

# Exercise 'Minuteman'

## Queens and USAF Security

IN JANUARY B Coy, 6/7 Queens (V) had a new 'enemy' for their field training in 10 Security Police Squadron, USAF.

The weekend started with a mobilisation exercise, and during this phase the main burden of work fell on CSM Derek Harwood and his clerical team who were responsible for the documentation of the 70 men who arrived at Edgware and Hornsey drill-halls.

The setting of Exercise 'Minute Man' was that B Coy were to secure the munitions compound of the USAF base at Molesworth, in Cambridgeshire.

Lt. Gordon Andrew led an advance party which set up security positions at the compound, but that was an easy task compared with holding on to it throughout a bitterly cold night.

The Americans were a tough and resilient enemy who did not allow the Londoners to crawl into their sleeping-bags in the warm bunkers for more than a few minutes rest at a time.

### GREAT FIRE

The gate defended by Cpl. Alan Frater and his section was overwhelmed three times during the 'battle', but retaken each time. The firepower of the Americans was tremendous, and Aden-veteran L/Cpl George Bonner said "It made the Great Fire of London look like a match light!"

The following morning the exercise ended on a happy note of alliance when Major Martin Donley, commanding 10 Security Police Squadron, and Major Roger Lowans of B Coy exchanged regimental shields and the Americans gave the Middlesex men breakfast. Sgt. Trevor Pidgeon had great difficulty in stopping his platoon from helping themselves to a second and third round of strawberries and pancakes. They all agreed that Exercise 'Minute Man' had been a weekend with a difference for the North London Volunteers.



Major Martin Donley USAF presents Major Roger Cavans with a souvenir shield.

## HOSPITAL CUP WINNERS AGAIN

217 (L) General Hospital RAMC(V) met at Crookham WETC in December for the Christmas Party and said goodbye to 1976, which had been a very successful year for the unit. Members from the HQ at Walworth SE17, Brighton, Sutton and the City of London detachments attended. The ACC members of the unit provided an excellent menu for the Dinner, which followed by a Disco attended by all ranks, helped to make the evening a memorable one.

The military efficiency of the unit was shown by winning the TAVR Hospital Cup, for the second year running. This year, being our Individual Training year, we shall not be taking part. Because of popular demand we sent an all-male and an all-female team to the Walkover competition. Although our girls did not win, we thought that they certainly looked the most attractive team! Our irrepressible dentist, Major Van Den Berg, led the successful Nijmegen team, all of whom returned bedecked with medals and blisters. They hope to repeat the feat next year.

### "MINI MASH 2"

Camp at Olen in Belgium was one of the most rewarding that we have spent. We not only survived Exercise Mini Mash 2, but actually seemed to impress the judges

## HAVE A LAUGH

We all know that there is plenty of fun to be had as a Volunteer. You must have experienced some funny moments during your own service at annual camp, on courses or just around at TAVR Centres.

Share your funny moments. A prize of £5 will be sent to the Volunteer who comes up with what is adjudged to be the funniest story.

Each entry must be in by 31 March and must be accompanied by this panel. They should be sent to TAVR Magazine, Centre Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, SW3 4SG.

with our ability to cope with Mass Casualties. This year we travel to Barry Budden, near Dundee, a site renowned for its golf and rain.

### FAREWELLS

There have been many arrivals and departures. We said farewell to our Honorary Colonel, "Dickie" Marks, and welcomed Colonel John Serjeant in his place. WO2 Hunter left the Brighton Detachment and was replaced by WO2 Greenway. S/Sgt. Malcolm Ward came to us from the Apprentices' College, and he will be PSI to the City and Sutton Detachments, in place of S/Sgt. McCready, who has gone to the sunshine of Cyprus.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TAVR

A vacancy exists from 1 Apr 77 for a full-time Administrative Officer, on consolidated rates of pay, with Headquarter Battery/Workshop 102 Lt AD Regt (Volunteers) at the TAVR Centre, Newtownards, Co Down.

The appointment is for an Administrative Officer, for which administrative experience is necessary, preferably with a Regular Army Unit. Some experience with the TAVR is desirable but not essential. Applicants should have held a commission in the Regular Army or TAVR.

Terms and conditions of service are given in Part I of Schedule XVI of TAVR Regulations 1967. Applicants should be under 57 years of age.

The starting salary for officers employed on consolidated rates is £3,092 per annum rising to £3,584 after six years.

Applications giving date of birth and details of experience and qualifications should be submitted to:

Commanding Officer,  
102 Lt AD Regt RA (V)  
BFPO 801

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# Letters

## PROCESSIONAL

Can it really be twenty-four years since? It seems so long a time, yet the memories remain clear. Surprisingly clear.

It was 6 am on 2nd June 1953. With many others I was quartered on the fourth floor of the Empire Hall Olympia. Then a Lance Corporal (acting) I was one of five to represent the Territorial Battalion of my regiment, then 4/5th (CP) Bn The Royal Sussex Regiment.

After a week of rehearsal, button polishing, toe cap bulling, etc., we put on our new No. 1 Dress and after an excellent breakfast moved down to the assembly area below.

Around us were units of the Regular Army, Colonial Regiments and to our front the pipes and drums of the Highland Division.

Every man on parade was turned out to perfection; boots gleamed, buttons shone and bayonets glistened. The forming up began — then we moved along Kensington High Street and onward to Constitution Hill where, in our final position, we paused awaiting the start of the actual procession.

Then it happened. The heavens opened and down came the rain. Blanco ran, brass faded and the over buffed bayonets showed tiny spots of . . . rust?

From where we stood we could see the tower of "Big Ben" and silently watched the hands move towards a quarter to two . . . "Territorial Army Detachments, by the centre quick march." Over five hundred left feet moved forward. The great procession had begun.

In pouring rain we marched the seven miles of the route and then back to Olympia.

That memory of the great parade. The cheering crowds, the drums and the waving flags remains crystal clear today.

It was indeed the day of many others who marched the 2nd June 1953 will always hold a special memory.

The soiled belt is by me now as I write but I need no tangible reminder.

Major MIKE ROBERTS TD,  
The Queens Regiment (V) —

### KIT ISSUE

Whilst appreciating S/Sgt. Shaw's point on the availability of clothing and equipment from Army/Navy Stores, I feel he has the wrong idea with regard to TAVR Issues.

Firstly, issue to Regular Soldiers is for every day use, whereas issue to Terriers is on a training basis only. This being so, my opinion is that most Terriers are grossly over-issued with kit. Take No 2 uniform, used on only two occasions in the main.

Once when passing out from recruit training, and on Armistice Sunday. SNCO's wear theirs on more occasions, I know.

With regard to webbing, be it 37 or 58 pattern, what is really required, especially by RCT personnel? A web belt, pouch MT, small pack, canteen and carrier. That basically will see you through any training week-end exercise or what have you.

Shoe DMS for walking out in, come on Staff, what shoes do you wear with No 2 at the moment, and how many Terriers do you see walking out in No 2 Dress? Suitcases you mention, prior to issue of suitcases to Regular Forces kit bags were issued. How many camps did you do, where you didn't add a suitcase to your luggage? Or, as you are still waiting for suitcase issue, do you still use only your kit bag?

Finally, your point on wearing out No 2 trousers before the Jacket. Well why not wear the complete outfit all the time when on Admin/ Clerical duties?

C. B. Wootton  
Ex SQMS (TAVR)

### MESS DRESS

I am a recently retired QARANC nursing officer (SSC) and have for disposal the following item of uniform which I would be grateful if you would advertise in TAVR Magazine:

One QARANC Officer's mess dress, size 12 to 14 (to fit 5 ft to 5 ft 2 ins). Worn for 3 hours only. Cost £60 new. Any sensible offer considered.

Other items of uniform also available.

ADELE C. CARR,  
37, Weston Ridge,  
Otley, West Yorkshire,

### THE QUEEN'S RIFLES

I wonder if I may reply to Mr M. T. NASH'S letter (January 1977) through the medium of your Magazine.

May I first congratulate him on his powers of observation. All the men from my Company taking part in the GUILD-FORD Centenary Celebrations were armed with the Rifle No. 4 Mk. II. The background to the story is as follows:

My Administrative Officer, who is a keen military historian and also a licenced firearms dealer, was detailed by me to equip the men with period dress on a minimum cost basis. He tried to borrow uniforms from a number of sources but, not unnaturally, the owners of very old uniforms tend to guard them rather jealously. In the end we had to resort to hire from a theatrical costumier. This proved to be expensive. We therefore hired the minimum possible amount of kit for the shortest possible time. Indeed, when the uniforms arrived from London we did not even have time to check them against Dress Regulations for 1880, 1898, 1914 and 1947, neither for that matter did we have more than a couple of weeks to learn such drill movements as the "Slope arms". As regards the weaponry, we were kindly loaned the rifles, No. 4, by the 5th Cadet Bn The Queen's Regt. Unfortunately their stocks of .45 Martini-Henrys; Rifles Magazine Lee Metford Mark II, and Rifles Short Magazine, Lee Enfield No. 1 Mk. III were depleted and they were not able to fulfil our requirements. So I am afraid Mr Nash the defence cuts won yet again. If you want authenticity you have got to pay for it and we have not got the cash. A sad reflection on the state of the economy! In fact, SETAVRA and the Regiment kindly put up the funds for the equipment hire.

This leads me to take issue with Sergeant John SHAW, whose letter appears in the same issue. Is it essential that personnel employed on clerical and administrative duties should wear Barrack Dress trousers? In my Battalion it is comparatively rare to see anyone in any dress other than Combat Kit.

Given a strictly limited budget for the TAVR, let us devote as much as we can to the provision of ammunition, POL, rations and pay. TAVR General Reserve Infantry is now being issued with '58 pattern webbing — this is a very generous gesture by the Regular Army, whose non-teeth arms are still often equipped with '37 pattern webbing — presumably their loss is our gain. Surely our main reason for being is to provide a cost effective back-up for the Regular Forces. If this is so then the frills will have to be cut to the minimum — personally I would prefer to keep my new plastic poncho and my S6 Respirator rather than to be issued with a raincoat and zip-up holdall.

Major M. F. H. ADLER,  
A Coy 6/7th (Volunteer)  
Bn The Queen's Regiment

### FROM ZAMBIA

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed serving in the Cadet Force.

I am certainly interested in exercises with the TAVR in the United Kingdom. I want to work hard and play hard!

I am asking your officers to put me in touch with the TAVR units in my area. I am 32 years of age, born in 1944 in Zambia.

KASONGO NKALAMO,  
Nshindano,  
P.O. Nsombo Station,  
via Zuwingu Boma,  
Zambia.

You'll see him on a Sunday no doubt waiting for a bus. Without his camouflaged clothing Monday to Friday looks like us.

Don't ask him why he does it. Likely he'd say 'don't know'. The way he hides the fact that he's a soldier. It's certainly not for show.

Next time you see a soldier on a Sunday. Stop and think, you'll feel the merrier. Call him week-end warrior if you like. But he'll always be a TERRIER!

S/Sgt. J. D. Shaw  
HQ 156 Regiment RCT (V),  
Liverpool

*Send!  
I agree  
too much  
kit issued  
already  
Fgm.*