



The Green Machine



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

Volume 2 Issue 7

Produced in the UK, USA and Australasia

July 2002

The Royal Green Jackets - the early years

We wonder if in 1966, the Regiment could have even dreamt about the changes that would occur, the countries it would be posted to, and the involvement in so many things worldwide, that it was about to undergo in the 36 years since then.

In the year 1966 there were three regular battalions, a Territorial battalion, the Queen's Royal Rifles which in the year 1967 was to sponsor the new 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. Did we not have three bands and also one at the Depot?

Read the first in a short series covering the 3 Battalions as they faced a new future. This month "*The Rifleman*" looks at 1 RGJ through the Regimental Chronicle of the day



The Berlin Wall

The Wall was erected by the GDR leadership on 13 August 1961, so that they would no longer have to put up with people voting with their feet. The division of Berlin, Germany and Europe was thus fixed. Practically, this division tore apart families and friendships, destroyed life plans and hopes. With unbelievable inventiveness, desperate refugees tried to cross, dig under or even fly over the Wall. Well over one hundred people paid for their freedom with their lives, many more were wounded or imprisoned

Signs of collapse in the socialist power machine - not least the courageous actions of opposition civil rights activists - gave Berlin and the Germans a new opportunity.

Read about this period in the history of Berlin here



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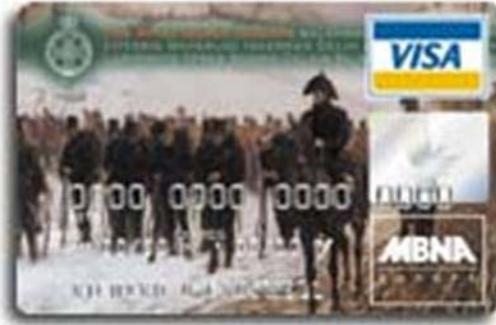
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Editorial



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

June has proved a difficult and sad month for the website team and the Green

Machine in particular. Keith who has edited the on line edition since its inception last September has had to step down. Rather than try and explain it myself I have included part of Keith's original email to Ken and I.

"I have been selected for possible promotion at work and as a result I have agreed to undertake a number of various educational and self development courses. Some of these courses are what as known as 'Distant learning'. This means that I am sent various modules which I have to complete in my own time and return for marking and evaluation. (The first one of which is entitled 'Effective Writing'...which I found rather ironic!) The other courses are 'Residential', which simply means that I attend a number of venues

throughout the UK where a particular course is being held and stay there for a couple of days or for anything up to a week if necessary."

Keith has achieved a great deal in the months he has been in the hot seat but I hope you will all agree with me that family and work commitments must come first. On behalf of the Website and Green Machine teams and all our readers I wish him every success with his courses and promotion.

The Green Machine will continue and grow in the direction Keith envisaged. Obviously a few changes have had to take place. I have taken over as Editor of the on-line edition. The hard copy, pdf file copy and Cog will continue to be produced as normal.

John Gard steps in and becomes a full member of the website team. John is treasurer and membership secretary of the Internet Branch.

It will be business as usual !!

June also saw the Interim meeting of the Royal Green Jackets Association.

Hopefully we will be able to carry a report in the near future. However I can tell you already that lunch afterwards was excellent !!! I will go anywhere for a free meal as many of you will know.

The Internet Branch gained a President in the shape of Major General Charles Vyvyan. We welcome General Vyvyan and thank him for agreeing to be the Branch President.

Looking forward we have the annual Reunion in Winchester. I hope I see many of you there, come up and say hello and please do not be shy about forcing a pint in my hand (shame I don't drink).

Next month we hope to be bringing you a profile of the various people who work on the Green Machine, I think it is always best to know who to throw stones at !!

Until next month then,

Regards to you all

Kevin

Website Team



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The Royal Green Jackets - The early years

I wonder if in 1966, the Regiment could have even dreamt about the changes that would occur, the countries it would be posted to, and the involvement in so many things worldwide, that it was about to undergo in the 36 years since then. In the year 1966 there were three regular battalions, a Territorial battalion, the Queen's Royal Rifles which in the year 1967 was to sponsor the new 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. Did we not have three bands and also one at the Depot?

But this story is about 1RGJ in 1966, the other battalions will have theirs told in August and September, you will note how easy they slipped into their new Regimental Title and so they should have, for the 43rd, 52nd, 60th and 95th have been comrades in arms since those early Peninsula days. Bringing untold glory to the nation, the regiments and themselves. Nothing has changed in this year 2002.

The stories come from the 1966 Royal Green Jackets Chronicle and how fortunate we are that the author of 1RGJ's article includes a short but descriptive history of Berlin. A city that has seen so many changes with all three battalions having served there.

The Rifleman

The 1st Battalion Newsletter

Our first letter to the new Regimental Chronicle comes at a time when we are approaching the end of a two year tour in Berlin and still waiting for news of our next posting which is due early next year. With the present state of flux in Rhine Army, the news is not likely to be

announced for a few months yet although it seems a tour in England is the most likely. The first year with our new title as 1st Battalion of the new Regiment has made little outward difference to our life in Berlin but has undoubtedly added a discernable feeling of security against any further amalgamations or cuts which the Infantry may have to face in the next ten years. As our short history of only eight years as the 1st Green Jackets 43rd and 52nd closes, a new chapter is started with the new title and we face the future with confidence, happy that our association with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions is now closer.

BERLIN

Berlin is a city which can seldom in its history claim to have stood still and it certainly does not do so today although superficially all may appear to be quiet.

The political limelight on the four power city as a focus of attention in the cold war is only simmering at the present time. The Western Alliance will not move its position and the Russians are not prepared to face another Cuba over Berlin at the moment. In the meantime, the Wall exists and its effectiveness cannot be argued. For the British soldiers living in Western civilisation within a stone's throw of the Communists, the potential for a crisis always exists. The difficulties of soldiering under these conditions are obvious.

The contrast between service in Borneo and Berlin is marked. The former comprised actual active service soldiering with little ceremonial, while the latter comprises theoretical active service soldiering with much ceremonial. This was the reason for the Battalion taking some time to settle in. In addition in Berlin there are guards and duties, a few for semi-political reasons, which are irksome and difficult to explain to

those having to do them. The urgency for a high state of operational readiness is difficult to sustain in the face of no actual opposition, but only a threat. Familiarity with the wall, wire, and autobahn corridor, coupled with political calm, tends to breed complacency, against which all have to be on their guard. There can be no doubt that the threat to West Berlin is real whether the political climate is stormy or quiet. All drafts are carefully briefed on the history of Berlin immediately on arrival, and why we are here, which is simply to safeguard 2 million people. They are also told of the habits and the ruthlessness of the East German border guards when dealing with would be escapees. West Berlin is a cancer in the Communist flank, and this is of course why the East are making a great effort to isolate it. This is the next best thing to seizing it, which they would undoubtedly attempt to do in the face of any Western weakness. However the Communists, whatever else they may be, are not idiots, and they are well aware of the penalties of attempting such a venture. As it is impossible for anyone outside Berlin to appreciate the atmosphere of the place, a short history may be appropriate as an introduction to the Battalion letter, punctuated with suitable comments.



Allied Forces Parade



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Berlin originally consisted of two fishing villages on the River Spree, Coelln and Berlin, which united in 1307 to improve defence and trade. Subsequently the town developed, and became the capital of Prussia in 1709. At this time London had been a city for some 1350 years, being described by Tacitus as an important commercial centre in A.D. 61. Berlin continued to prosper particularly under Frederick 11 (The Great), and it was during this period that such men as Langhans, Knobelsdorf and Gontard built the buildings near Unter-den-Linden. Even Prussia's defeat by Napoleon in 1806 did not halt the development of the city, so that in 1871, when it became the capital of the German Empire, it was the most important industrial, cultural, and commercial centre in Middle Europe. Berlin continued from strength to strength until 1939.

At Malta in February 1945 Great Britain, The U.S.A., France and Russia agreed to divide the city into four sectors which were eventually to be unified under the provisions of the Potsdam agreement of August 1945. Russia failed to honour this agreement contrary to the Western Powers who did.

The inevitable administrative split between East and West Berlin resulted in the blockade of West Berlin by the Russians in July 1948, which was finally defeated by the airlift on 1st May 1949. During this period free elections ceased in the East Sector, resulting in the expulsion of the elected Mayor from East Berlin and establishing his offices in the Western part of the city. Strangely enough free access between East and West Berlin continued throughout this period, and indeed, right up to the time the wall was built in August 1961. On 17th June, 1953 fierce riots in East Berlin and East Germany in protest

against the Communist regime were ruthlessly suppressed by the Red Army. At this time the influx of refugees to West Berlin was 300 per day rising to 1000 per day in times of stress. In August 1961 the rate became 1000 per day including many of the professional classes, and this was why the wall was built.

The first thing the West knew about the wall was the arrival of labour gangs with the materials to build it. The East gambled on the West talking, while the East acted, and being unwilling to do anything in the face of a fait accompli once a wall was built. The East were quite right. Surprise was complete. Since then the fortifications round West Berlin have been so strengthened that the flow of refugees is now practically nil. Tension now increased, the Soviet War Memorial in the Tiergarten was wired in (since removed in 1964) and guarded by British Troops. Allied forces patrolled the borders of West Berlin in force, so much so that the Soviets, worried that the East Germans might exchange shots with Western troops, obviously gave strict orders on the shooting of would-be escapees to the Eastern Frontier Police. This resulted in the creation of a 100 yardwide "deathstrip" on the Eastern side of the border so that all shots directed at refugees would fall in the Eastern territory. On 17th August, 1962 Peter Fechter was shot on the wall near Check Point "Charlie" in the U.S. Sector while trying to escape. He fell on the Eastern side of the wall where he was left to bleed for two hours before he was removed dying by the East German guards. The incensed West Berliners promptly stoned the bus that was carrying the new Soviet guard to their memorial in the Tiergarten. The next day they appeared in A.P.C.'s with British authority, but it took a good deal of

wrangling to make the Soviets revert to using a bus.

On 25th August, 1962 the Soviets handed over the control of East Berlin to General Poppe of the East German Army. There was little the Western Allies could do except make it abundantly clear that they still held the Soviets responsible for events in East Berlin, particularly regarding the right of access to Western soldiers and their dependants. This the Russians had to accept. If the East had any allusions about Western determination not to be "bulldozed" after August 1961 and 25th August, 1962, they were dispelled by the handling of the Cuban crisis in October 1962 by President Kennedy, who emphasised the Western standpoint by visiting Berlin on 26th June 1963. His visit was an outstanding success. His speeches in Berlin underlined the inevitable outcome of a Communist adventure directed at the city. His enthusiastic welcome by the people of West Berlin contrasted sharply with the failure of Mr. Kruschew's subsequent visit to East Berlin, where apart from a "spontaneous" demonstration or two by the "masses", and a conference of Eastern potentates, little enthusiasm was shown. Fortified by President Kennedy's visit the Allies dealt firmly with the Soviet harassment of Western military convoys in late 1963. Since then the atmosphere has been relatively peaceful.

Her Majesty the Queen visited Berlin accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 27th May, 1965. They were welcomed to the city with enormous enthusiasm. The visit was interpreted by the Berliners as another reminder to the East that the Western Allies were determined to guarantee the freedom of the city. The visit, by accident, was well timed, because a meeting of the



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Bundestag in the Reichstag on 1st April, 1965 provoked the Soviets into harrasing the meeting with low flying aircraft. In fact this demonstration of disapproval misfired, because, probably as many windows were broken, and as many people disturbed, in East Berlin as in West Berlin.

On 7th April, 1966 a Russian twin jet crashed in the River Havel in the British Sector. This was the day before Good Friday and disturbed our Easter holiday somewhat. However after a month of searching and negotiations its remains were handed back to the Russians in May.

It must be understood that the situation is quiet in Berlin because the Soviets wish to make it so. The danger to the West is ever present. The situation could alter within hours at the whim of Moscow. It would be fatal to allow ourselves to be lulled into a sense of false security.

Our life, as a Battalion, in Berlin assumes a very regular and predictable form. The calendar of events as part of the Berlin Infantry Brigade seems to have evolved into a set pattern and this year has been little different from last.

The Spring was taken up by some pretty intensive training for the inter-platoon battle tests which will be mentioned later on. Once the snows had cleared, the Parade season was upon us again. Firstly the Allied Forces Day Parade in May which was an impressive march past of troops and vehicles of the three Allies in West Berlin. The whole Battalion was on parade on a glorious summer day, and enjoyed the acclaim of several thousands of West Berliners lining both sides of the famous Siebzehn Juni Strasse.

This parade was shortly followed by the Queens Birthday Parade on the Maifeld originally built as the Olym-

pic Polo ground in 1936. This parade was quiet compared with the Royal Review of 1965 when Her Majesty visited Berlin but none the less successful. The salute was taken by Sir Frank Roberts, the British Ambassador in Bonn. The two guards from the Battalion were commanded by Erik Leask, riding a very good looking and well behaved German horse.

TRAINING

The main preoccupation for the remainder of the year is centred round two visits of three weeks each to West Germany for training. The first was to the Sennelager Ranges where every man in the Battalion had a chance to shoot with his personal weapon, fire rocket launchers and throw grenades; even men from the most unlikely corners of Headquarter Company were found on the range. The Rifle Platoons had extensive practice at section battle craft on realistic field firing ranges and the specialist platoons were able to make use of one of the few opportunities for concentrated training. Our second training period was on the Soltau and Luneburg training areas and was entirely company and battalion training. It was practically the only time in the year when Battalion Headquarters actually got out into the field for any length of time.

The Rifle Companies had some excellent exercises with tank and helicopter support and we finished with a battalion 48 hours exercise set by Brigade Headquarters. The two training periods in West Germany are a very popular relief from the rather more mundane duties of our daily life in Berlin and companies and platoons really get a chance to train together at full strength, rather than being split up for guards and duties all the time.

Other training in Berlin includes ex-

ercises with the Americans, the French and the Bereitschaft Polizei. These usually go with a swing and plenty of "entente cordial", "vive la France" etc.

Exercise Cordon Bleu was one of these and worth giving a short description. As its name implies it was an exercise involving sort of hash of English and French troops. The concept of the exercise was basically the defence of a river line and subsequent withdrawal. For the French battalion taking part with a vast combined experience of Algeria and Indo-China it must have seemed rather tame stuff. The British Brigade Commander's "0" group certainly did little to rouse their enthusiasm. What little there was waned even more at the discovery that the river was no more than a track with bridges marked with tape and the enemy, allegedly a well equipped motor rifle regiment from across the wire, was a handful of Fusiliers.

With a nonchalance for which they are famous, initial positions on the "river line" were assumed. This having been done all ranks had a N.A.A.F.I. break: as the Commanding Officer put it "Avant la guerre, le casse-croût", consisting of large hunks of bread, thinly spread with pate, and red wine. All ranks now being replete the destruction of non-essential bridges was carried out. This resulted in some brief heated discussion over the radio net as to who was responsible for which bridge and which ones had in fact been destroyed. Tile screen force withdrew across the remaining bridges and the battle started in earnest. For most of the afternoon the river line troops defended and counter-attacked with elan. The Colonel supervised impassively sustained by a relay of orderlies bearing plates of mackerel, "Le Corned Bouef a l'Anglais", chunks



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of bread and copious drafts of red wine. The line was held.

Sometime around five a signal was prepared for Brigade Headquarters stating with confidence that the battalion could hold out indefinitely. Before it could be sent rumours hinted that the British battalion was contemplating a withdrawal. The signal was countermanded, and a new one prepared—"Position untenable, request permission to retreat immediately." Swiftly the plates and glasses disappeared and the battalion moved back.

Our new position established, the Colonel was ordered to Brigade Headquarters. The plan was to send out patrols along parallel routes which, to avoid danger of a collision, had been precisely marked. The Colonel looked at the map without emotion, selected a blank piece of paper from his map case and with three deft movements made a free hand sketch. The calm of the Brigade Staff was ruffled. After an embarrassed pause, a map was swiftly marked and presented. L'Entente Cordial was saved.

We have had a large number of visitors to the Battalion during the year including the Commander in Chief, General Sir John Hackett; Minister of Defence (Army) Mr. G. W. Reynolds; the Colonel Commandant; the Director of Infantry, General Peter Young and Colonel Hew Butler from the Depot.

SWIMMING

Our efforts to retain the Army Swimming Championships, which we won in 1965, began on the 3rd of June, when we held a Regimental Swimming Gala. "D" Company won, followed closely by H.Q. Company, after a very exciting afternoons swimming. The Gala was held early on, in order to find any new swimming talent ill the Regiment. No new

talent was shown so we had to depend on last years winning team, which luckiyy was virtually intact



The Colonel Commandant, Lieut.General Sir John Mogg, presents the BAOR. Swimming Cup to 2/Lieutenant R. J. Rimmer

Our first hurdle was the Brigade Swimming Championships on the 30th June. The 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment were our main opponents, but they were disappointing on the day. We won every single event, establishing two new Brigade records on the way. A third record was also broken, but owing to a timekeeping error it could not be ratified. We won with 36 points to the 3rd Battation Royal Anglian Regiment 18 and the 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 7.

The 1st Division Championships followed on the 20th of July at Hohne, so we travelled down on the 18th and stayed with the 11th Hussars. During the morning heats we qualified easily for the Finals in every event. In the finals after lunch we won comfortably by a 20 points margin, winning four events but only gaining 3rd place in the backstroke. Numerous records, both Brigade and Divisional, were broken in a very encouraging performance by our team.

The B.A.O.R. championships on the 27th July were won as convincingly as the Divisional ones. Again we won four out of the five events, setting two new records. The 17th/21st Lancers provided us with our stiffest

opposition, and all the races were very exciting to watch. Soon after this we provided half of the B.A.O.R. team which defeated R.A.F. Germany at R.A.F. Laarbrucke.

On the 8th September the swimming team left for England for Army Championships which were to be held at Eltham a week later. Training facilities were more restricted than in Berlin, but we got used to the Eltham swimming pool and looked forward with some confidence to retaining our championship title.

Our 600 yard relay team could manage only 4th out of 6, so we were off to a bad start. Our best performances came in the breaststroke and freestyle relays, where we came 2nd to The Army Apprentices' School Carlisle, the eventual winners. Out of the five events we managed only two seconds, a third, a fourth and a fifth.

The Apprentices' School won with 53 points, 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment were second with 51 while we were third with 36. This was a disappointing result, but both A.A.S. Carlisle and 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment had very strong teams, the former managing to break two Army records. The 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment lost again by two points because we managed to beat them in the free-style relay, and were last heard mumbling something about "Those Green Jackets".

PLATOON BATTLE TESTS

As what we thought to be the last of the snow melted and disappeared but with the ground still iron hard with frost the annual Berlin Infantry Brigade battle tests began. Six rifle platoons from ourselves, the 3rd Anglians and 1st Inniskillings, set out on an exacting circuit carefully



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and tortuously laid in the forests which extend to the western perimeters of the city. It would be fair to say that in these tests all the most exacting tasks and problems it is possible to devise had been set for these rifle platoons.

The support, assault pioneer, and recce platoons of each battalion were also thoroughly tested but compared to the rifle platoons they had a less arduous time.

Training for these tests had started in November and as the weather became colder the training had become more intensive. Discussions on tactics and strategy had dominated talk, but at the same time every one had pretended that they really were not concerned about the result. In fact of course the opposite was the case and although everyone had groaned a little as they climbed into the trucks to begin yet another days training in the snowy woods and in the cold winds straight from Siberia, they knew what the stakes were and the prestige involved.

Owing to the various duties in Berlin rifle platoons are rarely together for long periods. However during the training for the tests morale and cohesion improved in platoons as their members began to live, train and work hard together, perhaps for the first time in weeks. It was very satisfactory for all ranks to measure their progress and feel that they were becoming fully effective again. This hard preliminary training proved of inestimable value to the battalion.

The winter was hard even for Berlin with daylight temperatures averaging between -50 and -8°C sometimes dropping at night to around

-16°C , O~F. In these conditions checks had to be made regularly for frostbite. Fingers stuck to metal and

engine blocks had to be watched to ensure that they did not freeze. Shaving in the morning became difficult because all water froze solid and could not be heated as the burners were in a similar condition. In fact the tests themselves although vigorous were something of an anticlimax. The mock battle tests devised by companies in preparation for the real thing turned out to be harder in most cases than these thought up by the devious master mind hidden somewhere, deep in the bosom of Brigade Headquarters. When they ended all felt ready for whatever might be in store for them.

As a general outline for the exercise the picture was painted of Berlin, tense in the face of large scale enemy attack. Small but well equipped bands of infiltration troops were established in the forests carrying out harassing raids on installations, ambushing roads and tracks, and generally trying to disorganize the rear areas of the defending brigade. The participating platoons were to mount foot patrols against these bands and were routed through the likely enemy areas.

The test started with a thorough inspection of each platoon and its administrative vehicle. This completed they set out into the first of the three nights they were to spend out. In the days that followed they were constantly ambushed on the march, taken off tasks half completed, and thrown into new situations in new areas, crossed rivers, patrolled at night, dug in, defended, attacked, set up road blocks, cleared villages, searched woods, and in their turn ambushed lonely forest tracks for long cold hours.

There was only one unfortunate, and several amusing incidents in the tests. Peter Chamberlin, who with his platoon later were to win

the competition, was ordered to make an assault crossing of the Tegelsee, a stretch of water, nearly a mile wide, in the Northern French Sector. One of the sapper boatmen in his enthusiasm opened the throttle too wide and drove the bow of his heavily laden assault boat deep into the murky waves. The icy water poured in and the section, realizing there were no women and children present, prepared to save themselves. This they did with some efficiency and clinging chilled to the upturned boat and inconvenienced by their equipment, they waited patiently to be picked up. As they clung they exchanged gentle banter with their erstwhile helmsman. All would have been well had not the sappers with their usual panache dragged the boat shorewards, still upturned, and subsequently up the bank. This resulted in the sections weapons secured to the sides of the boat with slings being dragged, submerged, first in water then in mud until the boat came to rest. Inevitably some were torn off and sank into the mud. However, the majority of the equipment was saved and the assault crossing successfully made even though the rescued were still in their wet and fast freezing clothes. Again, another platoon, not one of ours, engulfed in C.S. gas stopped in mid attack twenty-five yards from the enemy. They stopped, calmly applied their respirators and resumed the assault with renewed vigour. On the final inspection a judge was about to give a platoon a few minus points because their radio was not working. It was tactfully pointed out that he had the mouthpiece to his ear. On the last night the Berlin winter returned. Platoons moving back to their hides having completed their ambush, crept under their ponchos and awoke three hours later to find that their camouflage had been immensely improved by four inches of



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mensely improved by four inches of snow that had fallen in that time.

The final results were very satisfactory for the Battalion. We took first place for Rifle Platoons—Peter Chamberlin—Assault Pioneers—David Roberts—Reconnaissance platoons—Nigel Bennett—and for our anti tank crews the winning detachment commanded by Cpl. Newman of “C” Company. The mortar sections were placed second. The results were close. The rifle platoons from the Royal Anglian Regiment had high placings and were a close second in the remainder. They won the mortar competition easily. However the aggregate found us at the top, by a small margin, and it was felt that the time had come for a loosening of web belts. We had won the battle tests in our first year, the first battalion to have done so since they began eight years ago.

SERGEANTS MESS

The year started off rather gloomily for many mess members as the Battalion was unlucky enough to be drawn as Berlin Infantry Brigade, Duty Battalion for the Christmas period, and it is known that some of our members saw the star in the East from such places as Spandau Prison, the Military Train and from Brigade Headquarters as they carried out their various guards and duties. But 1st January saw the end of all this and we settled down to celebrate Christmas in earnest. We held a Christmas draw and social which was organised by the Sergeants Mess members of the Battalion Band under the leadership of Mr. Hayes and even if one was unlucky one ended the evening by leaving the Mess with two or three bottles of spirits to add to the stock left over from Christmas. About this time Berlin was covered in a three foot blanket of snow and several

members were seen in Sgt. French’s reception centre on a Monday morning receiving treatment for strained muscles after undertaking the local sledge runs with their children the previous weekend.

On 16th February we welcomed the Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Sir John Mogg, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. on his first official visit to the Battalion since his appointment and on the evening of this day we had a Mess Dinner in his honour. It is hoped that he enjoyed himself as much as we did having him. The only regret was that he could not be in Berlin to see the final of the Platoon Battle Tests when the Battalion won the Rifle Platoon Shield, The Assault Pioneer Platoon and Recce Platoon Shields. We congratulate the Platoon Sergeants of these platoons.

At the beginning of May we said goodbye to R.S.M. Hornblower who left the Sergeants Mess on his promotion and appointment as M.T. Officer and in his place we welcomed back R.S.M. Kempster from leave, which it is rumoured he took at the Depot!

On 15th June we started a week of Waterloo Celebrations which culminated in a Sergeants Mess Ball held in the Mess. It was said later that anyone who was missing from the Berlin Infantry Brigade was in our Mess that evening. We are still wondering ourselves how we managed to fit three hundred people in the Mess. The more stauncher members stayed to see dawn come over the East German Border and at approximately 0530 hours Sgt. Morgan, our Mess Caterer, turned grey when instead of twenty people sitting down to breakfast nearly ninety arrived, but we would like to congratulate him on receiving the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List.

We extend a hearty welcome to the following who have returned to the Mess from all parts of the world, and also those who have recently joined the Mess on promotion. C.S.M.s Neill, and Hughes, C/Sgt. Brown, Sgts. Darbyshire, Haydon, Johnson, Nicholls, Jones, Sayell, Cooke, Thomas, Sanders, Hedges, Carter, Gibson, Churnside and by no means last Bugle Major Burch who has joined us from the 2nd Battalion. At one stage it was rumoured that there had been a takeover bid from the Battalion Band because of the promotion of Sgts. Toulson, Gardner, Home, Mann. But at least we are now assured of music on any evening in the Mess. We welcome them also to the Mess on their promotion.

We say farewell and wish luck to the following members in their new jobs, R.Q.M.S. Lawless, C.S.M.s Haydon and Bateman, Bugle Major Chapman, Sgts. Knight, Varney, Brian Scott, Deem, Udy, Timberlake, Corbett, Bradbury and McNamara.

In the sporting field members are still talking about getting their knees brown playing football in the cricket season. One of the highlights of our Sunday summer football was when we were beaten by the local German team from Kladow, but all were well satisfied in the bar after the match. We are now well into the dart season and many wives are becoming “widows of the arrow”.

We hope that now R.Q.M.S. Lawless has left us, Sgt. Cooke will be able to get down to replacing some divots and re-turfing the miniature golf course.

CORPORALS’ CLUB

Only since our arrival in B.A.O.R. with its excellent availability of beer and spirits, have we had a regular mess open every night on a par with



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The Royal Green Jackets - The early years

with the Sergeants mess. Because of this the idea of a "local" for junior N.C.O.'s has taken a little time to catch on. Apart from liquor, Germany also has an abundance of cellars. Every barrack block has got the potential for a "Keller-Bar," and each company and department in the Battalion has established its own company club ranging from the opulence of Letter "C" Company's Come Inn club to the distinctive Soho atmosphere of the Bugle Section's Crypt Club. Having this amount of competition in the same street does not help, though most Corporal's Club regulars would agree that they are not really in the same class.

We started life in Berlin in the cellars beneath the N.A.A.F.I. in a converted bowling alley. It wanted nothing for atmosphere (which could only be cut by a pair of wire cutters on a Sunday morning after a Social) and had the convenience of the

N.A.A.F.I. above with its supplies of hot meals.

Unfortunately the Fire Inspector did not share the enthusiasm of the club members for the premises and we had to move. The place we moved to was depressing in the extreme. It was a room used by the Wife's club and was light, clean and airy. It took a month or two to generate the sort of atmosphere that we had in the old bowling alley and this was speeded along by the barman of the time, Cpl. Rakanace, who added a Strong Fijian flavour. Improvements have continued steadily the best being the acquisition of a solid oak bar from a mock British pub set up in Berlin for a trade fair.

Our darts team managed to distinguish itself last season under the leadership of the two Cpls Rowe. The "A" team won the Brigade League outright and the "B" team, realising the competition, played hard to come last, winning a four

foot wooden spoon.

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of Cpl. Cross who was killed in a road accident in August; he had just taken over the job of Club barman when the accident occurred.

team from Headquarter Company. Two teams of four firers were required for the S.M.G. match. Winners of this match was the first team of Letter "C" Company. Despite these individual successes Letter "B" Company emerged at the end as the winner of the inter company championship.

This report has been taken and edited from the Royal Green Chronicle for 1966. The full report can be read in the Green Machine for July 2002.

The Durbar 2002 Update

By the time you read this we will have received the first of hopefully a few updates on the Durbar 2002 at Poole in Dorset.

Colonel Richard Hill has already mentioned several key events that will hopefully take place.

Personalities such as Bernard Cornwall and Richard Todd are going to visit us

Field Marshall Lord Bramall will be taking the Salute on the First Sunday with Bernard Cornwall. The latter will be signing copies of his latest novel and hopefully Sharpe back numbers. Bring your copies. Richard Todd hopes to drop in one evening to invite you to reminisce. Also it is planned on Wednesday to have a themed evening with a Borneo flavour, so if you have your jungle hats then bring them



with you.

Entertainment

These will centre round the cabaret team with ideas of our own. A Feature will be The Green Jacket Film Festival featuring: "Warrior", "Last Night Another Soldier", "The Regiment", "East of Howard" and "Horse Guards." See next Bulletin. Wareham Golf Club will again bid you welcome.

Bar.

We are negotiating a Guest Bitter and a Happy Hour. See next Bulletin.

If you haven't already booked there is still time. Please contact either the editor or webmaster for further details.



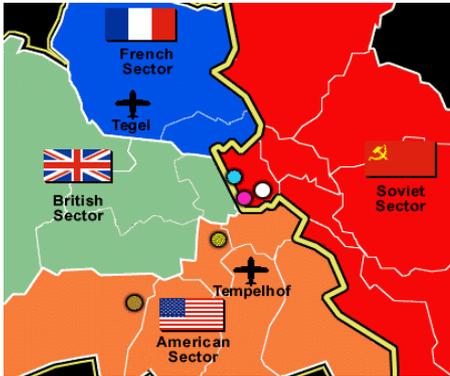
The Green Machine



The history of the Berlin Wall

The Cold War

Berlin truly epitomized the Cold War in Europe. This was where it all started with the blockade of 1948, and where 40 years on it all came to an end. Two dates, one dramatic, the other a joyful occasion, mark the high points; 13th August 1961, when the Wall went up ; 9th November 1989, when it came down.



The Berlin problem already lay between the lines of the Interallied documents drawn up at the end of the Second World War. Under the terms of the agreements of 1944-1945 signed by the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France, the defeated Germany was divided up into four occupation zones overseen by four commanders-in-chief, who together formed the Control Council. Based in the former capital of the Reich. Also divided up into four sectors headed by four military governors gathered in the Kommandatura, this partitioning left Berlin (883 km² / 340 sq. mi.) stranded in the midst of the Soviet zone, 180 kilometres (110 mi.) from the border with the western zones. This geopolitical situation became difficult to handle once Interallied relations began to deteriorate.

Operation "Wall of China"

The 1958 crisis

From 27th November 1958, ten years after the blockade, Berlin was the scene of another international crisis when Nikita Khrushchev issued an ultimatum to the three western powers, giving them six months to turn West Berlin into a " demilitarized free city ", failing which he would sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany. This ultimatum marked the start of a long crisis which came to a head and to an end with the building of the Wall. Talks on Berlin between the Soviets and the West, first in Geneva (May-August 1959), then in Paris (May 1960) and finally in Vienna (June 1961), failed to produce results.

Meanwhile, tension continued to rise around Berlin, as refugees continued to flock out of East Germany, destabilizing the regime. Ulbricht repeatedly asked Khrushchev for permission to take radical steps. At the meeting of Communist Party heads in Moscow on 5th August, he finally got what he wanted – closure of the border between East and West Berlin. Two days later, Khrushchev announced in a radio broadcast that this " handy escape route " via West Berlin absolutely had to be closed. This disturbing news instilled " fear of the closing door " among would-be escapees, and a further upsurge in the number of refugees – over four thousand on 12th August alone!

Operation " Wall of China " was secretly decided on by Ulbricht and planned by Honecker. It actually began at around 4 p.m. on 12th August, when Ulbricht signed the orders to close the border and sent them on to Honecker. In preparation for this operation, 40 kilometres (25 mi.) of barbed wire and thousands of posts were stored in barracks. The police and workers' militias set up in the wake of the June 1953 riots were mobilized. The Interior Ministry announced that East

German citizens would now need a " special authorization " to enter West Berlin. At midnight, the security services were put on the alert; East Berlin was covered by army units (NVA); 25 000 armed militiamen and the People's Police (Vopos) armed with kalachnikovs were posted at six-foot intervals along the demarcation line. On 13th August 1961, a holiday Sunday, at 1.11 in the morning, the official East German press agency announced that the Warsaw Pact countries had asked the East German government to set up " effective controls " in and around Berlin. Within an hour, 67 of the 81 crossing points were sealed off, soon followed by another seven. All traffic was stopped between East Germany and West Berlin. The underground and the S-Bahn linking the two sections of the city were no longer in operation. Under the watchful eye of the police and the army, barbed wire and wire entanglements were placed across access points to West Berlin.



Roads were dug up and barricades erected. Within a matter of hours, the entire border around West Berlin was under control.

Access to West Berlin was now barred to East Berliners and East Germans; then on 23rd August, it became impossible for West Berliners to visit the East without a residence permit.

The Wall System



The Green Machine



The history of the Berlin Wall

To prevent getting out

Contrary to the claim of East German propaganda, the Wall was not an " antifascist wall of protection " intended to avoid aggression from the West. It was entirely for domestic use, being designed not to stop people getting in but to prevent them getting out. In this way, on 21st June 1963, the East German Defence Minister issued a decree setting up a 30 to 100 metre wide border zone around West Berlin where residents were subjected to strict controls. This zone was placed under close surveillance and anyone entering it required a special authorization or face a heavy penalty. Also, the automatic firing systems were on the eastern side as well; they were dismantled in 1984, in exchange for two substantial loans granted to East Germany by the federal government.

As time passed, the Wall was gradually perfected and became more and more impassible. Altogether it was overhauled four times over. To begin with, it was made up of 12 kilometres (7.5 mi.) of concrete slabs and 137 kilometres (86 mi.) of barbed wire, covered from 116 watch towers, including 32 along the East-West Berlin border. After October 1964, it was gradually strengthened, doubled up and transformed into a " modern border " which took on its final appearance from around 1979-1980.



The Wall cut through 192 streets

(97 between East and West Berlin and 95 between West Berlin and East Germany), 32 railway lines, 8 S-Bahn and 4 underground lines, 3 autobahns and several rivers and lakes. On the waterways, the Wall consisted of submerged railings under constant surveillance from patrol boats.

The Wall was an anomaly that gave rise to a number of peculiarities.

As it was mostly built a little back from the sector demarcation line, in places like Tiergarten, Kreuzberg and the south of the city, there was a sign to indicate exactly where the border was. In this way, anyone approaching the Wall from the west found themselves " on the other side " and were in danger of being arrested by East German guards coming through iron gates in the Wall.

The Wall cut off the small Berlin exclave of Steinstücken, located in East Germany but part of the American sector. This exclave received supplies and protection from US forces until a road was built in 1971. A similar situation was to be found at Eiskeller, an exclave in the British sector

In the shadow of the Wall

In its shadow

The people of Berlin, especially West Berlin, ended up resigning themselves to viewing the Wall as a part of their city landscape and their mental outlook. Its main effect was to deepen the divide as each part of the city went its own different way.

Cut off from its natural hinterland, West Berlin lost over 340 000 inhabitants in the period from 1961 to 1983 and only survived with federal aid. To make up for the population shortfall, the city called in immigrant labour, including from Turkey (131 000), Yugoslavia (35 000), and Po-

land (22 000). The Wall transformed the localities bordering it. Access from the west to buildings, parks, churches and cemeteries in the East were bricked up. Houses were abandoned, left derelict and, as in Kreuzberg, squatted. These Wall neighbourhoods encouraged the emergence in the West of an alternative society in favour of self-management, community living, and an anti-bourgeois culture.

By completely integrating East Germany behind the Wall, East Berlin could at last stake its claim as a true capital city. The historic centre was either rebuilt as it had been (Nikolaiviertel) or endowed with socialist buildings (Palace of the Republic, TV tower, Alexanderplatz).

During the first ten years of the Wall, Berlin went through periods of tension followed by periods of relaxed tension.

The first anniversary was marked in the West by violent demonstrations which lasted several days, with angry crowds attacking Soviet vehicles.



In December 1963, the Senate finally came to an agreement over passes with the East German authorities, enabling hundreds of thousands of West Berliners to visit friends or relatives over Christmas and the New Year. This agreement was renewed until 1966. After that, special permits were issued for family occasions (a birth, marriage, illness or death). In the East, as



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The history of the Berlin Wall

from November 1964, retired persons were allowed to visit relatives in West Germany. They account for most of the 383 181 East Germans who were allowed out of East Germany between 1961 and 1988.

In December 1964, East Germany introduced a compulsory currency exchange for visitors from West Germany and West Berlin. And in June 1968, travellers between West Germany and West Berlin were required to carry a passport and a visa they had to pay for, and this led to long queues at the checkpoints at Dreilinden and Helmstedt.

When he became chancellor, Willy Brandt introduced a new Eastern policy with the aim of reducing tension between the two Germanies. There followed a series of agreements which stabilized the situation in and around Berlin.

First, meeting in the former Control Council, the ambassadors of the four occupying powers signed an agreement on 3rd September 1971 whereby the USSR guaranteed access to West Berlin; in return the West accepted that West Berlin was not an integral part of West Germany. Two further agreements made directly with the Germans dealt with the details. The first, approved on 17th December 1971 by the two German governments, simplified crossing over between West Germany and West Berlin. The second was signed three days later by the Berlin Senate and East Germany and made things easier for West Berliners travelling east, where they could now stay for 30 (and later 45) days each year. After this, the number of journeys to and from Berlin rose sharply. A year later, on 21st December 1972, the two German states signed a " Basic Treaty " to normalize their relations and open the way at last to joining the UNO.

The Fall

The role of the USSR

The Wall fell as the combined result of both internal and external pressures. The evolution of the USSR played a crucial role in this process.

On his first official visit to West Germany in May 1989, Mikhail Gorbachev, whose ambition was to save his country from decline and ruin through an innovative policy based on restructuring (perestroïka) and openness (glasnost), informed Chancellor Kohl that the Brezhnev doctrine had been abandoned ; Moscow was no longer willing to use force to prevent democratic transformation of its satellite states. This was the kiss of death for East Germany in the short-term, for her very existence had no justification apart from ideology.

Immediately, on 2nd May, Hungary decided to pull down the iron curtain and on 11th September she opened up her border with Austria. These measures led Germans to pour out of East Germany. Others sought refuge in the West German embassies in Prague and Warsaw. Within six months, over 220 000 East Germans had passed over to the West.

Meanwhile, opposition groups (New Forum, Democracy Now, Democratic Renewal), wishing to change East Germany from within, grew up in the shelter of the churches and protested against the authorities in power in East Berlin.

In Leipzig, the Peace Prayers and Monday demonstrations drew more and more non violent protesters, despite brutal police intervention : 1 000 demonstrators on 4th September, 120 000 on 16th October, chanting political slogans : " Free elections ", " We are staying here ", " We are the People "...

On 7th October East Germany

celebrated its fortieth anniversary, but the celebrating turned into protest against the régime which made over 1 000 arrests. As guest of honour, Gorbachev was welcomed in front of the Palace of the Republic by demonstrators' pleas of " Gorbi, help us! ". He then announced that " whoever comes too late is punished by life " (Wer zu spät kommt, den bestraft das Leben). This warning was for the benefit of the SED leaders who immediately ousted Honecker, to be replaced on 18th October by the apparatchik Egon Krenz, in turn forced to resign, on 3rd December.

What is left

Official destruction of the Wall began on 13th June 1990 in the Bernauer Strasse. Demolition work was commenced by 300 East German border guards, and completed by 600 sappers of the Bundeswehr, equipped with 13 bulldozers, 55 excavators, 65 cranes and 175 lorries. The Wall between the two Berlins was completely razed on the following 30th November, with the exception of six segments kept to commemorate the event. The rest disappeared in November 1991. The concrete blocks were crushed and reused notably to make roads ; 250 sections were auctioned off for anything from DM 10,000 to DM 150,000.

Today, the Wall is barely visible, although where it stood has been marked out in downtown Berlin over a distance of 20 kilometres (12 mi.), with a red line or a double row of cobblestones. All that remains are a few vestiges here and there, kept as memorials. The people of Berlin were impatient to see the back of this painful scar. Which makes it so difficult for us to imagine now what it was like for a great metropolis to be split down the middle by an iron and concrete curtain.



The Green Machine



INTERIM MEETING 12 JUNE 2002 SUMMERY REPORT

The following report is a summery of the Association business discussed at an interim meeting held at Slade Park Barracks, Oxford on Wednesday 12th June 2002

The meeting opened at shortly after 1100 hrs with Lieutenant Colonel John Poole-Warren in the Chair. In addition to the new Chairman a welcome was also extended to Tony Newing who has now taken over as Secretary of the Association from Major (ret'd) Simon Poett now retired.

There was representation from most branches and our Secretary, Kevin Stevens and Membership Secretary, John Gard represented our own Internet branch.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed and passed.

2. Financing the Association

A discussion was opened regarding the financing of the Association. The following possible options were considered.

- a. The freezing of the present £10 fee for life membership
- b. The introduction of a £5 per year membership fee
- c. A suggestion that the amount allocated to the Association from the one days pay scheme should be increased from its present level of approximately 10% or less to a more realistic figure of 40%.
- d. The possibility of the Regiment taking over the financial responsibility and control of Swift and Bold which was costing the Association £5500 to produce and in excess of £4000 to distribute.

After some further discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would approach the Colonels Commandant with the idea of the Regiment

providing financial backing for Swift and Bold with production and editing still being done by the Association. This would effectively mean that Swift and Bold became a Regimental magazine. The Chairman also said that he would ask for the amount of the one day pay scheme allocated to the Association to be increased to a level that would allow it to help support the Association expenses.

3. The Enlarged Committee

The Chairman called for and received nominations for committee members to serve on the Enlarged Committee. This Committee would act to ensure the continued smooth running of the Association as a whole with committee members being made individually accountable for their own area of responsibility. The names of individuals concerned and their responsibilities will be published in the full Minutes.

4. The Association Online Database

The Chairman explained that a decision had been made to take the Regiment and with it the Association on to an Internet based database, which would involve the names and contact details of all members being stored on a secure firewall protected server. He went on to say that he understood some members were concerned about the security aspects of this course of action and asked if any of those present would like to voice their concerns.

The Association Webmaster, Ken Ambrose, said that he would voice the concerns that he had. He went on to explain that although the risks to members was small he was concerned that the placing of members personal details, linked to the Regiment on the Internet, was a threat to the personal security of members and their families. He said that

firewalls were no protection and if someone wanted to access the information, they would. He said that banks and financial institutions spent millions every year trying to protect their data and they were not successful.

The Regimental Secretary, Colonel Peter Chamberlin, replied to the expressed concerns by firstly stating what the needs of the Regiment were in regard to the database and its ability to run the Regiment centrally. He said that the security precautions were more than adequate to protect members. However, any member who was not happy that his personal data should be on the database was entitled to withdraw that information under the terms of the Data Protection Act.

Some discussion went on as to the implications of the proposals. Ken Ambrose restated that his concerns were expressed with the interests of Association members in mind and that it must be a matter for individuals as to whether they allowed their personal details to be entered. A vote was then taken as to whether the Association should become part of the database on line or not. The majority of those present voted that the Association should become part of the database and the motion was carried.

5. The Association Web Site

The Webmaster gave a brief summery of the events that have occurred to the web site and Green Machine since the last meeting. He then gave a detailed handout to all members present as seen below.

Introduction

The site has now been operating for a little over 3 years and has surpassed all predictions in regard to visitor rate and achievements. The number of pages has remained around the 650 level but there has



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INTERIM MEETING 12 JUNE 2002 SUMMERY REPORT

been a steady increase in the number of photographs since the last meeting. In addition the development of the Green Machine on line and the Archive Section of the Green Machine downloadable version has done a tremendous amount to swell the number of serving and ex-serving members who use the site. For this very popular innovation we have to thank the efforts of Keith and Kevin Stevens who as Editors of the Green Machine and my Deputy Webmasters now have full site editing capabilities.

(Since the meeting Keith has stepped down and John Gard has taken over as second Deputy Webmaster)

Aims

Our continued joint aims are:

To provide all members within the Regiment and other units with which it has alliances, with the means to contact old friends and make new ones.

To provide all members with current summery information on what is happening within the Regiment via the Green Machine and the Web Site.

To render what assistance and support we can to the Regiment to promote its events and functions.

Development and Changes

The Web Site Team are continually seeking ways to improve the facilities and security on the site and Green Machine. The most recent updates have included;

1. A complete re-write of the Green Machine on-line version using DreamWeaver technology. This has increased the ability of the on-line Green Machine to keep pace with modern web design techniques and has in general produced a slicker and more profes-

sional looking E-zine.

2. A fairly recent spate of email address list miss-use and virus spreading has created a need to tighten the security arrangements affecting addresses displayed on the site. Although it is still possible to make contact with any one or more of the 700 people who have elected to have their address posted to the Contacts Page on the site, under the revised system any resulting initial mail message now passes through a filter address and is screened by a Web Site Team member in regard to the sender and any potential viruses and only then passed on to the intended recipient.

Future innovations will include;

3. Re-write of the whole site in DreamWeaver format. This in the process of being done at the moment. It is not possible to say when it will be completed because of the large amount of work involved and the time that may be taken up by other site issues.

4. Major sections of the new site will be taken up with enhanced displays for all of the former regiments. Editing rights will be allocated if required

5. At some yet to be determined time we will be changing Internet Service Provider. The present company, Ision, has let us down badly on a number of occasions and the price paid for their service is becoming excessive when compared to other ISPs willing to provide the same or better facilities for less money.

6. The photograph section on the site is at present housed on a free remote server and although this has done a reasonable job the sheer number of photographs is causing a slow connection and increased time waiting for pictures to

materialise. The photographs will move to another paid for remote server that will give better performance.

Internet Supported Regimental Events and Departments

1 The Museum Shop stock and price list (approx. 160 items) is displayed and will be updated with the newly designed site. It is also periodically advertised in the on line and hard copy of the Green Machine.

2. The 2002 Durbar detail is fully displayed and includes an on line downloadable booking form. More information will be published as and when available.

3. The Regimental Account detail has now been on display for several weeks and will continue to feature heavily on the site and in the Green Machine.

4. The 'last out first in' promotion was on display until quite recently but had to be removed when it became apparent that the take up rate was low. We are assured that the event will be taking place again next year and we hope that the site will play its part in promoting the 2003 tour.

5. Information on the 13 July Association Reunion is posted to the site complete with links to accommodation resources within the Winchester area.

6. Likewise is the Oxford November reunion and that also has Accommodation links posted

Internet Linked Branches

As most of you will be aware I also represent the interests of the overseas branches and as such I can give you the following information in regard to them.

Australia – The Australian branch has enjoyed a remarkable turn of



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success and in addition to gaining over 50 members they recently acquired a branch President who is General Andrew Pringle. Their other claim to fame being that they represented the Regiment on the Anzac day parade in Perth this year. This was a first for us but Chris McDonald assures me that it will certainly not be their last appearance. They also now produce their own local copy of the Green Machine. The one fly in the ointment within all this success was the exorbitant price most of the branch members had to pay for their Green berets which they wore on the parade. As most of you will know there are two main companies who supply berets in the UK and as one was sold out the other was asking £30 per item. As the wearing of berets by Association members is now becoming the rule rather than the exception would it be possible to acquire berets at cost for the Association via the Regiment?

Canada – The Canadian branch has not been so fortunate and has retained only low numbers within its membership. The reason for this has been that Arthur Jenkinson who was the driving force behind the branch has had to take a back seat due to ill health and no one has been prepared to step into his shoes with the same level of commitment. As a result of this it is likely that the Canadian branch will merge with the USA branch to become the North American Branch of the RGJ Association. This has not yet happened but it is very likely that it will.

The USA branch is progressing slowly but surely under Jon Tate. The build up of members has been very slow despite repeated adverts in many of the countrywide veterans publications the returns have remained comparatively small in terms of new members. Jon also produces a local version of the

Green Machine. He is keen to promote the merger between the USA and Canadian branches since he will provide the missing leadership and they will increase his members list.

Germany has also been a slow starter, which has surprised everyone given the number of tours the Regiment has completed there and since the number of retired Green Jackets who have settled in that part of the world must therefore be considerable. However Tony Wakeford, now seems to think that he may have made some contacts that will lead to an increase in branch members. Tony, as some will know, is not very mobile and relies upon friends and his computer to spread the word.

Web Site Traffic

The amount of traffic that visits the site varies upon the time of the week and month. At the busiest period we are talking in the region of 500 counter hits per day. At weekends when the site is very quiet the number of hits does not usually go above 100. Please remember that these are people who pass through the counter on the entrance to the site and that these figures do not include those who bookmark and go straight to their favourite page.

It is for these people that we have a secondary and more accurate system, which counts the page hits as opposed to just site entry via the Homepage.

This counter is supplied free of charge by our ISP who emails me the results every 24 hours. These more accurate figures tell us that even during slack periods over 4000 pages per day are being looked at. During the busy periods this figure will raise to over 8000 pages per day. Every single day emails arrives and within it are the

IP (identity Protocol) addresses of people who have used the site, what pages they visited, what time they arrived and left!

Things you can do to Help

To support the Web Site and help the Web Site Team.

1. Send us regular branch reports and Newsletters
2. Encourage your branch members who are on line to register their email address on the site so that they can remain in touch with their friends.
3. Ask your people to send in their photographs
4. Finally remind your members to inform us if they change their email address. We have a list of about 60 people who have forgotten to do so and we have therefore lost contact with them.
6. RGJ Direct

Colonel Richard Hill gave a brief outline of RGJ Direct in which he explained that the company was created to exploit any business opportunities that would provide a service to Regimental and Association members and at the same make money for the Regiment.

Before a business plan could be written it was necessary to define exactly what the potential client base within the Regiment was. Once the number of potential customers was determined the business plan could be written and from that viability could be accessed.

Further general discussion took place on the RGJ credit card and its viability when compared to other cards that are available.

7. The Winchester Reunion July 13

The programme for the Reunion was discussed and the following points were made.



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- a. The general format of the Reunion would be the same as last year.
- b. As many people as possible were asked to take part in the Association March Past. Markers would be provided for 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 RGJ
- c. Those who had them were asked to wear berets and bring their medals.
- d. All bars will close half an hour before the parade and Retreat begin
- e. A number of bands would be present. These were the Lt Div Band, the Waterloo Band and the Borneo Band.
- f. A request was made for local newspapers to cover the day.
- g. Timings in detail were in Swift and Bold, the Green Machine and on the web site.
- h. A number of collection buckets would be available.

8. Regimental Diaries and Christmas Cards

Concern was expressed by some that the Association was running out of Christmas Cards very early and it was agreed that the order for cards would be increased.

Regimental diaries were another cause for concern in that there appeared to be a wide variation in the price being charged for them. It was agreed that the matter would be investigated. Concern was also expressed that the diaries were not becoming available early enough. It was requested that from October onwards was the best time for diaries to be sold.

9. The 2002 Durbar

Colonel Richard Hill gave the meeting a brief on the 2002 Durbar and the following are points to note.

- a. The number of bookings was 25

- up on the same time last year.
- b. The format for the week remained basically the same with the opening parade and curry lunch on Sunday.
- c. Bernard Cornwall, the author of the Sharpe novels, was expected to attend that Sunday and do a signing on copies of his books.
- d. Richard Todd, the actor was also expected to visit during the week but this was yet to be confirmed.
- e. During the week there would be a showing of all the TV documentary programmes made about the Regiment including 'Last Night Another Soldier', 'The Regiment', 'The Warrior Series', 'Horse Guards' and for Borneo veterans a documentary called 'East of Howard' featuring 2RGJ. Orders for these films could be made at the Durbar, bearing in mind that the more orders received the cheaper they would be. The order form would also be available on the Association web site for those who could not attend the Durbar for whatever reason.
- f. As a side attraction anyone attending who had film footage of any campaign that they had fought in was encouraged to bring it along for viewing.
- g. The Kent branch were also running a prize draw
- h. A question was asked regarding a change of venue for the Durbar so that persons coming from the extreme north of England did not have so far to travel. Colonel Hill said that this was being looked into.
- I Another visitor would be a member of the British Legion who would tell us

about the changes taking place within the Legion and answer any queries that

people might have.

10. Battalion Liaison with the Association.

RSM's 1st and 2nd Battalions expressed concern that although liaison between the battalions and Association branches took place it seemed to be a one way street at the moment. Newsletters were being sent to the branches but it was rare for the branches to return a newsletter of their own.

Some discussion took place regarding the recruiting of members to Association branches and the system operating to ensure that branches pick up persons leaving the Regiment. Also the need to get greater liaison between all regimental agencies and the passing of items of news interest to Association members via the Internet.

There being no further business the meeting closed shortly before 1.30pm



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Volume 2 Issue 7

July 2002

The Virus Page

KLEZ

KLEZ, unfortunately is still with us.

Statistics of virus reports are always delayed as they have to be collected from all over the world and then compiled, but at the end of May, 25.2% of infections worldwide were Klez variants and another 22.8% were our old "friend" Badtrans. It follows that we should always check emails before opening them, or their attachments. If the email has two attachments, be especially careful. A suggestion: cut and paste the list of Klez-generated subject headings and random words from last month's virus notes into an MS Word file. Print it out and keep it near your machine while checking your emails. This type of virus relies on the fact that people, especially those that either get very few emails (and become excited like a young Rifleman on a first date!) or those that receive a large number of emails (and have limited time) do not take simple precautions.

Another simple preventative action is never to directly run an email attachment sent in the form of an executable file (.exe). If you must keep the file, ALWAYS download it without opening (to a floppy disk or zip disk rather than your hard drive, if possible), and then virus-check it. Some email providers (e.g. Yahoo) allow you to virus check an attachment before you download. I once watched a student download a "Message Mate" from a website onto a College machine one evening and run it immediately. I had a premonition, and as soon as he left, I took the Dr. Solomons "Magic Bullet" Disk (Solomons was the system that we were using at the time) and ran a check. The machine (which I knew was clean beforehand) was now riddled with CIH/Chernobyl. Every .exe file on the hard drive

had been infected with the virus in less than 5 minutes. Fortunately when I saw the young man first thing next morning to warn him, he hadn't run the program on his machine at home!

A new, FREE service on Green Machine!

Some of you may have already noticed that as from last month, the hyperlink for Panda Software's Virus Scanner appears at the bottom of the index page of the Green Machine. This should run successfully on most new-ish computers, providing they have "Active-X" installed. The Panda server takes charge of your computer for a few minutes and runs a complete virus scan. The advantage of this type of service (other companies such as McAfee have them as well) is that the scanner virus reference files are updated DAILY.

Write your own virus!

OK, I'm NOT being serious! This is an exercise that I used to give my students to check the accuracy of their typing – if you get it wrong, it won't work. You can simply copy-and-paste the text rather than try reading it off a whiteboard! EICAR (The European Institute for Computer Anti-virus Research) put together a test string of symbols that ought to be recognised by all commercial anti-virus software. The scanning program should react as if it is a genuine virus, but then identifies it as a test file, and may alter the file suffix. Open NOTEPAD and type (or paste in) the following string:

```
X5O!P%@AP[4PZX54(P^7CC)7}
$EICAR-STANDARD-ANTIVIRUS-
TEST-FILE!$H+H*
```

Note that the O is a capital letter and not a zero. Now save it to a 3½" floppy disk, naming the file EICAR.COM. (If you are running an

active internal anti-virus system such as the Sophos InterCheck, your computer may not let you save this file unless you switch this feature off temporarily!) Submitting the disk for virus checking in the normal way should start all the bells and whistles going!

The Latest Viruses:

I have just had a look at the June issue of the Sophos anti-virus CD. In the on-disk documentation, Sophos list the previously unknown viruses that they have added to the identification software since May. There are 206 new viruses identified and named. Of these, 45 are Trojans – apparently innocent programs which when run on your computer have a hidden purpose (play a silly tune, flash an advert, rename files on your hard drive on a set date, etc.) and another 23 are VBS types – Visual Basic Programs often camouflaged as graphics (e.g. Rhubarb.jpg.vbs), making use of the fact that your browser doesn't display the file suffix. As I've pointed out before, the .jpg part is not the actual end of the file name, but this alone is displayed, making you think you have a harmless picture to download. The commercial anti-virus researcher centres have not issued any specific warnings over the last week or so. I think they have their hands full finding a broader answer to Klez, and most of the latest viruses are of limited distribution at present; however, I thought it might be interesting to highlight a couple of the new batch of nasties:

AM97/Tox-A (also Tox-B, Tox-C)
Also known as Detox

This is a rather unusual (and very rare) macro virus that only attacks Microsoft Access files. Macros are mini-programs which operate inside big applications like Word, Excel or Access to carry out a series of actions with minimal key-presses.



The Green Machine



The Virus Page

This particular virus might arrive as an Access database file emailed as an attachment, or loaned on a disk. Once your machine has opened an infected file, the virus tries to hide itself by turning off the "Show Hidden Objects" option, and removes the Tools/Options command. It copies itself into the Startup directory of Windows so that it is activated every time the computer is powered up. It seems to do very little otherwise, and is extremely rare, so you are unlikely to come across this virus. It reminds me of Sofa, another rare virus, which infects MS Excel files. All Sofa does is change the heading of Excel on the screen to read "Microsofa Excel"!



VBS.Chick-C

This seems to have originated in Chile, and is also known as VBS.Breetnee.C. If this virus is activated, it opens as an HTML help file, with the following message:

Permite Active X para ver el Nuevo video de SHAKIRA

Kuasanagui inc.

Gratis Nuevo video de SHAKIRA !!!!

This is followed by a series of message windows. Each new message appears when you click OK on its predecessor. While this is going on, VBS.Breetnee.C copies itself to the Windows folder, then tries to email itself to the first address in the Outlook address book, with the subject:

¡Nuevo video de SHAKIRA!

The message encourages you (in Spanish) to open the attached

video of SHAKIRA, and thus infect your machine. It will also distribute itself through IRC channels if you use that messaging service.



As Keith added to my very first Virus Page:

If in doubt, delete it out!

Robin Atter

robinatter@yahoo.com

The Last Post



Once more a month comes to an end and I have to start looking at next month already.

June has been an interesting month what with my brother standing down from the editorship of the on-line edition and my taking it over at a moments notice. Still such is life I suppose.

Several people have already pointed out to me that some pictures are missing from the on-line edition, I will try and correct that in the next week or so however I expect to have completely rebuilt the

Green Machine almost from scratch by the time the August edition hits the website. This will a rather sharp learning curve as I come to grips with the programme it is built in.

I would like to thank all those people who have so generously given their time and effort to make the Green Machine what it is today. Very soon we will be celebrating our first anniversary and without their support we would never have got this far. I very much look forward to continuing the good work Keith started.

July sees the annual reunion in Winchester. If it is anything like as good as last years it will be worth the effort going. Many people come from miles away for the night, I believe we will have people coming from as far away as Australia

this year. Let's hope for good weather again. Last year was a little on the chilly side as I recall.

Enough from me this month then. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the Green Machine my email address can be found on the website.

Until next month then

Kind regards to you all

Kevin

Editor Green Machine

Website Team