

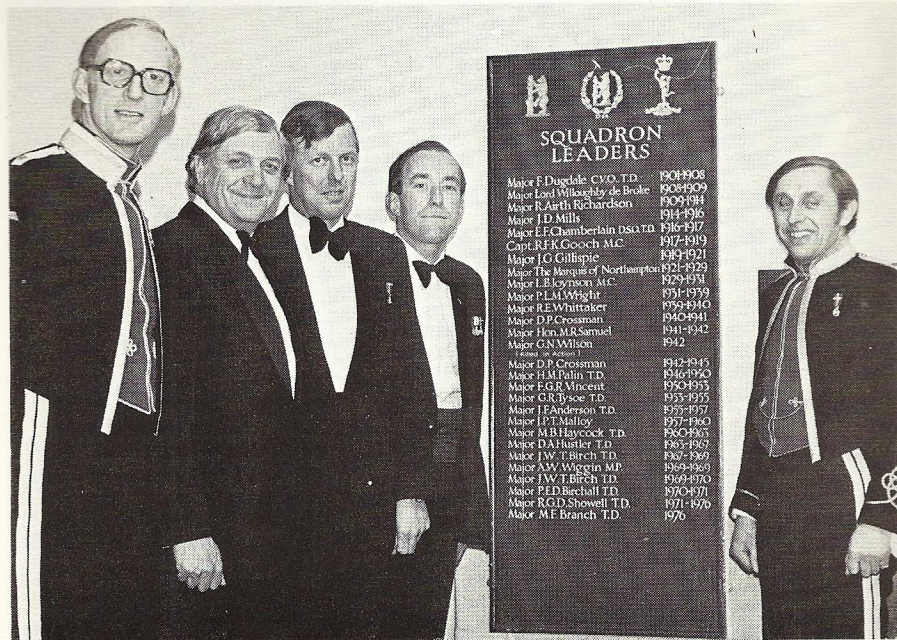
# THE YEOMEN OF ENGLAND

## QUEENSMAN STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 26 YEARS

ON Thursday, 15th February WO2 Eric Hensby received the Efficiency Medal (TAVR) on completing 26 years' service with the Territorial Army. The presentation was made by Brigadier DM Woodford, CBE the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff South East District at Horsham Drill Hall.

WO2 Hensby first enlisted with the Royal Signals. He then served with the Royal Fusiliers and on the 25 March 1953 he transferred to 56 Div Signal Regiment. In 1960 he moved to the Royal Army Pay Corps. He was posted to 6th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (V) on 23 August 1971 and came into 6/7 Queens (V) on 1 April 1975 on amalgamation of the two battalions and he is still serving with the battalion.

WO2 Hensby was awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) for 12 years' service and he has now qualified for the TAVR Medal. Eric is married and has three children. He met his wife (Rosemary) while he was serving in the TA (RAOC) and it was she who persuaded him to join.



The five officers who have commanded 67 (Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron seen at the Stratford-on-Avon-based unit's tenth anniversary dinner.

They are (from left): Maj Mike Branch, the present-day Squadron Leader; Maj Stanley Birch; Maj Jerry Wiggin, Conservative MP for Weston-Super-Mare; Lt Col Piers Birchall, former CO The Wessex Yeomanry; and Maj Richard Showell, 2IC 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment.

The Squadron, part of 37 Signal Regiment, is a successor unit to the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry, an armoured regiment which was disbanded under the controversial Territorial Army spending cuts of the late 1960s.

It keeps alive the Yeomanry traditions of the former regiment, whose history can be traced back to the formation of the Warwickshire Yeomanry in 1794.

The anniversary dinner, held at the Drill Hall, Stratford, on Saturday 20 January, was a combined officers' and sergeants' mess function, PMC Capt David Hardy presiding.

Responding to the toast "Our Guests", Col Freddie Ramsbottom, a former CO of 37 Signal Regiment, wished the unit well, adding that the TA had never needed much encouragement.

He said the Squadron had enjoyed a satisfactory and most creditable ten years, tackling well the difficult road towards technical competence.

The evening had particular significance for the Squadron's permanent staff officer Maj Ron Page, marking the 42nd anniversary of his joining the Royal Artillery as a boy soldier.

The principal guests included Brig G. J. Curl, commander 11 Signal Group; Lt Col K. D. Brown, CO 37 Signal Regiment; and Col M. B. Haycock who commanded the QOWWY between 1967-1969.



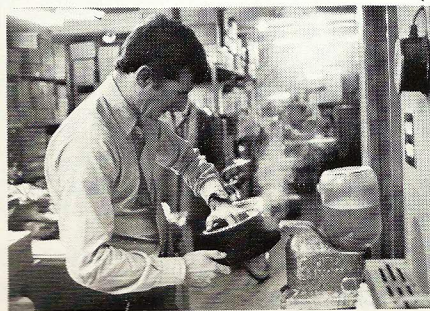
## NEW ARMY LEGAL CORPS FORMED

Brigadier R. C. Halse, CBE, has been appointed as the first Colonel Commandant of the newly formed Army Legal Corps.

The new Corps came into being on the 1 November 1978. Prior to being granted Corps status it had been comprised in the Army Legal Services Staff List which had existed since 1948, with earlier origins in the Judge Advocate Generals Department.

All 47 members of the Corps are lawyers whose main role is to advise on questions involving Military Law and kindred matters, to prosecute where necessary at courts martial, and to advise military personnel on their legal problems.

## HAT TRICK



It was John Oswin's civilian job which turned him into Sig Oswin of 36 Sig Regt (V) for all through the day he was in touch with the military as military representative for a famous firm of hatters. Our main source of business from the Army," he told us "is from RMA Sandhurst." Apart from the military side John is to be found at all the big horse shows such as the 3-day event at Badminton and the Horse of the Year Show as he is also responsible for riding hats. He knows the practical side of it too. Here he is seen steaming and shaping a dress hat for an officer in the Blues.



# REME SAYS GOODBYE

## Major Woodfield's 50 years

(reported by courtesy of the 'Craftsman')

This is not (thank God) an obituary but a tribute to Maj (AIA) (Retd) Ernie Woodfield who has again retired, this time at the age of 65 and after almost 50 years with the Army, including nine years as a Clerical Officer in the Quartermaster department at CVHQ REME Bordon.

Ernie Woodfield enlisted as a boy apprentice in the RAOC at Hilsea in January 1928, in the days of the short magazine 303 Lee Enfield, the Lewis gun and the Vickers machine gun — no self-loading rifles or Bren guns in those days. Very little of the Army was mechanised; and the Royal Artillery was all horse drawn. An Army apprentice was paid seven shillings a week but in fact only got five shillings (25p) because two shillings were automatically deducted for barrack damages. In 1933 as a 20-year-old Class II tradesman Private Ernie got almost a pound a week before deductions and was considered a wealthy man!

In 1936, after serving as an armourer with various units and RAOC workshops in UK, L/Cpl Woodfield was posted to Abbassia in Egypt; in 1937 he went to the Sudan; and in 1938 and 1939 he served in Palestine and Malta. During the early part of World War II, Armourer Sgt and S/Sgt Woodfield was seconded to the Sudan Defence Forces and saw active service in the Sudan, Eritrea and Abyssinia. He transferred from RAOC to REME when the Corps was formed; and in 1943 he was in the Middle East Campaign and the Western Desert.

Having been overseas since 1936, he was posted back to UK in 1943 and went to REME Scales Branch in Woolwich. Although the climate there suited him, he still had sand in his shoes and so, in 1947, back he went to the Middle East, first to the Base Workshop at Haifa and then to the dust and flies at the huge workshop at Tel-el-Kebir.

In 1950 WO2 Woodfield served with 4 and 10 Trg Bns REME in UK, with national Servicemen and all that, as well as with the Regulars!

He went to Pendine Proof and Experimental Establishment for a couple of years, before being posted in 1954 to REME Inspectorate BAOR.

In 1955 WO1 Woodfield joined that very distinguished and now, alas, fast-disappearing collection of stalwarts when he was commissioned as AIA (Assistant Inspector of Armourers to you younger men).

Whilst serving as a REME officer in BAOR, he was QM in 6 Armd Wksp and Adm Officer in Rhine Wksp, where he met a young captain called John Homan, now slightly better known than he was then.

Ernie requested AG21 for a posting to

the Far East and in 1958 he went to HQ Singapore Base District. The fact that the then Staff Captain at AG21 happened to be the young captain he knew in Rhine Wksp probably had nothing to do with this!

Whilst in Singapore, Ernie Woodfield was detailed to volunteer as Secretary of the Rowcroft Theatre Club and, as always, he tackled this job, in addition to his normal duties, quietly and efficiently. After completing this three years in Singapore, he became OIC Armaments, Small Arms and Instrument Section at SEME, Bordon, and also Secretary / Treasurer of the REME Rifle Association.



Photo: The Craftsman  
Major Woodfield

In 1965 he went to EME Branch at HQ South East District, where he was in charge of all the ADEME Inspection teams visiting units throughout the District.

Maj (AIA) E. H. Woodfield retired from active service in 1967. At his farewell dinner in Anglesey House Mess, Aldershot, he remarked that his only claim to fame after 40 years as an armourer was that he was the only man in the business who had never won any sort of a shooting competition.

After he left the Army he entered the Civil Service and in May 1969 got himself transferred from Petersfield to Bordon to become Clerical Officer in the QM department at CVHQ REME. He has been the guide, mentor and friend to six successive QMs since coming to CVHQ REME. There is nothing this grey-haired old soldier does not know about stores accounting; and his books were models of neatness and accuracy. Never ever did Ernie Woodfield throw his weight about — his vast experience in REME was always at the disposal of anyone who sought his advice. Many of us have cause to thank him for all he has done for the Army for half a century — and for REME for almost 37 years.

We wish him very many happy years now he has finally retired — or has he?

### FIRST WRAC SGT IN THE WOs & SGTs MESS



Sgt Pauline Trower has just been promoted into the WOs & Sgts Mess in the 6/7th Battalion The Queen's Regiment. Sgt Trower is based with HQ Company who are stationed at the Norfolk TA Centre, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex. Sgt Trower joined the TAVR in 1976 as a private since when she has worked her way up the promotion ladder into the Sgts Mess. She has been employed as Company Clerk and her typing ability has been much appreciated.

By day she is a housewife, married to Robert who is a Senior Analyst with an international firm of Insurance Brokers and they have two children. When she attends training weekends her husband minds the home and the family! Whenever she has a spare moment Pauline drops into her drill hall and over the last two years has put countless hours into the background administration of her Company, which has no PSI.

Her entry into the WOs & Sgts Mess was not without some murmurings from that bastion of male chauvenism therein who included the Regimental Sergeant Major! However, Pauline has shown by her endeavours that she is a worthy member.

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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