



Riflemens' News

The Royal Green Jackets

1st June 2003

Final Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL COMMANDANT

In this message in the final issue of Riflemens' News I am delighted to report continued success throughout the Regiment. With both regular battalions stationed in England for the first time for many years, it might have been thought that life would be, for once, routine and quiet. As usual, nothing could be further from the truth

It is particularly exciting to have, probably for the first time, a Green Jacket as what you would remember as 'GOC Scotland', Governor of Edinburgh Castle etc! Major General Nick Parker fills this crucial appointment as GOC 2 Division, with 1 RGJ under command, while Major General Nick Cottam is GOC 5 Division in Shrewsbury. So we are in charge of most of the North!

I would particularly like to mention the crucial support our TA Companies are giving to the Army as a whole through Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) on a number of current operational tours. Together with our Green Jackets badged Cadets, they represent a crucial element of the regimental family.

At the recent Colonel Commandants Meeting, Commanding Officers agreed that it was for them to communicate with their personnel serving away from battalions on E appointments. As a result Riflemens' News will be discontinued. I trust that it has been useful to those at E over the past five years.

NEWS FROM THE BATTALIONS

1RGJ

1 RGJ remains the Spearhead Land Element on less than 48 hours notice to deploy worldwide until mid December.

Possible tasks that we must be prepared to accomplish include the

evacuation of non-combatants, the security of overseas territories, peace support operations and disaster and humanitarian relief.

We have also assumed the Operational Readiness Force task for the Balkans.

With the situation in the Middle East and Gulf remaining tense and uncertainty existing in many other parts of the world, there appears to be every chance that 1 RGJ may be required to deploy.

As part of our continuing drive to develop the Light Battalion concept, we will be the first to undergo the 'Fit for Role' test in July. This involves a considerable test of stamina and tactical ability, conducted in Scotland's Galloway Hills. Our Officers and NCOs are being trained as mountain warfare instructors to develop our 'difficult terrain' capability, and 2 rifle company groups will participate in mountain warfare cadres in Scotland during the next 6 months. The mountain role will be validated in the Galloway Hills in October, during a demanding exercise that will include the use of climbing equipment, assault boats and possible pack animals to carry supplies over the rugged terrain.

On a different note C Company will perform ceremonial duties in Edinburgh during the first week of July, before the battalion take 3 weeks leave in the period from late July to early September.

In addition to our Spearhead responsibilities, we continue to support the training of other units and individual courses through the Regular Army Assistance Table. Teams are also entering military competitions such as CENTSAM at Bisley, while there are also opportunities to participate in adventure training and sport. An all weather 5-a-side football pitch has recently been constructed in Weeton Barracks, while the grass football and rugby pitches

have just undergone a major overhaul.

The next six months will be especially challenging for 1 RGJ, as it paves the way for the mountain role in addition to its many other commitments. However, the location and facilities of Weeton Barracks provide an ideal springboard to demonstrate that the regiment continues its tradition of innovation and determination.

2 RGJ

Since the last edition of Rifleman's News, 2 RGJ has been busy.

From the end of last year and in line with the rest of the British Army, the Battalion had to provide support to Op Fresco. Initially this involved 50 crews with the commitment scaled down to 24 earlier this year. Companies were used to reinforce other units around the country and thus the crews were widely dispersed. Companies were in Wales, the Midlands the North and A Sqn, 1 RTR was in Scotland. This made travelling a real logistical problem.

In February, the Battalion was tasked with training 3500 augmentees to Op Telic. The trainees were a combination of reservists and Territorial Army soldiers ranging from Rfn to Lieutenant Colonel. For 6 weeks, R Coy and A Coy deployed to Grantham and Beckingham respectively to

train them. The task was both rewarding but at the same time frustrating, training other soldiers to go to war, knowing that the Riflemen wouldn't be. Despite this the Riflemen did an excellent job and there has been some outstanding praise for what was a fairly turgid job. Concurrent with this the Battalion still had to provide support to Op Fresco as well as deliver training support to the Land Warfare Centre. This meant that just about every last man was working very hard throughout this period. Easter Leave arrived just in time.

During all of this we managed to squeeze in the Finals of the Grade 3 Novice Boxing Championships but unfortunately lost to the Green Howards. Considering this was our inaugural year, the result was excellent. 8 of the boxers went onto the Army Final of which 2 won.

1 RGJ made an appearance on Salisbury Plain and fought B Coy in Exercise Wessex Warrior. Needless to say B Coy showed 1 RGJ a thing or two about fighting!

On return from Easter Leave, Lieutenant Colonel Emck took over command from Lieutenant Colonel Worsley having spent 2 and a half years in command. He has since moved on to a job in the MOD.

The remainder of the year will maintain a furious pace. R Coy has just deployed to Jamaica for Ex Red Stripe for 6 weeks and in return we have received a Coy of the Jamaican Defence Force hosted by HQ Coy. B Coy is adventure training and A Coy is preparing to run the next JNCO cadre. Support to LWC continues with a Wessex Warrior against the Cheshires in July along with Exercises Globe Trot and Phantom Bugle and there is a possibility of getting a Company to Qatar for a month. In the medium term, the Battalion will finish supporting LWC in December when we begin the Northern Ireland package. This continues through to March 04 when we deploy to Balykinler for eighteen months having handed over to the Black Watch.

RRV (RGJ)

A (Royal Green Jackets) Company at Oxford and the MILAN PI at High Wycombe continue to play a full and a busy part in the Regiment.

At the end of May our officers and soldiers returned from Kabul where they had been deployed on Operation FINGAL

LCpl Dee will attend a phase of the Denali Marathon Expedition in Alaska in June.

In June, A Company will deploy to Lithuania for 2 weeks on Ex Amber Hope, where the aim of training is Peace Support Operations. The Royal Rifle Volunteers are leading a multi national battalion and it will be the annual camp for this year.

In June we will also support and assist with the Regimental KAPE Tour in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We are fortunate that our recruiting is going well and we wish to keep the pressure on.

The Waterloo Band – busy as always, will attend RGJ Weekend and then travel to North Wales to complete their camp with some rugged adventure training.

We expect to be fully involved with individual mobilisations as reinforcements for Op Telic 2 and possibly 3.

In Summary, we continue to in the relentless pursuit of excellence and enjoy achieving the high standards demanded by the modern Territorial Army, fully aware that whatever we do, we represent a fine Regiment and can only strive to be as good as our predecessors.

It's all change at E Company.

Maj Dowle took over as the new OC back in March, along with Capt Thomas as 2IC. WO2 Dove is the new CSM. Also congratulations to Lt's Banks, Ridgely and

Toomey on their recent promotions.

Lt Ryan and his team have taken a firm grip of the RRTT, and just at the right time, as E Company has seen a population explosion like never before. At time of writing, we have, give or take, 30 recruits in on a Tuesday night at various stages on paperwork and training. The boom is set to continue, with hopefully 20 again on the next selection. Sjt Hrycak and Cpl Johnson are expecting a new recruit of their own in June and hopefully after a short break for maternity leave Cpl Johnson will be returning to her endeavors in the Coy Recruiting Team.

The mortar platoon under Capt Scott-Hyde, carried out some impressive live firing in March, and more is planned for November.

E Coy's Op Fingal crew in Kabul are having an eventful tour. Frequent emails from the unit tell of their trials and tribulations. By all accounts, the RRV contingent is continuing to impress their regular counterparts from 2 Royal Anglian, once again dispelling some of the old 'TA' myths. We look forward to welcoming the 7 E Coy soldiers home in early June. We are now seeing the return of soldiers from Bosnia, and Kosovo, though some will be deploying straight to Lithuania on Exercise Amber Hope with other E Coy personnel.

LCpl Hairsine gave an outstanding performance on his NCO's cadre in April

and was nominated best student. Personal letters to Sjt **Chessum** and Cpl **Johnson** were received from General **Palmer**, recognizing their commitment to the TA.

The general atmosphere in the Company is now very positive. All ranks are looking forward to working towards an interesting and challenging extra role, providing a CCRF capability as well as the more traditional war-fighting role. The enthusiasm of the recruits is infectious and this bodes well for a bright future

LONDONS (RGJ)

The London Regiment has been tasked in several new and exciting roles for the future.

The first being an operational role of "Peace Support Operations". This role has great opportunities for the Bn to learn and exercise the different skills required to become effective in the PSO role. These skills will be learned in the coming months, and exercised at our Annual Camp on Dartmoor in September.

The other important change in our role is the lead that the London Regiment is taking in the forming of the London Civil Community Reaction Force (CCRF). This role will see G (RGJ) Company providing a vital Forward Mounting Base (FMB) for the mobilisation of the many

London based TA Units, who could be called to assist London's Emergency Services in time of civil accident or disaster. This could be natural (flooding etc), or as a response to a terrorist incident. This role was exercised in March with a CCRF MOBEX, which successfully led to 550 TA personnel being mobilised to respond to a scenario of a terrorist's use of a plane crash to deliver a "dirty bomb" around the Woolwich area of South London.

A comprehensive CCRF exercise is planned for November to test our skills fully!

Some changes within the Company have occurred, with the departure of WO2 **Burridge**, we congratulate WO2 **Breach** as the new CSM at the Cedars. We also welcome Capt **Burstow** as the new Recce PI Comd, and Sgt **Orwell** from 2RGJ as the Recce PI PSI. Our best wishes go with CSgt **Winton** with his new posting to ULOTC. We are also looking forward to the mutual exchange of several new Potential Officers between F and G Coys. We wish them well in their training, and look forward to welcoming them into G Company in the near future. G (RGJ) Company welcomes back Cpl **Little** from Yugoslavia, Rfn **Aylett** and **St Luce** from Bosnia, and Rfn **Purvor** back from the perils of Warminster! Still to return from Bosnia is Rfn **Hickey**, but he should be back with G Coy soon.

The recent changes in our role give the Regiment, and

Company as a whole, a new focus and impetus for some exciting and realistic training in the coming months ahead.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

New Years Honours

MBE

Major SP Plummer

REGIMENTAL DIARY – 2004

Regimental Pocket Diaries for 2004 can be ordered now. They cost only £3 each and are ideal as presents for family and friends.

Orders enclosing payment should be sent to Asst Sec, RGJ Assn, RHQ RGJ, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester SO23 8TS
(Cheques should be made payable to the RGJ Association.)

RGJ ASSOCIATION REUNION

All Riflemen, serving and retired are welcome to attend the Reunion on Sat 13 July at Sir John Moore Barracks. The programme is as follows:

1200 - 1800hrs, main bars open with snacks available.

1815hrs Buglers sound Assembly for the March Past.

1830hrs Presidents Address followed by Sounding Retreat.

1900 - 0100hrs Main bar open, hot meals available.