was visited by the Chief Moderator of the Church of Scotland, complete with three-cornered hat!

If you ignore the facts that a Fertilizer Factory was reduced to ashes, Cpl Colin Freelove and his section are not big enough to be hit by six terrorist shots, and pay tribute to the resilience of Hotspurs and Cortinas to the opposition's rounds, then it was a month.

Pte "Chaz" Charman was so impressed with the generosity of the Compensation Board (where is my share, Knight?) that he tried to get hit on the head by a paving slab instead of a milk bottle. True to form he managed to get it wrong (typical boxer) and it struck him on the leg!

It remains for me to congratulate Batman and Robin for setting a new record of Coffee Stops with the Coffee Pots and L/Cpl Miller and Pte MacDonnell for doing so well in the Battalion's recent SAAM.

LONDONDERRY WILDLIFE



YOBBIUS CREGGANICUS

AN EXTREMELY VICIOUS SPECIMEN. CAN BE FOUND IN HERDS OF UP TO THIRTY. THIS ANIMAL CAN EASILY BE RECOGNIZED BY ITS HABIT OF HURLING IRON PICKETS AT LANDROVERS. IT IS HOWEVER, QUITE TIMID, AND EVEN FAIRLY LARGE HERDS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO STAMPEDE WHEN APPROACHED.



THE LESSER BRAINED ROSSVILLE FLAMER

THE MEMORIAL HALL IS A FAVORITE HAUNT FOR OBSERVERS OF THIS INTERESTING SPECIES. IT SPENDS MUCH OF ITS TIME SETTING THINGS ALIGHT, INCLUDING ON OCCASIONS, MEMBERS OF THE SAME TRIBE. AMONG ITS STRANGE HABITS IS A TENDENCY TO HURL ENTIRE CRATES OF BOTTLES FROM A GREAT HEIGHT. RECENT RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AND THE ANIMALS APPARENT SHYNESS OF HUMANS DRESSED IN GREEN CLOTHING.

'B' (Invicta) Company



I wonder why Sgt "Broken Nose" Buddle is looking so guilty?

As usual in this station the period since July has been varied and challenging. Adventurous training, an eventful city tour, leave and rangework have all contributed to an enjoyable time for the company. The period of adventurous training at Magilligan involving swimming, rock climbing, and orienteering was not sufficient to distract Sgt. Buddle from his life's work of community relations. He held regular meetings at the British Legion in Portrush, where he would dispense largesse and generally oil the wheels of civil/military relations. The CQMS is to be congratulated on the occasions he overcame the difficulties of bringing up the rations, but alas



They said "Don't spend your life hanging around on street corners," so I joined the Army.



Mr. John Stanley, MP remains unimpressed by WO2 Whittle's cockwork soldier impersonation.

he proved too weak to resist the allure of the Castlerock links. Other companies would do well to avoid this golfing Lorelei.

The company took over the city commitment at one of the tensist times of the year. August contains the anniversaries of internment, the Apprentice Boys, and the suicides of some of the hunger strikers. The tour proved to be very busy but thankfully we sustained only a few minor injuries. The company was involved in 49 incidents of which most were classified as minor. Contratulations are due to Pte Spence whose keen eye discovered a Memopark Timer on the 24 August.

We received a succession of visitors during our month including the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr. John Stanley, MP, the CLF on a farewell visit and the Deputy Director of Military Operations.

On return from leave the company enjoyed a shooting camp at Magilligan. Sgt. Anthony's penchant for early morning/late afternoon/any time runs was only matched by the enthusiasm displayed by some of our more elderly brethren for Egyptian PT.

Finally we bid a sad farewell to Capt Gamlin who has departed to the "little people" in Brunei, Sgt Lemare who has joined the dole queue, and Sgt Shereit who is teaching boys to be men.



CS 22E and F in photographic mood.

HAPPY ENDINGS



Jim and Dinah depart for their honeymoon.

When Jim Curley saw the local Nursery School teacher for the first time, he fell in love and knew he had to marry her. Upon investigation however, he discovered that he had a rival. Dinah was already betrothed to the son of the headmistress.

Jim was distraught. He contemplated suicide; he considered the priesthood; but finally opted for the Army as a compromise,

and tried to forget. Whilst pursuing a military career Jim was fortunate enough to befriend a sensitive prophet, who, discovering the secret passion torturing his soul, resolved to bring about Jim's heart's desire. Dedicated to this end the prophet embarked on an odyssey of phone calls, meetings and photographic malpractice. The result? Well that's history!

'C' Company

All the events of this period have been overshadowed by the tragic and untimely death of Pte Alan Stock, who was murdered by the IRA whilst on patrol in the city. As a Company we would like to express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends, and to say how keenly we feel the loss of this likeable and professional young man. On a happier note we are delighted to report that LCpl McGarry, who was injured in the same incident, is recovering well in hospital. We extend our sympathy to the nurses who are presently suffering his sense of humour.

The last three months have in every sense been extremely busy. They started with the KAPE tour which was so widely reported in the local Press that Capt. Noble, overcame by the adulation, hired an agent, and is now demanding appearance money. A full report appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In our training period a full round of

range days and platoon activities culminated in a Military Skills competition which was won by 11 platoon (OC 9 Pl. can still be heard gnashing his teeth).

Our month in the city was not without it's lighter moments either. Lt. Scott's choice of an HLS in the Shantallow caused outspoken comment from the local population and not a little alarm and despondency amongst our side-walking brethren. A programme to macrolon helicopters is now under way.

We have undergone the usual welter of postings, transfers, imprisonings and cashierings. We would particularly like to mention the passing of Major Nick Cann to the sunnier climes of Uganda, and welcome in his stead Major James Ewart, formerly fine art dealer and OC HQ Coy. We send our best wishes to Sgt. John Newman who after 9 months is still striving to pass out from NIRT.



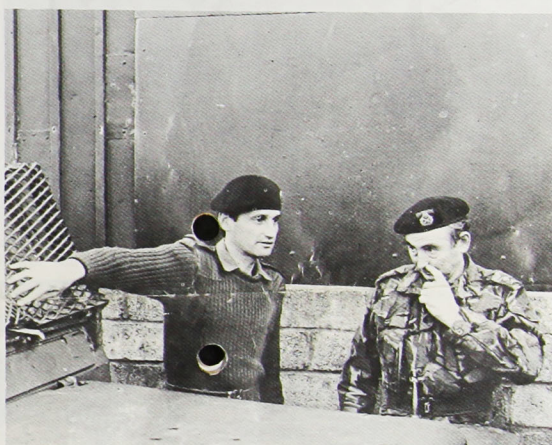
"Own up, who mentioned Lt Scott's no claims bonus?"

VISITORS GALLERY

Apart from the Colonel of the Regiment, the Battalion has been besieged by a succession of distinguished visitors since July. Amongst them we have received the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the outgoing CLF, the incoming CLF, the Deputy Director of Military Operations, the Director of Infantry, the VCDS (P and L) and to strike a spiritual balance, the Chief Moderator of the Church of Scotland.



Once upon a time the DDMO visited 2 Queens in Londonderry. He brought with him a really beautiful black leather briefcase with a bronze clasp and Edward Riddles initials in gold lettering. "I really like that beautiful black briefcase signed the Brigadier."



The Director of Infantry gives an indication of his opinion of OC A Coy's war story.



"We really like that beautiful black briefcase," thought the Adjutant and RSM, in step as always.



As for the commanding officer he couldn't take his eyes off it.



2 Lt Stan Jeffries invites the new CLF in for lunch.



Pte Nelson overdoes the laughter as the Colonel of the Regt. tells him a joke.



The Chief Moderator of the Church of Scotland paying A Coy a visit at Fort George.



"I'll take that," said the CO. "Best do as he says," said OC B Coy threateningly, "your helicopter's this way."



Cpl Jeffries, winner of the Bn. long-arm contest, gives Maj. Gen. Chiswell a demonstration.



The Minister of State for the Armed Forces spends time with LCpl Poile, one of his constituents.



The KAPE team guess the weight of Miss Canterbury and friends at the Kent show.



Some of the KAPE team proudly display their weaponry.

In July of this year 'C' Company and the band represented the Regiment on a KAPE (Keep the Army in the Public Eye) tour of Kent and London. This was part of a combined KAPE effort by the whole Regiment but the 2nd Battalion had by far the largest area to cover.

Preparation for the tour began in March. Regimental HQ and the RIT at Maidstone arranged visits to various schools and shows, thus ensuring that the KAPE team departed Londonderry to a very full programme.

On arrival in England an admin party led by CSgt Piper set up a base at Crowborough Camp in Sussex. Centrally placed in beautiful countryside it proved an ideal location for the KAPE team. The first three days were spent in collecting loan stores and rehearsing displays. Each member of the team was fully briefed on Regimental History in order to deal with the inevitable questions from the public. This period indicated to all team members still in any doubt just what hard work the tour was going to be. It was decided that there were to be two types of display: a presentation in which the team would talk to schools about life in the Regiment and a static display involving weapons and equipment and a demonstration of unarmed combat. During this preparation period we enjoyed a visit from the press, granting the team poses their first opportunity for self-gratification. Additionally a number of team members notably Ptes Davey and Nelson were actively enjoying some of the plentiful local facilities.

Because of the size of the area we split into two teams. The first, commanded by Lt. Mike Newman, was to concentrate on Kent, and the second, under Capt. John Noble, on London and Middlesex. As a prelude the London team started their tour with a visit to the old school of its leader, Imberhorne School in East Grimstead. This involved a presentation followed by a demonstration of a fully battle-prepared section under the dynamic leadership of LCpl London. This was followed by a static display and unarmed combat demonstration in the playground. As a par-

KAPE

ting gesture Capt Noble presented his old headmaster with a scroll and the team departed. The general format of this visit was repeated at a large number of schools through the tour.



LCpl London with Pte's Mattioli and Martin at the CCF central camp at Longmoor.

The visit to Imberhorne was followed by the combined team giving a series of displays to the CCF Central Camp at Longmoor in Hampshire, where we were joined by the band. It was here that we were visited by Colonel of the Regiment, who watched the Akido team rehearsing and CSgt Piper giving a lesson on the new small arms system SA 80. The team was to return to Longmoor later to give a very successful display of FIBUA to the assembled cadets. The highlight of this was LCpl London's animated and realistic demonstration of how to blow yourself up with a



Sgt Anthony introduces a demonstration rifle section.

INTER-COMPANY NOVICES BOXING



The victorious HQ Coy boxing team meet the press.

After the success of April's boxing championship and in view of the need to select a team for the coming season, another competition was held on the 19, 20 and 21 September. Winners from the previous event were ineligible and so Companies had really to search for their boxing talent. Additionally there was only one month between the announcement of the competition and the date itself, and so company trainers had their work cut out.

Despite the fact that 'B' Coy were away on leave for half of the preparation period they still turned up at the preliminaries with the other teams ready to do battle. However, their lack of preparation time was to tell against them and after the prelims and semi-finals had been fought it became clear that they had been left behind by the other companies in an otherwise extremely close competition. Going into the finals points were as follows:

'A' Coy	19	'B' Coy	8	'C' Coy	21
'D' (HW) Coy	20	HQ Coy	20		

Final night was the traditional affair of a packed partisan audience, Mess-kitted Officers and Senior Ranks, immaculate officials and plenty of blood and thunder boxing. Special mention should be made of the light heavyweight bout between Ptes Neville and Youngs. After a furious first two rounds, the bout appeared to be headed for the distinction of becoming decided on a technical knock-out due to exhaustion. The full results from the evening were as follows:

Weight	Winner	Runner-Up
Bantam	Pte Phillips 'C'	LCpl Kirkham 'D' (HW)
Feather	Pte Dillon 'D' (HW)	Pte Woodrow 'C'
Light	Pte Hipkiss 'A'	SSgt Jones HQ
Light Welter	Pte Robinson HQ	Pte Bushell 'B'
Welter	Pte Spencer HQ	Pte Almond 'C'
Light Middle	Pte O'Reilly 'A'	Pte Moody 'B'
Middle	Pte Judd 'C'	Pte Charman 'A'
Light Heavy	Pte Neville HQ	Pte Youngs 'D' (HW)
Heavy	LCpl Sharples 'D' (HW)	Pte Sands HQ

Consequently HQ Coy just squeezed home by one point from 'C' Coy to take the trophy.

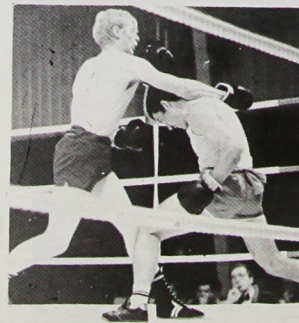
Whilst presenting the prizes the Commanding Officer paid tribute to all those with guts enough to compete in the championships and complimented the finalists on producing an evening of skill, courage and endeavour which was much enjoyed by all present.



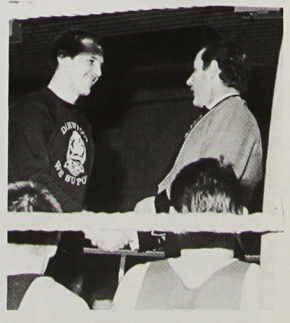
Ptes Neville and Youngs slug it out in the light heavyweight final.



Ptes Judd and Charman in action in the middleweight final.



SSgt Jones slips under Pte Hipkiss's guard.



LCpl Sharples receives his winners medal from the Commanding Officer.

CAPERS

thunderflash. The enthusiasm and interest shown by all the cadets we met made our ACF/CCF visits most enjoyable and rewarding.

From their base in the TA drill hall at Edgeware the London team visited various schools and shows selected by the Army Careers Office in Finchley. The highlight of those visits was our introduction to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, at the Finchley Carnival. She was presented with a Regimental Ice Bucket by Sgt Anthony, and sent a personal message of good wishes to the whole Battalion in Londonderry.

Meanwhile in God's country the Kent team were also very busy. The Kent Show at Detling near Maidstone proved to be a highspot as the team was joined by Miss Canterbury, 17 year old Rachel Errington, who after experiencing the seductive charms of Major Nick Cann, was persuaded to become Miss 2 Queens. Rachel's presence proved to be a read crowd-puller and the 2 Queen's stand was one of the most popular of the show.

As a gesture to all the towns and cities of

which the Regiment has the freedom, all the Mayors were visited and a presentation made. It was obvious from the tremendous welcome we received on these visits that our relationship with our "freedom" towns is cherished with affection and pride by the towns themselves. During one of these visits to Canterbury, a "turning of the page" ceremony was carried out at the Cathedral.

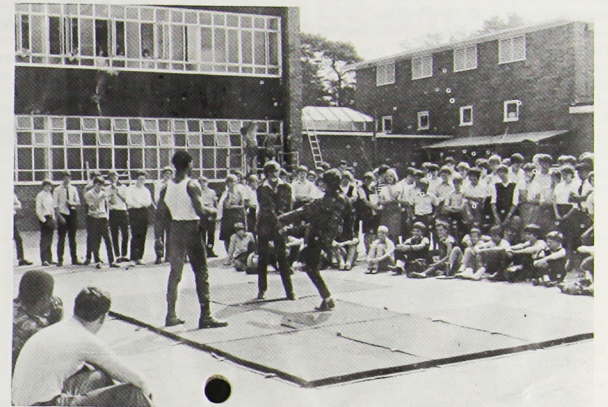
In summary the tour was a great success and much enjoyed by all members of the team. The benefits of our efforts will be felt at the recruiting shops but the experience of taking the Battalion back to its roots was both pleasurable and highly rewarding.



Pte Martin convinces yet another potential recruit on the Kape tour.



The London half put it all on display.



Cpl "Meat and two veg" Leander leads a class in a little unarmed combat.



We obtained this shot from Capt Nobles agent.

Soccer

Officers v WOs & Sgts

In commemoration of Sevastopol Day on September 8 the Officers played the WOs and Sgts at football. The Officers, ably led by the Commanding Officer, put up a spirited performance against a more experienced Sgts Mess side before going down 7-5. Special mention should be made of Lt Roy Crossie-Wood who seemed to be of the opinion that football should be played from the sitting or lying position. Praise also for the Officers' custodian, Capt Clive Newell, whose demonstration of the corinthian spirit allowed SSgt Kenny Finch to score a goal direct from the kick-off!

Man of the Match: SSgt "Kevin Keegan" Jones.

Foul of the Match: Half of the Officers' team on SSgt "Kevin Keegan" Jones.

Dive of the Match: SSgt "Kevin Keegan" Jones after being fouled by half of the Officers' team.



Readers may recognise this shot from the FA Coaching Manual.

Rugby

Battalion 7-a-side Competition

The first Newsletter posed the question "can anybody take the 7-a-side shield from C Coy." On 24th August that question was answered as the Battalion kicked off it's rugby season with an inter-company competition. The competition was run on a league basis with the ten teams competing being split into two groups. The top two teams in each league went forward into a knockout semi-final. Some skilful but furiously paced rugby saw a confident C Coy side winning their league with A Coy runners-up. In the other league HQ Coy and B Coy were the two teams to qualify.

The first semi-final was a closely contested affair between A Coy and HQ Coy which A Coy narrowly won to secure a place in the final. The second 'semi' was a thrilling encounter between C and B Coys. Within a minute of the start Sgt Anthony dropped a goal to put B Coy ahead. Wave upon wave of C Coy attacks followed but B Coy held on to their lead until half time. Despite crossing the B Coy line three times in the second half C Coy failed to score that elusive try and so B Coy advanced into the final.

This proved to be a hard competitive match with both sides scoring two tries apiece, B Coy through Ptes Walsh and Pudwell and A Coy through Capt Morris and Pte Lowe. It took WO2 Whittle's conversion to separate the teams and so B Coy ran out worthy winners at 10-8. Finally a word of commiseration to A Coy who were runners-up for the second tournament in succession.



The inter-coy 7-a-side champions in victory pose.

Hockey

Although it is still early in the season the hockey team beg leave to report success in the NI six-a-side hockey competition held at RAF Bishops Court on Saturday, 3 September.

To set the scene, eight good men and true, sticks and pads in hand, departed a rather sodden Londonderry at sparrows on the aforementioned Saturday, bound for the far side of the Province. The end of an uneventful journey found us parked up on a windswept, rainblown airstrip contemplating what we might rather be doing.

Nevertheless we donned our blue shirts and feeling that familiar surge of pride (I think Welsh rugby players enjoy a similar experience at Cardiff Arms Park) marched out to the tarmac to do battle. Gunners from Belfast were summarily despatched to the Plate as we quickly eased into a good flowing rhythm. I will spare you the details but suffice to say that after a further two games two beefburgers and a soggy packed lunch we found ourselves in the final.

Our opponents were the Royal Irish

Rangers team from Ballymena, who had endured a much harder route to the final than us. The final was well fought but despite battling bravely we went down 0-3 to a stronger side. Nevertheless we were pleased and a little surprised to have made the runners-up spot and we new look forward to the rest of the season with confidence and a prize in the trophy cupboard.



Cpl Griffin showing some good stickwork at the N.I. six-a-side championship.



Back row, left to right, Sgt. Newman, CSgt Gauntlett, Cpl Craft, Capt Newman, Cpl Griffin. Front row, left to right, Capt Hurley, Pte Jones, Capt Newell.

'D' (HW) Company

With an exceptionally warm summer even in Londonderry, passed and now well into winter (Autumn doesn't exist in Londonderry!) D (Heavy Weapons) Company has, as ever, had a busy but varied programme. Although the operational priority still dominates our existence we have been able to devote time to our specialist skills re-discovering the joys of mortaring, AFV recognition and occasionally the sound of music from the Corps of Drums.

During July we enjoyed our second stint west of the River Foyle. It was an active and sweltering tour during which the twelfth of July marches passed quietly and a number of successful finds were achieved, including a Russian Grenade in pristine condition and a 9mm Pistol with ammunition. Alas, leave flashed by and shortly after our return we assumed the Reserve company role combined with Guards and Duties. This is undoubtedly the least favourable period in the company cycle but was rewarded by an excellent and varied training period in October. During the month the Anti Tank Platoon held a weeks Adventurous Training exercise at Garelochhead on the west coast of Scotland, the Mortar Platoon a weeks live firing at SPTA and the Drums Platoon a weeks local adventure training in the Magilligan area. This combined with the B Class skill at arms meeting, inter company Hockey, PRE and preparations for our next City Tour has made it a full and rewarding month.

PERSONALITIES

There has been a vast changearound of personalities within the company since early summer commencing with CSgt (Bones) Jones who left in June to join 6/7 QUEENS as a Mortar PSI. During our July City Tour Lt Jonathon Dixon joined the company to command the Drums Platoon on his vacation from the University of London. He survived the ordeal without any noticeable change of personality.

In early August Capt. Neil Wright left us to join 6/7 QUEENS as Adjutant and/or take a holiday in the Costa Del Sol. When he left he was still deciding which of the two as preferable. His relief, ex-Capt James Turk joined us on return from leave in August struggling hard to adjust from being a wealthy, dashing bachelor Captain ADC to Maj Gen M F Reynolds in Heidelberg to a poor married Lieutenant company second in command in Londonderry.

During the same period Capt Clive Newell joined the company as Mortar Platoon Commander from IJLB giving D (HW) Coy an unprecedented number of officers. Finally it is with sadness that we say farewell to WO2 Bernier (The Intrepid Sgt Maj) who has served over 3 years in the Company. His unique sense of humour will be greatly missed by all members of the company. He is relieved by WO2 Daw who has recently returned to the Battalion from the Platoon Commanders Division, The School of Infantry.

Mortar Platoon Live Firing Oct'83

Having passed BFT's, GFT and APWT in Londonderry it was time for the mortar platoon to get down to some real Heavy Weapons training. Only so much can be achieved on the officers mess lawn, so to Salisbury Plain we travelled.

All went well with the preparations, until the fatal words were spoken "everything is going extremely smoothly Sgt Vessey." His answer was interrupted by the telephone. Crab Air, a subsidiary of the RAF who deal with the Army, had brought forward flight timings by three hours. Even our MTO couldn't get us to Aldergrove in twenty minutes, so an extra night was spent in Ebrington Barracks, and we flew the following day by Andover. Having detailed LCpl Solley as rear gunner the flight, although bumpy, went without incident. On arrival WO2 Cornick the Platoon 2IC had our welcome arranged.

Due to this delay in the main body arriving it meant that we went straight into live firing on the 13th October. The initial days firing was spent ironing out problems, and taking into consideration the lashing rain, results were reasonable. Day two was spent practising quick actions. With improved weather and all members of the platoon rushing about, some credible timings were achieved (eg C/S 52 taking only 11 minutes to neutralise an enemy location).

Then followed a free weekend and the opportunity for Pte Haywood to gain the 'hook line and sinker' award, when he was told of a weekend fire piquet. (I thought everyone tried to hide behind each other when I addressed the platoon - Foster!) Having been fallen out, Cpl Martin tried to break the land speed record in a VW Polo. Cpl Harman tells of his time in Sloane Square, and a band of stalwarts stayed at Netheravon. Although stories vary, Pte Wilson had an enjoyable time and will be pleased to hear that grappling hooks are now available in platoon stores.

Having formed up again without incident



Sgt "Wimp" Vessey looking at his reflection in a plotter board.

on Monday morning we set out for the plain. Over the next two days the platoon carried out more complicated shoots culminating in a very successful Datum shoot on the Tuesday. This short article would not be complete without mentioning the help given by SWW who were very



Pte Cole for once has no difficulty in locating the hole as the Mortar Pl terrorise Salisbury Plain.

kind. Also thanks to QMSI Jordan SASC (ex 3 Queens) who lectured the NCO's on the new CPO's computer.

The return journey was not without its moments for having arrived at RAF Lyneham, we found ourselves in the middle of an NBC exercise; stacks of barbed wire and 'noddy' suits everywhere. A rather disagreeable aircraftman shouted "halt" to the bus, which duly stopped and we were all made to feel like POW's. A SNCO was then informed that he was dealing with one of the mortar platoons of Englands Senior Infantry Regiment and we drove in! The sentry looked rather sheepish and was instructed on some further movements of arms drill, which remain unpublished.

Back at Londonderry the clean up operation was dealt with swiftly, and macralon was replaced under the guidance of Cpl 'Dolly' Wilson. All members of the platoon will agree that it was a well worth while period of training which will certainly be repeated next year.

EXERCISE SCOTCH BROTH

In the first week of October the MILAN platoon took part in exercise Scotch Broth (now renamed "Down Pour"), an adventurous training exercise based at Garelochhead training camp in Scotland. Activities included canoeing, climbing and hillwalking.

The weather was appalling throughout the exercise. There was one reasonable day, but for the rest of the time torrential rain and low cloud added to everyone's enjoyment.

The rock climbing took place in a nicely exposed valley called Glen Croe. Under CSgt Denny's expert instruction everyone soon learned the basic techniques of abseiling and top-roping. Some even developed interesting techniques of their own. LCpl (Yuri Geller) Vaughn managed to "bend-open" his screw gate carabiner on a forward run abseil. These are normally capable of withstanding 2000 kg of strain. He is now dieting. LCpl Stockwell found that his strength/weight ratio is not that of a natural climber. During a flash shower he spent 15 minutes stuck on a rock-face, unable to climb to shelter.

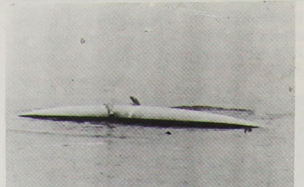
The hillwalkers rambled across a range of peaks, regularly practising cloud navigation. In fact at times the weather was so bad that even expert navigators like Pte's Ivil and Dillon had problems finding their way. Despite the occasional glimpse at the surrounding countryside through a hole in the clouds, the driving rain and cold winds effected morale. Luckily early in the week Capt Cross sprained his ankle, thereby forcing the postponement of the next three days walking. It is rumoured that he "took a dive" to avoid another four days of waterlogged underwear.

The canoeists spent most of their time on or in Loch Lomond. Under the combined instruction of Cpl Lake-Bullen ("L-B" to his friends) and LCpl "Slap for Support" Rocky most of the platoon mastered the basic strokes and drills. LCpl Geddes proved himself adept at capsizing drills. Others were not as confident and tried to scramble out of the canoes before they had completely capsized. Also there was apparently a construction fault with some of the canoes, which caused Ptes Horstead and Reeves to travel only in circles.

After a hard days training the platoon generally relaxed and recovered in the local town of Helensburgh. LCpl Stokes made everyone jealous by his inimitable dress sense and cool manner (Ketchup Man!) and Cpl Scully gave his own seven mile fashion show, showing off a new line in multi purpose boxer shorts.

During one particularly inclement day the hillwalkers visited the Ballantines Distillery. A number of the platoon had to be forcefully restrained from attaching themselves to one of the cask filling probes. It was thought unlikely that they would survive 11 gallons of malt whisky injected into them within a minute!!

Generally everyone enjoyed themselves. Pte Burgessson had such a good time that on the last day, whilst visiting Glasgow in the evening he arranged for his jacket and the Bedford keys to be stolen. Unfortunately for him some clever work with a screwdriver started the vehicle, and so everyone returned on time to Londonderry.



Whoops! Someone's in trouble. Could be a problem here. This looks like a job for...



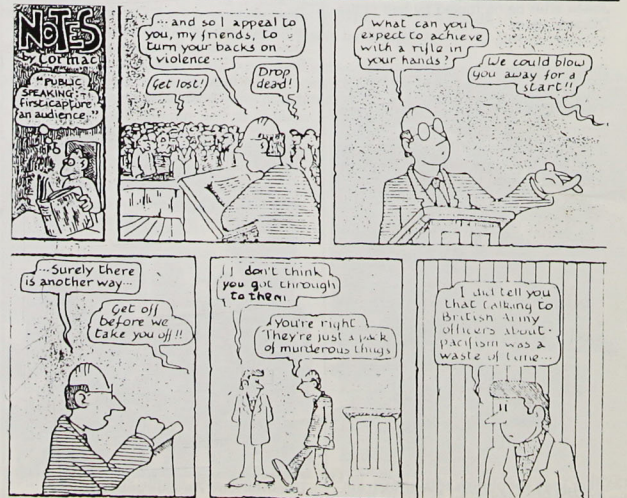
... Super-Stokes. Slicing through the water, LCpl "Clark Kent" Stokes arrives to avert disaster in the nick of time...



... Casually flipping the capsized canoe out of the water, he releases Pte Phillips from his watery coffin. "How can I ever thank you" says Phillips. "Don't worry," says Super-Stokes. "It's all in a days work."



LCpl Sharples just hanging around.



Cpls Cook, Guyett and Martin fill in their travel claims for the weekend in London.

'HQ' Company

HQ Company HQ

We've been painted and PRE'd in the last few months which has kept us all busy. We welcome Major Tom (the Bomb) Williams as our new Godfather, double hating from the families office. We have had a good period for sports results including a memorable win in the boxing competition coupled with runner-up in the hockey six-a-side. Many people have come and gone including a number of ex under-eighteens but we would particularly like to bid farewell to Cpl Pte and Mrs. Kim Rogers who are bound for Canterbury and 5 Queens (V). Give Stan the Man our love.



Cpl Fagg passes judgment on the Friday afternoon fun run.

Unclassified Signals

Time has passed very quickly for the Signal Platoon over the last three months. Apart from our normal operational responsibilities we have now embarked on a series of regular radio user cadres for the companies, the first of which was held in September for C. Company. The cadre includes three out-of-camp exercises which provide a very welcome change of scenery. Sgt. Furry Fallows, in command of the control vehicle on the final exercise gave an early cry for help over the radio, but would not disclose the nature of his dilemma. On arriving at the scene his vehicle was found firmly entrenched in two feet of malodorous bovine waste product. Needless to say attaching the tow rope was

a lonely business for him, and he encountered difficulty in soliciting company for the rest of the day.

Congratulations are extended to Ptes Lofty Farrant, Spook White and Mouse Mumberson on their recent marriages. With two more weddings in the offing the platoon is fast becoming a collection of bleary eyed pads. Never mind Porter, keep wearing the paper bag on your head and your turn will come.

We welcome Sgt Keith Easterbrook REME to tets section and hope he enjoyed the baptism of fire provided by the PRE. Finally we would like to send a message to our elusive leader. "Where are you and what hat are you wearing today?"

Transport Tittle Tattle

The Battalion has at last completed its vehicle PRE with an estimated 94% pass on availability and serviceability. All those concerned deserve praise for the valiant work put in to achieve this creditable result. We now look forward to August 1984 and the next PRE.

At least we can return to what passes for sanity here in Londonderry. The daily grind of admin runs continues and it is worth noting that the Battalion has corporately clocked over 750,000 miles since our arrival. The following should be congratulated on achieving "Accident Free Certificates":

5000 Miles: WO2 Walters HQ; LCpl Evans HQ; LCpl Dolling HQ; LCpl Cooper D(HW); Pte Nevill HQ; Pte Currie HQ.

10000 Miles: Cpl Gordon HQ; Pte Adams HQ; Pte Head HQ; Pte Langridge HQ.

15000 Miles: LCpl Nightingale HQ; Pte

Cawley HQ.

The platoon has had some success on getting people away on courses and adventurous training. Pte Adams has applied for the post of the Fourth Musketeer having completed a long fencing course and LCpl Wallington has already laid in a supply of Grecian 2000 now that he is a qualified driving instructor. Sgt Cliff Wheeler is leading a team of dedicated drivers in the Northern Ireland Command driving competition and two aspiring James Hunts LCpl Walters and Pte Ayres are competing in the Roadmaster Rally at Bullford in late November.

Our traffic accident record whilst still causing concern, is improving. At least we are now following a policy of "being hit", rather than "hitting". It was a final, cautionary, word remember always drive defensively which means more brake and less accelerator.

Brian has now won the ultimate accolade; the one way shuttle ticket. A very popular personality within the Battalion during his short tour I am certain that this Platoon, at least, would join me in wishing him and his family well for the future.

As we say farewell to two Royal Anglians (one dumpling, one swede) we welcome in the first instance Capt Barnacle from the Motor Transport Platoon. A return visit in his case, having been an RQMS some years ago, he returns not for the simple life of boots and socks, but the turmoil of the Technical Department. Capt Barnacle is having a good initiation, with the Periodic REME Examination and Ordnance Ancillary Inspection as his first problems. We also welcome the new RQMS, WO2 Thompson, from 3 Queens (a total of three in the Platoon now). He will be in the chair by the time this newsletter is printed. Other new blood transferred to the Platoon includes LCpl Millward as signwriter and LCpl Peachy for the Clothing Store. Welcome to the both of you.

Another departure was Cpl "Big Lou" Brazier. He left in September to spend his last six months of service in England. His posting saw the departure of one of the Battalion's characters and a very large one at that. Lou joined the Battalion after service with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and a short rest in the Welsh coal mines. Not by any means the best of carpenters, he could however always be relied upon to provide satisfactory products willingly, (well almost) but certainly with a smile and probably a joke. He even had a joke for the helicopter pilot as he was evacuated to hospital after a mishap in his workshop. We wish Lou and his family well for the future.

Those of us who are left (our number is dwindling) carry on behind the scenes trying to keep the unit supplied with all its needs and at the same time to retain our sanity. Not always a simple task, but who said life was going to be easy?

Medical Matters

Down at the Ebrington Medical Centre, Doctors McCutchan and Death are still struggling to push back the frontiers of disease (when the former is not on the Golf Course). Sick Parade remains our busy time, and the cold, damp Londonderry air seems to cause more than it's share of laryngitis. We have seen many casualties from the drinking den in Iona Terrace suffering from Legionnaire's Disease. Without Joubt however our greatest diagnostic coup was the discovery of Black Papilloma

lurking beneath 2IC C Company's hairy back.

During our stay in Londonderry, we have been lucky enough to have the help of several RAMC Medics, in particular Cpl John Archer, who has now left us to join a field ambulance in Germany as a Sergeant. John had been here since the Battalion arrived, and although he was officially the 8 Inf Bde Medic, his duties led him to treat many Queensmen.

Sgt Vic Sullivan has finally recovered from his visit to the dentist, and apart from running the Medical Centre, he has found a variety of small animals in the various Cookhouses to persecute. Pte Dave Joy has now joined the Medical Centre, and is often to be found assisting the Doctor with minor operations. He tells us his ambition is to be a surgeon, and volunteers are required for practice.

Sadly we are soon to lose several of our stalwarts, and we wish all the best to Cpl's "Arnie" Arnold, Bill Norman and Pte Ted Harding.



They kill all known germs ... dead!

BN 'B' CLASS SAM



LCpl Miller poses with the other winners and runners-up.

October 19 heralded a welcome 2-day spell of relatively good weather for those participating in the Battalion 'B' Class SAM. Right from the first match (the Roupell Cup) LCpl Miller (A Coy) gave us notice of his intentions, and the stage looked set for a battle royal between A, B and D(HW) Coys. LCpl Miller came first in this, probably the easiest of the four matches with Pte Pynn (D(HW) Coy) second and Pte Tibble (B Coy) third. From this point on the B Coy team deminated the match.

The Roberts Cup was next and Pte Fairbrother (B Coy) emerged as the winner on a countback from Pte Miller (A Coy) with Pte Bean clinching third place.

In the Association Cup (the long range SLR shoot) a well zeroed weapon allied to good concentration is essential. Pte Marquardt (B Coy) displayed both these attributes and scored a clear win over Pte Shaw (B Coy) and Pte Pynn (D(HW) Coy).

The final match was the GPMG individual. Pte Knight (B Coy) produced one of the best performances of the competition to score 264 out of 288 to secure first place. Pte Lygo (B Coy) came second with Pte McDonnell (A Coy) third.

The overall champion shot by a convincing margin, was LCpl Miller, with Pte Marquardt pipping Pte Knight by one point to take the overall runners-up award. It is encouraging to discover the talent which lurks amongst our younger brethren and the aim of the competition, which was to identify potential new members of the Bisley team, was undoubtedly achieved.

BN 'B' CLASS SAM FINAL PLACINGS

1st, LCpl Miller, A Coy, 573 points; 2nd, Pte Marquardt, B Coy, 527 points; 3rd, Pte Knight, B Coy, 526 points; 4th, Pte McDonnell, A Coy, 508 points; 5th, Pte Turner, D (HW) Coy, 499 points; 6th, Pte Pynn, D (HW) Coy, 495 points; 7th, Pte Hipkiss, A Coy, 477 points; 7th, Pte Fairbrother, B Coy, 477 points; 9th, Pte Tibble, B Coy, 473 points; 10th, Pte Skinner, B Coy, 467 points.



WO2 Reardon advises LCpl Eccles on his score-draw selection.



LCpl Miller receives his award as overall champion shot from the Commanding Officer.



And now the weather. Dark cloud with occasional rain ...

Q's NEWS

There have been many personality changes in the Platoon over the last 3 months. JCB has now retired (officer jargon for discharged) to civilian life and the dole queue (new Serial Number 3,248,694). Actually he had a false start to being civilianised. Through some mysterious error, deliberate or otherwise, his application papers were lost in the melee of the day to day work of the Orderly Room. He was almost 100 per cent successful in completing all his resettlement courses, despite efforts to prevent him. He was more than 100 per cent successful in obtaining as much leave as possible, hence the request to report any sightings to the TQMS in the last edition.

JCB is soon to be joined by the RQMS, WO2 Brian Tunstill, who I have known for more years than I care to state. He has been with the Platoon since February 1981 and on his first day, was treated to a spectacular driving exhibition, en route from Akrotiri to Nicosia, from which he will probably never recover. Although he denies being a BA Shuttle season ticket holder, he will admit to being on christian name terms with most of the cabin crews. An ardent Ipswich Town F.C. fan, he has on occasions held supporters' club meetings in his room, the proceedings being relayed by loudspeakers to the crowds of fans outside, desperate for a glimpse of the man who knows Paul Mariner. Not deterred by defeat, Brian has worn his Ipswich Town jumper on most Saturdays throughout the football season. His draconian attitude towards any form of heating in the Sgts' Mess nearly resulted in CASREPS being sent after three inmates of the establishment had been found suffering from frost bite and one frail specimen had almost died of hypothermia. However the prospect of medical attention from Dr. Death, induced a miraculous recovery in them all.

POTENTIAL JNCO'S CADRE



The JNCO cadre assembles in the field for this shot with the Colonel of the Regiment.

For 30 lucky students from 2 Queens, 1 Queens and 665 Sqn AAC the period 18 September to 15 October will bring back many fond memories. This was the duration of the JNCO's Cadre run by Lt James Turk and WO2 Jack Daw (fresh from PCD School of Inf) ably supported by CSgt Dick Akehurst (late RMAS). Normally a six week course, the pressure of operational commitments required it's compression into four. Thus the cadre ran continuously starting at 0630 in the morning finishing at 1830 in the evening without a day off, to make up for the lost fortnight.

The highlight of the cadre was undoubtedly the final exercise which was held in the Keady Mountain area near Limavady and involved a much publicised tri-service assault beach landing. Known as Ex Swan Lake, this phase was conducted in driving wind and rain and provided a very exciting climax to the course.



Pte Webster, on a flying visit, drops in on HMS Cygnet.



Pte Galea leads the first wave ashore.



Drum Major "Hi-up silver and away." Horse "Drop dead."

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE. Large number of 2 R Anglian Standing Orders. High mileage but all in good working order. Recent purchase of new model forces sale.

LOST. OC 9 PI's sense of humour. Discovered missing at Cloony playing fields after Inter Coy 7-a-side competition on August 24. 9 PI are prepared to offer a reward.

WANTED. One iron lung. Phone 246/410.

VOLUNTEERS. There is a constant demand for high calibre servicemen and women to take part in covert operations with the Battalion rugby team. Complete anonymity guaranteed.



LCpl W. Spurling at camp with the Junior Youth Club.



Cpls Farnell and Stokes as Siamese twins at the Cpls' Mess Tramps Ball.

Families' FORUM

WIVES CLUB

Since the summer holidays the Wives' Club has really moved into top gear. Monthly evening meetings have included a Bingo session, a talk by the Paymaster accompanied by some enterprising gastronomic creations produced by the wives, and a craft evening at which many Battalion wives displayed their skills. Our next meeting is planned to include a display of Christmas decorations and flowers.

A weekly coffee morning is held on Tuesday in the Fraser Lodge at Ebrington Barracks. Good things to eat are prepared by Mrs. Still, Mrs. Searle and Mrs. Wells and they are always well supported. A crèche is run concurrently in the church hall to allow mothers a few hours peace to drink their coffee or do some shopping at the thriving nearly new shop next door. These coffee mornings often include a demonstration and recently we have seen products from Avon, Miss Mary of Sweden and even a display of craft items produced by our own talented wives.

We have several ambitious events coming up as we approach the festive season. There is a Christmas Fayre planned for November 26, the proceeds from which

will go to the Army and UDR Benevolent Funds. This promises to be a really good afternoon out for the whole family and will include stalls selling home-made cakes, toys and pottery to name but a few. Additional attractions will be an amusement arcade, a raffle, and a promised visit from Father Christmas.

The Wives Club Annual Christmas Dinner is being held on December 4 and promises to be a truly sumptuous affair. This year it will include a cabaret and disco for our post-prandial entertainment.

Our bus trips have proliferated over the last few months. Apart from the regular shopping trips to Belfast we have visited the St. Michael's shop in Claudy, the Nutts Corner Market and Ballymena. Trips to Bushmill's Distillery and the Coleraine shirt factory are planned for the New Year.

As a final word we would like to extend our thanks to the many people who work hard to arrange our activities. Particular mention should be made of the patience of the Families Office, the creativity of the cooks, the assistance of the Quartermaster and PRI, and lastly the good humour of two MT drivers.



"If I had a hammer..." Tuesday morning crèche in full swing.

Londonderry Adventure Holidays

In order to inject a little adventure into the humdrum of the summer holidays, the families' office in concert with 8 Inf Bde HQ organised a Youth Activities Programme. This took the form of two, week long courses, each involving day trips, camping, water sports and rock climbing. Sites all along the North Antrim coast were located by Lt Duncan Strutt and his dedicated team of volunteers, among them vertical sea cliffs at Portrush, vegetated rocks at Fair Head and 120 ft crags at Ballygally Head.

The highlight of the tours fortnight was the day spent at Roe Valley Country Park. The sun shone and the death shot, constructed by LCpl Sanderson, provided hours of entertainment. Even Lizzie Priddy and Ryan Sanderson, two of the youngest children on the course, had a go. It was altogether an interesting, if exhausting and occasionally hair raising fortnight for staff, parents and children alike.



Lisa Nelson gets a little tied up for this photo.



Little did Mrs. Michelle Dixon suspect that she would go in the Roe River looking like this...



... And come out looking like this. Anyone with advice on how to reverse the process is to contact Cpl Dixon.