

COLONEL JOHN PATRICK DAVEY OBE TD DL (G36-40)

The following is taken from an obituary in the Autumn 1999 OF Magazine.

He was born on 7 October 1923 and on leaving the College was articled to Bland Fielden, Chartered Accountants in Colchester, from where he joined the Royal Horse Artillery when he was 19.

D-Day plus 1 saw him in the Normandy invasion from where he fought through into Belgium, Holland and finally to Hamburg. The war in Europe over, he was posted to India where he was Adjutant at the School of Artillery in Deolali.

On demobilisation he returned to his accountancy. The senior partner of his firm had recommended that he took his books and study them while in India. "You won't have much to do out there," he was told.

Consequently, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1950 and joined the firm of Scrutton, Goodchild and Sanderson in Ipswich, where in due course he became senior partner. Meanwhile, he joined the TA as a Captain. He rose to full Colonel and Vice-Chairman (Military) of the East Anglia TA and VR Association when he was awarded the OBE in 1989.

He was a prominent Freemason and Master of his Lodge and Grand Warden of the Province of Suffolk. He was also a member of the OF Lodge from 1975-99. Among his many public offices he was for many years Chairman of the Suffolk College Governors and was awarded an Honorary MA by the University of East Anglia. More recently he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk. Always a keen sportsman, he was Captain of Ipswich Rugby Football Club, a Suffolk County squash player and a member of Ipswich Golf Club.

Whether he was ever late on parade in the TA is not recorded, but an inexplicable habit for such a successful and charming personality was that he was far from being punctual for appointments and meetings. Because of this he became known as "The late Mr Davey"!

He was a Vice President and auditor of the SOF.

He died on 7 May 1999 of cancer, after a short illness.