

CHANGES IN COMMAND

ROYAL ANGLIAN



Photo: John Lindsay
(Bury Free Press)

Tom Dean (left) and Roger Tomkins

After twenty-four years service in the Territorial Army Lieutenant-Colonel R C Tomkins TD relinquished command of the 6th (Volunteer) Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment on 13th October 1978.

His successor is a Regular Army Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T D Dean who lives near the Battalion Headquarters in Bury St Edmunds. His appointment is unique in the history of the Battalion inasmuch as he is the first Commanding Officer to come from the Regular Army, but like all his predecessors he is a 'local boy made good', as all have come from the area covered by the Battalion.

QUEENS UNIVERSITY

OTC

Lieutenant-Colonel John Hughes TD took over command of Queen's University (Belfast), Officers' Training Corps on 30th October 1978. He has succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Illingworth, R Irish. Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes joined the OTC in 1957 and was commissioned into the 5th Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (TA). On amalgamation he transferred to 4 (V) R Irish and became Second-in-Command in 1976. Married, he has one daughter. In civilian life, he is a Principal in the Civil Service.



John Hughes



Mike Dudding

Lt Col Mike Dudding, who has taken over command of 6/7 Queen's from Lt Col Foster Herd this month served as a Regular officer in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), in the Persian Gulf, Malta, Kenya, West Germany, Berlin and England. He served with Arab soldiers in the Trucial Oman Scouts (1961-63) and speaks colloquial Arabic, and German to interpretership level (Civil Service Commissioner's Examination). In 1967 he attended the Staff College, Camberley, and in 1968-69 he held a staff appointment in the Manning Directorate of the Ministry of Defence. In 1970-72 he commanded a company in 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, after which he served on the staff of Headquarters The Queen's Division for two years. He retired from the Regular Army at his own request in April 1974. He has seen active service in Oman (1958) and Northern Ireland (1971/72).

His service with the TAVR began when he joined 7 Queens (V) as Second-in-Command in June 1974. He remained in that appointment when 6 and 7 Queens (V) were amalgamated in 1975.

NORTHERN IRELAND



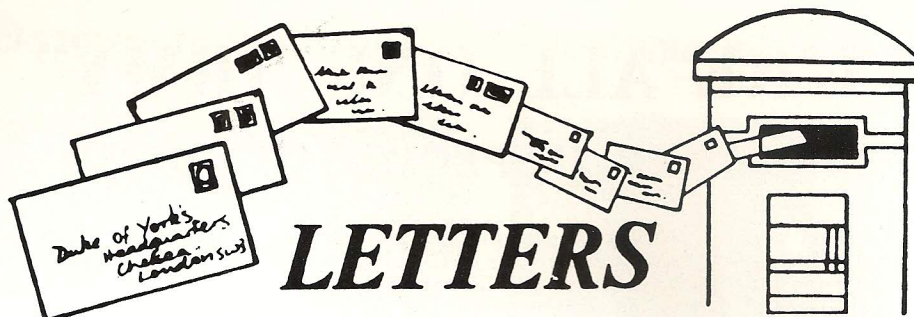
After three and a half years as Colonel TAVR in Northern Ireland Colonel O'Hara Logan CBE TD ADC has just handed over the reins of command to Colonel M E W Nicholl TD.

Taking up the appointment in April 1975 Col Logan, late RA, has been Commanding Officer of 102 AD Regiment, the Ulster and Scottish Regiment then equipped with the 40/70 Bofors.

In spite of quite understandable difficulties in Northern Ireland the TAVR has thrived under his leadership and during his appointment he was awarded the CBE for his services to the TAVR. "It has been a most rewarding period of my life" he told us "and one which will always hold special memories for me".

Photo shows:

Col Logan being ceremonially towed away from his job on a specially saddled 25 pounder driven by the pulling power of no less than ten of his Commanding Officers after his last TAVRA meeting in St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena.



GIVE US A GREATER SENSE OF PURPOSE

From Maj J R G Putnam TD 21C 6/7 Queens (V)

Wastage is ever with us. One has only to look back over old records of TA units, and almost all our Drill Halls have piles of these hidden away in some dark corner, to realise that exactly the same problem affected our forebears as well and with the same amount of concern. Why does the young recruit or soldier leave the Territorial Army?

No-one can deny that a certain percentage of those who enlist attend one annual camp and decide that a military way of life is just not for them. They leave because they are honest enough to admit they are not suited. Others depart because they say that it is not exciting enough — that is the fault of those of us who have been serving long enough to now be in the position to organise and run their training. Others leave because of wife or girl friend problems — a common enough event in TAVR circles but those who have served for any number of years have had the same problem to some extent and appear to have resolved it one way or the other. Some depart because it is just not what the poster or film promised.

All these are events and reasons that have become a way of life and we all sign the necessary discharge documents when a soldier leaves, strike them off strength, change the number on the wall charts that cover our office walls and forget them. Has anyone bothered to analyse the psychology behind all those decisions to leave?

Many of us can recall those distant and disturbing days in 1967 when the Wilson government halved the TA almost overnight and a number of General Reserve Battalions (TAVR 111) were formed. Neither soldier nor officer was paid — each battalion had 2 or 3 Land Rovers and if they wanted to go to camp the unit had to hire its tentage and transport! In my own case the Volunteers actually paid a subscription on drill nights of two shillings and six pence for the privilege of belonging. It was the strongest Battalion size for size I have known and its morale was second to none. It certainly taught the lesson, or rather confirmed it, that the true volunteer does not enlist for the money — although who dare deny that it helps. There is no doubt, however, that TAVR pay must compare with comparisons in civilian life if the Volunteer is to stay long term. But no-one must be mistaken in believing that money is the carrot.

In the years just before both World Wars TA units were filled with volunteers earnestly desiring to sign on and serve the

Country. No-one denies that the 'atmosphere' of the time was different — is there such a different atmosphere now? The factors may not be the same but the reasons for joining are really no different and they certainly did not join for the money!

I also believe that the true Volunteer has never been too concerned, within reason, about the amount of his equipment. I appreciate that this argument differs from arm to arm. Some of the finest battles and defences in history have been fought by under-equipped battalions and armies. To some extent the TA has always been lacking in equipment but it has never stopped a true volunteer from serving — and it never will.

My own battalion is a General Reserve Battalion and its morale and general efficiency and approach to its role are most certainly not affected by not having as much equipment as those units whose role it is to complete the Army order of battle to NATO. Neither do we have anything like the same numbers of permanent staff compared to the NATO orientated battalions. Are we any worse off? Far from it. In my opinion we are far better off — we have to do far more as Volunteers. I would suggest that our volunteer Pay Team and Orderly Room staff are quite outstanding and leave nothing to be desired. The whole battalion has a remarkable atmosphere being one that is so dependent on the volunteer for its day to day running and organisation. The enthusiasm and energy of its young officers and Senior NCOs is what matters and not the lack of equipment.

By far the greater majority would far rather stay in a General Reserve Battalion than move to a NATO Bn with its greater volume of equipment and staff. More of our volunteers are involved in the battalion in a way and depth that elsewhere they would not be and this most certainly ensures an excellent continuity of senior ranks and indeed in some of the middle ranks as well. The reader should not imagine that we do not suffer from wastage — for like everyone else we have the same problem to a greater or lesser extent. But equipment, money and staff are not the sole answer to solving all the TAVR's problems.

I consider that by far the greater part of wastage is caused because the Volunteer can see for himself that the 'standing' of the TAVR is paper thin. There is no doubt that we are here to provide reinforcements and back-up to the Regular Army in

time of national emergency — but in the meantime what is our purpose? It is very thin thinking to give the Reserve Army a role which in reality is saying, "it will be alright on the day — they will be there". Will they?

The TAVR have a wastage problem because at the present time they lack purpose. There is a need for a more positive approach by Government in educating and encouraging employers. It needs a voice from the very top to announce exactly what the TAVR is, what it does and its part in the defence of this country. The recent statement by the Prime Minister was an important lead, but more is required. The TAVR is all about the local man doing his bit of service in his own area. This is a very key part of the TAVR as the local soldier relates his service with his own area and, of course, the TA unit builds up a much stronger 'family' atmosphere than does the regular unit.

The sense of purpose that I suggest the TAVR is looking for is recognition that they are a part of the Nation's defence system and that they are of some use. They feel that they should not be tucked away in some convenient corner on the understanding that they will be there when required. It is because they feel that they are only there in the case of ultimate emergency that units and volunteers get the sense of lack of purpose. The Volunteer wants to be used and nothing would give him greater pleasure or purpose than to be used in his own County or District.

The opportunities for using the local TAVR unit are varied and, at times, many. There have been a large number of occasions in the past where a TAVR unit has most earnestly asked to be used in a situation or indeed have tried to arrange an exercise, perhaps of an IS nature, only to be told it is "too political" or "if you do that you will upset the Trade Unions". As a country we should not be ashamed of our Reserve Army — it is there both because it wants to be there and above all because the country requires it to be there to fulfil its international commitments and agreements. It is because it is inclined to be fobbed off that unconsciously the TAVR Volunteer gains the sense of lack of purpose.

When a man volunteers to join the TAVR he is, of course, asking for the right to serve, which throughout history has proved to be the greatest thing a man can do. It is both the ultimate privilege and to some extent pleasure and satisfaction.

Men talk to the end of their days of their time in service. When enlisting he thinks that there must be a need for him to join — he accepts that there is a chance he will one day be called on to face the ultimate and he believes at the time that he is joining an organisation that has a standing in life and a sense of purpose. He wants to feel a step up on his neighbour. When he finds that all these things are not quite what he imagined then he fast loses interest and leaves, thus joining the many on the wastage roll.

There are from time to time national disasters, some natural and some man made such as floods, storms, serious snow falls, aircraft crashes, rail disasters, chemical explosions, hunts for weapons used during crimes, searches for missing or dead persons and a host of similar events. Surely the local TAVR unit, especially Infantry Companies or Battalions could be employed as assistance to the civil power. No-one is imagining that a whole Bn will turn up overnight, but using its own Mobilisation Procedures any TAVR battalion worth its salt could produce a composite Company of say 100/150 persons in a very short space of time — a matter of hours only — which would have the advantage of being a disciplined and self administered force with the added and very valuable asset of local knowledge.

A good example of such assistance was set by the men of a Platoon of C Coy 2nd Battalion the 51st Highland Volunteers early this year who took over a local inn and fed some of the local population during some particularly violent snow

storms and the period following when they were cut off from all usual supply routes. During the same hard conditions, in the southwest, volunteers of 155 (Wessex) Regt RCT (V) from Taunton and 'D' Sqn (RDY) from Barnstaple, tackled such problems as road clearance, keeping supplies of food, medical supplies and linen — and also staff — to local hospitals, taking a nurse and doctor to isolated patients, bringing meals on wheels to the elderly, and a great deal more besides.

What better image for a reserve army unit than one that is used by its local authorities and which inevitably would soon come to be recognised by its surrounding local population as a body that could be relied on to provide a much trusted and dependable service in times of stress and need.

Such opportunities would do so much for the Volunteers' spirit — far more than just good pay or more equipment. No-one can or must deny the values of good pay, equipment, the One Army Concept and all the other many and varied policies and aims currently assisting and encouraging the TAVR, but if the Volunteer could be seen and be able to give more practical service it would in turn give him that most important sense of purpose.

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UNIQUE DOUBLE

From Major H J B Wall TD/JP

Reading Lieutenant Jones's letter in the August Edition of TAVR Magazine, reminds me of the Esther Rantzen Show on TV when Glyn Wornsnip having expounded at length on a contributor's claim to fame and a place in the Guinness Book of Records — ends his remarks by leaning forward towards the camera saying "this must be a record — unless of course you know otherwise". Invariably this leads to a flood of fresh claims and counter claims.

I imagine Lieutenant Jones's letter has stirred a similar response, certainly he managed to get our RHQ going — and that takes some doing (I'm only kidding chaps). The outcome of all this discussion being, as PRO, I have been requested to write a suitable reply and submit the names of at least 4 Volunteers in 35 Signal Regt (V) who can claim a similar distinction. Two have now left namely WO2 (RQMS) John Cockerell and S/Sgt Stan Harris, but two are still serving Sgt Tony Edwards (RAOC) and Sgt Sheila Edwards (WRAC) — no relation incidentally.

In addition we have two Officers holding the TA Efficiency Medal and the TAVR Efficiency Decoration (TD) Major George Harrell and Major Alec Peebles.

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DON'T BE VAGUE. THE DARK BOTTLE'S HAIG.