



Riflemens' News

The Royal Green Jackets

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Issue No: 07

MESSAGE FROM REGIMENTAL COLONEL COMMANDANT RGJ

Although the purpose of this Newsletter is to advise you all, but particularly those on E postings, of major regimental activities over the next six months, it is also an opportunity for me to highlight some of the major achievements since I last wrote.

Top of these must be the impressive list of Operational Awards on the back page. To all concerned, our heartiest congratulations.

Next a particular mention for the Freedom of Milton Keynes parade on 2 July when Guards from all elements of the Regiment, Regular, TA, Cadet and Association, accompanied by the Waterloo Band and Bugles, gathered to show off all that is best in a Regimental Family such as ours. This is further proved in the way all parts of the Regiment support each other, for example TA accompanying Regulars on Operational Tours or Regulars and TA assisting Cadet Annual Camps. I am delighted to see Riflemen working so well together and exhort you all to continue to play your part in such activities whenever you can.

Looking ahead, may I encourage you, whether Serving or Retired, to attend Reunions as the best possible way to keep in touch with fellow Riflemen. Regarding this matter you will all be interested in a proposal to arrange a Regimental Holiday Experience at a holiday resort in Poole, Dorset. This will take place during the period 12-18 October 2001 and more details will be issued shortly. In the meantime note the dates for your diary. I can also give advance warning of another new Project. We are investigating the possibility of visiting Calais and Normandy for the benefit, and education, of all members of the Regimental Family, and not just the Veterans who were there. The first such tour will probably be in June 2002 and dates and plans will be made known during 2001 through publications such as this one and our new website which is: www.royalgreenjackets.co.uk

Finally, it will be great to have 1 RGJ back in Blackpool this Spring, and the possibility of 2 RGJ returning to UK in 2002.

NEWS OF THE FUTURE

1 RGJ

We are almost at the end of our current tour in Belfast. Since we last wrote the Battalion has been deployed in most of the Northern areas

of the City.

Most recently we found ourselves extensively involved in the counter terrorist role doing our best to quell the feuding in the areas of the Shankhill, Tiger Bay and Mount Vernon.

Being the first troops to deploy on the streets of Belfast in at least 3 years, we were also the first regular battalion to leave station and deploy in full to the mainland to carry out a Battalion Exercise in Otterburn.

We will be handing over to

the 1st Battalion the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders in March when we leave and take up our new role in Weeton (north east of Blackpool).

We will spend the first three months re-rolling as a Light Role Battalion to be deployed in mountainous and arduous areas and also carrying out all the Support Weapons cadres in preparation for Ex **POND JUMP WEST** at Fort Wainwright in Canada, where we will also benefit from adventure training and four days in theatre R&R.

Our hectic operational duties described above sadly prevented us from entering the Northern Ireland Boxing Championships despite having been so successful last year. We do, however, have six Riflemen climbing the Himalayas and individual Riflemen are going on Op **RALIEGH** later this month.

Once we are settled in Weeton we hope to be able to concentrate more on adventurous training and all the other sports that we competed in so successfully during our time in Palace Barracks.

2 RGJ

It is time for an update on what the New Year holds for the Battalion. We certainly were happy to be able to spend Christmas and the New Year at home for once!

Our return from leave will see us beginning our preparations for the tour in Bosnia. The now familiar range of Warrior Cadres, Int Cell courses, Psyops and Media training will all begin in

earnest. All this training will however be tempered with a string of skiing weeks throughout January and February.

The Champion Company Sports Trophy continues with B Coy currently in a strong position and very confident for the Rugby in January - time will tell! The inter company boxing is programmed for March with the aim of encouraging talented novices to fight in the Army Competitions.

The deployment to Bosnia on Op **PALATINE** will be split into a two company rotation. B and S Coys will deploy first to Banja Luka Metal Factory and Myrkonic Grad Shoe Factory in April and will be replaced by A and R Coys at the end of June. All this is in an attempt to limit the separation that the families have had to endure recently while maintaining the excellent operational reputation that we have earned for ourselves. The Bn will deploy north of where it was in the Summer of 1998, being entirely based in the RS, with Battle Group HQ in Myrkonic Grad Bus Depot.

Bosnia should present good training opportunities with every platoon allocated a week's adventure training and two weeks on the ranges at Manjaca.

There are a dozen members of the TA and Reserve who deployed to Bosnia with us who have either extended their engagements or joined the Regular Army. Rfn **Harwood** (RRV) performed well on the JNCO Cadre last summer and has been promoted LCpl. He is currently on SCBC in Brecon.

Plans for the Coys who will be rear based are being firmed up, but are likely to involve Battlefield Tours, Adventure Training, Section level exercises in the light role and preparation for an assault on the Carnbrian Patrol Competition.

There have been a number of changes in personalities in the last six months, most notable the arrival of Lt Col **Worsley** as CO. A, R and S Coys all have new OCs in Maj's **Doran**, **Thomson** and **Keyte** respectively. RSM WO1 **Lee** will be commissioned this year to take over as our Families Officer, WO2 **Bullard** has moved to Ops WO and been replaced as RQMS by WO2 **Cutler**. WO2 **Blackman** returns from civvy street as CSM HQ Coy!

LONDONS (RGJ)

A lot of us are currently looking forward to the Battalion skiing expedition; Ex COCKNEY GREEN SLIDE 3, which will take place in Chamonix, France for the second year running.

As always this exercise is generally well supported by F and G Coys with about 75 per cent of the group being made up of RGJ personnel.

In the first weekend of February the Battalion SAAM will take place in Pirbright. We will use it in preparation for the London District SAAM due to take place in the middle of May.

We have been tasked with being the Admin Unit for the CENTSAAM at Bisley; therefore summer camp will be

totally directed towards the running of this event.

In early July there will be a planned Battlefield tour in France, currently the details are sketchy but we are keen to participate in this LONDISP sponsored event. No doubt Maj John **McEwing** and Capt Stephen **Lowe** will want to get involved in this event after the success of the last Battlefield tour of Vietnam.

We plan to take part in the Cambrian Patrol Competition. Last year the British Columbia Regiment took part, but along with many other teams they were forced to retire due to hurricane conditions.

Lieutenant Colonel James **Cunliffe** arrived as CO in October. The Battalion 2IC Major Tim **Matthews** is due to handover in January on posting to the London District Specialist Training Team. The Adjt Capt Julian **Puddick** is also departing having completed his tour with both 4(V)RGJ and the London Regt. Capt Adam **Rout** will be in post by the time you read this. Capt David Lawn QM/MTO is to depart in the spring, apparently he can remember when Davies Street was being built!

WO2 **McCartney** will be leaving F Coy in February having spent 2 years as SPSI with WO2 **Pearce** from 2 RGJ replacing him from UNTAT in Warminster.

RRV (RGJ)

A(RGJ)Coy have enjoyed a very successful year and now look forward to 2001 with confidence and enthusiasm.

We intend to begin the year by

concentrating our efforts on training, recruiting and raising the profile of the Regiment in Oxfordshire. Our first Recruit Selection weekend will be held in January, training continues in February with a Battalion Study Day for us all to look forward to.

In March there will be a major recruiting and PR campaign. Amongst a variety of events we intend to hold a dinner where we will invite members of the local community, including the Lord Mayor's of the larger Oxfordshire towns, representatives from local radio and television and managers of the larger businesses in the area all of whom we hope will convey the message that Royal Green Jackets in Oxfordshire are alive and well. A Charity Concert on 22 March by the Waterloo Band and the Oxfordshire Youth Band will raise money which will go to the Riflemen's Aid Society and The Lord Mayor of Oxford's Charities.

As a finale to the publicity and recruiting efforts we are having a TA Day on 31 March. We will target our efforts in the pedestrian thoroughfares of Oxford. There will be static displays, the Waterloo Band and the 95th Historical Society will be there to support us. Mobile recruiting teams will be in the area and we hope that our efforts are rewarded with lots of new recruits.

We are already planning and looking forward to our Annual Camp in Cyprus in July. The recce will take place in February where we hope that care will be taken to ensure that

the beer is cool enough and suitable for the Riflemen.

In closing may we wish all Riflemen, worldwide, the very best for 2001. Whatever the trials, traditions and vagaries of soldiering, we will rise to the challenge, keeping our faces to the sun, so that we may not see the shadows, and with a smile - after all, we are Green Jackets and we chose this profession willingly!!

E(RGJ)Coy found that the second half of 2000 tested our flexibility with the Freedom parade in Milton Keynes closely pursued by Ex EAGLE STRIKE in Scotland.

The focus of the new year will be on the new training cycle. It begins immediately and our task is to concentrate on operations in the urban environment. The culmination of the first six months of 2001 will be the deployment of a rifle platoon to Cyprus for Ex **LION SUN**.

Then later in the year our Mortar platoon will conduct Warrior training with 2 RGJ in Paderborn. This training will greatly enhance their future deployability on operations.

Farewell and congratulations to Sgt Marcus **Dicks**, now 2Lt **Dicks** RRV/PWRR, who has successfully passed out of RMAS and taken up a platoon commanders appointment in C Coy. Congratulations also to WO2 (Now Capt) Mick **Scott-Hyde**, on his commissioning.

ITC CATTERICK

Life at ITC Catterick is interesting as far as the Royal Green Jackets are concerned.

There have been two main

developments. Firstly, the trial course, for a joint Phase 1 and 2 has been completed. The Light Division training team taking part has had particular success. The new 24 week course, though in need of some adjustment, has shown marked benefits over the separate Phase 1 and 2 courses. Not least of these benefits was the fact that the Green Jacket wastage rate has been dramatically improved. Across the board it has been reduced from just below 50% to 25%.

The second main development has been the arrival of CSgt **Pashby**, taking up the permanent post of Light Division Retention and Liaison Officer. Though based at Catterick he also visits Winchester, Glencourse and AFC Harrogate. The personal interest taken in the Riflemen has paid off with interest. The retention of the RGJ recruit is now amongst the best! It has also had the benefit of increasing the feeling amongst the recruits that they are joining a Regiment different from any other.

The standards set by those in permanent staff positions continues to be of the highest quality. A third consecutive Royal Green Jacket, Cpl **Dennis**, has been selected to move to Detroit Platoon, the re-training section, taking over from Cpl **Case**. This is a high profile position within ITC Catterick, for which Royal Green Jackets have proved themselves highly suited.

The arrival of different courses at different times still means that unfortunately, we still have Light Division

platoons being trained by non Light Division staff. The standard of recruits from Winchester, judging from feedback, have impressed these staff. However we still have to fight to keep our traditions, the most obvious being RGJ recruits learning heavy drill.

Royal Green Jackets are still well represented here from Lt Col David **Brown**, commanding the 1st Battalion to the NCOs of the 27 RGJ posts. We have one new arrival, Capt **Turner** from 1 RGJ who has replaced Capt **Sale**.

Across the ITC, our NCOs work selflessly to instill the Regimental ethos into our recruits and to train them to the standards of our Regiment. These efforts are reflected by the amount of Light Division platoons winning Best Platoon - long may it continue!

ATR WINCHESTER

It is not impossible that this will be one of the last articles written from an Army Training Regiment.

Trials are underway to re-examine the old system of conducting phase one (recruit) training and phase two (infantry) training in the same place. It has been obvious for a while now that phase one training is not arduous enough to prepare recruits for the rigours of the combat infantryman's course at Catterick and it is therefore only a matter of time before we see the training system change again. What effect this will have on the future of Green Jackets training at Winchester is as yet unclear, although it does appear possible that all infantry

training will be centralised in Catterick.

On a more definite note the last six months have seen a great deal of change in C Company. No least of these changes has been the posting of Maj **Day** from his job as OC. Notwithstanding this the Light Division Company is still leading the field at the ATR, winning every single sports and shooting competition that the CO has thrown our way and it is invariably a Light Division section that wins the Winchester Cup March and Shoot competition.

The bottom line is that Light Division Officers and NCOs can be relied on to produce the best soldiers regardless of the circumstances and location, and this is unlikely to change!

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Armed Forces Operational Awards No 14

Northern Ireland QCVS

Capt IRJ **Moodie**-1RGJ

Former Yugoslavia and Albania

OBE

Col NP **Carter** - 2RGJ

MID

Cpl M **Harris** - 2RGJ

Sgt G **Miller** - 2RGJ

Maj SP **Plummer** - 2RGJ

QCB

Cpl S **Briggs** LI - att 2RGJ

Sgt RB **Finch** LI -att 2RGJ

LCpl J **Rooney** - 2RGJ

Joint Commanders

Commendation

Capt JJV **McEvoy** - 2RGJ