



The Green Machine



The "On Line" Magazine
Of
The Royal Green Jackets Association

Volume 2 Issue 8

Produced in the UK, USA and Australasia

August 2002

The Royal Green Jackets - the early years

Last month we told the story of the 1st Battalion, as they became Royal Green Jackets. This month it is the turn of the 2nd Battalion and a fascinating story it makes. Taken once again from the first edition of the new Royal Green Jackets Chronicle of 1966.

I just wonder in 1966 if one was to tell the Commanding Officer he would go on to achieve the rank of Field Marshal and join that elite group as a Knight Of The Garter, what his reaction would have been! Though as can be seen there were many others in the battalion from Rifleman to Officer who also deservedly climbed the promotion ladder.

What about those Rifleman with the Python, can we put names to them after all these years?



The Winchester Reunion 2002

For those of you who have never been able to make it to a reunion I would say you are missing a spectacle the like of which is not seen anywhere else.

When Green Jackets do a job they do it well and such was the 2002 reunion in Winchester.

Once again the weather held fair and the "old and Bald" gathered in their hundreds to renew old acquaintances, enjoy a pint or two, take part in the march past and enjoy the Sounding Of Retreat.

Have a read through the short report and check out the pictures in this edition, in the Green Machine (on line) and of course on the website.



No Computer? You don't have a PC? You need not miss out on things. Why not take a trip to your local library or Internet Café? For just a very small outlay you can visit the RGJA's own web site, leave messages, relate stories, read the Green Machine on line, join the Internet Branch **and find old friends**.

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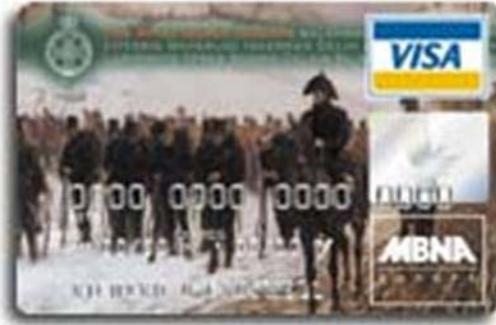
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Editorial



Hello and welcome to this months edition of the 'Green Machine'

July has been a month with both sadness and joy involved.

We were informed of the sudden death of Phil Grimes formerly of 3 RGJ. All those involved with the Green Machine and website extend our sympathies to his family. We will be entering Phil's name in the Vale section and adding an eulogy when it is available.

July also saw the annual Reunion in Winchester which was bigger and better than ever. A short report with a selection of photographs is carried in this issue.

We also re-established links with one of the regiments with which we have an alliance. Out of the blue I received an email from the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles of South Africa. We are delighted to welcome them and I have been promised an article or two in the

coming months. In the meantime I have reproduced an article covering their history from their website. Please take the time to visit their website and have a look at them.

Looking forward, September is the first anniversary of the Green Machine. It does not seem like a year ago we started out. A lot has happened in the last 12 months but the one thing that stands out is the change in attitude towards the Green Machine itself. I still have a letter sent to me which expresses surprise that we should even consider producing the Green Machine without permission being sought from "on high" !! We are still not an "official" publication but we are now being used to advertise Regimental events/affairs on occasions. I hope in the coming 12 months this will continue to develop.

Our readership continues to grow each month. Last week we had 1137 "hits" on the front page alone. This is almost double that of 6 months ago so things are definitely heading in the

right direction !!

I have introduced a guest book to the Green Machine from this month in the hope that people might use it and give me an idea what they would like to see in their magazine. I have also expanded the "For Sale" page. Other improvements are in the pipeline, some for September and others for October and November

In the meantime, however, I am looking forward to a quiet August !!

Until next month then

Regards to you all

Kevin

Website Team



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The article below is extracted from the full version as published in the Green Machine "on line".

The 2nd Battalion Newsletter

AWARDS

Last year's Chronicle ended with an account of the Battalion's first operational tour in Borneo, and therefore it is not inappropriate to begin this account by congratulating those who won awards as a result of it. Major Peter Welsh and Lieutenant Michael Robertson both won Military Crosses for their part in successful operations. Major Bob Pascoe, Lieutenant Roger Ker and Sgt T. Lloyd received mentions in dispatches, while Sgt. R. Smith received a commendation in Brigade Orders.

It was generally felt that these decorations were not only individually well deserved, but as a whole reflected the success of the Battalion's first Borneo tour.

CHRISTMAS 1965

Christmas this year was full of entertainment, and although a temperature of 85 degrees does not lend itself to the Christmas spirit as we know it, everyone enjoyed themselves to the full.

One of the main attractions was of course the Christmas Dinner which was attended by all living-in members of the Battalion. The meal started with rum punch and was followed by soup, turkey and plum pudding with free beer and cigarettes to mark the occasion. It was served, as usual, by the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s'.

This year there was a Battalion show, managed by Captain Colin Harrison and produced by Captain Peter Scott, our Medical Officer. On two successive nights the M.T.

Hanger was packed and the show was a great success. The cast, which was a large one, had practised very hard and the standard of performance was extremely high.

The Bugle Section opened the Show with a colourful Can-Can in dresses made by a team of seamstresses led by Mrs. Rimmer; Lieutenant Christopher Wallace did a satirical skit of a Malaysian news reader on the radio; Sgt. Barwick made his farewell performance as Al Jolson; Major John Mason gave his impression of a senile Member of Parliament giving a lecture on the Middle East; "C" Company put on a fashion show while C.S.M. Fee and Colin Harrison as comperes, filled in between acts with a professional line of patter and jokes.

On Boxing Day the traditional Officers vrs Sergeants football match was played. This year the "veterans" played a short game to begin with while the "professionals" took the field afterwards. The "Veterans" played in fancy clothes and it was noticeable that the Sergeants favoured the female look, which was reflected in their performance, as they came off slightly the worse for wear. The serious game was a complete turn up for the books with the Officers winning by three goals to nil; a result, which we were assured by the Sergeants afterwards, should have been reversed "on paper".

New Year's Eve was a day of sadness as well as celebration this year as it marked the passing of the old Regiment, The King's Royal Rifle Corps, and the birth of the new, The Royal Green Jackets. As was reported fully in last year's Chronicle the whole Battalion watched the Band and Bugles sound Retreat on the square, while the 60th flag was lowered for the last time.

PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND TOUR

With Christmas and New Year over, it was time to give serious thought to our impending return to Borneo. To wash away the cobwebs of the break, a Battalion exercise lasting for four days was held in the hills of Penang. "A" Company, with the Recce Platoon attached, acted as enemy, while "C" and "D" Companies defended a radar station on the high ground in the centre of Penang Island. After a sea landing and a rugged cross country march the enemy's attack on the radar station, although well carried out, was only partially successful. As they retreated back to the beaches, "D" Company did a quick "left hook" and positioned themselves between the enemy and the sea. "C" Company were then flown forward by helicopter to assist "D" Company in the mopping-up operation. Despite the Christmas activities, the Battalion proved itself to be very fit and ready for the next operational tour which was only ten days away

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER

Before we finally left Penang we were honoured by a visit from H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by The Duchess. The Royal Party arrived at Minden Barracks at 11.45 am. on 17th January, having been met by the Commanding Officer and Avril Bramall at the





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the airport.

On arrival the party split up and The Duke made his way to inspect a Bugle Guard and to see a demonstration of jungle equipment, weapons and lightweight rations prepared by "D" Company. Meanwhile the Duchess, accompanied by Avril Bramall, went to look round the British Military Maternity Hospital. After The Duke had been to the Sergeants' Mess and The Duchess had met members of the Ladies Club, both parties joined up at the Officers' Mess for lunch. Before lunch, however, there was a short ceremony at which the Commanding Officer was invested with the Order of the British Empire. After lunch the Royal Party left for the airport. The route from the Guard Room to the Main Gate was lined by members of the Battalion, and, under the command of R.S.M. Rimmer three cheers were given for the "Deputy Colonel in Chief".

THE MOVE TO SABAH

The main body of the Battalion left Penang by train for Singapore on the 19th January. After an unexciting 24 hour train journey, the Battalion moved to the Naval Base to embark on H.M.S. Albion the commando carrier that was to take us to Tawau, Sabah, on a four day sea voyage.

Tawau itself is a small port on the South Eastern seaboard of Sabah. It has a mixed population of some twenty thousand Malays, Chinese, Filipinos and domiciled Indonesians. It lies only a few miles from the Sabah/Indonesian border. Because of its position as a commercial centre near the heart of confrontation, it was necessary to maintain a large military presence in the area to discourage attempts at Indonesian infiltration, subversion and sabotage.

Centred on Tawau was Headquarters East Brigade. With a Malay Brigadier and a Malay staff, the main element of East Brigade was Malaysian, including two Infantry Battalions. The third Infantry Battalion in the Brigade was British, though it still came under the command of the Malay Brigade H.Q.

It was probably more by coincidence than by design that we once again relieved the 1st Battalion The Scots Guards from whom we had previously taken over in Sarawak. But there was little time for a reunion. Using eight Royal Navy Wessex helicopters the Battalion was lifted straight from H.M.S. Albion to their various positions. With the returning helicopters bringing out the Scots Guards, the two battalions were changed over in the course of a morning, and by mid-day on 24th January command had changed.

THE BATTALION DEPLOYMENT

The Battalion area covered a front of seventy miles. From the East to the West this covered first the open sea and mangrove swamps of the coast and then stretched inland through the mountains and jungles into the interior. Unlike Sarawak, there were no civilians living along the border, and thus there was a dearth of intelligence. However, it did mean a certain freedom of operations as any movement along the border, if not our own, was undoubtedly hostile.

Battalion T.A.C. H.Q. and "D" Company, who were in reserve under Major John Mason, were situated at Kalabakan. This was about fifteen miles back from the border and the site of a flourishing logging camp. In December 1963 Kalabakan had been the scene of a large Indonesian raid. The inhabitants were still mindful of this and did all they could to help us during our stay.

"A" Company, under Major Robin Montgomery, were the right forward company. They lived at Serudong Ulu, which was nothing more than a position hacked out of the jungle. Sited along the spine of a ridge the camp stretched for over two hundred yards. Bunkers had been built, barbed wire and early warning devices put out, helicopter pads laid, a water system rigged up, in fact everything that could have been done to improve the defences and comforts had been tried, usually successfully.

"C" Company, under Major Peter Welsh, were the left forward company at Serudong Laut. They were a little better off than "A" Company as their position was on the bank of a river, near an old abandoned kampong and trading post. Unlike Serudong Ulu, here all the defences had to be built up rather than dug in, because of the drainage problem. Thus Serudong Laut from the air looked like an old wild-west fort with its outer sandbagged wall and its entry towers looming higher still above the stockade.





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To assist the Battalion in covering such a wide front, we had under our operational control a platoon of Sabah Police Field Force and a group of forty Sabah Border Scouts. These two native forces were deployed at the Western extremity of the Battalion front where the terrain was particularly rugged. With their local knowledge and natural aptitude, they were ideally suited to operate in small groups watching for signs of Indonesian infiltration.

Because of the difficult terrain communications and resupply were our major problems. However, the communication problem was solved by the positioning of a radio rebroadcast station on a large hill called Tampilat. Here at 3,000 feet the temperature was decidedly cool and the position was often in cloud. The camp was right on the peak and visiting, by helicopter only, could be a hair-raising experience with the weather closing in and only a minute landing pad hacked out of the side of a near-vertical slope. In order to solve the resupply problem, the Battalion Echelon, including the Q.M.'s department and the M.T., had to be left in Tawau at Imam Camp. Each day small boats would leave Tawau loaded with rations and stores for either Kalabakan or Serudong Laut. In the case of Serudong Ulu, resupply was by helicopter. With the Battalion divided in a number of positions, the Q.M., Lieutenant Tom Fowley, and his staff had their hands full keeping everyone resupplied and happy. But somehow miracles were worked.

T.A.G., under the command of Major Geoffrey Hopton (S.O.T.A.G.), was a mixed force of soldiers and sailors, British, Commonwealth and Malaysian. The Battalion's contribution to this force was the provision of "B" Company, consisting of the Assault Pioneer Platoon and the Recce Platoon. Using all manner of

ships T.A.G. was responsible for guarding the network of waterways and the mangrove swamp which made up the coastal area around Tawau.

T.A.G. H.Q. was at Wallace Bay on Sebatik Island, which was also the Headquarters of the logging company who controlled the camp at Kalabakan. At Wallace Bay was "B" Company H.Q. and the Assault Pioneers, under Captain David Rowland-Jones. The Assault Pioneers had been specially trained in watermanship before leaving Malaya and now they had ample opportunity to put their training into practice, running assault boats and outboard engines.

In the swamp area on an island of dry land called T.A.G. South, the Recce Platoon manned a small platoon position, very similar in all but size to "C" Company's base at Serudong Laut. From T.A.G. South, small groups of an N.C.O. and four riflemen would board patrol boats crewed by the Malaysian Navy. These boats they would then live on for a week at a time, patrolling the waterways by day and anchoring at night on possible infiltration routes. They also manned a Boat Observation Post (B.O.P.) overlooking the Indonesian town of Nunukan.

This B.O.P. was in a very vulnerable position anchored in the wide open sea along the line of the border. From its station, using a powerful pair of binoculars everything that went on in Nunukan could be seen and reported back. Naturally the Indonesians knew of the B.O.P.'s presence but there was little they could do about it. For the Indonesians to have attacked the boat would have been stupid, as we would have been forced to retaliate with artillery and the fight would have escalated—something that neither side wanted to happen.

However, for good measure, the Indonesians would sometimes fire a few rounds near enough to the B.O.P. boat to be heard, but far enough away not to be construed as a deliberate attack. It was however an exciting business living on board, as you could never be quite sure that one day the Indonesians might not take deliberate aim.

PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 1966

The first few weeks of the tour were spent with everybody getting to know their area. Both forward positions were within two thousand yards of the border and patrols were sent out to locate likely border crossing points. After familiarisation had been completed patrols were increased in size and duration and it was not uncommon to find a Company going out on a patrol for nine days at a stretch. Because the area was so large it was often necessary to helicopter patrols into jungle L.P.s by either R.A.F. Whirlwind or R.M.A.F. Allouette. Sometimes a 105 m.m. gun had to be lifted as well in order to cover the patrol and to provide fire support if required.

At Kalabakan Battalion H.Q. attempted to co-ordinate all the activities going on within the Battalion area. In the first few weeks we received official welcoming visits from our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Sany bin Gaffar, and from the Director of Borneo Operations, Major General George Lea. On each occasion we were able to provide a Bugle Guard. We were also very glad to have an unofficial visit from Brigadier David House, who having been with the Battalion in Berlin and having later commanded the 1st Battalion in Borneo, was now in Brunei commanding Central Brigade.

During February the main excitement at Kalabakan centred around the civilian logging company. Ex-



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traction of the timber was a highly skilled job and also dangerous, for in a three week period the company had no less than two employees killed and eight seriously injured. Fortunately we were able to help with the injured, and after initial treatment from the M.O., Captain Peter Scott, they were all evacuated by helicopter to Tawau hospital where they later recovered.

At the end of March after two months in the area, there had still been no contact with the Indonesians and some pessimists were beginning to think that there were no enemy at all. However, in the first week of April one of our native Iban Trackers, Jalin, unluckily trod on an Indonesian anti-personnel mine and had his foot blown off. The patrol from "C" Company, of which Jalin was the lead scout, was in difficult country at the time and it took them two days to carry him on a stretcher to a suitable helicopter site. This was a considerable feat not only for Jalin, who must have been in considerable pain, but also for those who had the unenviable task of carrying a stretcher through the jungle. However, Jalin recovered in hospital and has since been fitted with an artificial limb. A collection within the Battalion raised £600 which will help to finance him in the future.

About this time we also tragically lost two of our own riflemen, Rfn. Webster and Rfn. Kelway, who were drowned in the fast-flowing Kala-bakan River. They were both very good men and one left a young widow and unborn child. They provided a grim reminder of the risks which soldiers must face on active service even if the enemy lacks aggression. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Webster and Mr. and Mrs. Kelway.

Shortly after this incident there was

a general change round within the forward positions, "A" Company after two and a half months in Serudong Ulu, returned to Kalabakan and were relieved by "D" Company. The Recce Platoon were also relieved in T.A.G. South and a platoon of "A" Company, who had previously been in Ulu, took their place. "C" Company however were destined to remain at Serudong Laut for the whole tour.



In May our only direct contact with the enemy occurred. A patrol from "C" Company, by chance, encountered a small enemy patrol. After a brief exchange of fire, the enemy withdrew while our own artillery was called down. At least one, and probably two, Indonesians were killed, while "C" Company had no casualties. It was a reflection however on the general state of confrontation and the threat in our particular area that, while on the first tour we had been involved in a number of engagements and accounted for at least 43 enemy, on this tour this was to be our only contact.

In fact as the tour progressed the threat diminished to such an extent

that some live field firing exercises were arranged. Using 105 m.m. guns and 81 m.m. mortars in close support, very realistic battles were fought, portraying situations that were no longer so applicable to Borneo as they were to South Vietnam. Amphibious exercises were also carried out with rifle platoons embarking on Royal Navy destroyers and practising beach landings.

But despite all the patrolling, exercises and general maintenance of the forward bases time was found to send every man in the Battalion on a week's rest and recreation. We were fortunate that we had the run of a small coral island off the Sabah coast. Here there were sandy beaches, palm trees and blue seas. A water ski boat remained permanently in situ and with a ready supply of beer, riflemen were able to relax, albeit temporarily. For those who were prepared to be more energetic, each Rifle Company organised an expedition to climb Mount Kinabalu. This mountain at 13,455 ft. is the highest mountain between the Himalayas and New Guinea, and lying only 40 miles from Jesselton, capital of Sabah, it was possible to combine the exertions of the climb with a few relaxing days in the city.

However, in general the tour had very few of the excitements and dramas of the first, and though there was as much variety and as much patrolling it could hardly be said that the Indonesian threat was nearly as great.

THE RETURN TO PENANG

Our relieving Unit was the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, who were on their first Borneo tour. During the months preceding their arrival they had sent a number of recce parties to visit us, so that by the time the take-over was due in June, they were fully prepared.



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However, despite our entreaties, H.M.S. Albion was not to be available this time and instead of the roulement taking place over a morning, it was spread over a number of days.

On 7th June The Royal Hampshire's advance party arrived and was quickly absorbed into the various positions. It was not until 16th June that the Battalion started to move out in earnest. Using a miscellany of Twin Pioneers, Beavers, Whirlwinds, Allouettes and Royal Navy Wessex, one by one the positions were relieved and the men ferried back to Tawau. By the evening of 17th June command of the whole area had passed to the Royal Hampshires.

From Tawau half the Battalion returned to Penang by air, while the other half, together with all the vehicles and freight, sailed on board L.S. L. Sir Lancelot. For those on the ship the voyage bordered on a luxury cruise, though the Colonel was unlucky enough to have a touch of pneumonia. The weather could not have been better, the food more edible, the air conditioning more temperate, or the comfort greater. And when the ship berthed in Penang on 23rd June there were all the wives and families to meet us. It was a happy reunion.

THE REAR PARTY JANUARY-JUNE 1966

While the Battalion was in Borneo, it had again been necessary to leave behind a Rear Party of a hundred men, under Major Jim Radclyffe. Their life was not an easy one as they were continually required for guards and duties, as the barracks are large and the garrison small.

However, during this period they managed to entertain 600 officers and men of H.M.S. Albion who each spent a fortnight's leave in the bar-

racks, enjoying Penang life. This was to be the continuation of a happy liaison with H.M.S. Albion, that had begun in January with the Battalion's move to Tawau. This liaison was to continue still further with the visit of the Band and Bugles to Japan. This was obviously a trip too good to miss and the Bugles had been brought back from Borneo especially to take part. Together with a Royal Marines Band, our own Band and Bugles travelled to and from Japan on board H.M.S. Albion. Performances were given in Japan and, on the way back, at Labuan on the flight deck of the ship. For those who were lucky enough to go, it was a memorable trip.

PENANG JULY-SEPTEMBER

On our return to Penang, we all spent a week unpacking, sorting out and generally clearing up the debris of the tour. Everyone was ready for leave but before this could take place, we were to be honoured with a farewell visit by the Army Commander, Lieut.-General Sir Alan Jolly. A small parade was held at which he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to C.S.M. P. Cutts and C/Sgt. D. Smith. This was followed later in the day by a guest night in the Officers' Mess.

The next day, 5th July, the Battalion began two weeks' block leave. In addition a charter flight organised by Major Raymond Nelson flew a hundred riflemen back to U.K. for a month's leave. There were also two leave parties to Hong Kong, one travelling on H.M.S. Berwick and the other leaving a week later on H.M.S. Albion.

By the beginning of August, however, all the leave parties had returned to Penang and we were just getting ready for a retraining period before our third Borneo tour in October when it was announced that the

Malaysians and Indonesians had agreed to end confrontation. For most this was good news as our second tour had not been particularly exciting and everyone feared that the third might be very similar. However, although the end of confrontation meant we did not have to return to Borneo, it did not prevent us entering upon a period of individual training that is still going on, as this account is being written.

Throughout August and September we classified on the S.L.R. and L.M.G., shooting the non-central matches at the same time. Although the non-central results are not yet known, the evergreen W.O.2 L. Airey once again won The Gott Memorial Trophy for the best individual shot in the Battalion. Over the same period a number of cadres were run covering signals, medical, mortar, assault pioneer and educational training. A Junior N.C.O.s' cadre was also organised by Major Geoffrey Hopton, who took all his students away from Penang for three weeks to Gurun, a training camp 30 miles away on the mainland.

Finally it is not inappropriate to end this account of the past year's activities by recording the visit to Penang which our Colonel Commandant, General Alick Williams, was happily able to make at the end of September. Arriving on 21st September and staying until the 25th, he had a very full and busy programme. However, during his stay he managed to see most of the Battalion both at work and at play, and it was a great pleasure to have him amongst us. There was a performance by the Band and Bugles of "Sounding of Retreat"; a Dinner night in the Officers' Mess; a demonstration on "skirmishing" by "C" Company; a flight by "Rifle Green Airways" Sioux helicopter to Gurun to see the N.C.O.s' cadre; a social in the W.O.s' and Sgts. Mess; and



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Mess; and finally a short Battalion parade on the day before departure at which he took the salute as the Battalion marched past. Unfortunately he was unable to bring us news of our next posting and so the future still remains uncertain. At the moment it would appear that we are destined to remain in Penang, apart from exercises. until our Far East tour comes to an end in June 1967. However, with the present state of flux in S.E. Asia, we continue to train and be prepared for anything, which may crop up.

CHANGES AND PROMOTIONS

Since the last Chronicle changes and promotions have been too numerous to mention all, but everyone congratulates R..S.M. Basil Rimmer on his commission, and C.S.M. "Lou" Fee on becoming R.S.M.; R.Q.M.S. Williams left us in Borneo to return to U.K. and take over as R.S.M. at the Depot. His place as R.Q.M.S. has been filled by C.S.M. Mick Harper, who must also be congratulated on his award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which was presented to him in the Mess by the Army Commander. Other recipients of this medal during the past year have been C.S.M. Pete Cutts and C/Sgt. Derek Smith. After their presentation, they both found that they had been presented with each other's medal and had to effect a rapid change. C.S.M. Pete Cutts has now left us for the rigorous life of a P.S.I. at Oxford.

Besides the promotions already mentioned, the past year has seen the rise of C/Sgt. "Bob" Taylor to C.S.M. "D" Company and C/Sgt. John Wynne to C.S.M., at present with the Signals Platoon, but soon to be with "A" Company. There have also been any number of new faces in the Mess and we welcome Sgts. McFarlane, Hollowday, Roberts, Dore, Taylor, Edwards, Hastie,

Pritchard, Nail, Bailey, McKechnie (A.C.C.), Gorringe (R.E.M.E.), Sayers (A.A.C.), and with apologies to anyone whose name has escaped my memory.

THE BAND

The Band, under Bandmaster Tonks, has had a very busy year playing at engagements both within and outside the Battalion. Over Christmas 1965 their services were continuously called upon, and all the music during the Battalion Show was played by them. On New Year's Eve, combining with the Bugles, they gave an excellent performance of Sounding the Retreat, which marked in a moving fashion the formation of the new Regiment.

Shortly after this, the Battalion departed for Borneo, and once again the Band were left behind to form the nucleus of the Rear Party. Although there were many duties to be done, a number of engagements were fulfilled, particularly at R.A.A.F. Butterworth, which helped to cement Anglo/Australian relationships.

During 1966 the Band built up a flourishing liaison with the commando carrier H.M.S. Albion. During March they were able to play host to 600 sailors from the carrier, who spent their leave in Penang in and around the barracks. In May the sailors were able to repay this debt when the Band and Bugles were taken on rum ration as official ship's band during a flag visit to Kobe in Japan. This was obviously a trip too good to miss and if the Chronicle editor allows there is an account of the visit elsewhere in this edition.

On return from Japan the Band spent both June and August on duties in Singapore, while much of July was spent on leave. While in Singapore in August, the Band were once more involved with H.M.S. A/

h/on, playing at their farewell cocktail party, before the carrier returned to U.K. at the end of her Far East Tour. The following morning the Band were once more aboard and played on the flight deck as the ship left Singapore Naval Dock-yard. Not many sailors realised that as the carrier sailed past the C in C Far East Fleet's house for the last time, that they were paying their final respects to the strains of "The Huntsman's Chorus"! But those that did soon saw that the Band were allowed to sail no further towards England as reluctantly they were flown back to Singapore by Wessex helicopter.

On return to Penang in September the Band were met with a full programme of drill parades and other social functions. There was also a hectic period covering the Colonel Commandant's visit, when the Band played each day. On the last morning after the Battalion parade, it was felt that the Colonel Commandant ordered the Bugle Major to play "no parades today" not so much to give the Battalion a holiday as to get the Band out of the way.

Finally, to end these notes, tribute should be paid to Sergeant Major Barker who has now left the Band after fully fifteen years playing. He will be remembered by many readers for his performances on the bass tuba.

The Rifleman





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The Winchester Reunion 2002



The Old style Sounding of Retreat

For those of you who have never been able to make it to a reunion I would say you are missing a spectacle the like of which is not seen anywhere else. When Green Jackets do a job they do it well and such was the 2002 reunion in Winchester.

Until 1985 we used to celebrate Green Jacket Week in the old Rifle Depot Barracks in Winchester where many of us completed our basic training. Throughout the week various functions took place with the week culminating with Sounding of Retreat on the Saturday night.

In 1986 the Light Division, now in their new Barracks at Flowerdown, celebrated Green Jacket Week once more. This was to be the last year the Light Division Parachute Display Team "dropped in" as in 1987 the team were disbanded.



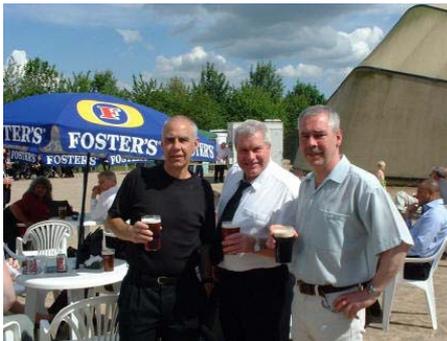
The new style Sounding of Retreat

Since that date things have moved on and Green Jacket week has

gone to leave the one big night in what is now the Army Training Regiment Barracks although the Light Division still has a large presence there.

July 13th saw the annual reunion in Winchester. Once more members of the Association gathered to take part in the Sounding of Retreat and renew old friendships.

In 2001 the Association were offered the opportunity to take part in a march past. About 200 members representing the old 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions took part.



Old time 3 RGJ Members

2002 saw a larger contingent of the "Old and Bald" as we had dubbed ourselves marching past the saluting dias. Once again all 3 regular Battalions were represented but this time another contingent representing the 4th and 5th (TAVR) Battalions marched with us. Although a head count was not taken the figure of approximately 500 was agreed between the Association Secretary and myself.

Unlike the previous year the RSM held everyone on parade while Brigadier Cottam gave his address after which we were fallen out and the actual Sounding of Restreat took place.

Three bands took part this year. The Waterloo Band, the Borneo Band (Durham A.C.F) and of course the Light Division Band. The display



Terry Bush, Bob Heaton-Caffin and Editor (editors son in background—he gets in everywhere !!)

was, as to be expected, exceptional with many of the Green Jacket favourites being played. "High on a hill" is always popular and really deserved an encore.

After the event everyone retired to the bar area where business was brisk. There has been some complaints about the time people queued at the bar for a drink and no doubt the organisers will look at this for next year, however when there are 500 plus thirsty Green Jackets all trying to get a drink at once delays are inevitable.

I believe we all enjoyed ourselves and a big vote of thanks should be recorded for the organisers and the Winchester Branch under the Chairman Ron Frampton in particular for all the hard work that has gone in to making it the success it was..

The final pictureare of the statuejust inside the gates of Sir John Moore Barracks.





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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO OUR HISTORY

As written by the late Colonel L.H. Bailie, M.C. and bar.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KAFFRARIAN RIFLES

Colonel L. H. Bailie, M. C. and Bar, who prepared this brief history of The Kaffrarian Rifles, was an officer who fought with great distinction in World War II. He was a direct descendant of Captain John Bailie (RN), the founder of East London. John Bailie and his son, Charles, were involved in epic battles against the Xhosa impis 130 years ago. The feats of arms of these early volunteer detachments that preceded the formation of The Kaffrarian Rifles are part of the Regiment's inspiring story.

Colonel Bailie, or "Bonnie Bailie: as he was known to all the wartime officers of The K.R.'s and, later the Hampshire Regiment, first earned distinction in the Western Desert as a lieutenant in The K.R.'s during the attack on Bardia in December, 1942.

He led his platoon through withering fire to take a German machine-



gun post at the point of the bayonet and then, when the company commander became a casualty, he took over command and in two days of intense action swept the Germans from their strong points, taking about 400 prisoners apart from inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

At the fall of Tobruk, he led a party of men out of the perimeter and 38 days later, after a 570-mile desert trek brought them to the safety of the Allied lines at Alamein. For this feat of courage and audacity he was awarded the Military Cross.

Seconded to the Hampshire's, with the rank of major during the Italian campaign, he was in continuous fighting until he was seriously wounded and it was during this period that he was awarded the Bar to the M. C.

The citation for this award reads:

"At Trarivi on September 16, 1944, Major Bailie's company was selected to attack enemy positions in the village, consisting of several strong points, centred around the heavily defended church. Soon after the start of the advance, Major Bailie's company came under heavy shell - fire which caused numerous casualties. He at once reorganised his men and resumed the attack. He then encountered heavy machine-gun fire from the area surrounding the church and from other positions - which were difficult to locate. When the first attempt to carry the position failed, Major Bailie remained completely undaunted and, locating personally under heavy fire many of the machine-guns which had held up the advance, he made a new plan and reorganised his company for the final effort which carried the enemy strong-point and resulted in the capture of the whole village and many prisoners."

His brigade commander, Brigadier J. Kendrew, C. B., C. B. E., D. S. O. (two Bars) told Captain Toys Norton, V. C., M. M. (who served with Col. Bailie throughout the war) that Col. Bailie was the finest company commander he had ever had.

Norton, himself, the only man from East London to win the coveted Victoria Cross during the war, describes Col. Bailie as "one of the finest men and greatest soldiers I ever had the privilege to serve under."

Col. Bailie took over command of The Kaffrarian Rifles after the war. He lived in Grahamstown, where he retired as a bank manager.

FOREWORD BY THE WRITER

Throughout the many years of the existence of The Kaffrarian Rifles there has not been a comprehensive written history of the Regiment, except that published in 1948 in the Daily Dispatch Centenary Special from my pen.

The Kaffrarian Rifles were unfortunate, in that, during the First World War 1914/18 the Regiment lost control of the Drill Hall, and the question of ownership and the Regiment's rights over it, were only settled in 1924. During the period 1916 to 1920 the Regiment was reduced to an Officers' List and with the position over the Drill Hall obtaining at the time, records were scattered. The result is that historical research is proving to be protracted. However, the matter is being undertaken and publication of





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an authenticated history will take place when research is completed.

Meanwhile this brief history is merely to be taken as a record of the Regiment's doings, and with the exception of Mr E. Morse Jones, to whom I am indebted for many notes no attempt is made to quote relevant authorities.

The history of the Regiment is made up of the story of numberless citizens who from generation to generation strive for an ideal – the duty to homeland – the protection of loved ones; and, who in furtherance of that ideal, have, from time to time, made the supreme sacrifice.

"For greater love hath no man than this..." Out of the growing pains in the life of this young country were born the Volunteer Detachments who formed the basis on which our Citizen Force is founded.

From father to son is passed the desire to emulate all that was good and noble in the examples set by our forbears, and to discard all those failings, common to mankind, which are brought out in sharp relief during times of trial and peril.

So it is that The Kaffrarian Rifles will live on, for our glorious dead are made to speak, and in the words of John McCrae we hear:

"Take up our quarrel with the foe.
To you with falling hands we throw.
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die.
We shall not sleep, tho' Poppies grow.
In Flanders Fields."

THE FIGHTING VOLUNTEERS OF THE BORDER

On Sunday, November 29, 1964, The Kaffrarian Rifles celebrated its official 88th anniversary although

its history actually goes back "130" years to the formation of the various volunteer detachments that sprang into being when the Xhosa impis crossed the Fish River on December 21, 1834, and the 1834-35 War began.



On December 27, 1834, a formation of Grahamstown volunteers was in being, and conducting missions against the enemy. On January 9, 1835, Major General Sir Harry Smith, arrived in Grahamstown, and a volunteer corps consisting of four companies of infantry and one troop of cavalry was formed, under the Command of Captain Sparks. The troop of cavalry was the Grahamstown Volunteer Yeomanry.

On January 10, 1835, sharpshooters were formed under Captain George Wood, as an additional company of the above corps. On January 20, 1835, a unit – the Albany Mounted Sharpshooters, was formed of two troops under command Major George Tomlinson.

On January 27, 1835, the Bathurst Volunteers came into being under command Capt. W.M. Gilfillan. A month later the Provisional Colonial Cavalry was formed. Then the Grahamstown Volunteer Artillery was created and incorporated into the Grahamstown Volunteer Corps and the Provisional Colonial Infantry Corps was also formed, two Battalions, each 400 strong. The First Battalion was under command ma-

jor R. Bagot, one of the Settlers, and the Second Battalion was commanded by Major Andries Stockenstrom.

The Corps of Guides was formed on March 17, 1835.

It would be well-nigh impossible to compress into this abbreviated history even an outline of the many actions, feats of arms, and the numerous tribulations to which these volunteer troops were subjected during the period of the turbulent history of those days, when continuous suffering, perils endured, and deeds of glory, established the traditions upon which present day volunteers find stimulation, comfort and faith.

However, I make the following brief narration of some of the events in which certain of our forbears participated, merely as an illustration of what the volunteers were engaged on in days gone by. It is fitting to mention the founder of East London, one John Bailie (RN).

On December 21, 1834, the Xhosa hordes crossed the Fish River and, in their advance, burned and destroyed the homes of the Settlers, and drove away their livestock. On January 10, 1835, Captain John Bailie occupied and commanded the Waaiplaats post, taking with him a force from Grahamstown. On the same day he and his party moved out to engage an enemy attack, which was repelled – horses, muskets and ammunition were recaptured from the enemy. Again on January 17, 20 and 23, 1835, and daily thereafter, operations against the enemy continued from the post.

On January 30, 1835, John Bailie joined the commando under Col. R. England of the 75th Regiment – he was relieved at Waaiplaats by Captain Bagot, of the 47th Regiment – to enable him to assume command



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of a company of the Provisional Colonial Infantry then being formed. On February 27, 1835, the Provisional Colonial Infantry was established, consisting of two battalions.

The First Battalion was commanded by Major Robert Bagot, and among the officers were Captain John Bailie (RN) as a company commander, and his son, Lieut. Charles T. Bailie.

7: 3: 1835 – The Battalion marched to Waaiplaats post for the protection of the line above the Kap River.

9: 3: 1835 – The 1st Battalion was in action on Waiplaats ridge, and as at this date, the enemy had lost 150 men during three days' fighting – our losses were nine killed and three wounded.

17: 3: 1835 – The 1st Battalion P.C.L. was included in the 1st Division under command H. Peddie of the 72nd Regiment.

7: 4: 1835 – Captain John Bailie's company was in the assault on the Heights near Buffalo River source – Evelyn Valley.

20: 4: 1835 – The Battalion had crossed the Kei River.

10: 5: 1835 – The Battalion was in a force commanded by Col. Sir Harry Smith which moved forward from the Kei River.

13: 5: 1835 – Captain John Bailie was detached at 3 a.m. with 60 of the 1st Battalion P.C.I. to move down the Bashee River and to re-join Colonel Harry Smith on Mpako River – between the Bashee and the Umtata Rivers.

At midnight the following night John Bailie brought his men in, having completed the longest recorded march by infantry during which several attacks by the enemy had been repulsed.

16: 5: 1835 – John Bailie with 60

men and Charles Bailie under command secured the country towards the Bashee River.

21: 5: 1835 – Mentioned in Despatches for services with this Battalion were

Captains John Bailie, Henry Crause and Lieut. Charles Bailie.

15: 6: 1835 – The Battalion was patrolling from Fort Murray, which had just been established.

18: 6: 1835 – John Bailie led a patrol action over the Nahoon River (not far from East London).

24: 7: 1835 – He returned to King William's Town.

5: 8: 1835 – His company supported the Fingoes in an attack on the Khosas.

7: 8: 1835 – Again Mentioned in Despatches were Captains John Bailie and Henry Crause.

17: 9: 1835 – A treaty of peace was concluded.

DEATH AT A RIVER

21: 6: 1835 – He conducted a church parade service for the troops at King William's Town.

25: 6: 1835 – He commanded a force of 60 men of the 1st Battalion P.C.I., taking Lieut. Thomas Biddulph with him to patrol the bush about the Tabendoda and Umdeiza Rivers. He divided the patrol, placing 30 men under Lieut. Thomas Biddulph and giving him a point of rendezvous.

Lieut. Biddulph completed his task on the Umdezina and waited at the rendezvous point. Charles Bailie did not arrive there. He had the opportunity on June 26, 1835, to pursue a party of the enemy into the Keiskamma River Valley and attacked, wounding some of them. At night Charles and his men sheltered in the house of the late

James Kent, trader, who had been murdered there in December.

On this date, June 26, 1835, after waiting at the rendezvous point, Lieut. T. Biddulph returned to King William's Town to report.

On June 27, 1835, the enemy attacked at dawn, and killed one of Charles Bailie's men. He led his detachment out but seven of them were killed in the action that followed.

As they reached Amalinde the enemy received strong reinforcements and the detachment was encircled. Still undaunted and flanked on either side by the enemy he led his party to the Umnxesha River, and while crossing this, they enemy charged. All the party fell wounded except Bailie. Three of the enemy then closed with him. He shot two of these dead – one of them being the Chief Tcalecsay. Having no ammunition left, he was overpowered and he and the wounded were killed.

Legend has it that two of the chiefs were so impressed by his bravery, that immediately he had been assailed to death, his heart was cut out and eaten.

Some time later the Chief Macomo was captured, and he had in his possession the Bible carried by Charles Bailie that "his force was surrounded by the enemy, that their ammunition was failing – there being sufficient for one final volley – and that thereafter they would use the butts of their muskets."

On July 24, 1835, Captain John Bailie returned to King William's Town from a patrol in search of his son – whose fate at this time was unknown. The remains of Charles and his gallant followers were found on October 7, 1835.

A common grave was made for them and the Rev. William



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Chalmers read the burial service. Charles' remains were wrapped in a kaross and placed at the East End of the grave. A small tablet has been erected, and the grave roughly fenced.

WAR AGAINST THE XHOSA WARRIORS

On August 7, 1835, the late Lieut. Charles Bailie was mentioned in Despatches – this being the fourth occasion. A photographic copy of the actual citation written at Colonel Harry Smith's headquarters in King William's Town on the date mentioned is in the possession of the Regiment and reads as follows:

The Commander-in-Chief laments deeply and sincerely the loss of Lieut. Bailie of the 1st Provisional Battalion (with his detachment) who was as good and gallant an officer as ever served His Majesty, and who, from the commencement of the War, until his death, had never ceased to merit approbation and thanks.

"It is now known that with his small party of 28 men, he protracted the most gallant and unflinching resistance for four days against many hundreds of the savages who had hemmed him in, in the deep woody ravines of the Tabendoda Mountains. Nor did that resistance cease until his ammunition was exhausted and he was mowed down and overwhelmed by the surrounding numbers of the enemy, who in gaining that advantage, the first they had gained during the war, suffered an immense loss.

"For the benefit of the afflicted widow of this most amiable and excellent young officer, and for that of those of his gallant followers; the Commander-in-Chief will not fail to use every effort in his power, and he un-feignedly sympathises in their distress." The saga could be almost unending, but, for the time

being it will suffice to say that over the following decades the Volunteers continued to acquit themselves with valour.

Thereafter, following the cattle killing mania of 1857, the frontier districts of the Cape Colony – the old Crown Colony of British Kaffraria, experienced their longest period of peace – about 20 years.

Upon the withdrawal of British troops in 1869 and 1870, when the Cape Colony was heading for responsible Government (granted in 1872) and retrenchment was the order of the day, the Colonial Government became responsible for defence in this country.

Apart from a permanent force known as the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police, which became the Cape Mounted Riflemen in August, 1878, volunteer units were raised under the Burger Act of 1856 (The Volunteers and Yeomanry Bill).

Signs were not lacking that there was unrest among the various Xhosa tribes, and the Colonists realised that they would be called upon again to defend themselves.

This led in 1876 to the formation in East London on October 2, of the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles, which consisted of two companies. The Commanding Officer was Capt. E.Y. Brabant later General Sir E.Y. Brabant, K.C.B., C.M.G.). No. 1 Company was commanded by Captain T. Nettelton, and No. 2 Company by Captain (Baron) W.C.F. Von Linsingen, C.M.G.

On the outbreak of the Gaika-Gcalecka War, the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles left East London for the Kei River on September 29, 1877, and were the first volunteer unit to leave for the front. This day was actually observed as an annual public holiday in East London for 20 years after that date.

The campaign cost the Cape Colonial Government R1.500.000, and the lives of 60 Europeans, and 140 Fingoes, who remained loyal to the Government. The rebels lost about, 700, among who were the chiefs Sandili Seyolo, Jali and Umvundla.

Little is known of the doings of the Regiment during this campaign, and the Basuto War of 1880-1881, and the outbreaks in Griqualand East, but the following casualties sustained, and honours and awards earned, show that the Regiment was very busily engaged on active service during that period:

Killed at Isandhlwana on January 22, 1879: Sgt J. Broderick (A Company); Sgt R. Krohn (A Company).

Killed in Tembuland on November 14, 1880: Capt. (Baron) W.C.F. von Linsingen, C.M.G.; Lieut. E.C.F. von Linsingen.

Honours and awards: Royal Albert Medal, Capt. Ronnie Maclean; mentioned in dis-patches, Capt. I.W. Maclean; Sgt. M.F. Dickerson.

An interesting point about the Regiment at that time was that Captain von Linsingen's company was known as the "German company," being largely recruited from the Colonial German population. The King's Royal Rifle Corps, to which The Kaffrarian Rifles at one time had the honour to be affiliated, started its existence largely by German mercenaries, and in 1940, when The Kaffrarian Rifles mobilised, they had 200 members with German names.

Following the 1877/1878 War, it is appropriate to record certain incidents leading to the death of Captain (Baron) W.C.F. von Linsingen C.M.G.

On 31:12:1877 martial law had been proclaimed and on the same day three officials of the Cape Government were murdered near East



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Volume 2 Issue 8

August 2002

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London. They were W. C. Brown and Richard and John Tainton, who had helped the Rev. Stephen Kay start the Mount Coke Mission in 1827. It was Captain von Linsingen who brought their bodies home. In gratitude, the Tainton family gave him a ring bearing his crest and engraved with the words "In memory of the brothers Tainton."

Three years later, the Mpondomisi Rebellion broke out. Von Linsingen was in Cape Town at this date but was immediately appointed to command a corps of recruits, chiefly descendants of the German legionaries. In October, 1880, he left Cape Town with his son, Ernst, a boy of 16, as his adjutant. A month later they went into action against the Tembu, who had sacked and burnt a trading station at Brownlee's Post, on the slopes of the hills called The Maiden's Breasts on the Tsomo River. The shop belonged to Mr Snodgrass and he and his wife just escaped with their lives.

Many years afterwards, an aged African called Bandezelwa told W.T. Brownlee how Wilhelm and Ernst Von Linsingen met their deaths on November 14, 1880. Bandezelwa was with them. He remembered how Brownlee and Commandant Von Linsingen had ridden out from Snodgrass' shop on November 13 and how, finding no sign of the enemy, Brownlee had returned to his own camp. The next day Von Linsingen and his son led their men on to the hills, accompanied by a Fingo Levy under Bandezelwa. No one knew that during the night the Tembu had gathered in force on the other side of the hill.

A mile and a half from the camp, Commandant Von Linsingen was overtaken by 50 men of Landrey's Light Horse. Number of distant Tembu were thought to be spies, and the Commandant ordered Captain John Landrey to take up his

position in a stone-walked cattle kraal on the side of the hill. To the right was open country, but on the left the hills sloped down and a stony ridge edged a small Krantz.

Von Linsingen sent the Fingo forward, to draw the enemy into battle, while he and his son rode on to the plain with a handful of men. Suddenly the Tembu fell on the Fingo. The Commandant sent his son back to order some of Landrey's men to go to their help. Landrey thought that the Tembu were retiring, but in reality they were drawing out the white force and preparing to attack.

As the men went to the help of the Fingo, huge numbers of Tembu suddenly showed themselves on the ridge. Von Linsingen and his men swiftly mounted their horses, and galloped towards the Fingo. Bandezelwa, on seeing the ridge grow black with Tembu, called to his men that each must save himself and as the von Linsingens approached he mounted his horse and rode desperately for safety. The von Linsingens overtook him.

Suddenly von Linsingen turned. One of his men had fallen from his horse and was crying for help as he ran from the Tembu. Von Linsingen whelmed, reached the man and made him mount behind him. Then, to Bandezelwa's dismay, the horse reared and plunged, and both men were thrown to the ground. Immediately Ernst von Linsingen was beside him father.

Bandezelwa heard him cry, "Mount, father, mount, Mount and fly or we are lost." Von Linsingen tried to stand but failed. His thigh was broken and though his son attempted to pull him from the ground, his weight was too great.

Bandezelwa described the end in these vivid words: "And as I looked upon him I heard a sound, the

sound that tells of blood and death – the sound that tells that the spears have plunged themselves in blood – "Hi – hee-ee, hi-hee-ee, he-hee-ee!" And so I turned to see, and lo, the foe had fallen upon that man whom his chief had ridden back to save. And even as I looked I saw them sway and rush, and in an instant the prostrate body of the chief, and the young lad as he stood, were hidden from me by the surging warriors, and even as I covered my eyes with my hand to shut out that fearful sight, once more did the shout of death fall upon my ears – 'Hi-hee-ee!' Louder and louder was the cry, "Hi-hee-ee, he-hee-ee, hi-hee-ee!" and I turned my face and once more sought to save myself in flight."

When von Linsingen was killed, the ring which was Taintons had given him three years before was on his finger. One day, an African entered a store in the Transkei. He was wearing a ring. The storekeeper recognised it, bought it, and returned it to the family. It is now owned by von Linsingen's granddaughter, Mrs J.V.L. Rennie, of Grahamstown.

The remains of these two heroes, father and son, are interred in the German cemetery at King William's Town.

After the close of the Basuto War, the Regiment, in common with other units, apparently got to rather a low ebb but on November 29, 1883, it was reformed as The Kaf-frarian Rifles, under the command of Captain (later Colonel) Rowland A. Bettington. The uniform, badges and buttons of the King's Royal Rifle Corps were adopted in their entirety, and although there was no official affiliation for many years afterwards, the Regiment closely followed the 60th Rifles in every respect.

In the course of years the uniform



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of The Kaffrarian Rifles has undergone many changes, but it is interesting to note that the Maltese Cross helmet badge was retained, with the difference that the centre of the Badge is a Buffalo's Head, instead of the Rifle Bugle. The "Cherry" cap badge is retained, as are the black rifle buttons and rifle green headdress. The badges of rank remain black with red underlining.

In 1904 the late King Edward VII presented a King's Colour to the Regiment for its outstanding services during the South African War. A Colour party with Lieut. C.W. Jones as Ensign of the Colour, with an escort of nine other ranks attended at Cape Town, where the Colours was presented on behalf of the King by the Princess Christian on October 9, 1904. On its arrival at East London a parade of the Regiment was held, at which the Colour was consecrated by Archdeacon Grant, the Rector of the Garrison Church of St. John. It is most unusual for a Rifle Regiment to carry Colours but as King Edward saw fit to honour the Regiment so signally, it has proudly carried its Colours ever since.

In 1905 the Regiment for the first time started to expand in the area of the old Crown Colony of British Kaffraria, thus truly justifying its name – and established "C" Squadron in King William's Town.

The Somaliland Campaign saw the Regiment bent upon achieving further honours and a congratulatory cable was received from the Minister of War.

In 1906 the Zulu or "Bambata" Rebellion broke out, and the Regiment again volunteered for active service. The campaign was of brief duration, although one squadron did serve attached to 2nd Royston's Horse. The rebellion was quelled. In 1914 the Regiment was

mobilised on August 25, 1914, at about 1,000 strong, and proceeded to Cape Town, en route for German South West African, but on its way experienced the appalling train disaster.

Leaving East London by rail, on September 6, 1914, the battalion proceeded in two trains, under respective command of Lieut.-Col. E. Smedley Williams, V.D., and Major Georgeson, V.D. On arrival at De Aar, the two trains were joined, and the whole, consisting of 22 coaches, proceeded southward. Descending Hex River pass on the evening of September 10, 1914, control of the train was lost and the engine and 11 coaches were derailed, some of the latter completing a double somersault before reaching the foot of the permanent way embankment.

Twelve men were killed and 120 officers and men injured in the accident, and of the latter, one died during the night of his injuries.

The Regiment still lays a wreath on the War Memorial in East London on this disaster date.

When The Kaffrarian Rifles arrived in Cape Town after the Hex River disaster, the battalion camped in the historic grounds of Groote Schuur, where final intensive training proceed, reorganisation was effected and the brought up to strength by the arrival of drafts from the Border.

On September 29, 1914, the Regiment embarked in the Armadele Castle for German South West Africa, and arrived at Luderitz on October 1, forming part of the 2nd Infantry Brigade of Brigadier General Sir Duncan Mackenzie's Division, together with the Kimberley Regiment, and at Koeman's Kop, the battalion occupied the advance position of the Brigade, a distinction maintained until the conclusion of

active operations, which culminated in the attack upon Aus on March 31, 1915.

Among important works undertaken by the battalion was the reconstruction of the railway line between Aus and the base, destroyed by the enemy in his retirement. Work was done under the supervision of the late Lieut.-Col Sir George Farrar, Bart, D.S.O. – himself an honorary officer of the battalion who, on the night before his tragic death, delivered a valedictory address, eulogising the work of the battalion.

With the assault upon Aus, in which the battalion sustained one casualty (Rfn. Wattmore, killed) the operations of the division ceased and the Regiment embarked for home in the City of Athens, arriving at East London on May 31, 1915.

Upon demobilisation a vast majority of the battalion's personnel enlisted in overseas units for service in France or proceeded later to German East Africa, and the Regiment as a unit became practically dormant, although still in existence, until reorganisation in 1921, when the Regiment was re-formed under the command of Lt. Col. R.W. Currin, D.S.O., V.D.

This started the long period between the two Great Wars. Training is dull, but during this period valuable work was done in training the youth of the country, and had it not been for men of this stamp, trained by the Active Citizen Force far greater difficulty would have been experienced in building up South Africa's Army in 1939/40.

Training Camps were held annually, except for the period of the depression from 1931 to 1934, when training practically came to a standstill, owing to the Defence Vote being reduced.



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Between the two wards there are a number of dates that stand out in annals of the Kaffrarian Rifles. In 1925 The Prince of Wales visited South Africa, and the Regiment provided guards of honour, and also personal guards over the Royal Train at both East London and King William's Town, and in fact at the latter place the Guard Commander was invited to dinner, and sat on the Prince's left.

In 1927 came the official affiliation of the Regiment. At about this time the numbering of units of the Active Citizen Force was dropped, and the Regiment became known as Kaffrarian Rifles. This dropping of the "The" from the name was disliked, and a few years later, following representations made by the Regiment, a UDF Force Order was published, which announced that in future Kaffrarian Rifles would be known as The Kaffrarian Rifles, which it has remained ever since.

In 1934 Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) visited South Africa, and once more the Regiment provided guards of honour at both East London and King William's Town. The Prince presented the Regiment with a signed photograph as a memento of the occasion, and this now hangs in the Officers' Mess.

In July, 1936, the Regiment sustained a very serious loss, through the death of the late Brig.-General Sir Charles Crewe, K.C.M.G., C.B., V.D. Having been the Regiment's Honorary Colonel since 1905, Sir Charles Crewe's death was deeply deplored by all ranks. His lively and active interest in all the unit's activities will long be missed.

His successor was Colonel W. J. Ellender who at all times showed a very keen interest in the activities of the Regiment until his death.

In 1937 the Regiment was called upon to provide two other ranks for

the South African Coronation contingent. Sergt. Wood, who later as a pilot in the SAAF, was killed in Libya, and Rfn. Jansen, represented the Regiment. A graceful act by the 60th Rifles was sending a Sergt. and a rifleman to Southampton to greet them on their arrival. In 1937 Lt.-Col Lewis was promoted to command the 2nd S.A. Inf. Bde., and he was succeeded by Lt.-Col. J. Geddes Page, D.S.O., E.D.

In 1939 on the outbreak of War recruiting started apace. The Commanding Officer, following the principle of embracing the whole of what had been the old Crown Colony of British Kaffraria, opened recruiting at Stutterheim, Peddie and Komgha, where detached platoons were established. Eventually the Regiment mobilised on June 19, 1940, with a strength of 1,250 all ranks.

The Regiment was posted to 4 S.A. Inf. Bde. Which Brigade was later attached to two S.A. Divisions. The other two Battalions of the Brigade were the Umvoti Mounted Rifles, and the 2nd Bn. Royal Durban Light Infantry.

The Brigade was complete with all ancillary units. From the Bde. Signal Coy. A platoon was attached to The Kaffrarian Rifles and the attachment became so firm that latterly the signal platoon wore a miniature Regimental Flash superimposed on their SACS flash.

In July, 1941, the advance party of the Regiment left with the advance party of the Second Division for the Middle East, and in July the main body of the battalion followed with 4th Bde, embarking at Durban on H.M.T. Nieuw Holland, and landing three weeks later at El Tewfik.

After a few weeks training at Mariopolis the Regiment proceeded to El Alamein, where they took on their

first task, the digging of the defences, which proved so vital the following year.

After employment in various ways the Regiment saw its first action in the attack on the fortress of Bardia. Bardia proved a very tough nut to crack, the attack starting at dawn on the morning of December 31, following intensive artillery preparation, and it only finally surrendered on January 2.

The Regiment went into action with tanks, and was in action throughout the whole period. It acquitted itself well but suffered rather severe casualties, one of them being the Commanding Officer, who was very severely wounded, and had to be evacuated to the Union.

The second-in-command, now Lt. Col. C.G. Nettelton, O.B.E., E.D., assumed command, which he retained until the beginning of May, when Lt Col. Geddes Page returned to duty and resumed command.

After Bardia story of Tobruk has been written of in various forms, and on June 21, the Regiment, through no fault of its own, was captured practically in toto.

Members put up very fine escapes from P.O.W. camps in Italy and Germany, some of them being recaptured, and others getting through.

Many of those who escaped, remained in Italy, and joined the partisan bands. There are stories of rifleman promoting themselves to the command of partisan bands of Italians, and giving excellent service and leadership. No fewer than four members of the Regiment were killed while performing their duty in this way, and at least one rifleman was awarded the Military Medal for his service with the partisans.



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The Buffalo Volunteer Rifles

Unfortunately, as there was only one battalion of the Regiment in existence, it saw no actual service as a unit after Tobruk. The usual L. O. B. 's had been left out of action, but instead of being used as a nucleus for a new battalion, they were absorbed into other units, as were the reinforcements who had been recruited on the Border. Unfortunately, as a result, the Regiment was not represented in the Sixth S.A. Armoured Division other than by the many individual members who served in other units.

After the conclusion of the hostilities in 1945 Lt. Col. Geddes Page took on the task of reforming the Regiment. The very first item was the Victory parade in London, to which the Regiment was allocated one representative. After considerable sorting out, Rfn. N. P. Norton, M. M., was given this honour.

On December 31, 1946, just following the Regiment's 70th birthday, Lt.-Colonel Geddes Page relinquished command, and was succeeded by Lt. Col. L.H. Bailie, M.C. (Bar).

Colours which had laid so long in St. John's Church, and returned them to Regimental Headquarters at the Drill Hall. Then the great day arrived, and once more the Regiment provided a Guard of which it could be proud, and it did in fact receive the congratulations of the King.

Colonel Bailie, the Commanding Officer, was invited to a function at Marina Glen where he sat between the King and Princess Elizabeth. When inspecting the Guard, the King decided that the King's Colour that had been so proudly carried since 1904 required replacement, and ordered that a new colour be obtained for him to present at the Investiture and Presentation of Colours on March 31, 1947.

Though time was short, the new Colour arrived from England by air with just two days to spare. This made this historic parade of great importance to the Regiment.

In addition to the presentation of the Colour, the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Colonel Bailie was invested with the Bar to his M. C. and the ex-Commanding Officer, Lt. Col Geddes page was invested with his D. S. O.

On December 22, 1947, the Officer Commanding, Lieut. Colonel L. H. Bailie, M. C. (bar) received notification that a high honour had been bestowed on the Regiment and upon East London and the Border, by the announcement that the King had been pleased to assume the Colonelcy-in-Chief of the Kaffrarian Rifles.

The significant and outstanding honour of the assumption of the Colonelcy-in-Chief of The Kaffrarian Rifles by the King in December, 1947, was followed ten years later by the conferment of the Freedom of Entry on the Regiment by the City of East London.

The ceremony took place outside the City Hall on Saturday, May 25, 1957, in the presence of a distinguished gathering.

The handsome scroll conferring the Freedom of the City was illuminated by a member of the municipal staff, and bears the common seal of the City Council affixed on May 25, 1957. The scroll is contained in a leather case, which is kept in a handsome wooden casket.

In 1949 Lieut.-Col. L. H. Bailie, M. C. (Bar), handed over command – at first for a brief period to Major Donald Savage, pending the appointment of Commandant A. P. McLellan, E. D., as Officer Commanding. At the end of this officer's

tenure of duties, command of the Regiment devolved on Commandant Claude Tiddy, E. D.

THE KING'S SPEECH IN 1947

The colours which I have just presented to you call to mind many feats of arms in the history of South Africa. Each is a scroll of its regiment's glorious past.

For all time, they symbolise the honour of the soldier and of his regiment.

The recent war is still fresh in the experience of each one of us here today. But memory is kind and the impressions, which endure, are those of great and gallant deeds. We shall remember our comradeship in battle, with countless examples of courage and selfless devotion to duty when the passage of time has made less vivid the horrors and suffering which attended them.

The champions of freedom have fought a great fight. At the cost of grave sacrifices, victory has been ours; yet further trials may await us. So, in the years to come, we must bear our Colours high. To us, they must perpetuate the heroism of our own generation; to our young men, they must to be constant inspiration to go forward with the high spirit of their fathers.

I know how much these Colours mean to you, and I am proud to hand them to you myself. I do so in the most complete confidence that the honour of your country and of your regiment, of which they are the traditional sign, will be safe in your hands.

(The unabridged version can be read in the Green Machine on line)



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The Virus Page



A lot to talk about this month! Having had a "quiet" period with just Klez to worry about, loads of new "nasties" are appearing.

Those of you who have tried the Panda Software virus scanner on the Index page might be interested in the statistics that this has thrown up: The most frequently detected viruses (worldwide) are:

- 1.- W32/KLEZ.I
- 2.- W32/ELKERN.C
- 3.- W32/NIMDA
- 4.- VBS/LOVELETTER.AS

It also detects a vulnerability in Outlook that is usually exploited by worms (e.g. KLEZ, NIMDA, BADTRANS, LENTIN) in e-mail messages and HTML pages. This is shown on the scanner results as "Exploit/iFrame". You can get a free patch to correct this problem from the Microsoft website: <http://www.download.microsoft.com>

DADINU

At the start of July reports began arriving about Dadinu (W32/Dadinu), a new e-mail worm that sends itself out to all addresses in the Microsoft Messenger Address Book. If you receive emails from Spanish speakers, be very careful – this worm originated there and is very common.

Dadinu creates a large number of '.cpl' files in the Windows directory and in the root directory on the hard disk of the infected computer, which are each 236,032 bytes in size and are actually copies of the worm itself. The worm uses a .cpl file extension which is a worrying new development in virus creation.

The names of the files created by Dadinu are selected at random from a long list contained in the worm's code and include 'SpidermanDesktop.cpl', 'Hacking.cpl', 'Zidane.Taliban.cpl' and others, many of which are of an obscene or pornographic nature. These names are designed to lure unsuspecting users into opening these files, which executes the worm.

BROADBAND MODEMS AND PASSWORDS

A computer programmer in New Zealand has discovered that most broadband modems are installed with the default password. There is a general tendency to install broadband modems in this way, making them vulnerable to attackers, who can use them to hide the source of attacks or to disguise the origin of unsolicited mail. If you buy one of these new broadband systems that are being advertised here, and it is password protected, make sure you use your own (secret) password and not the default one.

PATCH FOR WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER

Microsoft has published a patch for Windows Media Player 6.4, 7.1 and Windows Media Player for Windows XP, which eliminates the security vulnerabilities in that program known to date plus three new ones which could allow an attacker to run code on the affected system. Microsoft rates this vulnerability as "critical severity". The update can be downloaded from the following addresses, depending on the version of Windows Media Player installed.

Microsoft Windows Media Player 6.4:

[http://download.microsoft.com/download/winmediaplayer/Update/320920/W98NT42KMe/EN-](http://download.microsoft.com/download/winmediaplayer/Update/320920/W98NT42KMe/EN-US/wm320920_64.exe)

[US/wm320920_64.exe](http://download.microsoft.com/download/winmediaplayer/Update/320920/W982KMe/EN-US/wm320920_71.exe)

Microsoft Windows Media Player 7.1:

http://download.microsoft.com/download/winmediaplayer/Update/320920/W982KMe/EN-US/wm320920_71.exe

Microsoft Windows Media Player for Windows XP:

http://download.microsoft.com/download/winmediaplayer/Update/320920/WXP/EN-US/wm320920_8.exe

OOPS!

Korean language versions of Visual Studio.Net, have been shipped by Microsoft containing a file contaminated with the Nimda worm. Even though the file is not used by the application, which minimizes the risk of infection, Microsoft has released a patch that includes the tool without the infected file. Fortunately this hasn't happened with their English language software – but even the mighty Microsoft can make mistakes! A games company went to the wall a few years ago after a similar error caused total loss of confidence in their products.

W32/DOTOR.A

This is a mass-mailing worm that spreads through e-mail in a file called 'DocTor.exe', which is attached to an e-mail with the subject: "NewTool for Word Macro Virus". The message text tries to trick users into thinking that the file they have received is a utility that offers protection against macro viruses. When this file is run, W32/Dotor.A infects Word documents and sends itself out via e-mail. Once a computer has been infected, the virus will also infect all Word documents opened on that computer. Finally, W32/Dotor.A inserts an entry in the Windows Registry in order to ensure that it is run every time the



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the computer is started up.

W32/DREAM.C

This spreads in a file through Internet Relay Chat (IRC). When this file is run, the worm deletes the 'Script.ini' and 'Aliases.ini' files from the Mirc folder and creates new files with the same names in the root directory of the hard disk. It also generates another two files called 'Winq.ini' and 'Winl.ini' in the Windows directory, modifies the 'autoexec.bat' file and copies the 'Netdrive.exe' file -with the name 'Install.exe'- from the 'Windows\Command' directory to the root directory of the hard disk. In the root directory it also creates a folder called 'Fetish', which contains a file called 'Bondage.Bat'. This file carries out the following actions: (1) It renames the 'COM' files in the 'Windows\Command' folder to 'PUN'. (2) It copies the content of the Windows directory to

'Windows\Desktop'. (3) It deletes the files with a 'LNK' extension (shortcuts) in the 'Windows\Desktop' folder, and (4) It deletes 'Notepad.exe' from the Windows directory.

BATWAY

This is a worm that spreads massively via e-mail and IRC (chat). In the case of e-mail, this worm gets into systems in a message with the subject field "•Which pub in Singapore is the best in the world?". BATWAY can also delete the content of system files and eliminate the files of certain antivirus programs.

W32/ZOEK

This sends e-mail messages with the subject field "Maxima Screensaver!" In this way, the worm tries to persuade users to download a screensaver from the Internet address included in the message.

However, when users visit the Web page, what they actually download is the worm. Once run, W32/Zoek displays a window on screen forcing users to restart the computer. The worm also drops a Trojan called Bck/Orifice2K, whose aim is to open the TCP port 33530, making the computer vulnerable to attack. This would only work if the attacker knew your IIP number, but if he did, he could completely take over your machine, read all your files, and even open and close the CD tray!

If in doubt, delete it out!

Robin Atter

The Last Post

So the August edition comes to a close.

I have promised myself that in September I will re-insert the humour back into the Green Machine. The On line edition already carries a humour page but again this month with so many good articles which could be covered I have had to be selective and choose only the very best for paper and PDF versions due to the restrictions on size.

September sees the first anniversary of the Green Machine as I said in my editorial. At the moment I can not make up my mind how to celebrate it. Front runner is a pint down the pub !! Having said that I rarely if ever drink so I guess it will be a biscuit and a cup of tea.

As this bit is supposed to be light hearted I can not resist showing

you what I complete plonker I can be on occasions. The story goes something like this.



I am a driver/guide for an open top bus company in Oxford. The company I work for was recently sold to a rival. Naturally there have been a lot of changes.

One of these changes was our uniform. Last week I was invited to try on the new waistcoat we would be wearing. I was completely taken in and here is the photo to prove it!!!

Right, well that's filled a space !! I must say I do look rather good in it though !

Until next month then, my best wishes to you all.

Kevin Stevens

Editor

Green Machine

Website Team