



# Riflemen's News

The Royal Green Jackets

1st June 2002

Issue No: 10

## MESSAGE FROM THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL COMMANDANT

*As usual this newsletter is designed to inform those members of the Regiment who are serving at 'E' postings, or away from battalions, of major activities taking place over the next six months, until the end of the year. The only 'past' event I will therefore mention is the final Light Division Passing Out Parade at ATR Winchester which took place in May. For some this might raise the question of where now is the Home of the Regiment.*

*I am perfectly clear that Winchester remains very much our home and we remain strongly represented there, in particular in a Light Division context which is one of our great strengths. We have the Band, the Chapel, the Recruiting Team and of course RHQ and the Museum in Peninsula Barracks. The very sound reasons for moving recruit training from Winchester does not affect our traditional centre of gravity. (There will be 17 Light Division instructors based at the ATR training non-infantry recruits).*

*As you read this the Association Reunion on 13 July at ATR Winchester, bigger and better than ever, will be upon us, followed shortly by the second Regimental Durbar at Sanford Park, near Poole, Dorset from 12 - 19 October. Both these events merit your support, particularly as they both represent excellent opportunities to keep in touch with all parts of the family which is the Regiment. I look forward to seeing you at both events.*

*I particularly commend to you our Regimental website, which can be found at [www.royalgreenjackets.co.uk](http://www.royalgreenjackets.co.uk) It is proving an excellent means of communicating with Riflemen all around the world.*

## NEWS OF THE FUTURE

### 1 RGJ

*We have now completed our training as NIBAT 3 and are fully prepared to support 39 Infantry Brigade in maintaining law and order in the paramilitary hot spots of North Belfast.*

*Training concentrated on public order operations, designed to control the lethal inter-sectarian violence frequently seen on recent news broadcasts. While I Company provided surveillance overwatch for the urban training package, the rifle companies manoeuvred against rioting crowds in the training*

*area's streets and alleyways under a constant barrage of simulated missiles and petrol bombs. Rural operations were also practised to prepare companies for potential reinforcement of the other Northern Ireland brigades. Finally, some confirmatory live firing took place on some of the Army's most sophisticated*

ranges. On completion of the training package, and as the marching season approaches in Northern Ireland, the Battalion was declared fit for operations and has since deployed to fill its operational role. For the next six months or so a large element of the Battalion will be forward-based with companies returning for periods of R&R, adventurous training and some NIBAT 3 continuation training.

On completion of the NIBAT 3 tour, the Battalion will depart on a period of post operational tour leave before returning to its conventional role as a Light Battalion. This role will employ training in jungle warfare and the foundation for a multi-skilled organisation that will continue to develop a mountain operations cadre, making use of both the newly opened climbing wall at Weeton Barracks and our proximity to the Lake District and the Welsh Mountains. The high point of the field training will be Exercise GRAND PRIX, which takes place in Kenya from late February to early April 2003. 1 RGJ will deploy with the full range of engineer and artillery support to a country that provides some of the most diverse and challenging terrain available for training. The exercise will include training in jungle warfare on the slopes of Mount Kenya and live firing tactical training in spectacular areas of the African bush. There will also be opportunities to view big game and experience the thrill of an African safari, not to mention adventurous training opportunities on the shores of

the Indian Ocean and the Rift Valley.

With the mix of public order operations in Belfast and preparations for a challenging exercise in Kenya, 1 RGJ has an active and rewarding period ahead of it.

## 2 RGJ

*Much has happened since the last issue of Riflemen's News with 2 RGJ. The Battalion led by Lt Col Henry Worsley MBE has successfully Arms Plotted from Alanbrook Barracks, Paderborn to Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster.*

*It has now assumed the role of Land Warfare Centre Battle Group, a job much like that of the Old Infantry Demonstration Battalion which some readers will remember the original 2 RGJ doing in the late 80's.*

*The role is an increasingly busy one, and the pressures on the Battalion will be considerable, we have over 500 exercise commitments in this first year ranging from very small to very large, combined exercises like TESEX and Exercise PHANTOM BUGLE on Salisbury Plain. The Battalion is also the only permanently formed Battle Group in the British Army, with A Squadron 1 RTR, and a close support group from the Royal Engineers both based at Harman Lines close to Battlesbury, and with shared usage of the Officers and Sergeants Mess.*

*Much work remains to be*

*done to put the barracks into good working order, and to streamline our procedures for working on the Plain. In the meantime accustomed as we are to the dreary clouds of Northern Germany, we are all pleased to be back in fine, sunny weather in Warminster, and in pleasant surroundings even if the accommodation is a bit cramped. Congratulations too from all of us to Lt Col Worsley, Capt Richard Streatfeild (Ops Offr) on the award of QVCS and also Capt Rod Gray for his Joint Commanders Commendation for the last Bosnia Tour.*

## LONDONS (RGJ)

*F (RGJ) Coy are happy to report that we are at our full establishment with fresh recruits turning up at Davies Street on a weekly basis.*

*The second platoon is up and running under the command of Lt Clive Burstow who rejoined the Bn in February.*

*The major effort over the next six months will be ceremonial. On 4th June, Capt Mickey Blake, the MTO, will command 48 men of F and G Coys as the Light Divisions contingent in the Queen's Golden Jubilee Parade.*

*Both F and G Coy have the honour to have been selected to represent the TA at Remembrance at the Cenotaph in November. Capt James Shackleton, F Coy 2IC, will command a half guard of 30 soldiers.*

*We will turn out in force at Somerset House on 25th July*

for the rededication of the Civil Service Rifles War Memorial. The CSR were amalgamated with another of our antecedent Battalions, the Queen's Westminster Rifles in 1922. Following various force reductions over the years their present day incarnation is Mortar Platoon, F Coy. The event is being organised by the previous OC, Maj Tom Petersen.

On 27th July the OC will lead a RGJ battlefield pilgrimage to South Africa. His aim is to cover the ABW Natal battles where the RB/KRRC distinguished themselves and also to cover the Anglo/Zulu War engagements of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. A disciplined itinerary is planned (tackled in a relaxed Light Divisional way) of 4.5 days to cover the main Natal battles where they fought. This will be done with a skilled guide, giving us a couple of days for R&R at the end.

On the training front we look forward to a Bn defensive FTX at Sennybridge on 15/16 June, Annual Camp in Germany during 1-15 September, and a battlefield tour to the Somme on 29/29 Sept. Lt Burstow's platoon will produce the Regiments team for the Cambrian Patrol Competition in November, where we hope to emulate G Coy's achievement of a silver medal.

**G(RGJ) Company will undertake the following training during the second half of the year.**

During June we will take part in the Queens Golden Jubilee

Celebrations by providing soldiers to parade along The Mall. At the end of June we will be involved in the London Regiment Exercise **BIG MATCH 4**, followed in July by Company Adventure Training in Wales.

There have been numerous changes in the Company so far this year, which included saying farewell to Major **McEwing** and Captain **Blake** who have been replaced by Maj **Ladds** and Lt **Weatherley**. We have also been joined by Lt **Durrant**. Cpl **Neville** has been promoted Sgt and in June we say farewell to SPSI WO2 **Comer** who has worked hard for the Company for the past two years, and say hello to WO2 **Allen**, who replaces him. With all these changes the Company is looking forward to a challenging time.

## RRV (RGJ)

**After the trials and tribulations of TA Day and Exercise EXECUTIVE STRETCH A(RGJ) Coy are looking forward to getting down to some serious training in preparation for Exercise COSSACK EXPRESS in the Ukraine in September.**

This is to be a live firing exercise from individual to company level and has generated a lot of press interest across the RRV recruiting area enabling us to get six places on the Editors Abroad scheme run by 4 Div Media Ops. A series of live firing weekends in preparation for **COSSACK**

**EXPRESS** will provide more range time than we normally get, so the Riflemen are keen to take full advantage of this. Coupled with the military skills, we will have an opportunity to carry out a social project within the local community in the Ukraine. The G5 and diplomatic skills of Capt Terry **Roper** will be tested to the full.

Not all is work however, Lt **Xavier Griffin** is taking a team of junior ranks on a mountaineering exhibition to the Chamois Mountains in July and the build up training supported by CSgt **Tony Liggins** has been most enjoyable. The team hope to raise money for a local charity "See Saw" which helps children through the difficult time after a family bereavement.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations will be well supported by the Waterloo Band, and the Milan Platoon at High Wycombe will be playing a major role in the town's celebrations. This will strengthen our links within Buckinghamshire.

We continue with our recruiting efforts and link in with the RRT display team when they are in our area. In general we are doing well but as we all know recruiters can seldom relax. Interestingly, we have had a sudden influx from the Commonwealth Countries, ex members of the South African, Ghanaian and New Zealand Forces have applied to join us here at Slade Park. Such is the pulling power of our Regiment!

We continue to support the Regiment providing soldiers on full time reserve service. At

present we have 12 members of A (RGJ) Company on FTRS with a variety of units, the most recent was Rfn Humphries to 2 RGJ.

We congratulate WO2 Gaz Peacock on his efforts in the London Marathon. He recorded a time of just under 3 hours and raised money for a local school for handicapped children.

As always, A (RGJ) Company is ready for whatever lies ahead. SDR - New Chapter - watch this space!

E (RGJ) Company RRV have a very clear focus to our training over the next few months, preparation for deployment on the Bn OTX, Ex COSSACK EXPRESS 02. This is going to be a fantastic opportunity for us to train, and we intend to make the most of it.

Due to the constraints of the exercise A and E Coys will merge to form one large RGJ Coy Group comprising E Coy HQ, one rifle platoon each from Oxford and Milton Keynes, the MILAN Pl and the Mortar Pl.

Beat up training has already started and we have a progressive series of live firing battle exercises to complete at weekends from now until deployment at the end of August. The exercise in the Ukraine will involve Coy group level live firing, as well as a Bn FTX. We will also enjoy a "friendship day" with the Ukrainian Army, and also have a battlefield tour planned.

We said farewell to WO2 Baz Barry in May and Cpl Sam Brewer. New arrivals include

2Lt Giovanni Banks fresh from Liverpool UOTC and a significant number of new recruits to E Coy, largely the result of CSgt Andy Ansell's efforts on the recruiting front.

## ITC CATTERICK

The next six months will be a period of continued change for all of us at ITC Catterick. We are in the process of changing from Phase 2 to CIC Single courses.

This means, for those who have not yet heard, that infantry recruits will spend all of the 24 week training cycle at Catterick and finish as robust and well motivated soldiers ready for any undertaking that the battalion may require of them.

The Light Division training team with A Company (3 Platoon) have started to run their third CIC(S). Unfortunately the recruits are still of mixed cap badge. The Light Division Platoon with G Company (4 Platoon) are still pushing on with Phase 2 training, having picked up a platoon of Light Division trainees on 13 May. 4 Platoon then moved to Falaise Company helping to form the new Company. Their first CIC(S) course commences in September.

At the same time the other two Light Division training teams are with C and E Companies, C Company will move to CIC(S)

on 19th August, and E Company will start theirs shortly before the New Year.

While there are frustrations with not having purely Light Division recruits to train, ultimately the process of change at ITC is for the better. To have trainees under the instruction of the same Corporal throughout their 24 weeks of training can only improve the quality of output. Those fortunate to be trained in a Light Division training team will of course benefit accordingly.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

### Armed Forces Operational Awards List No 19

#### CBE

Brigadier NR Parker

#### QCVS

Brig JMJ Balfour CBE

Lt Col AEH Worsley MBE

Capt RG Streatfeild

#### Joint Commanders Commendation

Capt RV Gray

## 2003 RGJ POCKET DIARIES

Diaries will soon be available at £3 each. Send orders with payment to RGJ Association, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester SO23 8TS.