

VICTORY FOR 6/7 QUEENS

Bisley! Here we come

The Battalion Shooting Team continues to show the flag and the weekend of 19/20 May found the complete team on Ash Ranges for the joint South East and London Districts Skill at Arms Meetings. As the rules concerning the entry to the Annual TAVRA Meeting at Bisley in July have been altered to permit only those teams that come within the top 4 or 6 in their respective District Skill at Arms Meetings to enter there were more teams than ever striving for honours. The team seemed to positively enjoy these extra pressures and the ability and skills de-

veloped over the last three or four years shone through and the Battalion won the Unit Championship in the South East District in fine style.

The first day of the Meeting turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far sending a blistering heat wave across the Ranges but the team put in their best performance yet on the Roupell Cup with Cpl Terry Goss, a concrete technologist by profession, getting the highest score of the entire competition — 140. Cpl Blockley, an aircraft technician, and C/Sgt Richard Bicker, an Insurance Broker, both turned

in scores of 312. Lt John Day and L/Cpl Smith both also scored well and the team set the standard for both London and South East Districts, as part of the unit championship is a total of the six highest scores in the Roupell in each team and no other team in either District exceeded our total.

On the same hot day the LMG pairs competition was fired and Lt John Day and C/Sgt Bicker had a fine run and returned a score of 114 which secured them a third place in South East District — the winner scoring 117. Sunday dawned one of the wettest and most miserable days of the year — a complete contrast to the preceding day. All those who had still to fire the Roupell on this day were at a distinct disadvantage as can be seen when Cpl Goss had to fire a tie shoot against WO2 Meywell from CVHQ RAOC for the Individual Rifle Championship of the Meeting — WO2 Meywell won this with a score of 124 to Cpl Goss's score of 112 — both poor scores for these good shots. Later the same morning the action moved to the Section Match competition where the targets at 600 and 500 were invisible in the fog to many. The section from 6/7 Queens fired this with a competence above that which could be expected of such a young team and swept down the range to come second in the entire Meeting. They lost only to CVHQ RAOC who were firing within South East District and it was a little hard having missed out on the medals in South East District to see 4RGJ, who had returned a score of half their's, line up for a cup and medal each for winning the competition within London District — but that is competition life!

With the SMG team of 4 doing their stuff as well the team won the Unit Championship within South East District — a just reward for the many weekends practising in all sorts of weather conditions. The Battalion 2IC, Major Richard Putnam and the RSM, WO1 JAC Burr, have continued to drive the team from the rear, running all the administration and the Ranges on practise weekends. They were not all that popular during the cold winter weekends! 6/7 Queens are looking forward to meeting many friends in other unit teams at Bisley.



6/7 Queen's team (left to right): Cpl Dunn, Pte Thomas, L/Cpl Driver, Sgt Baker, Lt J Day, Cpl Goss (who returned highest score of the whole competition), C/Sgt Bicker, L/Cpl Smith, Pte Springall (almost hidden), Cpl Martin, L/Cpl Jones, Pte Brookes.

DIAL 'M' FOR MEDAL



Two members of 102 (Ulster & Scottish) AD Regt RA(V), WO2 Martin (left) and S/Sgt McClean (right) receiving their Territorial Efficiency medals from Brig B W Davis at the TAVR Centre, Newtownards.

FOOTBALL

DISTRICT COMPETITION ENTRIES

It will not be long now before the Districts start their entries for the 1979-80 Cup competition and will be requesting entries by early August. This competition is played at Sub Unit/Minor Unit level, ie Sqn, Coy, Battery. So if your Sub Unit would like to compete please contact your Unit Sports Officer straight away and he will contact the District SOPT for further information. To compete in the TAVR Cup proper, teams first qualify by playing in their District Competitions.

1978-79 team entries in District competitions:—

Scotland 16	London Dist 8
N Ireland 12	West Midlands 6
NE Dist 11	South East Dist 5
NW Dist 10	Wales 2
Eastern Dist 8	South West Dist 1

FOUR QUEENSMEN AND A DENTIST SHOW THE REGULARS WHAT'S WHAT

Lt-Colonel John Holman, Commanding 1 Queens, a mechanised Battalion in Germany, has been among the first to encourage TAVR Officers to serve with this Battalion, for varying periods of time. We have had two SSVC Officers, Capt Piers Storie-Pugh and Lt Alan Chissel, for nearly a year and they have not only gained a great deal — they have also contributed much to Mess Life and soldiering, particularly by their unusual interpretation of military pamphlets and their propensity for mixed dress.

However, no one would have imagined that for a period of a week we would have 5 TAVR Officers (4 Queensmen and a Dentist) serving with us, all with different civilian jobs and of course their individual styles — highly commendable traits found in most TA Officers!

Miles Clement, recruited from 6/7 Queens, is with us for nine months on a Short Service Limited commission, before going to University, after which he will, no doubt, be back. He has already been on a Border Patrol and is due to go to Denmark for a two-week exercise with C Company in July.

Stephen Menchip, who is a Coy Second-in-Command in 5 Queens and a Money Broker by trade, came to us for two weeks in lieu of his Annual Camp and was instantly hustled off to the East/West Border for four days which was a change from Ludgate Circus!

Alan Chissel, taking his ever increasing sabbatical from being an Immigrations Officer (not Customs as he is quick to remind one) joined us on a year's SSVC after Northern Ireland, having been there himself in the early days (a salutary reminder of the slow promotion in the TAVR) with a beautiful wife and daughter in tow. He is Second-in-Command Support Coy and is going to Canada for the six-week Suffield Exercise in September/October. He will certainly take back a great deal of experience when he returns to England in October.

Piers Storie-Pugh, an erstwhile Stockbroker and Platoon Comd with 6/7 Queens, joined us on an 18-month SSVC after three months at Warminster just in time for Northern Ireland, where, for four months, he commanded the Mortar Platoon. When he leaves in October (if our attempts to persuade him to stay fail) after 18 months, he will have been to Northern Ireland, exercised in Germany, Denmark and Canada, taken two patrols to the East/West Border, been attached to the German Parachute School

5/8 SHERWOOD FORESTERS COLOURS LAID UP

On parade for the last time on St George's Day, 22nd April, were the Old Colours of the 5th/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters (TA).

The Colours, which had been in the custody of 3WFR, the modern inheritor of Foresters traditions, were escorted through the old Market Town of Newark-on-Trent, long the home base of 8th Bn The Foresters and earlier Volunteer Units going back to 1859.

On parade with 3 WFR was a guard formed from D Coy and the A tk platoon of 1st Bn The Mercian Volunteers whose Nottingham and Sutton in Ashfield Centres also once housed Sherwood Foresters.

The parade included a large detachment of Old Comrades and numbered over 200 all ranks, led by the WFR Regimental Band and commanded by Lt Col V. H. Ridley, CO 3WFR, the Battalion marched through the Town to the market square, where they were inspected by Cllr Roy Bird, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier PGM Litton and the Honorary Colonel of 3 WFR, Colonel PTS Bowlby, before a large crowd of spectators, including many invited guests.

After the march past all entered the great Parish Church for the service of Dedication. The Colour Party brought the Colours into the body of the Church from where the CO carried them up to the High Altar. A moving ceremony followed and the Colours were carefully laid upon the Altar by the Reverend Ben Lewers, Vicar of Newark.

The Colours are now preserved and permanently encased with the following inscription set upon the wall of the Church near St George's Chapel: "These Colours were originally presented to the 8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters (TA) by His Grace The Duke of Portland KG, TD,

in Bavaria, visited East Berlin and skied for a month in Bavaria running Exercise Snow Queen.

John Francis, who lives in Shrewsbury and has a Dental Practice there, came to us for two weeks as a stand-in Dentist from the Hospital in Birmingham. He did a wonderful job — even the CO entrusted his daughter to the Dentist's chair. He would have been most welcome to stay on, and perhaps would, had there been some way he could have brought, Kate his wife, out.

In the Battalion we feel that having TAVR Officers' 'on strength' has become a part of life here in Wærl and we shall miss them when they are gone. We take our hats off to them, also, for their professionalism and thank them for bringing with them a breath of fresh air. Fortunately 1 Queens is being posted to Canterbury in March 1980 so the ties we have with our TAVR Battalions will continue and be geographically close.



Left to right: 2Lt Clement, Capt Menchip (CO), Lt Chissel, Capt Storie-Pugh and Capt Francis.

in Newark on the 4th July 1959.

On the amalgamation of this Battalion with the 5th Battalion in 1961 they became the Colours of the 5th/8th Battalion.

From 1967 they were in the custody of Sherwood Foresters volunteers, until they were escorted by guards, found by the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and D Company (Sherwood Foresters) 1st Battalion The Mercian Volunteers, to this church on the 22nd April 1979 to be laid up."



Photo: John Millar

The Colours of 5th/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters march past the Mayor of Newark, Cllr Roy Bird after being paraded for the last time. On the dais with the Mayor are the Colonel of the Regiment and Honorary Colonel 3 WFR.