

VISIT TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

By Maj. M. F. H. Adler, 7 Queen's (V)

Whilst I was on holiday in San Francisco in early September, I was invited to visit 2/159 Inf. at San Jose.

The visit was arranged by my CO, Lt.-Col. J. B. Ogilvie, TD, who wrote to Col. W. D. McGlasson, Executive Assistant (Army), National Guard Association of the United States at 1, Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington, DC 20001; Col. McGlasson discovered that 2/159 Inf. were interested in forming an alliance with a British Infantry Battalion and as a result I received a letter from the unit offering to show me their equipment, discuss mutual problems and to entertain me to dinner.

2/159 Inf. consists of Bn. HQ and HQ Coy, 3 Rifle Coys and a Combat Support Coy. It is very well equipped with 5.56mm M16A1 rifles, 7.62mm M60 GPMGs, 0.5in Browning HMGs, 60mm, 81mm and 4.2in Mortars, 106mm Recoil-less Rifles and Redeye (hand held AA missile system), though the latter weapon is *not* actually held in the unit. Vehicles consist of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5-ton trucks. I was impressed by the quality and quantity of equipment and particularly envied their ability to do first and second line maintenance on the spot, they have very lavish workshop facilities.

PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE

Many of their problems are the same as ours e.g. recruiting, and restrictions on the use of POL, but they are also confronted by public indifference and a suspicion of all things military, this is clearly a result of the Viet Nam war. Also their ranks are full of semi-conscripts who were given the choice of serving in the Guard for six years or of being drafted to Viet Nam. Naturally many choose the former and now that America has withdrawn from the war and conscription has been abolished, those soldiers who are not volunteers are confronted with perhaps another five years service in the Guard and their feelings and reactions may be imagined.

Some of the similarities between the National Guard and the TAVR are obvious, for example their armoury's architecture was internally very similar to that of my own company's Drill Hall at Farnham, they also have only one Regular Officer per Battalion who acts in a similar capacity to our Training Major and their Volunteers have the same spirit and enthusiasm as ours. What does differ is their system of providing PSOs and PSIs. These men are full-time employees of the National Guard, they are not Regulars though they wear the same uniform and, to my eyes, were indistinguishable from Regular soldiers. They certainly have more permanent staff than we do in a UKLF battalion but then they have much more equipment to maintain. Promotion in the

Guard can go right up to the rank of General Officer and units are brigaded and, east of the Mississippi, organised into nine divisions.

The National Guard, though equipped by the Federal Government, can be called out by the State Governor and 2/159's record of recent actions is impressive. They have fought forest fires, they have evacuated communities threatened by floods and they have helped to quell the Berkeley University Civil Disturbances in 1969-70.

I was very interested in their pay structure and was surprised to learn that a National Guardsman can qualify for retired pay after 20 years satisfactory service and when he reaches the age of 60.

PAY

Typical Pay Scales for serving guardsmen are given below:—

Pte. E1	\$9.60 per day (\$605.00 per year)
Cpl.	\$12.91 ,, ,, (\$874.08 ,, ,,)
Sgt.	\$14.31 ,, ,, (\$972.03 ,, ,,)
Sgt. 1st Class	\$22.40 ,, ,, (\$1,491.60 ,, ,,)

A captain earns about \$1,740 per annum after two years service.

Whilst I thought that their system of a soldier eventually qualifying for retired pay must be a good incentive for long service, they felt that our system of bounties was an excellent one and they were also very interested to hear of the existence of Trust Funds for the benefit of units of the TAVR, a source of finance not open to them. They were of course interested in our Regimental customs and traditions and I was questioned closely on matters of dress and badges and their history. I presented the Battalion with Queen's Regiment plaques and a copy of the Regimental history, and they in turn gave me their Battalion Badge and a mass of literature; their recruiting pamphlets really are excellent, they even have leaflets explaining the training obligation to wives and employers, thanking them for their co-operation in allowing their husbands and/or employees to take part in Guard activities. Incidentally their training obligation is almost identical to ours.

I recommend that members of the TAVR who travel to the USA should contact a National Guard Unit. They will find themselves immediately on common ground and they will be royally entertained. I hope to be able to arrange for two members of my Company to visit C Coy 2/159 Inf. (the company with which A Coy, The 7th Bn. The Queen's Regt. has informally allied itself) and I look forward to the day when, perhaps, we may be able to exchange companies for periods of annual continuous training; what a good recruiting incentive that would be.

Sports Section

RESERVE ARMY DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BEDFORD

(Saturday and Sunday, 6th-7th October, 1973, Grange Camp, Bedford)

Nearly a hundred crews, consisting of driver and navigator, from Territorial Army units all over the country, including Northern Ireland, took part in the Reserve Army Driving Championship, Exercise "Star Trek", at Grange Camp, Bedford.

The two-hundred Volunteers, including some WRAC girls, assembled at the Central Volunteer Headquarters, Royal Corps of Transport, Grange Camp, just outside Bedford, on Friday, 5th October. The HQ, commanded by Col. John Walker, sponsored and organised the event, which is held annually.

During the following two days the crews and their Army Land Rovers were put through a tough military exercise designed to test driving skills and ability, vehicle servicing, map reading, road courtesy, personal endurance, and leadership.

In all there were seven tests, including a skilled driving test conducted by the Institute of Advanced Motorists, and an observed cross-country test at the Vauxhall test track with six hazards to be negotiated.

Details of results will be published in December.

1973/1974 TAVR FIXTURES

1973

Nov. 2 ***Boxing** v. Army at Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

1974

Jan. 14 **Football—KO Competition.** Preliminary rounds completed—Districts

Feb. 18 ***Football—KO Competition.** Quarter Finals completed, venue to suit Quarter-Finalists

20 **Rugby Union** v. HAC at Armoury House

March 2 ***Squash Racquets** v. Army at RMA, Sandhurst

3 **Squash Racquets** v. RMA at RMA, Sandhurst

***Cross Country Running.** TAVR Championships 1974 at Nesscliffe Training Centre, Shrewsbury

6 ***Football** v. Cambridge University at Cambridge

11 ***Football—KO Competition.** Semi Finals completed, venue to suit Semi-Finalists

13 ***Rugby Union** v. Army at Aldershot

16 ***Cross Country Running** v. Army at Aldershot

30 **Hockey** v. Infantry at Burton Court, SW3

31 ***Hockey** v. Army at Aldershot

***Football—KO Competition.** Final at Aldershot Stadium (p.v.)

* Indicates events in which participants may score points towards the Queen's Challenge Cup.

Further information on any of the above fixtures may be obtained from: Secretary, TAVR Sport Board.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The TAVR Sport Board is now located at the following address

Secretary,
TAVR Sport Board
c/o Eastern District
Flagstaff House
Colchester, Essex

Tel.: Colchester Military—Ext 297.

GPO Colchester (STD 0206) 5121—Ext. 297.

The TAVR Sport Board continues to remain under the aegis of the Army Sport Control Board.

Shooting

Inter Services Small Bore Long Range Rifle Match

By Major F. C. Boucher

The TAVR entered a team in this event for the first time in 1973. The venue was the School of Infantry, Warminster, and the meeting was superbly organised by the Small Arms School Corps.

The programme consisted of individual and positional team events on Saturday, 22nd September, followed by the main team events on the Sunday. These comprised a double dewer course in the morning and an English Match at 50 metres in the afternoon. There was a total entry of eight teams and the match was won by the Regular Army, with the TAVR being placed fifth. Our party consisted of:—

Maj. Boucher	REME
Capt. Dafforn	7 Queens
Capt. Tainsh	London Scottish ACF
AUO Mackay	Bedfordshire ACF
WOII Affleck	201 General Hospital RAMC
S/Sgt. Wiltshire	163 M.C. Regt. RCT
Sgt. Potter	North Irish Militia
Cpl. Kennady	North Irish Militia