THE KING’S ROYAL HUSSARS JOURNAL

VOLUME 7

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As I write this Foreword at my desk in a Macedonian Army Camp, some 50 kilometres south of the FYROM/FRY border, I reflect on my somewhat rash prediction in the Association Newsletter that 1999 would be a little quieter than previous years. As you know, the KRH Battlegroup (A and Headquarters Squadrons, plus No1 Company Irish Guards, 88 Battery from 4 Regiment RA and 1 Field Squadron from 21 Engineer Regiment) has been dispatched to Macedonia in order to be ready to implement a peace agreement in Kosovo. D Squadron, with the Irish Guards Battlegroup, stands by to follow once the word is given, and B Squadron continues to prepare for an operational tour to Bosnia in June-December. Hardly quiet. By the time you read this I hope that we will be in Kosovo - but nothing is predictable in the Balkans and I am reluctant to make any more predictions! Enough of 1999 though, I shall now look back on 1998.

1998 was another extremely busy, but rewarding year for the Regiment. Having returned from Bosnia in December, the focus shifted from peace support operations to our core skill, warfighting. We returned to the fold with 4th Armoured Brigade and prepared ourselves for an intensive Training Year which would see all 4 battlegroups in the Brigade, and 4 out of 5 squadrons from KRH, go to Canada for a Medicine Man exercise. The year would end with a Brigade exercise in Poland. Although most of the Regiment spent about 20 weeks out of barracks during the year, we managed to squeeze a few other activities into the programme - some sport and adventure training, a few courses and the odd party - more details later.

In January, after our post-Bosnia leave, the battlegroup formed up. A Company, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who had given us outstanding support in Bosnia were to stay with us for the year, and joined A, D and Headquarters Squadrons to provide the core element of the KRH Battlegroup. Meanwhile C Squadron provided support to the Micks (1st Battalion Irish Guards) and B Squadron kept the home fires burning, providing support, often at very short notice, to the deployable elements of the Regiment.

Before Easter, we concentrated on getting the basics right with a series of study days, TEWTs, low level individual and troop training sessions, a Regimental CPX plus a couple of procedural exercises. Shortly afterwards we deployed for eight days live firing at Hohne before heading East to Poland for our pre-BATUS training and Brigade Test Exercise. Much was learnt in a fairly short period and the team returned feeling quietly confident and ready for BATUS.

In early June we set off for Canada. The Medicine Man exercise is now an excellent package which puts all elements of the battlegroup through its paces in both live and simulated firing environments. The performance of the team is subject to intense scrutiny, and pressure is carefully applied at all levels. It is an excellent exercise, which provides a true test for an armoured battlegroup. I am delighted to report that the team performed extremely well and KRH was the only battlegroup amongst the 4 in 4th Armoured Brigade to achieve Collective Performance Level 5 (the highest level) during 1998.

We returned to Poland in late September. This time we deployed as part of 4th Armoured Brigade in a Joint Rapid Reaction Force context (useful practice for the events of early 1999!). It was the first time that KRH had taken part in a Brigade Formation Training Exercise and it allowed us to experience the advantages (and some of the frictions) of working alongside the other battlegroups. On our return from Poland we assumed the role of Lead Armoured Battlegroup, at 6 days notice to move, and remained on standby until ordered to deploy in support of Operation Agricola in late February 1999.

While the KRH Battlegroup were in Poland, C Squadron was in Canada with the Micks on Exercise Medicine Man 6. They had a very successful but rather colder exercise than A and D Squadrons.
The final event on the calendar was the provision of support to the annual International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School exercise in Southern Germany. It was the second time that KRH have been tasked to send a Hunter Force down to Bavaria, and the team of 65 had a great couple of weeks chasing students from various nations across vast tracts of Bavarian countryside.

Adventure training, despite the pace of life, has been an important aspect of the year. Many of the soldiers have managed to get involved in a number of diverse and highly successful expeditions. The Regimental Alpine Skiing Team attended the RAC Alpine Ski Meet in Verbier and progressed to the Divisional Championships in France, from which Lt Rogers and Tpr Hudson (the latter in his first year on skis) qualified for the Army Championships. Concurrently, forty soldiers attended the Basic Winter Training exercise in Bavaria, where they took part in alpine and Nordic skiing, as well as ski touring. We had another successful sailing year, with the Regiment competing in the RAC Regattas at Kiel and Seaview, and Captain Tom Holloway and Lt Chris MacGregor raced for the Army during Cowes Week. After Ex Medicine Man 3, many soldiers took part in a four week adventure training camp in the Rocky Mountains, where they were involved in parachuting, rock climbing, mountaineering and white water kayaking. The year culminated in Squadron level expeditions; C and D Squadrons went to Bavaria, whilst A Squadron sponsored a highly successful trekking expedition to the Annapurna circuit in Nepal.

There was also a little time for some sport although, perhaps inevitably, it was given a slightly lower priority. Nonetheless, every effort was made to compete for the inter-squadron challenge cups. The D'Arcy Hall Cup (Summer) was won convincingly by HQ Squadron while the Old Comrades Cup (Winter) was decided by the Cross Country Race and A Squadron made off with the silver. The Brocklehurst Trophy (boxing) produced an outstanding night of fights; all the boxers showed great skill and courage with D Squadron emerging as the victors. Football has quickly re-established itself as the Regiment’s most popular game with about 60 registered players. As a result, in the local Premier League West, the Regimental A Team was top of the league at the end of the year.

The Rugby Football squad has also had some success; the XV reached the semi-finals of the Army Cup in Germany and were also at the quarter-final stage of the Cavalry Cup before weather interrupted the season. The 7s team were runners-up in the British Army (Germany) competition and reached the semi-finals of the Army Cup at Aldershot. Polo was played most weekends; the major Regimental event was the Munster Polo Weekend in which a good mix of local German and British Army teams took part.

1998 saw a number of changes in key Regimental appointments. I took over from Adrian Bradshaw in early August and was privileged to present him with his Regimental Medal for his outstanding tour as CO. The other Regimental Medal recipient this year was Major Nick Berchem, the Operations Officer, who has since handed over to Captain Tom Mallinson. In February, we said farewell to the EME, Captain Steve Nevin, who moved to 3 Battalion REME as Adjutant and handed over to Captain Rob Dornton-Duff. Padre Robert Burt left for the School of Infantry and we welcomed the new Padre Captain Neil Allison. A Squadron became an altogether quieter place for a short time as Jonny Palmer was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and handed over the Squadron to Major Richard Hannay. The quiet serenity was shattered when the SSMs changed over; WO2 (Tank) Smith was promoted to WO1 and appointed RSM, and WO2 (London) Smith came in as SSM. We welcomed Guy Lister into the Officers’ Mess on promotion from RSM. He took over as Careers and Training Officer from Captain Steve Penkethman who was posted to the Army Training Regiment in Winchester. B and C Squadrons also saw changes at the top. Major Chris Reynolds left at the start of the year to manipulate our careers from his new office in Glasgow having handed over B Squadron to Major Steven Arrowsmith. Major Alistair Todd relinquished command of C Squadron at the end of the year, handing the reins on to Major Toby Bridge who started his tour at Regimental Duty with a spell instructing at the Jamaican Staff College.

Manpower remains an area of concern and much effort continues to be devoted to retaining our soldiers and recruiting new blood. At the start of 1998 we were 23 under strength; the figure is now 20. As a consequence it has been necessary to hold B Squadron at minimum manpower throughout 1998 and now that we have 4 squadrons involved in, or preparing for, an operational tour, I have had to close down C Squadron (as from mid January 1999). We move back to a Type 58 Establishment on our return to Tidworth in early 2000, so manpower will continue to focus our attention for the foreseeable future. The bottom line is that we need an additional 45 soldiers between now and April 2000 if we are to be fully manned by the time we start to convert to Challenger 2 and the Type 58 Establishment. It will be my main effort for the next 12 months.

So things seem to have gone full circle since the last Journal. Back from the Balkans at the end of 1997, a full year of warfighting training, and now back to the Balkans for another peacekeeping tour. What is clear though, looking back over the last twelve months, is that the Regiment has had another extremely successful year. It has been challenging, if a little hectic at times but ultimately very rewarding. The Regiment is in good heart and looks forward to 1999 with renewed confidence.

JJP
## 1998 - DIARY OF MAJOR EVENTS

### JANUARY

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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 - 25</td>
<td>Post-Bosnia leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 24</td>
<td>4 Armd Bde Battlefield Tour - Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>DRAC’s Conference - Windsor</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>4 Armd Bde Study Day</td>
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### FEBRUARY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Adopt new Type 50 ORBAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 - 13</td>
<td>Ex Rhino Charge - 1 (UK) Armd Div CPX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 14</td>
<td>Biennial Stock Check</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 - 28</td>
<td>Vehicle handback programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Officer’s Mess Egyptian Night - Annual Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 - 6</td>
<td>ATD training - Sennelager</td>
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### MARCH

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 - 6</td>
<td>DFWES cadres and cascade training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Brocklehurst Trophy Inter-Sqn Boxing Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 - 21</td>
<td>BATUS Activation - B Sqn</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 - 14</td>
<td>MM3 Study Day, Dinner and TEWT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>JNCO Promotion Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - 20</td>
<td>D Sqn Tp Trg on DTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 19</td>
<td>Initial Visit of Col of the Regt</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>BFT OPEVAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 - 27</td>
<td>PO Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 - 27</td>
<td>Ex Muddy Hawk - Regt CPX</td>
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<td>24 - 26</td>
<td>SPS MFP Inspection</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Visit of DRAC</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>TECHEVAL</td>
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<td>30 - 3</td>
<td>MM3 CAST</td>
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### APRIL

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 - 14</td>
<td>Easter Leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 13</td>
<td>Visit to HMS Beaver - B Sqn</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Farewell Visit of Comd 4 Armd Bde</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>PRE Monitor Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
<td>MM3 Simmet</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Medicina Ball - Corporals Mess</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Visit of GOC 1 (UK) Armd Div</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Visit of Chief JSLO</td>
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### MAY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 - 15</td>
<td>MM3 Ranges - Bergen-Hohne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Initial Visit of Comd 4 Armd Bde</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 - 14</td>
<td>C Sqn Tp Training - DTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 31</td>
<td>Ex Prairie Eagle - Poland</td>
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### JUNE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 - 5</td>
<td>Visit of Salters Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 - 14</td>
<td>Pre-BATUS leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 - 14</td>
<td>KRH Polo Tournament - Dorbaum</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 31</td>
<td>MM3 BATUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 - 26</td>
<td>B Sqn exchange training to Jutland</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 - 3</td>
<td>C Sqn pre-BATUS work-up training - STC</td>
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### JULY

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<tr>
<td>6 - 18</td>
<td>C Sqn Ranges - Bergen-Hohne</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Visit of CGS - BATUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 3</td>
<td>KAPE Tour - B Sqn</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 - 31</td>
<td>C Sqn CAST</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 - 5</td>
<td>CCP Visit</td>
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### AUGUST

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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CO’s Handover</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 30</td>
<td>Summer Leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 - 4</td>
<td>C Sqn Simmet</td>
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<td>31 - 4</td>
<td>PO Visit</td>
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### SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
<td>7 - 14</td>
<td>4 Armd Bde CAST</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 18</td>
<td>C Sqn live-firing training - STC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 17</td>
<td>RAC Regatta - Kiel</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4 Armd Bde Study Day</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>KRH Fun Day</td>
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<td>17 - 10</td>
<td>Ex Ulan Eagle - Poland</td>
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<td>28 - 7</td>
<td>C Sqn - MM6 BATUS</td>
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### OCTOBER

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<tr>
<td>11 - 3</td>
<td>Ex Gandaki Diamond - Adventure Training Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>RSM’s Handover</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Children’s Halloween Party</td>
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### NOVEMBER

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Münster Remembrance Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 21</td>
<td>BATUS Deactivation - C Sqn</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4 Armd Bde Remembrance Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 20</td>
<td>Recruit Firing - Bergen-Hohne</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 20</td>
<td>Exchange visit from Jutland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dragoons - B Sqn</td>
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1998 has been a punishing yet triumphant year for The King’s Royal Hussars. Unlike last year when the greater part of our endeavour was with another Bde (7 Armd), this year saw us back in the fold within the 4 Armd Bde. It was the Bde’s Training Year, when each constituent regiment sent a Battle Group (BG) to Canada on a Medicine Man exercise.

The procession of months has witnessed a rising tempo of training activities which culminated with a Bde FTX in Poland in September/October. At the outset of the Training Year, someone somewhere had done some thinking about the composition of the KRH BG for 1998, and for once had come up with a perfectly sensible solution. In a remarkable flash of inspiration, we were to retain our affiliation with A Coy 2 RRF who had supported us so loyally in Bosnia the previous year. So the principal components of the KRH BG (2, 1) were to be as follows:

**KRH**
- BG HQ
- Recce Tp
- A Sqn
- D Sqn
- A1 Echelon
- A2 Echelon

**2 RRF**
- A Company

**4 Regiment, Royal Artillery**
- 88 (Arracan) Battery

**21 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers**
- 26 Armd Engineer Sqn

It was in this format that we deployed on our various training tasks, culminating at BG level with a deployment to BATUS on Exercise Medicine Man 3.

As for the remainder, C Sqn was to become the armoured element of the Irish Guards’ BG, and deployed to BATUS on a very cold but successful Exercise Medicine Man 6. Meanwhile, B Sqn kept the home fires burning, providing support in terms of men and material, often at short notice, to the deployable elements of the Regiment.

Within a 35 week period of the training year, BG HQ and Comd Tp have spent the better part of 20 weeks deployed into the field or on training, whilst the sub-units have spent slightly less than 17 weeks deployed. Despite the heavy training schedule, the pace has been measured, progressive, challenging and above all, fun.

Before Easter, we concentrated on the conceptual components of fighting power with a host of study days, TEWTS, low-level individual and tp training, a Regimental CPX, and further procedural training at BBGT (now re-named Combined Arms Simulation Training - CAST). After Easter we fought more procedural battles in cyber-space using the American Simulation Network (Simnet) system in Grafenwohr, Bavaria. Then it was on to the development of the phys-
ical components of fighting power - turning live rounds into empty cases during Annual Firing at Hohne, and getting some track mileage under our belts in an FTX in Poland against a ‘free-thinking’ Opposing Force (OPFOR) provided by 1 RHF. These deployments gave us the opportunity of thundering about the countryside in our tanks which proved to be most satisfying.

Having got ourselves to Hohne for the Ranges, our training activities moved further East, with the BG deploying down an 800 km corridor to exercise in Poland. With little time for Squadron level training, the programme moved rapidly into BG training and ended with a 3 day Bde Comd’s Test Exercise - all of this against a ‘live’ enemy using the Army’s new Direct Fire Weapons Effect Simulation (DFWES) equipment strapped to our tanks. Having confirmed our procedural aspects, and sharpened our technical skills, the deployment to Poland allowed us to develop our essential war fighting skills. This is where it got deep and dirty, with each man and each vehicle fitted with a low-powered laser projector and receiver which allows ‘live’ engagements and ‘kills’ to be recorded. If you got it right, you lived to tell the tale, whilst if you got it wrong - it was back to the re-generation area to sit out the current battle and await the next.

After a brief spell of leave in early June, we packed boxes and flew off to BATUS. The formula in BATUS has evolved smoothly over the years into a 22-day live firing and DFWES package which is challenging, demanding and great fun. Every single aspect of the BG’s activity from the receipt of the Warning Order through to the conclusion of that particular battle is closely examined, assessed and scored. It is fair to report the KRH BG were the highest scoring BG to have visited BATUS this year, and were the only BG to have achieved a Collective Performance Level 5 within 4 Armd Bde.

Our second and final visit to Poland this year took place in late September/early October. This time it was in a Bde context, culminating in a Div test exercise. Whilst the pace of the exercise was noticeably slower than had been previously encountered, it did allow us to experience a variety of different training tasks such as the use of the Army’s new Amphibious Ferry, the M3 Rig, in obstacle crossings, and flying Recce Tp vehicles as under-slung loads on a Chinook, as well as operating in a truly Bde context with other BGs.

Woven into the fabric of the Training Year has been a host of other activities ranging from Regimental Open Days; leave; visits; courses; vehicle handovers; countless inspections and Opevals; exchange training in Denmark; adventure training in the Rockies, Bavaria and Nepal; a battlefield tour to Egypt; a Polo Tournament; a singularly successful Officers’ Mess Dance at the beginning of the year; and finally the organisation of the premier Anglo-German event of the year: the British Military Music Show held in the Halle Münsterland in December.

On the sporting front, we have met with mixed success. Although we participated in a wide variety of sports, we did not win any major competitions. This was mainly due to the disruption caused to the sporting calendar by our training commitments. Although disappointing for our sportsmen, there remains a very rich seam at RD waiting to be tapped in 1999 when, with a less crowded programme, we will have the time to devote to acquiring large chunks of silver on the sports field.

Suffice to say that 1998 has seen us thoroughly challenged and tested yet not found wanting, and wholly enriched by all that we have done. All ranks can draw great credit for the achievements that have been delivered, and we look forward to 1999 with great confidence tinged with anticipation for the Arms Plot move to Tidworth.

C H D D
HONOURS AND AWARDS

FOR SERVICE ON OPERATIONS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Order of the British Empire

Lieutenant Colonel AJ Bradshaw

Queens Commendation for Valuable Service

Major HRDJ Joynson

Joint Commander’s Commendation

Staff Sergeant LE Lewis
Corporal SG Thorngate

GOC Multinational Division (South West) Commendation

Padre RM Burt RAChD
Corporal Hewart RLC

REGIMENTAL MEDALS

Citation No 184

Lieutenant Colonel A J Bradshaw OBE

Lieutenant Colonel A J Bradshaw OBE is awarded the Regimental Medal for his outstanding contribution to the military efficiency and good name of The King’s Royal Hussars during his tenure as Commanding Officer from July 1996 to August 1998.

He assumed command whilst the Regiment was deployed as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) in BATUS, Canada where, due to his outstanding leadership and tactical acumen, the Regiment earned the highest possible reputation for its robust professionalism under arduous tactical conditions. The OPFOR consistently attracted the highest praise for the excellence of its performance and the training medium that it delivered to the visiting battle groups.
Subsequently, he commanded The King's Royal Hussars Battlegroup during an operational deployment to the Former Yugoslavia from June to December 1997. Despite the complete change in role and order of battle to meet this new deployment, Lieutenant Colonel Bradshaw continued to provide clear, concise and unequivocal leadership. Faced with the full spectrum of tasks from peacekeeping through peace building to peace enforcement, his considerable imagination and intuition ensured that the Battlegroup were always in the best possible position to deal with the volatile situation which was not always particularly well defined. In a multi-national context, he ensured that the Regiment enjoyed the full confidence of the chain of command to the very highest of levels including that personally of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. It was during this time that he was awarded the OBE.

On return from Bosnia, he once again managed change in the Regimental order of battle in order to meet a new role that of preparing for Warfighting operations. His leadership of the Battlegroup during training and whilst in BATUS as the exercising force, consistently attracted nothing but the highest of praise from the chain of command. By the end of this time, it would be true to say that there was not a soldier under his command who was not fiercely proud of the achievements that he had delivered.

For his unparalleled leadership and contribution to the military efficiency and good name of The King's Royal Hussars, Lieutenant Colonel Bradshaw is awarded the Regimental Medal.

Awarded and presented at Münster
August 1998

Citation No 185

Captain N P F Berchem

Captain N P F Berchem is awarded the Regimental Medal for his outstanding contribution to the military efficiency and good name of The King's Royal Hussars during his tenure as Operations Officer between March 1997 and August 1998.

During this busy period, The King's Royal Hussars Battlegroup has prepared for and deployed on Peacekeeping operations in the Former Yugoslavia. Latterly it has embarked on a period of training in Warfighting operations which has culminated in an enjoyable and successful deployment to BATUS, Canada. As the Operations Officer, Captain Berchem has demonstrated remarkable expertise in his field. His personal contribution to the success of both ventures cannot be underestimated. He has consistently attracted nothing but the highest of praise from not only those within the Battlegroup, but also from the chain of command. His exceptional professionalism has shown the Regiment in the best possible light whilst on operations and in training.

For his outstanding contribution to the military efficiency and good name of The King's Royal Hussars, Captain Berchem is awarded the Regimental Medal.

Awarded and presented at Münster
August 1998
A
fter a safe return from Bosnia, a hard-fought
Brocklehurst Trophy, a cold and muddy Regimental
Cross Country race, and some well earned Christmas
leave, the Sqn steeled itself for another busy year.
Having spent the majority of 1997 attached to an
infantry BG in Bosnia, it was with bated breath that we
awaited our first exposure to the Irish Guards (1IG) with
whom we would be training to go to Canada at the end
of the year.

A change in the Sqn hierarchy meant that the beginning
of the year saw Maj Todd with no 2IC and no Tp Ldrs.
Capt Mallinson was being educated at the Junior
Division of the Staff College, Lt Cotton was playing polo
in New Zealand, and Lts Biddulph and d’Apice were
still being taught their trade on the Tp Ldrs course.
WO2 Winchcombe had moved upstairs to HQ Sqn, mak-
ing way for WO2 Simpson to return fresh from his EFP2
course, with SSgt Richardson thanking his lucky stars
that he had managed to get all the Sqn’s kit back from
Bosnia, and firmly ensconcing himself in the SQMS
department. In addition, both Sgt Evans and Sgt
Caulfield had yet to arrive from Lulworth and
Bovington, leaving Sgt Whittaker and a handful of
JNCOs to run the tank park.

The first main task for the Sqn was to handover the 24
CVR(T)s that we had brought back from Bosnia. A
series of CO’s inspections took place before the vehicles
were sent back to a variety of regiments in extremely
good order. Having got rid of them, we then had to take
over 12 tanks from D Sqn so that we could start our
training as a tank Sqn after a fairly long break from
them. At the same time, several lucky soldiers were
already paying their first visit of the year to Canada
where they were making up part of the BATUS
Activation party. The rest of the Sqn were heavily
involved in ATD training and tackling the myriad of
jobs that were required to get the tanks up to a high
enough standard to be able to brave the route from York
Barracks to the Dorbaum. A series of low-level Tp train-
ing exercises followed in May with the theme being very
much ‘back to basics’ as many of the new crewmen had
not been on exercise in a tank before, and Bosnia had
undoubtedly caused an element of tank skill-fade. It also
gave the Tp Ldrs their first chance to exercise their Tps
albeit in a limited fashion, the Dorbaum still not being
big enough to swing a cat on.

With the first period of summer block leave looming in
June, the emphasis changed to training with 1IG and
starting our gunnery training. With the majority of the
drivers away on leave the remainder of the tank crews
turned their attention to the GTS and preparations for
the Hohne range period. At the same time, vehicle
cmdrs spent four or five days in Oxford Bks at a series of
study days. The Sqn Ldr, when explaining to the
‘Micks’ what happens at H-Hour, decided to borrow a
phrase from a Kevin Costner film and told the assembled
1IG BG to “let the big dog eat”!! This phrase seems to
have stuck and the Big Dog continues to provide no end
of entertainment to the BG.

July saw what is universally acknowledged within the
Sqn to have been one of the more ‘testing’ gunnery camps
of recent years. Having been prepared for long hazy sum-
mer days on the ranges, we were met with almost solid
rain for two weeks. The initial hurdle of CABF proved to
be the least of our worries with all the tanks sailing
through easily and with six brand new gunners the Sqn
was then set up for two weeks of exciting gunnery. Mid-
way through the first week, with the rain teeming down
causings the Germans to shut the ranges for safety reasons,
we had our first hint that things weren’t going to go as
smoothly as usual. By the end of the first week we had
lost more than a complete day’s firing due to the fact that
the rain was so heavy that we could no longer see the arc
markers either with TOGS or the Mk1 Eyeball. This left
us slightly behind when we took on the Annual Crew Test
(Act) at the beginning of the second week. A combina-
tion of various delays and the fact that a couple of crews
decided that they enjoyed the ACT so much that they
wanted to do it more than once (or twice!), meant that we
had to go almost straight in to the Annual Tp Tests (ATT). The high point of the Gunnery Camp was the last day when all four Tps sailed through the ATT with flying colours and 2 Tp pulling a Level 6 out of the bag, and 1 Tp a Level 5 with only two tanks! Although it was ultimately an enjoyable gunnery period, the effects of some incredibly unseasonable weather and some annoying equipment problems meant that everyone had to work just a little harder than normal!

The next event on the calendar was a four day trip to Sennelager for the Command and Staff Trainer which provided a useful wake-up call for SHQ before the majority of the Sqn took their block leave in August. On return to work, it was straight down to Grafenwohr to tackle the vagaries of navigating around the virtual battlefield of Simnet. After the first couple of days being blissfully lost in cyberspace, the crew cmdrs started to gain some useful training and as the only sqn in the BG were credited with the majority of the enemy vehicles killed. Some other useful training was carried out at the bowling alley where the offrs managed to show the rest how ten-pin bowling should be done! The following week, we moved half the Sqn's tanks up to Sennelager for a two-week package with the BG, concentrating mainly on small arms shooting and low level tactical training. One of the most useful phases of this training was the DEFWES phase where we had tp against tp trying to kill each other off. In the absence of any other opportunity to exercise on a large enough training area to practise our procedures, it was very useful to learn the lessons that TES brings in preparation for BATUS. It soon became apparent however that some of the equipment was not working as well as it should have been when Lt Biddulph continually ended up as the last tank left alive. When the Sqn Ldr stepped in as his operator in an ‘every tank for himself’ phase and still won, the rest of the Sqn decided that there was very definitely something wrong with the kit! The second week saw some live firing Sqn/Coy Gp attacks designed to introduce 1IG to the idea of firing with tanks. What it also achieved, however, was the idea of the infantry firing at the tanks and Sgt Evans came the closest he’s ever been to an operational tour when one of the dismounts fired 56 rounds into the back of his tank, setting off a fire extinguisher and creating a pretty pattern on the callsign board.

Next stop was Ex MM6 in Canada with everyone fervently hoping that the “hardest winter in Canadian history” would wait until the exercise was over. In the event, the Sqn enjoyed a very dry and generally not too cold exercise although the temperature dipped down to a rather chilly -12C on a couple of occasions. Working with an infantry BG proved slightly slower than we were used to but the days were still very full and at the end of Ex Totalise, the Sqn breathed a sigh of relief as the first snows started to hit the Prairie and the permafrost set in. A successful exercise all round with lots of good lessons learned and more importantly everyone coming home more or less in one piece for a well-earned Christmas break.

In summary this year has been one of the busiest training years for the Sqn that anyone can remember, with most people spending what amounts to four months on exercise of some kind and the rest providing the guard force for the camp as the KRH BG has been away in Poland and Canada. The end of the year saw Maj Todd leave to go to Staff College and Capt Mallinson take over in RHQ as Ops Offr, while SSM Simpson heads off to teach the Americans a thing or two about Gunnery and SSgt Richardson steps up as B Sqn SSM for the forthcoming Bosnia tour. The Sqn has retained its inimitable sense of humour and it is fair to say that the Big Dog has certainly eaten! Roll on 1999!

1st TROOP

The early months of 1998 saw the Tp (all three of them!) handing back CVR(T)s from Bosnia and taking over a CR1 Tp in its entirety. Manpower was scarce which meant that Sqn work teams replaced any hope of a normal Tp way of life. The Tp only truly formed up in Mar/Apr, with Lt Cotton leading – after disappearing to New Zealand for a couple of months over Christmas to play polo! – and Sgt Evans eventually arriving in April after two years in Lulworth. He made up for lost time and set about sorting out the Tp, which had masses of potential and displayed this continually throughout the training year.

The first shakeout for us was a 48 hr exercise on the Dorbaum where a lot of basic field skills were practised and standards were set. Tpr Lee demonstrated how not to exit the drivers cab quickly after entering a hide, by taking 8 mins to do his hair and adjust his webbing. ATD and gunnery training were soon upon us and instructors within the Tp again set high standards for the Sqn. Cpl Masters got to grips with being a Tp Cpl, whilst simultaneously being pulled in all directions to train the Sqn in First Aid, NBC and Small Arms Handling.

Annual firing at Hohne was a great success with all crews passing the ACT (eventually in the case of c/s 12!). The next hurdle was the Tp Test. We achieved a level 5 essentially with two tanks, after c/s 11 blew up when attempting to leave bound one. Simnet passed smoothly, and more easily than in the past for many, with no messages from the BG net sent in code! Our bowling skills were second to none. Tpr Mitty could not attend as he was getting a nose job done.
The only field training we had prior to Ex MM6 was conducted at Sennelager. The Tp jumped at the chance to provide intimate support for 1IG live firing. Our part was executed superbly (albeit in 3 Tps tanks) with perfect direction from the Tp Ldr to the Coy Comds as to how an assault should go. Unfortunately the last attack saw over 50 rounds of small arms fire pour into the rear of c/s 31, with killing bursts shattering the cupola sights and a grouping on the c/s indicator board to make anyone proud. Sgt Evans soon found room for two in the gunner’s station.

BATUS came around before we knew it, and it was clear that the Tp had got it together. All phases of the exercise were dealt with well, and the Tp was almost always given the task of intimate support. LCpl Jones demonstrated his cooking skills with fantastic omelettes feeding most in range of the cooker. Tpr Helm attempted an impression of one of the Village People with a dodgy moustache. The Tp Ldr also claimed to be growing one but it had still not been positively identified by D+23. First Aid was practised; including resuscitation - glad to have you back Cpl Bradley - and helicopter Casevac after Cpl Davis attempted to hold up the breech ring with his ribs. Tpr Hall had some good shooting, but with a former SI sat behind him “Stop!... my shoot” was a common cry.

The end of the year brings with it the usual changes, for many the movement being onwards and upwards. Cpl Davis secured his place on a Recce Comds Course. He will be joined in Recce Tp by Tpr Lloyd who passed the Recce cadre. Cpl Bradley is preparing for a move to the Air Corps and Lt Cotton has become 2IC. Good luck to one and all in their appointments for 99.

JBC & GJE

2nd TROOP

Like the rest of the Sqn, 2 Tp have had a busy and progressive year. The first exercise, on the Dorbaum saw all the vehicles damaged in the first 45 minutes, but improved from there. Ranges saw some dangerous targets disguised as bushes destroyed by c/s 20. Sgt Espie was a great help in stepping in to command c/s 22, and c/s 21 under Sgt Whittaker did very well to win the highest individual score, upsetting the Sqn Gnr Instr in the process. The Tp came together well for the Tp shoot achieving a level six.

Simnet in Grafenwohr saw some impressive line dancing in the Gettysburg and many cyber heroics, as well as some virtual navigational embarrassment. It also marked the welcome arrival of Cpl Jagger who completed the Tp. September saw the Tp in Sennelager with the 1IG. We managed to avoid being shot by the Warriors and carried out some useful TES training. This was our final preparation before Ex MM6.

Although most of the Tp had been to Canada several times before, the majority were new to their respective crew positions. The newer members of the Tp were pleasantly surprised by the weather
and that navigation was not always the nightmare that we had supposed. We were as plagued as the other Tps throughout by the tiredness of the vehicles, so much so that it was rare to ever have all three tanks on a mission. This had nothing to do with the fact that whichever tank the Tp Ldr jumped on would inevitably soon break down.

The Tp was lucky with its lack of injuries, though Tpr Harper needed a rest halfway through the exercise. Luckily all the operators came through unscathed leaving them to compare culinary expertise: Cpl Bland with his chips, Cpl Bellman with his omelettes and LCpl Caldwell with his cigarettes and coffee. Finally “endex” was called, Parkas were chiselled off and the hard work of handing the vehicles back in began. Time off, however, was found for a quick Tp visit to sample the delights of Medicine Hat before returning home for a well-deserved Christmas break.

The year was also busy on the courses front with Tpr Hadfield seeming to spend most of his life sailing and Cpl Bland putting in hard hours on the golf course, which no doubt helped him to gain his well deserved promotion. Congratulations must also go to Cpl Jagger for the birth of a son, and a potential future Hussar!

MAP d’A

3rd TROOP

3 Tp has spent the year covering itself with glory. We shot straight, we defeated the ‘cyber-warriors’, and we didn’t get lost on the Prairie!

The year was started somewhat quietly. Many of the Tp were away, the tanks were rather disinclined to work, Sgt (then Cpl) Rodmell was still on crutches. As we moved on, life became louder; a new Tp Ldr arrived and others returned from various establishments. Sgt Caulfield was released from the Signals School at Bovington, Tprs Briscoe and Keenan returned from the BATUS Activation Party. There were also some who had less far to travel, such as Cpl Wilson coming across from SHQ and Tpr Shores who managed to escape from MT. Throughout, the ‘Big Dogs’ were evolving from poodles into rotweillers, in order to be ready to feast on the ranges in July.

Once on the ranges, the three gunners successfully fired their Initial Gunner Assessments, and from then on the Sqn was bedevilled with appalling weather and unreliable equipment. Our notable high points on the ranges were being the only Tp to have a 100% first time pass on the Annual Crew Test, being the first Tp to pass the Annual Tp Test and at the end we were awarded the prize of being the ‘Top Troup’.

After summer leave we fought the ‘Cyber-Battle’ of Simnet. This was the first time we teamed up en masse with our Irish Guards comrades, and it proved to be fairly entertaining. Having mastered the problems of virtual map reading and virtual gunnery, we were virtually a virtual force to be reckoned with. Sgt Rodmell managed to virtually shoot a ‘misplaced’ Pl Cmdr, who turned out to be an old school friend and University housemate of the Tp Ldr. The Pl Comd then took massive revenge by riddling Sgt Caulfield’s tank with bullets in Sennelager.

The Tp headed out to Canada in October, full of horror stories about the weather of Ex MM6 and ‘Sat Nav jamming’. We had a thoroughly successful exercise, with all members of the Tp excelling at one time or another. LCpl Benson was perhaps the most noticeable, when on hearing at endex “no pyrotechnics or blanks are to be fired” let off an entire magazine over the roof of 4 Armd
Bde Cmdr’s Landrover. LCpl Jackson fed the crew of c/s 32 on nothing but sweets and chewing gum, in order to feed his children on comp (according to Sgt Rodmell). Sgt Caulfield, the Signals SI, forgot how to decode grids in Batco and certainly demonstrated his lack of understanding of the order to “pull back to the remainder of the c/s”, by continually answering it with “unworkable, out!”. The Tp Ldr, whilst quietly moving his tank into a night OP, compromised the majority of the Sqn by parking in a weir, and thus requiring the CRAAV. Sgt Rodmell (and his entire crew) only turned up when they absolutely felt like it. Cpl Wilson wouldn’t allow the Tp Ldr and Tp Sgt to be alone together in a turret, unchaperoned, even when entertaining the safety staff (and discussing grades), in case his sterilised environment was tarnished. Overall, the Tp definitely achieved a high standard in Canada, and defeated an effort to have our Sat Navs jammed!

3 Tp has flourished throughout 1998, and we have all had a jolly time. Let’s see what happens next year!

**FITTER SECTION**

Following a much needed rest after Bosnia, the Fitter Sect started off the year by preparing for the hand-back of the CVR(T)s. This was done with much hard work: a credit to ourselves.

February saw the transformation of the Sqn back to CR1 (which meant refresher training for most people) and the Fitter Sect putting in long hours to turn these tired old nags into racecourse winners. Next was to see how well our newly equipped Sqn would perform on the Dorbaum. Within ten minutes 2 Tp were parked up alongside us undergoing repairs! All in all, the tanks held up well.

The Annual Firing Camp at Hohne followed and the CETs were put under the test. After a successful CABF, it was a difficult task to keep the tanks fully operational. However, foregoing sleep they kept their heads high, even training a few potential technicians in the process. Just as the workload was subsiding and a repair to c/s 10 was in progress, the turret was traversed and two TOGS cables were destroyed. Sgt Maycock saved the day by spending fifteen hours non-stop replacing these two expensive cables. He was rewarded with a posting to Colchester!

With Ex MM6 getting close we travelled to Sennelager under control of 1IG to undergo a live firing exercise. The Sect maintained a 100% serviceability record throughout, until the last day. The live firing exercise went to the extreme when c/s 31 came under direct fire from 7.62 and 5.56mm rounds. This event was brushed off with a carefree attitude by the Guards and showed their neglect for others’ property.

Finally came October and BATUS! The hand-over from the RDG BG was a joke but as usual we took on the massive workload to turn the donkeys into stallions, proving that C Sqn Fitters are dedicated to their job. The highlight of the exercise was the recovery task carried out on c/s 24D, or 24 ‘Dustbin’ as the crew called it. With a duff battery, wiring loom held together with electrical tape and a dodgy radio to contend with, a cry of “it’s sluggish in third gear” was heard. On closer examination it was found that the poor lorry had been travelling around on three wheels! This was soon rectified with the aid of the CRAAV.

Finally the hand-back to BATUS Workshop went well considering the tanks had been put through a hard year. In short the year proved that the REME are like Duracell… they keep on working!
A Sqn returned from its post-Bosnia and Christmas leave revitalised and re-manned for a full, classic training year. In the first instance this involved a small command team from SHQ going on CAST in Sennelager. Having exercised BG HQ the Sqn then got stuck into its own training for ranges and, ultimately, Ex MM3 in Canada.

The process starts with about ten days at Grafenwohr, in Bavaria, where we borrow the US Army’s tactical simulator, SIMNET. All crews are pushed through an intensive and punishing series of exercises to sharpen up our warfighting skills before returning to Münster to continue preparing the vehicles for annual firing. The Sqn then went through the standard firing package at Hohne, training the new crews - gunners in particular - and ensuring that we were ready for the live firing in Canada. Interestingly, the fact that some of the gunners had only ever fired in a simulator up to that moment did not hinder their progress in any way.

With live firing successfully out of the way it was time to merge the training we had conducted to date, into a single experience in the form of Ex Prairie Eagle in Poland. Getting there is an experience in itself, but having leapt that hurdle, the Sqn equipped itself with DFWES and carried out an extremely intensive 8 days of training under BG HQ. Having returned from Poland exhausted, the Sqn took some well earned leave before getting on the plane for Canada.

For the Sqn, Ex MM3 was the culmination of the year’s training, starting with the live firing element that took everyone’s firing to a higher level than Hohne and then culminating in the 10 day TESEX that sorely tested everyone’s tactical and technical skills. The Sqn’s excellent performance at BATUS was rewarded for many with a demanding, but hugely enjoyable, adventure training package in the Rockies. The return from Canada marked the end of Maj Palmer’s tour as Sqn Ldr and he handed over at the end of July to Maj Hannay. Maj Palmer was posted on promotion to the JSCSC whilst Maj Hannay had just been spat out of the same college as one of its first students.

After 3 weeks block leave the Sqn prepared itself for a return visit to Poland on Ex Ulan Eagle, a Bde exercise whose pace, not surprisingly, was somewhat slower (and more realistic?) than our earlier visit. The slower pace was more than compensated for by the several trips on M3 ferries, a joyride in a Chinook and the sight of a company of Polish T 72s through TOGS. The exercise culminated in the first Sqn smoker for several years at which there was rather more naked flesh than the Sqn Ldr was used to seeing, but, much to the RMO’s relief, no third degree burns. The return from Poland marked the end of WO2 Smith’s tour as SSM and we are now very glad he is the RSM (not that he favours his old Sqn at all!). To save on changing letterheads and the like he was replaced by WO2 Smith!

Just when we thought we could have a quiet end to the year we were crashed out onto the Dorbaum for a NATO Opeval at the end of November, which despite the sub-zero temperature went well. The culmination of the year was marked by the Sqn providing the administration and security for the British Military Music Show at the Halle Münsterland. This gave everyone the opportunity to mix with the locals - the visiting civilian Austrian band in particular - and for the SQMS to top up the Sqn funds by selling vast quantities of food and Gluhwein to the bands.

1998 was a busy and rewarding year for A Sqn, combining a lot of hard work with more than enough hard play. What will 1999 bring us?

**SHQ TROOP**

January saw the start of a very hectic year with faces of old and some new arrivals to the Tp. Maj P and SSM Smith dished out the orders while SSgt Towell held the fort on the Tank Park. The first call to action for SHQ was that of CAST. Maj P, 2IC, (Capt Juxon) and Cpl White along with LCpl Truesdale and Jolliffe headed off to Sennelager for 5 days of planning WW3. After preparing the tanks for ranges and Poland the Tp had the chance to grab a few days leave.
Once reformed the Tp tackled Grafenwohr even though SSgt Towell along with the help of LCpl Henderson managed to shoot down a friendly Helicopter or two. Overall the Tp performed well and it was a good building block to start the serious business of training. Back in camp a familiar face to SHQ arrived Tpr Calvert, after his 9 months holiday. He was promptly placed back in his favourite place of OB Gnr, soon earning the nickname as Blue Eyed Boy.

With the tasks up to scratch, we deployed to Hohne and tackled firing camp achieving good results with all 3 tasks. LCpl Godfrey combined the job of Signals NCO and Sqn Medic. The Tp had a busy time and the SSM kept the Ammo flowing, barking at anyone who was not pulling their weight. Poland was next and once again the Tp performed well. Another spot of leave followed before the main aim of the year Canada. Canada arrived and before we knew it we were in BATUS, preparing to deploy onto the area.

Once on the area under the guidance of Maj P, this being his last exercise as Sqn Ldr, the Tp started its training. The 3 weeks went well. However, OC spent the first week with a 24 c/s attached to it, thus letting the 2IC spread havoc around the Sqn. He soon earned the reputation of being jinxed, OD crewed by Staff “Clive” Towell, LCpl Gonthier, LCpl “Nice” Henderson and Tpr Weir soon discovered that the task was about to have faults that had the REME baffled for some time. The rest of the Tp had no major dramas and the CV’s were always under the watchful eye of SSM “Tank” Smith.

Once the Exercise was out the way and everyone was back in Suffield dealing with the handing over of the veh’s the Tp could be very satisfied with the way they had performed. On its return to Munster and 3 weeks leave the Troop were to have a few changes. We said good-bye to Lt Col Palmer and greeted Maj Hannay, and to Capt Juxon and welcomed Capt Haslam. With leave out of the way, yet again Poland was upon us and Ex Ulan Eagle. Even though the Tp was by now at a high standard with a new Sqn Ldr and 2IC comes change but it was not long before the Tp got back into the swing of things.

The exercise went well and it was not long before we were back in Munster and experiencing change. Farewells go to SSgt Towell “easy Life”, Cpl White and Cpl Gwynne moving to bigger and better things and with them departing Cpl Grove moved into the hot seat as Acting Tp Sgt. With a well deserved rest the Troop has spread to the four corners of camp doing courses etc. …And finally I would like to say thanks to the rest of the Tp, LCpl Lowe, LCpl Szulc, Tpr Rae, Tpr Brinkworth, Tpr Bainbridge, Tpr Dargue, Tpr Ridealgh, and everyone else who worked with the Tp throughout the year.

1st TROOP

1Tp gathered from the four winds in February, with a Tp Ldr (something of a rarity) and plunged head first into a busy year starting with a trip to the Dorbaum. Tpr Dugdale noted for his aggressive driving got a bit to carried away (shame it was on the road).

The Tp had a successful Range Period with Tpr (now LCpl) Hampton setting the pace with Tpr Budd and Paine rapidly picking up the tricks of the trade. LCpl Goodson found it too hot to load in Combats and often removed some (all) of his clothes.

The Tp then moved on to Poland where under the ever watchful gaze of Sgt Simpson began to mould. Reliability was a problem and marred an otherwise successful exercise.

New Tp Ldr, same old problems.
BATUS gave the crews the chance to train with more freedom than the constraints of Germany and with TES-10 got taken out and spent 5 days being repaired (who said TES isn't realistic). The insects were enough of a problem to reduce LCpl Jolliffe to tears. Lt H-H and Cpl Bayne loved it so much they decided to stay for the rest of the year.

The final Exercise of the year in Poland saw two new arrivals, Tpr Makin and 2Lt Buczacki (Ice Pop) and the return of Cpl Danson from Recce Tp. The new Tp Ldr soon found out tanks sink in ponds much to LCpl Baird’s annoyance. With the year drawing to a close we lost another Tp Ldr, this time to the OSCE in Kosovo.

**2nd TROOP**

This year has been very hectic indeed for the members of 2Tp. It all started with the Tp forming in February. The first of many Government sponsored camping trips started with low level troop training on the Dorbaum in March. This was swiftly followed by a visit to Simnet in Grafenwohr in April and it was here that the SOP of the Tp Cpl being in the middle of the Tp when moving from place to place was greatly appreciated by the crew of 22, especially the commander, who would have otherwise spent all week lost in cyberspace!

After some intensive training in the reliable GTS the troop departed on another camping expedition to HOHNE and then POLAND. The range period, went extremely well for the Tp, considering that out of the three gunners two where recruit “cyber” gunners. 21 scored the highest on Annual Crew Test in the Squadron. Danny Forrest, 21’s gunner, then had to get a bigger beret as his head seemed to get very big over night! ! The Tp also scored the highest in the Annual Troop Test which was held on a very wide and demanding Range 9. After a quick break in Munster we then travelled to Poland for the first time this year. Exercise Prairie Eagle was very demanding but gave incredible training value. Even so it was not without some interesting moments like 22’s very watery fire position and 21 demolishing bunkers by driving over them and promptly getting bogged (not for the first time this year!). The TISH on 22 got smashed during a night march by a low flying silver birch tree, which resulted in the C/S and crew getting quarantined in the ECP something to do with radiation and growing two heads, blood tests were frequently mentioned as well! !

With POLAND out of the way we then hopped over the water to BATUS and all the delights of MEDMAN 3 awaited us. The weather was terrible to begin with but soon got hotter and hotter along with the dust getting dustier and the mosquito population growing fatter and fatter on our blood. The live firing phase went well (after numerous CABF attempts by certain C/S’s in the Tp) 22 did incredibly well in never breaking down throughout both phases. 20 however often got bored of hide routine and often made his way to the ECP. 21 couldn’t make up his mind as to what Sqn he would like to be in and as a result often went off on his own inevitably linking up

“Periscope up!” C/S 31 in an ideal hull down position.
with 11B, obviously a better class of C/S to associate with! Morale was kept high in the troop by the antics of OC who was never late for an O group merely last to arrive and never got bogged just stuck. It was with great relish that 22 pulled him out of a very sticky situation! With a good handover to the RDG's the Tp split all over the place. The majority went adventure training and the remainder back to sunny Münster and summer block leave.

After some well earned leave the troop started to prepare for our second visit of the year to POLAND for exercise ULAN EAGLE. After the pace of PRAIRIE EAGLE and MEDMAN 3 this was a bit of an anti climax. The hi-lights were the river crossing on the M3 rigs, the trip in the Chinooks and the crowning, glory of the year 20 getting bogged (it is true everything does come to he who waits so pay up Mr MacGregor!!)

So at the time of writing we are found with a depleted troop due to courses, adventure training and the Tp Ldr's little stroll around Nepal. Congratulations must go to LCpls Hunt and Hepworth on their promotions. Goodbye to Cpl Grove who has left to join SHQ as the Sqn Ldr's tea boy and good luck to the Tp Ldr on his RSO's course. We are looking forward to the move back to the UK and are holding our breath to see if Sgt Jessup will ever wear the correct order of dress or if he will continue to make up his own dress codes (tailored tropicals and sun glasses! !).

3rd TROOP

After a lengthy Christmas leave period, the various members of 3 Tp deployed for a short exercise on the Dorbaum. The three new drivers in the troop, Tpr Abrams, Tpr Bennet and Tpr Blacklock fared well, especially since they were under the watchful eye of such D and M perfectionists as LCpl 'Og' White and LCpl 'Psycho-Derrick' Hill. The first Batco message of the year was a sign of things to come, as it translated, “send fax machine, close down the telephone!”

Shortly after, the troop entered into the full training season - the theme this year has been hard work, but with a lot of laughs throughout. Our Ranges period saw the first of numerous moments which underline the need for a sense of humour at all times such as engaging Zeppelins unintentionally at around 20 Kms - probably marginally outside the safety template!

During our two visits to Poland, and a trip to Canada, there have been all manner of breakdowns, bogging's, tree-culling sessions, temper losses, acne control measures, one shot one kill drills, throwing of GPS's into traverses, teddy's into corners of turrets, helmets about 20 metres into the air, maps off tanks, clothes off completely - to name but a few. One of the outstanding results of the season was provided by callsign 32-Cpl Slater, LCpl Dix, Tpr Freeman, Tpr Bennett, who managed to destroy the OPFOR 00 callsign, their commanding officer.

The troop has been having as much fun off the tanks as on it with a couple of notable troop outings. The first of these was on the Go-Kart circuit, and dubbed the author as ‘Driving Miss Daisy’, one of a variety of nicknames accredited to the Tp Ldr which included ‘Turbo’, ‘Captain Admin’ and ‘Buzz Lightyear’.

All in all, the Tp has had an excellent year, establishing it's own Tp anthem - ‘Charge of the Valkaries’ - and has had tremendous amounts of fun along the way.

AVAILABLE MANPOWER LEVELS HAVE RANGED FROM 6 TO 60, MANY OF WHOM WERE NEW TO THE ARMY, AND AT ONE POINT THERE WERE B SQUADRON SOLDIERS IN 4 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD AS WELL AS SOME AT SEA ON HMS BEAVER. CONCURRENT WITH THIS THE SQUADRON FLEET OF VEHICLES HAS HAD TO BE MAINTAINED, AND THE REQUIREMENT TO GUARD THE CAMP HAS RARELY GONE AWAY. WHILST THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A BIT OF A WHINING IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE, RATHER IT IS MENTIONED BECAUSE THIS WAS THE CHALLENGE THAT Faced A VERY SMALL GROUP OF NCOs AND AN EAGER, YET RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED, TEAM OF SOLDIERS. WITHOUT THEIR COLLECTIVE DETERMINATION, FLEXIBILITY, GOOD HUMOUR AND SHEER HARD WORK THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE SQUADRON WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE WHAT IT DID.

FROM THE OUTSET IT WAS DECIDED TO CENTRALISE OUR EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER RATHER THAN RETAIN TROOPS IN THE NORMAL SENSE. (HENCE THE ABSENCE OF ANY TROOP NOTES IN THIS REPORT). HAVING ACHIEVED THIS A TEAM OF SOME 20 MEN UNDER LT STANLEY-SMITH AND WO2 (SSM) THOMPSON SET OFF IN MARCH TO SPEND 5 WEEKS AT BATUS ON THE RATHER THANKLESS TASK OF PREPARING THE MBT AND CVR(T) FLEET FOR THE FORTHCOMING TRAINING YEAR. IN TRUE B SQUADRON FORM THEY WORKED AND PLAYED HARD, COMPLETING THEIR TASK IN RECORD TIME. THIS ENABLED MOST OF THE TEAM TO GET AWAY ON SOME MUCH DESERVED R & R, BE IT CLIMBING IN THE ROCKIES OR A CULTURAL TOUR OF MEDICINE HAT, BEFORE RETURNING TO MUNSTER. WHILST THIS WAS GOING ON SGT FORD COACHED THE BOXERS (TPRS CHELL AND BEAVER) WITH RELATIVE SUCCESS BEFORE HE DEPARTED FOR THE D & M SCHOOL.

IN APRIL WE DID OUR BIT FOR INVESTING IN PEOPLE BY SENDING TPRS BRACE AND SWEET ON A SAILING COURSE WITHIN DAYS OF ARRIVING IN THE REGIMENT. WHILST ON THE SUBJECT OF ADVENTURE TRAINING LCPLS TAYLOR AND ALWAY RETURNED FROM INSTRUCTING ON BASIC WINTER TRAINING IN BAVARIA. UPON SEEING THAT THERE WAS NO FURTHER SCOPE FOR ADVENTURE TRAINING IN B SQUADRON LCPL TAYLOR PROMPTLY PACKED HIS BERGEN AND MADE FOR THE D SQUADRON AMBULANCE IN THE HOPE OF GETTING TO CANADA FOR A BIT OF CLIMBING.

MAY SOON ARRIVED AND THE SQUADRON LEADER DECIDED THAT HE HAD BEEN AWAY FROM BERGEN – HOHNE RANGES FOR FAR TOO LONG SO HE ABANDONED THE SQUADRON FOR A FEW WEEKS WHILST HE STOOD IN AS RGO FOR THE KRH BATTLE GROUP FIRING PERIOD. LT STANLEY-SMITH WENT ALONG AS WELL FOR HE HAD HEARD THAT RECRE Tp NEEDED SOME MORAL GUIDANCE AND THERE WAS THE CHANCE OF SOME POLO IN BETWEEN FIRING. NOT TO BE OUTDONE CAPT MANN STOWED AWAY ON HMS BEAVER, TAKING TPR BEAVER WITH HIM AS A PUBLICITY STUNT, THEN MANAGED TO SET AN ALL TIME RECORD FOR A KAPE TOUR RECONNAISSANCE IN UK – 3 WEEKS. THIS LEFT SGT WARD IN CHARGE OF THE TANKS, SSgt (SQMS) BEAVER IN THE STORES, SSgt CANNAR IN THE LAD AND A WORKFORCE OF ABOUT 20. THOUGH NOT FOR LONG THE BATTLE GROUP WENT TO POLAND AND B SQUADRON WENT WITH IT. SSgt BEAVER WITH MT, CPL GREEN AND LCPL DEVOY IN COMD Tp, AND CPL ESIPE DID A FINAL STINT IN RECRE Tp BEFORE BEING POSTED TO UK ON PROMOTION TO TAKE UP A RECRUITING POST – WE WISH HIM WELL.

WITH THE BATTLE GROUP IN CANADA AND C SQUADRON ON THE RANGES JUNE AND JULY SAW THE SQUADRON REACH IT’S LOWEST MANPOWER LEVEL AS WE SENT SOLDIERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THERE ARE TOO MANY TO MENTION BY NAME OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT WE HAD 10 SOLDIERS IN CANADA AND 5 WITH C SQUADRON ALL OF WHOM MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORGANISATION TO WHICH THEY WERE ATTACHED.

FOR THOSE THAT REMAINED (25 ALL RANKS) THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR WAS UNDOUBTEDLY OUR VISIT TO THE JUTLAND DRAGOONS IN HOLSTEBO AT THE END OF JUNE. THE 5 DAY VISIT WAS RELAXED, VERY INFORMAL AND ACTION PACKED. THE JOURNEY NORTH WAS INTERESTING AS IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT THE BUS DRIVER WAS TAKING US TO THE WRONG PLACE. WITH THE SQUADRON LEADER AND SSM MERRILY DRIVING ON IN THEIR LANDROVER, IT WAS LEFT TO SGTS WARD AND CAMERON (LTS STANLEY-SMITH AND BUZACKI BEING OTHERWISE OCCUPIED WITH THEIR PIPE SMOKING) TO NEGOTIATE WITH A DRIVER...
intent on taking them to the extreme east of Denmark whilst they wanted to be in the north west. Suffice to say that after some strained mobile phone calls, a change of driver and a 10 hour journey the main body finally made it to Holstebro. The Danes soon proved to be excellent hosts having sympathetically arranged for the welcoming dinner to be held at a time that didn’t conflict with one of England’s early games in the World Cup. Over the 4 days we fired a mixture of small arms, abused our livers, sampled PT Danish style, went swimming, abused our livers, ate, went rallying in their Mercedes 4WD, visited the Danish Combat School, and for one last time abused our livers. In all it was an extremely valuable visit that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It gave us the opportunity to learn a bit about another NATO army whilst also enjoying a welcome break from the hum drum of life on the tank park. The Danes were excellent hosts and we departed very concerned about our ability to reciprocate in the same style later in the year as their facilities were much more modern than ours.

After a degree of uncertainty the KAPE Tour went ahead leaving us very thin on the ground. Capt Mann, SSgt Lofthouse, Cpls Binge, Price and Whittaker (who for once was not teaching a gunners course) led a merry tour around a variety of venues in the north and south. KAPE Tours are great fun but they are also very demanding and all who participated can be justifiably proud of their efforts – despite the Gloucestergate scandal.

Back in Munster those that remained hosted a visit from the Dulwich College CCF.

Whilst August brought the welcome return of many of our soldiers we also had to say farewell to some fond friends. Lt Stanley – Smith packed his horses and made for ATR Bassingbourn accompanied by his batman who was disguised as SQMS Beaver. We wish them both well, in particular SQMS Beaver who is to be congratulated on his promotion. In his place we welcomed SSgt Jefferson who settled in to the stores in no time at all. Finally Trooper Chippendale left to join the Greater Manchester Police, he is sorely missed though no doubt some of us will meet him again – in the cells!

For some time the Squadron had been threatened with having to provide an OPFOR for Ex ULAN EAGLE in late September. Thankfully this task was reallocated elsewhere so we used the time to do some essential training. We ran our own Gunners Course which enabled a number of relatively young soldiers to pick up this vital skill – as well as enabling the Squadron to be properly manned for 1999 as we had received the welcome news that we were to deploy to Bosnia with the Household Cavalry. Whilst this was going on the Squadron Leader was sent away for 5 weeks to learn how to do his job, (Editor: Things haven’t improved since he returned!) leaving Capt Mann in charge for a brief period prior to his departure from the Army – he is thanked by all for his contribution especially to the consumption of out of date Compo.

Throughout the latter stages of the year the Squadron started to grow in size. Sgts Hanratty and Spyers returned from Bovington, SSgt Brushet took over in the stores and Lt Mainwaring joined us after a stint of drug running in the colonies. The increase in size brought with it an increase in activity. The Danes visited us for a week in November. Sadly this clashed with some recruit firing though we did our best to entertain them in our own way and they went away having enjoyed themselves.

At short notice we found ourselves deploying to the Dorbaum as part of the NATO OPEVAL Inspection of the Regiment. In no time at all we dug out the camnets, sorted out our drills, threw together some ad hoc crews and made a pretty good showing.

Little mention has been made thus far of the LAD, whose sterling efforts have gone largely un-rewarded. SSgt Cannar and his team have set a fine example by the way that they have kept up the maintenance of our vehicles with very few resources whilst maintaining a cheerful and co-operative approach. They have been key members of a small team.

Thus a busy, varied, confusing but ultimately rewarding year drew to a close. 1999 finds us with a specific task and an operational role which has brought with it a higher priority for resources and manpower. Life is therefore much simpler – we hope. Whilst we will grow in size it is pleasing that the nucleus of the Squadron will come from the team that survived 1998. To a man the Squadron has volunteered for the operational tour so we are well motivated and looking forward to a rewarding and enjoyable time in Bosnia.
It was with particular pleasure that I found that I was to command ‘Dirty D’, it having been the Sqn in which I cut my teeth as a 2IC. It was with even greater pleasure that upon seeing the Orbat I realised that many of the Regiment’s biggest criminals were not only still at large, but still in the same Sqn. Sadly my euphoria was short lived as two days after taking command I had to start the sad process of ‘mothballing’ in preparation for the Bosnia deployment.

The ’98 training year was to prove as busy and testing as any operational tour I can remember. We were blessed with the return of many old Sqn hands and within weeks of re-forming the old character was back again, keeping the SSM busy on the discipline side of the house. It became a regular occurrence to be met by him on a Monday morning with a “You won’t believe what they’ve gone and done now,” look on his face. The beginning of the year saw us pull together on the ‘Cyber’ battlefield that is Simnet. We became conversant with BG drills and expert in cheap sexual innuendo and the mimicking of speech impediments! The challenges continued with the deployment to ranges and the prospect of training up new crews that included 10 new gunners.

It was at this stage that our numbers were swollen with the addition of Capt ‘Razz’ on attachment from 22 SAS and another officer in the form of 2Lt The Earl of Ulster. Both contributed to Range morale in their own peculiar ways. Razz ran a quick tracking cadre and introduced the crews to the basics of navigating using the stars. 2Lt Ulster, on the other hand, was kept busy by having to confirm to all and sundry that “Yes Queen Victoria was indeed his Grandmother . . . and no she didn't send him toffees and socks”. The Squadron achieved some excellent results during the range period. Of particular note was Cpl Stan Weekes who managed to put 50 rounds of 7.62mm coax into his kidnapped Teddy Bear, that had been strapped to a target down range by his less sensitive NCOs prior to the night shoot. Having missed the pointed plugs about wildlife down range, I believe that he would have managed a good deal more, had he not realised all was not well when c/s 11 (Sgt Surrage) informed the Tower that he thought he has seen something “Having a Picnic in the area of the targetry”.

Poland and the TES challenge was to prove an excellent proving ground prior to BATUS. For many it was their first introduction to the system and highlighted the vital importance of every member of the crew’s responsibility to “Fight the tank”. We had the usual problems with tamper kills, bogged tanks and the cumulative “Gremlin” effect of CR1s that had spent the best part of a year in storage. If I had to identify a single lesson from Poland, it would be that more often than not you will just have to go with what you have got and make it work! Luckily the Sqn’s natural fighting spirit ensured that this always happened. It was here that another addition to the Sqn arrived in the form of WPtce Dick, our medic. She instantly earned the respect of the Sqn by “dropping” a Polish Romeo, who had attempted to pinch her, in a badly planned, but undeniably brave display of Polish Machismo. She reinforced my personal respect when on finally plucking up the courage to ask her whether it was Pte Dick or Pte Dicks, she replied in her charming Glaswegian lilt: “Just the one Sir, just the one…. but you can call me Julie”. In the interests of Good Order and Military …. etc. etc. I kept it to the singular form of address.

We were to return to Poland, without the benefit of TES towards the end of the year, where the difference was dramatic. There were, however, some compensations the second time around; we managed the first Sqn Smoker for some time as well as a trip to the Polish town of Stettin. It was indeed a treat to sample some of the culture of a country that many of us had, by then, visited four times, but never before left the training area. With the exception of a few queues experienced in one or two places, it proved an excellent and inexpensive day out for a surprising large number of soldiers, and a somewhat profitable one for the locals!

Of course the real focus of the year was always our trip to BATUS. I do not believe that, as a Sqn, we could have achieved better results. Morale was as high as I have seen it and there was a tangible and aggressive will to win. The great criticism of the Sqn, by the BATUS staff was that we fought in the Coulees. Indeed we did, and moreover we won in the Coulees, defeating OPFOR in his traditional killing grounds. One of the highlights was undoubtedly the Sqn’s withdrawal in contact with
the OPFOR Recce Coy. The result was their total destruction and its Commander being sent to Coventry by the rest of the HCR. It was with great sorrow that post BATUS, on return from leave, we learnt of the tragic death of Tpr Bennett. We will all miss him, and all no doubt remember him in our own personal way. I will remember him for his shyly crooked smile, his oddly loping gait, recognisable from half way across the Prairie, and his total love of “his tank”. We went back to Penrith, with a bearer party, to see him off in as much style as possible. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his mother, we will all miss him.

It was with great reluctance that I gave up Command of ‘Dirty D’ in Jan ‘99. The only thing that made it bearable was the knowledge that some of the team was to remain in the form of Capt Carey-Hughes and SSM Sym, to name but two, and that it was to Maj Hunter that I was handing over. It has undoubtedly been the most enjoyable period of my military life. The Squadron was well served by an excellent and dedicated team in RHQ, always the unsung heroes in a BG. Overall I could not have had a better team, from the offrs and SNCOs, to the SQMS staff (for whom nothing was ever to much trouble), the long suffering LAD with their strangely Antipodean flavour and to the power house of the Sqn in the form of the JNCOs and Tprs. I could not have wished for a better, more loyal or professional Squadron, nor could I have had more fun. Thank you.

On the culinary front Cpl Portwood and Cpl Loftus were our Master Chefs, always trying to better each other with different herbs and spices. Feedback from their respective crews was always positive with Cpl Loftus favouring the minimalist “sandwich pack” approach whilst Cpl Portwood definitely favoured the “lunch box”. On the other side of the coin on OD we had Cpl (Can’t Cook, Won’t Cook) Almond, who in his defence made a mean jam butty, no wonder SSgt Myler was so small and Tpr Meldrum was so thin. Not sure what happened with Tpr Buckley, he must have had a secret stash of his own, which he ate when he wasn’t sleeping.

SHQ TROOP

It has been a long hard year for D Sqn, with two Poland exercises and a Med Man, and no Tp has worked harder than SHQ Tp (Sic).

Heading up this motley crew was ‘The Leader’ - Maj Joynson, whose main requirement was that “His crew amused him”. LCpl O'Donnell invariably performed this function with stories of his love life.

On OC we had Capt ‘Velcro’ Williams who, as a former RSO, endeavoured to keep all radio traffic to an absolute minimum. It remains unclear as to whether his long absences from the net and sending reports and returns by hand, was part of a deliberate and cunning deception policy.

Tpr Cab-Rat Roberts, tirelessly managed to outdo the rest of the Squadron with his successive visits to the RMO. We were never too sure as to whether it was a schoolboy crush or if he was really ill, was it love or was it something else?

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33A was mainly a 2-man crew with the exception of a “Royal visit” in the form of 2Lt Ulster. SSM James and LCpl Thomson were one of the hardest working pairs, setting up some good and not so good hide locations. 14B was commanded by LCpl (It’s not my fault my Sat Nav isn’t working) Taylor and wherever 33A was you always knew 14B wasn’t far behind. All our medical problems were sorted out by our resident medic, Pte (Just the one, Squadron Leader Sir!) Dick, on loan from 2 AFA. No problem was too much, she could also put a cam net up, but I’m not sure if dropping a certain Tpr as well as a Pole, was included in the job description!

Last but by no means least, 11A driven by Tpr (See above) Harris and his co-jo the combat clerk LCpl Ashley, not always on time, not always in the right place, but they always had cam cream on.

Some of the times were bad, many more were good. Whatever happens I’m sure everyone in SHQ Tp D Sqn will always remember us as the Sqn with, and I quote (Maj. “Henry” Joynson circa 1998). “Too much Testosterone lads, that’s our problem in Dirty “D”, too much Testosterone !!”.

1st TROOP

A new beginning, a reborn Squadron and a new Tp, formed with the experiences of Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Canada and England ensured a healthy mix. The initial cocktail was shaken and stirred under the watchful eye of Sgt Surrage, so that by the time the new Tp Ldr arrived, fresh from Warminster, the blend of this well oiled fighting machine was rich with potential.

No sooner then he had appeared than 2Lt Stephenson was off to conduct small arms ranges at STC, Cpl Wooff
departed for Tech, Cpl Loftus arrived from Recce, Tpr Wild ended up under the surgeon's knife and Tpr Murphy arrived as a brand new driver.

Simnet followed with notable successes. Tpr Robinson experienced the virtues of being regenerated on top of another callsign, thus ensuring fuel economy. Tpr MacDougall learnt the value of glass walls, and how they with stood 60 odd tons of armour and LCpl Allen subjected his crew to the ‘Greenhouse effect’.

April saw a two week range package at Hohne. Having tested the stability of rail flats, the Tp Ldr decided to leave rail disembarkation to others and concentrate on the three new gunners. Under the new system none of the gunners had fired a live round in their training and so it was an impressive feat, that not only did Tpr's Garrington, Davies and Smith pass their initial firing tests with such flying colours, but also ensured the Troop scored highly on battle run Oscar.

After a long weekend the Troop then deployed in Poland. Drawsko Pomoski training area had been visited by the Regiment before but to a few among the Troop the chance to bulldoze the odd tree was a new experience. Cpl Lewtas ensured an excellent ‘Hull Down’ firing position, Cpl Brannick took over from Cpl Loftus who had moved to SHQ Troop and Tpr Garrington was left exasperated at the vulnerability of TES equipment in the trees.

With the experiences of a Battle Group exercise under our belts and a little leave, the Troop was once more on the move. This time Camp Crowfoot and Medicine Man 3 were waiting. The prairie was an uncharacteristic green for the time of year but despite our desert cam nothing could stop the devastation of 1st Troop on the move. Exercise Merlin saw the Tp exhibit the most aggressive and impressive live Tp battle run the safety staff had seen. LCpl Ormond and Tpr White kept all amused with their constant karaoke and the Tp Ldr ensured his callsign was always at the sharp end! (0A this is 9, comment!)

Sadly there was little time for R & R after the handover, but Robo and Mac learnt the art of free falling and Josh visited the haunts of times gone by.

A little more leave and the Tp was once again in Poland. LCpl Greenwood appeared from 2nd Tp to replace Cpl B who had departed for his crew commander’s course and Taff moved into 10. The pace was rather slower to that experienced earlier in the year, but 10 made a good lumberjack, 11 a good redevelopment project and 12 won the fancy dress competition, for best garden.

The true spirit of ‘Dirty D’ was personified by 1st Tp. Throughout the busy training year it remained cohesive and vibrant. Relationships came and went but LCpl Allen and Tpr Murphy are to be congratulated on their engagements and Tpr White for becoming a father. The end of the year will see the majority of the Tp go their separate ways, but the fighting spirit and camaraderie will live on, I have no doubt. “This year, we have mostly been on exercise” - Tpr White.

2nd TROOP

Bosnia leave was over, and at last, elements of sanity returned to the World, as “Dirty D” was reformed after a longer sleep than usual.

The Year kicked off with a spell of light troop training on the Dorbaum, which gave Tpr Ransome a marvellous introduction to Hazmat, and the implications of opening the fuel filler cap. The High-tech theme of Grafenwohrt was maintained throughout, with the majority of crew being held in suspended animation, leading to the intro-
duction of the “Octopus Commander”. Past memories of the Battle of Grafenwoehr still lingered, and so the riot act was read and the Squadrons ruled with a rod of iron. However this did not stop LCpls Baz Greenwood and Daz O’Donnell from putting in an arresting performance! In between giggling fits, Mars, Pluto and Saturn were crossed, while Recce gently probed Uranus. The great advantage of Simnet was that you have less distance to drive, to ask someone where the hell you are.

Before you could say “Cheap Innuendo”, the Squadron was deployed to Hohne Ranges for the annual firing camp. A spirited performance was put in by all, although it remains unclear as to whether 2Lt Ulster spent more time awake than Tpr Couzins spent speaking! The weekend gave just enough time for a brief dash to Munster, before we found ourselves on the train heading for the wonders of the Drawsko Pomorski training area in Poland. Sgt Chandler discovered during the night attack, that dead ground can often be a little damp, and soon after had to evacuate a luckless Tpr Tim Roake from his driver’s compartment, before the fish got him. Lt Carey-Hughes displayed an unerring ability to discover similar hazards both by day and by night, on a selection of vehicles. After 20’s brush with the bed-springs, and with the kind help of Rancid, a new record was set, as 22’s stand-in commander became firmly immobilised within 30 metres. Fortunately the ECP became the troop’s home from home, although the nagging about being late for dinner was a little unexpected. 2Lt Ulster received a baptism of fire from SSM “BJ” James, in the back of 33A, along with a few culinary tips.

Home, Maintenance, Leave, Batus- Sun, Rain, Dust, Tornadoes, Flash floods, Mosquitoes, Wind (Sic), Navigation, Mosquitoes, More Mosquitoes, Bloody TES, Backdoors, Phosphorus, Infantry, Dismounted GPMG’s, American Steps - We had it all! Baz woke up occasionally, Cpl Geordie Kennedy won the Nobel Prize for Patience, LCpl Dunn discovered a striking resemblance to the new Brigade Commander (Sunburn), and LCpl Andy Walker was personally presented with a prize from Delia Smith (Not her cookbook I might add!). The learning curve was steep, but we soon got the hang of everything, especially taking chairs to O-Gp’s. The final battle of Totalise, spoke volumes of how far we had progressed, despite the Opfor over-running the infantry’s position on a somewhat naked hilltop, we went firm some distance to the rear, and promptly destroyed the remaining follow-up. Who said tanks can’t fight in Coulies? The Battlegroup’s gratitude must surely go to LCpl Richie Wade, whose unfortunate encounter with the traverse-monster resulted in the gleeful, and most enthusiastic stripping out, of those godforsaken GPS jammers. All of a sudden “The Leader” appeared to have two surplus GPS! The Adventure-training package was thoroughly enjoyed by those fortunate to have attended, and totally reinforced Bushy’s conviction not to jump out of a perfectly good aeroplane.

However, no rest for the wicked - they just couldn’t keep us away - Poland again, only this time with all the fun of the Brigade fair as well. Sgt “Profanity” Chandler managed to “destroy” several Motor-Rifle Regiments single-handedly, whilst Cpl Binge was away garrotting the infantry. The high point of the exercise, was a trip to Stettin, which, after three visits to the country, finally provided the chance for most of the Battlegroup to have some interaction with the locals.

All in all, despite the long hours, and having spent some 6 months out of camp over the year, we had a very satisfying and successful time. A great deal of effort and commitment was put in by all, and the results speak for themselves - producing a superb and uniquely individual Squadron.

3rd TROOP

The newly reformed 3Tp (Intimate Support Troop), started a busy year with the arrival of three newcomers to the Regiment, Tprs Breen, Bennett and Milligan. As they were all drivers, it seemed prudent at the time to take them out to the Dorbaum for a spin, which proved more entertaining for some than others.

In April the Tp departed to Hohne for the Annual Gunnery Camp, where we performed exceedingly well, with all three callsigns passing Juliet first time, despite having three new gunners – Tprs Cropper, Chiverton and Walls. Well done Tpr Walls for staying awake whilst firing, although I’ve heard reports from NASA that they have found one of 32’s DS/T rounds in orbit. Sgt Brushett meanwhile kept a watchful eye on troop discipline. Cpl Stan Weekes had brought along his very own teddy bear to throw in the corner, when the turret got stressful…until it was kidnapped!

The ransom note was delivered to Stan, but alas he foolishly followed Official policy – no negotiation with terrorists. As a result “Ed the Ted” faced his doom taped to a T3 target downrange. Just to add insult to injury, Stan’s very own callsign 32 opened the range that morning with a T3 target downrange. Just to add insult to injury, Stan’s very own callsign 32 opened the range that morning with Coax and DS/T, oblivious to what was pinned to the target. The Squadron Leader later confirmed that young Ed had been posted as Missing in Action.

Next stop was Poland, where Lt Perry was put on a crash diet by Cpl Creepy Crowley, who was “under the illusion”
that he was overweight. It is indeed a pitiful sight to watch a young troop-leader wandering around begging for food! On a similar note, LCpl Shady Lee was entered for the famous “Can't cook, and well just can't cook” competition he still lost. Callsign 32 spent an unhealthy amount of time looking for hole to fall into, despite Tpr Cheesy Breen's all too frequent warnings to his Commander of what lay ahead.

No sooner had we returned from Poland, than we were off to BATUS for Med Man 3. All went extremely well for the troop in the live firing phase – winning the inter-squadron final shoot and claiming the Squadron Leader’s “Special prize”. During the TES phase, we proved that we could beat the mosquitoes, except for Tpr Cheesy Breen, who held the record for mozy bites – 70 in all. Tprs Max Walls and Benny Bennett decided to finish the exercise somewhat early. Benny with a crushed foot, and Max with a Tsetse fly bite (Sweet Dreams). Good news came to LCpl Whitehill with the birth of a daughter, so even he managed to get home early. Tpr Chiverton graced us with his presence briefly, instead of his usual Adventure Training or Skiing, although to be fair, he more than compensated for his time away. Also we will miss Pte Julie Dick whizzing (Sic) round the back of our tanks.

We returned from BATUS for some well-earned leave. Tragically, on our return, we learned the sad news of the death of “Benny Bennett” during leave in his hometown. The troops were devastated – he will be remembered fondly and sorely missed by all.

At the end of September, we were back in Poland again. Tpr Cropper appeared to have developed a strange fetish for wearing his respirator all the time, which remains unexplained. Meanwhile Stan continued to look for holes to fall into. Overall it was a long hard year, which was well carried out and enjoyed by all.

FITTER SECTION

At the beginning of the year and the return of the Regiment to Münster in January, the LAD Fitter Section was literally just thrown together. A new Tiffy, a new section, and most daunting of all, a new fleet of Challengers from 1 Royal Tank Regiment. Out of the nine tradesmen attached to Dirty D, only three had previous tank experience. Where we lacked in experience we definitely made up for it with enthusiasm and humour. Quotes of “It's in hand sir!” did little to reassure Capt. Williams. However it did give a smile to Maj Joynson and also gave Tiffy the breathing space to actually find the fault. The section was full of characters, among which was “Sergeant Top up and Motor On” Mitchell, Tiffy's right hand elbow, a man who's 432 experience was second to none. This wealth of knowledge became apparent on the plains of BATUS when a rather bewildered Capt. Hayde's vehicle broke down, “The bearing on the cooling fan is knackered, but don't worry I'll file the edges of the fan off. It should be OK but if it does go you'll have a couple of moments to jump clear!” Sgt Mitchell was quite surprised to see that Capt. Hayde was a little reluctant to rejoin the battle, but after a few more encouraging words from the fitters he was again ready to face the enemy. Sgt Wood was another well-hidden asset in the Tiffy's toolbox. After setting fire to Tiffy's wagon twice and conquering the electrical intricacies of wiring a BV there was no holding him back. LCpl Tindal, was a man who had worked with Challenger before but had encountered problems when trying to reassemble the work he was currently on, “The bits are around here somewhere.” Rumours of sales to scrap merchants were never confirmed. So with this band of merry men Dirty D Fitter Section set out to support the Squadron and hopefully not give the ASM a coronary in the process.

Hohne ranges and Field Firing was the first of many hurdles that the section faced throughout the year. New records were met and we managed to CABF the complete fleet in a day. Whispers waded through the firing point and soon all were aware that this was a record only achieved some ten years previously, however the validity and the source of the rumour were in question. The vehicles stood up well- only having to change three power packs, a final drive and a traverse gearbox in ten days could be considered good in some wider circles. Lt Perry had a different memory of Ranges and till this day the smell of diesel brings sweat to the palm, it also strangely has an effect on Cfn Fayers who in connection with the incident had to sit in the woods for three hours under Tiffy's scornful glare.

It was not long before Dirty D was on the road again tearing up kerb stones and bending bazooka plates in an eager bid to load onto the flats and head for Poland and Exercise
Prairie Eagle. The months of practising radio and voice procedure accompanied with many hours studying maps and getting to grips with satellite navigation gave Tiffy good cause to feel confident, this proved to be short lived. Teething problems with equipment and getting L/Cpl “Fatty” Balcombe into the habit of actually answering calls with the right call sign and with confidence, proved to be tasking. Fatty Balcombe became Tiffy’s driver and Sgt Wood the radio operator. Lessons were obviously learnt as Sgt Wood became commander of the 434 and Cpl Braham took control of the radio- a recipe that proved to be successful. Packs were changed, Final Drives, GUE’s, APU’s, and endless Control Equipment components, there seemed to be an endless supply of spares and the section were keen to press the logistic support and the QM(T) to their wits end, which encouraged even the ASM to deliver wanted components. Challengers were recovered, c/s 32 and c/s 32 were recovered to the extent where we thought that Cpl Stan Weekes had a relationship with the CRAAV. The exercise was running smoothly and the fitter section was going from strength to strength when the CRAAV caught fire. Cpl Underwood battled in a vague attempt to minimise damage however as we all knew he was a PTI masquerading as a recovery mechanic, this became apparent in the amount of star jumps and knees to the chest accomplished during the fire.

We all returned to Münster in good spirits and a little wiser, and were glad to have a few days off before embarking on our next adventure, MEDICINE MAN 3. The flight to Calgary proved to be an experience for L/Cpl Kavanagh and his comrades sitting either side of him. On a previous tour of Bosnia “Kav” had made a desperate but successful bid to return by ship to Germany and many were confused as to why. During the flight, it was obvious he was not a good flyer, as demonstrated by the teeth marks in the headrest and the numerous scratches and bruises on his two friends- both of whom were married. They vowed not to do the return flight with him, as they were afraid as to how to explain the marks to their wives. BATUS was best remembered for Cfn Fayers having a drink induced heart attack and on his release from hospital the EME was quite concerned to hear that Tiffy had put him straight back to work. Cpl “Dinga” Bell also caused a casualty with his renowned compo-curries and gave L/Cpl “Two Dogs... Ring” enough reason to be casevaced off the battlefield and flown to Medicine Hat hospital to be diagnosed as having acute constipation which manifested into a rare bone disease. Close friends thought this was a result of his Indian ancestors casting a curse which resulted in him returning to Germany several weeks after the last flight. However he was not the only casualty of the exercise- Cpl Nixon dropped a CIU on his hand after trying to emulate Will Carling. The experience would not have been complete without a fire and MEDMAN 3 was to be no exception. The CRAAV caught fire yet again to Cpl Underwood’s disgust and spent nine days undergoing repair a long enough period for the crew to catch up on much needed sleep.

By the time we returned to Poland at the end of the year there was not much more anybody could teach us, it had been a Training Year and we had learnt a great deal. It was a year full of memories and hard work with the ability to look back and learn.

M G
1999 holds many challenges, not least the substantial work required for our move back to Tidworth. I hope the programme continues to allow a chance to catch up on Regimental life, which has been difficult this year and I am sure that at work and play HQ Sqn will continue to thrive.

Instead of a giving a short synopsis of the activities of the Sqn here, it would be easier to flick through the remainder of this Journal in the sure knowledge that HQ Sqn has been involved in every aspect mentioned. The support or involvement of all departments in the Sqn has meant another year has passed successfully and very quickly.

1998 has been a training frenzy. The early deployment of Comd Tp on Ex Muddy Hawk, was a pre-cursor to a constant round of checks and long nights fighting battles in cyberspace, Poland and Canada. It has been a rewarding year, with excellent results. We have cleared every hurdle with ease, in the final analysis, but all the articles that surround this one are undoubtedly modest in recognising the level of effort that has been required. The year as always has had its lighter moments. In particular the chance at the end of Ex Ulan Eagle to have ‘smokers’ was appreciated by all.

The year has been extremely busy. The workload began last October with the Recce cadre in Bosnia. Following this the Tp Ldr went on a course and the S Sgt to Split. However, in early January the first iteration of Recce Tp formed up. After thinning out a couple of unqualified commanders, (unlucky Cpls Loftus, Sword and Penkethman) others were drafted in to fill the breach. Cpl Hughes was dragged kicking and screaming from C Sqn’s SQMS dept where he had hoped to spend a final quiet year. Not so. In addition Cpls Danson, Handy and Bell arrived as did Sgt Billington. Meanwhile the men were taking over vehicles from across the Regiment, and whilst that was in mid flow, five went off on the Support Tprs course, all returning as chainsaw mechanics and dab hands with explosives.

The preparation for ranges followed. At Hohne the Tp achieved a good score, LCpl Taylor winning the CO’s gunnery prize, followed closely by the newly qualified Tpr Everitt. The rear of range activity matched that of M*A*S*H: 24 x 18 feet tents, canvas chairs, burger bar and men lounging in the sun before going to action. This was the first display of the alternate Recce Tp lifestyle. Cpl then rapidly Sgt, Espie joined the Tp for dry training on the impact area. During this time Capt
Hayde gave OP lectures and instructed other infantry skills. Most notable were the contact drills on a hot summer’s morning, which left the Tp gasping for air. From Hohne the vehicles were loaded up for the move to Poland.

Ex Prairie Eagle 3 was the new Tp’s first field outing. Whilst the basic crew training had been conducted at Hohne, Poland provided the first live run-out. After the BG phase the Tricorn area was familiar to all and following days of ‘shnurgling’ recce’s, much of the forest tract was equally well known. These sneaky routes were to be of great use during later phases. The Bde test phase tested Recce Tp’s flexibility to the full, being bounced continually from one task to the next, and it was with great relief that Endex was called. A Tp smoker, train home and leave followed prior to Ex MM3. Some did wonder why we were bothering to take the vehicles back to Munster, as within 3 tank park weeks we would be back in Drawsko Pomorsky.

2Lt Smith RNZAC took over as commander of c/s 23A and was rapidly trained up in 30mm gunnery and CVR(T) commanding. He arrived only 10 days before deployment to Canada! As much of the Tp had done the OPFOR job, going to BATUS was returning to familiar territory in familiar vehicles. The live firing phase was a success, all vehicles eventually passing CABF. For some reason c/s 22 once again proving to be the difficult callsign! Given the tempo of the Bde phase in Poland, much of Totalise was at a decent pace. The Tp got an excellent report due to the efforts of all concerned. Named in the report was Cpl Bell and his c/s 22A which, time after time, was found in the hottest part of the battlefield providing critical information, whilst he dodged the enemy on foot. A number of the Tp stayed in Canada for adventure training, whilst the remainder went home on leave. 2Lt Smith enjoyed the whole experience so much that when he left at the end of his attachment he was trying hard to convert to the British Army.

After BATUS the Tp lost Tpr Thornton, who is now an industrial abseiler, and Cpl Handy who, following a Computer Systems resettlement course, emigrated to America with his family. We wish them both the best of luck.

Following some sailing, the Tp Ldr’s favourite occupation, the Tp gained some extra personalities. Cpls Price, Pomfret and Fyfe returned from Crew Commanders courses, whilst Cpls Adamson and Sheppard were drafted in to fill seats. And so back to Poland on Ex Ulan Eagle 3, the Bde Ex. For the Tp the tempo of the exercise could not have been more different from Canada. Much of our time was spent in static OPs watching woodlines and rivers, mostly under radio silence. We did however get to go on the M3 ferry and lift a section under a Chinook. Most memorable were the string of ‘smokers’ at the end of the exercise.

Well, no peace for the wicked! In order to fill the vacant seats in the Tp a Recce cadre was held at Haltern. The week showed the value of conducting dismounted exercises and the E&E phase provided grand training for the Hunter Force, which came soon after.

Hunter Force is covered in a separate article immediately after this one, but the recce team deserve a separate mention here nonetheless. We provided two sections commanded by Cpls Fyfe and Taylor, the Admin team headed up by the infallible SSgt Billington, with the Tp Ldr conducting proceedings. The week was hard work and gave all a different view of Army life. Just keep your eyes open for ‘Pigeons’!

So, after 39 soldiers through the Tp, 10 promotions and 111 days on exercise for most, it is safe to say that 98 has been a non-stop year. We have collectively achieved excellent reports, and have made our mark wherever we have been. Recce Tp continues to strive for an existence that is different from that in Sabre Sqns, offering something a little special. I wish my successor much luck and hope that the Tp goes on achieving outstanding results wherever it tries its hand.

T M H
In early December 1998, 87 KRH troops travelled to Pfullendorf, 30 miles North of the Swiss / German border, to form the Hunter Force (HF) for the combat survival course run at the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School (ILRRPS). On the course were students from across NATO, and for many of them the course was a key part of their selection.

HF is designed to be an entirely self sufficient, and free thinking rear area security force. The exercise was run over civilian property, including towns, major roads and large areas of woodland. The HF orbat consisted of 3 platoons from A, D and HQ Squadrons. The first were made up of 4 sections, whilst HQ was three strong. SSgt Billington headed up the admin team, ably assisted by Sgt Jessup. Sgt Mitchell commanded the REME recovery section, including the vital Foden. Command troop provided the Ops room staff led by Cpl “Mine’s a toast and jam” Spyers. Also attached were four dogs, and for six hours, a Lynx helicopter.

Prior to deployment warm up training was conducted by A and D Platoons during the E&E phase of the recce cadre. For some this was the first experience of capturing and handling pigeons. Whilst for those on the cadre a strong determination to bag pigeons was developed. Good and realistic training which provided many lessons; agent RV procedures, wood clearance, co-ordination of ground teams, and mobile navigation for junior commanders.

The advance party arrived in General Oberst von Fritsch Kaserne to find the Dutch Hunterforce from the last course very much in evidence. SSgt Billington, after walking into their Ops room, was confronted by a random bearded Dutchman, the theme of the conversation was based around “Verbotten - Secret”, to which SSgt Billington drilled the chap, in his own inimitable style, for leaving it unlocked and unmanned. We had no further causes for concern as they moved off shortly after. Following the move in there was an opportunity for recce and area familiarisation. Shortly after the main body arrived, so did the REME support for the Lynx. They came with grim news, quote ‘Whilst the Lynx has an all weather capability, the crews haven’t.’ This did not bode well. Regardless we received a brief from the ILRRPS staff on prisoner handling and then we set about the establishment of the POW camp. This was once again based in a former nuclear ammunition compound, hidden deep in the woods and unmarked on the map. The tasks for HF was to capture as many students as possible. This was done in a number of ways. Each six man patrol was equipped with a LR-FFR. Each section was split into ground and vehicle teams, both with comms and II sights. The ground teams were deployed as OPs, ambushed, standing patrols, wood clearance teams and tracking and capture parties. At the same time the landrover would be satelliting round on the tracks trying to pick up new tracks or act as cutoffs once the presence of a pigeon was confirmed. The landrover would then move the bagged and tagged prisoner to an RV or as far back as the POW cage. Once we had a confirmed sighting the area would be flooded with mobile and dismounted patrols to ensure success. A welcome break during the night-time routine was the ‘Bill and Jess’ soup run at around 03.30 providing a full range of hot beverages and rolls. Throughout the period of the exercise there was a decent covering of snow, with some nights being blotted out in blizzard conditions.

The first capture was made by LCpl Greenwood’s ground team, who picked up two pigeons crossing an open area whilst following a pylon line. This unlucky pair were dispatched in a fine display of Rugby League scissors tackling. From that moment on they came in thick and fast. Soon a competition developed between the 11 section under Cpl ‘Tracker’ Binge and the 32 section under Cpl ‘Trill’ Taylor. The latter won in the end, wooing the students into the back of his landrover with a trail of birdseed. The surprise capture of the week was by Capt Haslam and Holloway, who whilst out on a cafe and sightseeing tour, popped up to the rebro site only to spy two scruffy individuals running off into the woods. Hot pursuit followed and one was bagged. I’m not sure who had the biggest surprise. Another notable lift was during the soup run when the OD team just picked up

The A Sqn Hunter Force platoon disapear into their surroundings by means of their snow suits
two on the road. Not wishing to have stinking prisoners
in the back of their rover, all available callsigns were
called in to assist. After being taunted with cups of soup
under their noses they were hauled off.

The final phase of the exercise was tactical questioning
and resistance to interrogation. Not much can be said
about this phase, but sufficient to say that the soldiers in
the HF saw, heard and learnt some extraordinary tech-
niques the likes of which might never be seen again.
The interrogators, from all nations, can be a very pecu-
liar bunch.

Following the course debrief there was an end of course
social, where the HF had a chance to swap stories with

the students. The evening went well and was most inter-
esting for all. The KRH soldiers showed a great deal of
respect for what the students had subjected themselves
to, some fancied the idea of doing the course, but the
majority would not give it a second look. Even before
the party had begun the HF had begun to thin out, LCpl
Price got a lift back in the Lynx in order to be at his
wife’s bedside for the birth of their daughter. The major-
ity returned via the PX, poorer but better prepared for
Christmas. Another Hunter Force exercise was over.
The week showed that armoured soldiers are flexible,
capable and can be relied upon to give their best effort
when required.

COMMAND TROOP

Having returned from Op Lodestar post tour leave,
Comd Tp reformed with only a handful of the for-
ter Tp providing any continuity and experience. Cpl
Ross was the only CV commander who had worked in
Comd Tp prior to this year whilst LCpl Grey, our most
experienced operator, did not manage to deploy on exer-
cise as a result of a rugby injury. Therefore, with little
experience the Tp set about working up for the rigours
of Canada in July and all of the training required prior
to deployment. No-one had expected that returning to
the Armd training cycle would be a simple task, but the
intensity of this year has been relentless. Between
returning to work on 25 Jan and departing for
Christmas standdown on 18 Dec, members of the Tp have
been deployed on exercise for no less than 167 days.
Furthermore, over half of the Tp have completed career
courses as well as training up the NBC cell, converting
the CV drivers to 432 prior to BATUS and completing
all of the routine ATD training requirements.

The year started off at the Combat Manoeuvre
Simulation Centre, Sennelager, a venue that the Tp
would become more than familiar with during the
course of the year. Ex Rhino Charge was a 1 (UK) Armd
Div CPX, exercising the three Bdes in Germany. KRH
provided one of the LOCONs and had the opportunity
to work up the BG staff procedures, as well as whiling
away the long nights catching up on the gossip from
every other BG in the Div. The Tp itself had to wait
until Ex Muddy Hawk to practice its own procedures.
This BG CPX in March commenced with a deployment
to the Dorbaum training area to work out exactly what
we were supposed to do with the mass of tentage, wire
and paraphernalia that Sgt Kvesic had inherited and
scrounged from all quarters. What Capt Slack had not
anticipated was that we were going to meet up with an
entire German Bn conducting a deliberate defence exer-
cise on the training area. Undeterred the Tp quickly
established itself in the centre of a Coy position and set
about getting to know one another with a small quanti-
ty of local ale. Soon the German hierarchy could no
longer resist the lure of Cmnd Tp's portable disco and,
needless to say, a great night of Anglo-German relations
ensued. The exercise turned the Tp into an outfit to
rival the best in the marquee business and the Tp
returned to York Barracks well poised to provide a mul-
titude of functions for all and sundry.

As soon as Ex Muddy Hawk was completed the Tp
returned to CAST for our own staff training and the
start of the hectic build up to BATUS. From 30 Mar to
29 May we were to deploy to CAST, Simnet, Ranges and
Ex Prairie Eagle 3 in Poland. It was only at the start of
SIMNET that the focus moved away from the Tp and
the spotlight focused on the Sabre Sqns as they had the
opportunity to practice their drills and procedures.
This period of the training year passed quickly and rel-
atively uneventfully.

Ex Prairie Eagle saw the Tp entrenching itself into 100
sq metres of wood that it would get to know very well
over this exercise and Ex Ulan Eagle. In fact LCpl
Smith was later to confirm that he had spent 28 days of
98 with his Landrover parked in exactly the same spot
in this particular wood. The lack of a change of scenery
was compensated for by CPL Spyers and Tpr Barrow pro-
viding their usually high standard of comedy through-
out the quieter moments, whilst WO2 Smith revelled in
bullying the entire Bde staff on the poor standard of
their NBC reporting! Comd Tp is not per se an enter-
taining environment, but the quality of both work and morale that was achieved was totally due to the immensely professional manner in which the soldiers of the Tp dealt with everything that was thrown at them by the murky staff world.

After a well-earned break, the Tp soon found itself on the Prairie. In the first days of Ex MM3, the tanks were detached to the Sabre Sqns for the live firing, whilst the CVs lurched about through torrential rain, that could have seen men water skiing behind Landrovers, if any of them had managed to stay on the road and not upside down in the ditches. The rain, inevitably brought the mosquitoes - and that just about sums up Ex MM3! There were several highlights, notably Main and TAC HQ complete going subterranean for the defensive TES mission, much to the pain of the Tp Ldr as he fell down a fourteen foot crater in the dead of night. After Endex, a few of the Tp managed a couple of days R&R and Tpr Clark spent his summer Adventure Training in the Rockies whilst the remainder of the Tp enjoyed the summer with their families.

The second half of the year has past in a flurry of activity, with the main emphasis being on Ex Ulan Eagle, where we returned to our favourite 100 sq metres of wood, only to be satisfied that we had beaten the Bde Recce Offr to it: Drawsko Pormorski Training Area is not very large when deploying an Armd Bde! As well as this exercise, four of the Tp completed the Recce Cadre in November and a number deployed to the south of Germany for the ILLRPS Hunter Force in December. The year ended with a very successful joint Comd & Recce Tp Christmas Party in the JRC.

The year has been a relentless one for Comd Troop. At the end of the year the Tp has achieved level 5 training standards throughout CAST, Simnet and Ex MM3. These outstanding results came about through strong performances from the staff officers, but those performances would not have been possible without the invaluable support from all within the Tp. Going into 1999, there will be a 50% turnaround of personnel within the Tp. We wish luck to all those departing the Tp and hope those staying have a less hectic year ahead, and in particular a deployment to Singapore for a CPX in October!

ROS

QM DEPT

This season began and ended with an inspection of our accounts. The time in between has been spent trying not to lose everything! 1998 has seen the introduction of the UNICOM Clothing Account, a computer system for counting socks, employing the latest 1970's technology. Luckily we still have a few 70's soldiers to operate it!

The QM's Dept has supported the Regiment throughout it's Training Year deploying to Hohne, Poland twice as the B Echelon and also to Canada. The QM, Capt Halffman, took up his role as the genial Camp Commandant. He was assisted by the ammunition boys Cpl Thorngate and Cpl Whittaker, the latter having a part time job as an Elvis impersonator.

At the start of the year we said goodbye to WO2 Hardbattle on promotion as RSMI at Lulworth, being replaced as RQMS by WO2 Oliver. Sgt Skeats - who had become part of the furniture - left for Tech, Cpl Dacre to Preston as a grave tender, and eventually even Cpl Wainwright released the Blue Van and invented himself a job at QM(T). Sgt Foss received a plastic promotion and in came LCpls’ Coen, Godwin and Lane. Three brilliant minds, flexible, helpful and good at bribery.

The never ending cycle of work continues as ever for the Dept and we are now looking forward to the handover with RDG late in 1999. As long as we can fit in the occasional visit to Portofinos we will keep our sense of humour.

EMH
Once again this has been a very busy year for the Dept, with trips to Poland (twice), BATUS and Hohne Ranges. The start of the Training Year saw the Tp deploying to Hohne Ranges and revamping the URS account after its demise in Bosnia. It was during this phase that the RQMS(T) WO2 Lewis was given two pieces of good news. The first was that he was to be posted to BATUS, and the second was that he had been awarded the Joint Services Commanders Commendation for services in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. A well deserved award and something the Tp is proud of. The end of the firing period saw the Tp, less SSgt Smith (who was off to Deepcut to be taught how to be an RQMS!!) deploying to Poland for yet another fun packed Ex Prairie Eagle, with requests for yet more CWS, dummy antenna’s, dummy Tanks and the list goes on and on and on. It was during a quiet moment that LCpl Bren Weatherby and LCpl Dart Arrow-Smith managed to complete their Map Reading. No more getting lost boys!

With the safe return of the Tp from Poland - less three truck loads of defence stores (last seen driving in ever decreasing circles around Poland) - the Tp took a welcomed break before it flew out to BATUS. This was to prove a good Recce for the outgoing RQMS. Once in BATUS there was yet again a never ending wish list, and a competition to see how many photocopiers can be wired up incorrectly, and then blown up! Cpl Paddy Megraw managed to purchase a set of golf clubs to try and improve his golf. Sadly it didn't work. Tpr Crispy Walker fell in love with every Canadian girl he saw, whilst Cpl Harry Taberner had shares in a station wagon which became the Tps transport for the duration of Ex MM3.

From BATUS it was a quick spell of leave and then back to Poland to look for the still absent Defence Stores, and as we were all there we thought it would be a good idea to join the rest of the Bde (and half the Polish Army) in a small informal exercise! It was during this time that a certain outside agency (Bde) found out exactly how much real estate an Armd A2 Ech requires to hide itself (and yes it’s more than half a square km). A lesson learnt by all. The Tp managed at the end of the exercise to visit a Polish Restaurant courtesy of our Polish speaking QM(T) and have a beer or two and a quiet meal (that was before the Bde Sigs Sqn arrived, all 80 of them).

As we finish off 1998 the Tp has prepared for and received the Logistic Support Inspection, which involved many long hours. The Tp can be very proud with the end result that was achieved.
SHQ TROOP

SHQ Tp has had yet another busy year, enjoying the delights of ranges, Poland, Canada and Poland again. So much for a quiet year! Anyway, LCpl Maclean and Benham saw Recce Tp safely through their pre BATUS annual BG firing - asleep in c/s 42A suffering from bad heads from the night before - and LCpl Shaw fined everyone crates of beer for the stupidest of things. Obviously he had nothing better to do, so nothing new there.

We congratulate Cpl O'Neill on his promotion, only to be thrown in at the deep end by taking over from Cpl Keeley as head of the LGV section. Well, he always said he was so good!

In Canada the crew of c/s 42A were joined by the Tp Sgt, Sgt Farrel. . . or as Trooper Pagan calls him in front of the MTO: “the one and only biscuit barrel Farrel”!

We all know that he loves the sound of his own voice on the admin net but I don’t think c/s 0A appreciated it on the BG net. Was his voice so much loved that it was broadcast on both nets. . . or was he on the wrong frequency?

In camp Cpl Boase, our G10 Storeman, was supposed to be our Sect IC but we could never find him. He does get lost easily, though. His favourite expression is “I’m not a qualified Storeman.” When we are missing loads of kit we have to see his point.

Last, but not least, we welcomed the new MTO Capt Wild. Let’s hope he never gives up his day job because he wouldn’t get far in the singing business. Perhaps the other officers might like to hear a few verses of Benjamin & Marina’s song, which we used to sing to while away the long boring nights.

LGV SECTION

This year saw the loss of Cpl Keeley who left for Civvie Street. His good humour and lack of hair will be missed by all.

Cpl O’Neill moved into the hot seat as Sect IC and was soon in the thick of it. LGV Sect have been on all Regimental deployments throughout the year, supplying men and vehicles to various departments.

Some extremely good results have been achieved, most notably the excellent grade obtained whilst part of the A1 Echelon on Ex MM3. Results like these are only produced with good hard training, which the Sect began in earnest early on with the gunnery camp.

We all made it to Hohne eventually, after one or two minor dramas and a few cases of geographical embarrassment. Unlike the other Sects in the Tp at least we got there in one piece. The MTWO and Cpl Ashton-Yannikar know the full story.

The exceptionally long drive to Poland followed, and the next two weeks were spent mostly knee deep in mud. The new Sect IC was soon leading by example, or was that clutch changes?

Poland for some meant an outbreak of disease. This was due to the climate and not any dangerous liaisons from pre-exercise leave according, at least, to Tpr Bartholemew.

Cpl Boase deserves a special mention for outstanding work on the cooks’ truck and for not wrecking too many trailer jockey wheels. All in all an outstanding year and an amazing amount of hard graft by all concerned.

FUEL SECT

This year has been extremely busy for Fuel Sect. In Jan the Sect reformed with Cpl Lee as IC, LCpl Ruddick as 2IC (fresh from MT Stores), LCpl Hince and Trooper Eddowes. Unfortunately Cpl Lee rarely made it down to the Sect due to sickness, courses and office work.
With six POD’s to check and service the Sect was quickly down to work. LCpl Hince was forever away on JCB details and with Tpr Eddowes constantly having to help LCpl Shaw, most of the work was left to LCpl Ruddick. Fortunately LCpl Bourne and Cpl Woods were there to give the Sect a helping hand.

One of the first tasks was to train up some new UBRE operators. This was done two weeks prior to going to ranges in May. In all Cpl Lee managed to train eight new UBRE operators in that time, including two from 2RRF. With these six new operators the Sect was ready for ranges and the first of two Poland exercises.

Ranges went very well for the Sect, even with all the new crews. The Poland exercise followed hot on the heels of the range period and with just a small change in crews we cracked on with the job. Poland also went well for the Sect with only large muddy holes and very soft sand causing problems for the 16 ton TM UBRE’s. In one case a single hole sucked in both LCpls Ruddick and Hince at the same time. Only a KE rope and LCpl Bourne’s vast MT experience got them out.

The next month saw Fuel Sect deploy on Ex MM3 with another small change in crews. The exercise went well with only soft mud again causing a few problems at the start. Cpl Ruddick was the happiest man on the exercise when he was promoted in the field by the CO.

On returning to Munster in August the Sect took three weeks leave before getting ready for the second Poland exercise of the year. This final exercise in Poland passed off with no problems to mention. Altogether a good year for the Sect, with Cpl Ruddick and LCpl Eddowes both receiving promotion, and the vehicles in a much better state than at the start of the year.

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT

The LAD thought they had experienced a busy year in 1997 but they were wrong and spent most of 1998 looking for another gear that was not there! In addition to supporting the Regiment throughout its busy training year, with visits to Hohne, Sennelager, Grafenwohr, Poland and Canada, the LAD had members on Operational Duty in Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands.

Early 1998 saw a turnaround of approximately 25% of LAD personnel, most of whom extended to cover the Bosnia tour the year before. This was followed by a manning re-shuffle when D Sqn was reformed and the LAD has not stopped re-shuffling since. Manning shortfalls across the Corps were felt within the LAD and some members spent 1998 'squadron hopping' to cover various commitments. The LAD’s own ‘husband and wife’ team, Sgt Colin and LCpl Karen Leach left in January followed closely in February by the EME, Capt Steve Nevin, to be replaced by Capt Rob Dornton-Duff. The end of the year saw the departure of WO2 (AQMS) John Crozier who was replaced by WO2 (AQMS) Don McKenzie.

The working year began at the end of January on return leave, and most of February was spent handing back borrowed CVR(T)s. The first real outing of the year came in March when members of HQ LAD joined B Sqn Ftr Sect for BATUS activation. The LAD was reliably informed by boss man B Sqn, SSgt Nigel Cannar, that the boys worked very hard, but this was not backed up by the photos produced on return despite numerous claims that the photos had been mixed up with those of his winter holidays. April saw the first visit of the year to Hohne Ranges which went as planned with no real dramas. This was followed closely by our first visit of the year to Poland for a spot of pre-BATUS training. Poland was wet, so wet in fact that the Recovery Mechanics had a bit of a tea party. Within hours of the MBTs arriving, they were strutting their stuff with shouts of ‘I need c/s 24C assistance’ (Cavalry speak for I’ve got my tank stuck) flooding the HQ LAD CP. At one stage all three KRH CRARRVs were in action winching out three MBTs all stuck within a 500m radius. Then it was off to Canada for A, D and HQ LAD to take part in Ex MM3. ‘We won’t need the Reccy Mechs in Canada, it’s hot and dry on MM3’ someone was heard to say. Wrong! Within one day of being on the prairie, the BG was almost forced to a standstill when A1 Ech did their famous follow the leader trick, which resulted in 13 vehicles becoming stuck as they attempted to occupy a location on the first...
night. Two Fodens, a CRARRV and about 24hrs later they were mobile again, but this was just a taste of things to come. Everyone worked extremely hard throughout Ex MM3 to gain a good grading at the end of the exercise. While A, D and HQ elements of the LAD were braving the Canadian summer in BATUS, C Sqn Ftr Sect were busy supporting C Sqn on Hohne Ranges as part of the 11G BG. B Sqn Ftr Sect, meanwhile, were not just wishing they had someone to support, they were wishing they had fitters to support them with. Ex MM3 was followed by some well earned leave in August, before the climax of the year took place. This was the Bde Ex Ulan Eagle which meant yet another visit to paradise, I mean Poland. Everything seemed so familiar, but was this because we had done it once already this year? It seemed like yesterday, but was in fact 4 months ago! Fortunately this time it was not as wet. In fact it was all rather pleasant, especially for ASM Mick Conway who was partaking in his last exercise ever. Poland did bring with it a thing called LABG, and from 1 Sept 98 the A, D and HQ elements of the LAD found themselves on six days notice to move as part of the JRDF’s spearhead. Was this the end? Well no because there was still Ex MM6. Canada again, this time with C Sqn as part of the 11G Battlegroup. All went well and some members of the LAD liked it so much they stayed for a spot of deactivation. Not to be left totally out of it however, B Sqn were determined to get further than the Dorbaum training area and visited Hohne Ranges in late November for a spot of firing.

Despite the promises of last year, sport yet again took a bit of a back seat. The LAD though, not to be beaten did manage to field two teams in the REME 6-a-side football competition, but despite their brave efforts they came away empty handed. Adventure training was another story, however, with the LAD ably led by the incredibly well qualified EME, managing to fill more than their fair share of places on post Ex MM3 adventure training at Trail’s End Camp in Canada, and Ex Gandaki Diamond which was an expedition to Nepal that took place in October and included Ssgt Ian Samuels, Cpl Russ Underwood, LCpl ‘Grif’ Griffin, Cfn Scott and the EME.

As the year draws to a close, the LAD can look back and reflect on what has been an extremely busy, yet successful year. We now look forward to the challenges that 1999 will bring.

AGC DETACHMENT

Once again this has been a very busy year with Regiment returning from Bosnia at the start, and two visits to Poland and two to Canada taking up much of the time. Early in the year the detachment did find time to have its SPS inspection from Bde. The inspecting officer was content that the Regiment was, administratively, in good hands. When the detachment attended the SPS football competition later in the year, though, he did comment on the lack of communication between individuals. I’m sure he was talking about our footballing abilities as the team only scored one goal all day!

Inevitably there have been a number of moves in and out of the detachment starting with the new RAOWO, WO2 Palusiak, who took over from WO2 Saddler. He took the trouble to arrange his own onward move and is now with BATT South Africa. Perhaps the RAO should keep a better eye on what he signs in future. New arrivals, in no particular order, were Sgt Davies, Sgt Hill and his wife Cpl Hill, Cpl O’ Sullivan, SSgt Jones, Sgt Heavey and Pte Benson back from her maternity leave. As a final fling before his departure, the RAOWO arranged for the posting of the 2IC’s Clerk, Cpl Layborne, who now resides with the AAC Sqn in Brunei. We look forward to a replacement!

On the sporting side (yes there are still people who have not gone to exotic locations) the detachment has discovered golf. WO2 Reynolds who claims, like any good bandit, to play off 20 started this. First the RAO cleaned off his clubs then Sgt Davies had a go followed by Sgts Self, Hill and Cpl Copland, who acted as a caddie. All played in the Regimental Competition. We had no winners but plenty of fun. The detachment also has something of a celebrity on the sporting side with Pte Nott proving to be an outstanding cross-country runner. So far he has had good results in the Division League and came in tenth in the AGC Championships and has been selected as a member of the Corps Team for next year. That also gives WO2 Wells, the RAOWO, an aim in life as he is the nominated trainer.

Next year will, we all hope, be less frenetic as the Regiment is preparing to return to the UK. There is, however, the small problem of being prepared for JRDF, which seem to keep the senior ranks working full at tilt. Never the less it is hoped that the detachment will be able to join in fully with the adventure training and sport planned for 1999.

DWS
Well after the operational tour of 97 whatever next? In answer, the equally busy Training Year of 98! Just returning from post Bosnia leave on the 25 Jan, I tripped, fell to the floor and picked myself up to find I’d been thrown through time and the calendar read 2 Sept and summer leave was over. Where had we been for the past 6 months? Perhaps having a vacation in assorted locations around Europe and being catered for with the best of British Army rations!

What with the majority of the Regiment involved on Ex MM3, by the time Poland came around for the second time in 4 months we had all consumed enough compo to last a life time, especially the single soldiers who were burdened with that compulsory issue that seemed to take months to devour. Obviously Sgt Marshall had different ideas, travelling back to Prenslau during Ex Ulan Eagle to purchase fresh rations for a dinner party. Unfortunately he hadn’t taken into consideration a little old tradition known as the Bank Holiday.

Anyway, with such a tight schedule the sporting front has been quite bleak although there has been one major success. Sgt “Mark The Shark” Gratty quite convincingly won the Garrison Chefs Golf Championship with a gross 82. He then continued his good fortune coming a very commendable second in the RLC Caterers Germany Open with a gross 86. Oh and we must not forget that great rally driver Pte Jackie Bouskill, the stubborn woman who insists on driving into brick walls and states “it’s only a little scratch”. Yet again this year has seen lots of new faces in the Catering Dept with Sgt Kev Masson, Cpl Scott Jordan, LCpls Gaz Elliott and Baz Darbyshire all moving onto other units around Germany. Incoming were Sgt Marshall (‘Quiet Ginge’) on his second tour in York Barracks after leaving the 14th/20th Hussars in 1992. In addition came Cpl Karen Miller, and a mass influx of Ptes in Ford, Halstead and Hart all fresh out of the factory and with lots to learn.

All in all an excellent year for the Dept, especially Ex MM3 with a wealth of experience gained by all concerned. Next year - we anticipate with baited breath - sunny climates and adventurous training galore. What could be better?

The Med Sect’s year was notable for the number of personnel changes which took place. Maj John Timothy departed for Catterick and was replaced by Capt (now Maj) Francesca Simon. In the CMT cadre, Cpl Lamb from 2AFA replaced Cpl Ashworth. His unit missed him so much that they all moved in to York Barracks the following October. Continuity existed in the form of LCpl West who must have found the whole experience too traumatic as he volunteered to get away to Canada, not once but twice!

The smallest (but most select!) sub unit in the Regiment feels that it should be remembered for its eagerness to provide medical care wherever necessary. In Poland on Ex Prairie Eagle, with 2Lt Charlie Hayes in command, it was even rumoured to have been sighted forward of Recce Tp!
The year started with us bidding a fond farewell to Director of Music Captain David Cresswell, as he left us to take up his new position as Deputy Chief Instructor at the Royal School of Music, Kneller Hall. But we also bid a hearty hello and welcome to Captain Robert Pennington who joins us from The Band of the Blues & Royals, to take over his duties as Director of Music.

The band has also broken with a long tradition, by taking on board, as part of the new recruitment policy, two female musicians, these being Musn Natalie Woodhall who joined us in February and Musn Fiona Hall-Dixon.

May saw the band taking part in the Rheindahlen Army Show at JHQ, and then heading to Lourdes in France to take part in the 40th International Military Pilgrimage. This we found to be inspirational, the Dixie Band entertained the local community in the evenings, which was well accepted by one and all. On our return from Lourdes we started rehearsing for the Tongeren Tattoo in Belgium, from there we were on our way to Krefeld on a Schutzenfest.

In June we were on our way to Monchengladbach for the NATO Military Tattoo and to Bonn for QBP Reception Dinners at the Ambassador’s residence, also taking in a QBP Massed Bands at RAF Laarbruck. At the end of June the band went to Osnabruck for a Freedom Parade.

July was surprisingly quite except for the band being invited to the Netherlands to take part in the Nijmegen marches, after which the band went on a well-earned Summer leave.

On the bands return from leave in the middle of August, the band was immediately on its way to Minden for the Minden Day Parade. It then went to Berlin to take part in the Celebration of the Flying Boat Festival, and back to Munster for the Munster Horse Show.

September saw the Dixie band entertain the KRH at a Fun Day Event, and the whole band going to Ibbenburen to lead some historical automobiles prior to watching these vehicles taken part in a street race.

At the beginning of October it was a pleasure to travel to Recklinghausen for a joint concert with the Luftwaffe Band that is stationed in Munster just down the road from us. After this we changed our Ceremonial dress for Combat dress as we embarked onto a C130 Hercules transport plane for Bosnia to give musical support to our other affiliated Regiment The Light Dragoons, and local communities. Whilst in Bosnia WOII (ABSM) Keith Dawson donned a Light Dragoons football vest and joined his old Regiment in a game of football against a local team.

In November, after a short bit of leave on our return from Bosnia, the band, found itself on the road again, this time, with Claus Gork who has his own Roadshow. The show consisted of travelling around Europe from Munster, West Germany, to places like Neumunster in the north of Germany, then across to Hamburg, and finally back to Munster. After that the band was on its way to Osnabruck for an Anglo German Music Show.

December saw us starting rehearsals for the Halle Munsterland Show which, this year was celebrating the Anniversary of the Thirty Years War. This began when the protestant people of Bohemia revolted against their Catholic King, the Emperor Ferdinand II, and choose instead a Protestant prince, Fredrick of the Palatine. Because of this the Electors of the Holy Roman Empire decided to make Fredrick emperor in place of Ferdinand. Ferdinand acted swiftly and defeated the Bohemian rebels (1618-21), and reimposed Catholicism on Bohemia. This then escalated to involve Sweden, Russia, France, the Danes and the Poles, which ran until peace was finally settled in Westphalia in 1648. The following peace, drawn up at Westphalia held firm in Europe for the next 100 years. The band was also in Hohne to lend musical support for the Light Dragoons Bosnia Medal Parade.

We bid farewell to Director of Music Captain David Cresswell, and wish him and his family good luck for the future. We also bid farewell to WOII (ABSM) Ady Harris, and WOII (BSM) Nick Wakeford, who have gone on to pastures green. Both have completed their service within the Army, and we wish both them and their families good luck in their civilian lives.

WSW
After my initial training at Netheravon I was posted to the KRH in Münster. When I arrived at this, my first posting, the Regiment - including my predecessor Padre Burt - was still on exercise in Canada so for about three weeks I was a little unsettled in my new environment and my new role. The help my family and I received from Sgt Renouf of the Families’ Office, and Mrs Danvers was greatly appreciated at this time of transition. Eventually the Regiment returned and I was received with warmth and enthusiasm.

Initially, my main aim has been to get known - this I have been doing by visiting soldiers at work and I have also produced two Padre’s leaflets entitled ‘At Your Service’ which have been well received. Starting from mid-January I will be running three courses for dependants entitled: ‘Managing Stress’, ‘Coping with Disaster’ and ‘Bereavement and Grief’. And last but not least, there has been much to do pastorally.

The services at St George’s are continuing. The congregational size varies from week to week considerably but overall numbers have increased in the last couple of months with the arrival of two new families.

Sadly during block leave a young Tpr, Nicholas Bennett, tragically died. A Memorial Service was held on Friday 4 Sept 98. The whole Regiment turned out and The Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons played. Because of the large attendance the service was held in the Old Gymnasium.

Happily I got through the Sandhurst PQO Course, though I missed the exercise in Poland because of this. On my return I was active in organising special services. I was particularly pleased with the large number of adults and children who supported the Christmas Day Service.

I am looking forward to 1999 when I will be heavily involved in Padre’s Hours especially with the advent of the compulsory ‘Moral Component of Fighting Force’ ITD. I am also delighted that a Sqn has requested a sponsored service in February.

It is a great privilege to serve with the KRH and I pray that I will serve them well.

Rev Neil E Allison CF

OFFICERS’ MESS

After five weeks of post-Bosnia relaxation, 98 started with a timely bang as the KRH reasserted itself as the party-giver of Germany. The Egyptian Party, the long-awaited sequel to ’96 Revolution Party was the most ambitious project yet, and under the watchful eye of Maj (now Lt Col) Jonty Palmer helped by a cast of thousands, it was pulled off with all the usual dash and panache. Lasting memories of begging children, pyramids, belly dancers, fire-eaters, aromatic spices and the dreaded ‘securitat’ ensured that no one would forget this in a hurry - especially the couple discovered in the goatpen. Sadly, it all lasted but for one night, when two would really have done it justice. Although it took over a month to completely clear up, it took only a few minutes to polish off a celebratory Nebucadnezar for a job well done.

Moving swiftly on, the Mess welcomed ‘The Micks’ to Munster by hosting a small drinks party. However, the bill at the end of the night caused a few bottom lips to quiver as once again pride stood in the way of reason when it came to boat-racing and friendly rivalry, 2Lt Hope-Hawkins - alias Trumpet - deservedly gaining his Mess Colours for service beyond the call of duty. A good evening can always be judged by the number of people one has to lock out of camp in the small hours of the morning.

Interspersed throughout the year have been numerous dinner nights which have variously served to welcome the new Colonel of The Regiment, entertain The Honourable Company of Salters, revive our Anglo-German links - although all ‘vons’ seem to be related to one another - and test the Mess Secretary’s patience concerning ever-changing seating
plans. As a consequence, Mess rugby and other such after-dinner delights have made a welcome resurgence, with blackened eyes, bruised ribs, twisted ankles and flambéed POs certainly keeping the Doc gainfully employed.

One of the most unconventional dinners was held in the dark forests of Drawsko-Pomorski as a partial resurrection of c/s OH. The presence of a Polish beat-combo, several cases of interesting local wine and more live cam than even the PMC could have hoped for helped hasten post-exercise relaxation after the rigours of Ex Ulan Eagle 2.

During the summer months a few brave souls ventured on a Normandy (‘Battlefield Tour’ for SOT purposes!) cruise, which was memorable not only for the gastronomic delights consumed with relish, but also Capt Ollie Haslam’s rather convincing impression of a radar reflector on the high seas. This rediscovered taste for adventure led to a high speed road-trip northwards, destination Copenhagen - city of nauseous Chinese food, Verbier prices and very friendly locals, where even the RPO was overwhelmed with choice.

And so to the Regimental Dinner, in the presence of The Colonel-in-Chief, followed the next evening by The Honourable Company of Salters’ dinner - a truly memorable few days back in civilisation.

1998 has seen the Mess at almost full capacity - a welcome return after many years, with the old being replaced by the new at an almost alarming rate, consequently swelling the hallowed ranks of the ‘Warrior Monks of Munster’. Once again, however, the high standards of the Mess could not have been attained without the devoted hard work of the Mess staff, both front and back of house alike.

P S

WARRANT OFFICERS’ AND SERGEANTS’ MESS

Last year’s Mess Journal notes ended with the sentence “Christmas lies just ahead of us, there is much work and many parties yet to attend”. I can report that the work was completed and the parties attended. One of the many parties was the very successful WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess Christmas Ball held in the gym. We are still not sure if the living-in members (LIMs) moved onto the dance floor complete with table and chairs because they are hard of hearing, or whether the all-female band had something to do with their decision! As 1997 drew to a close most Mess members embarked on leave: some to UK, some to warmer climates and a fair share into the quarter areas for a well-earned rest before a new training season hit the Regiment.

By the end of January the Regiment had settled down into its new Orbat for 1998 and much good banter was heard at tea and toast about the Bosnia (very) Rear Party work load, mostly won by SSgt ‘London’ Smith, not by reasoned argument but by volume! But before the Mess staff could mark anybody down for a decent toast bill we were into the build-up training for BATUS.

Sqns moved up and down to Sennelager in February to cover ATD small arms training which went very well thanks to WO2 ‘Taff’ Reynolds (AGC). This did not stop the Mess holding a Regimental Dinner Night that month to say farewell to WO2 Mark Sadler and the newly commissioned Capt Wild BEM. One lesson learnt
that night, never let Sgt Tony Batty speak in public again. This had no influence on your posting Tony, honest.

During March the Mess saw everything from blankets to plates being counted as a change over of Mess Managers from SSgt Lofthouse to Sgt Pinkerton took place. It was not long before we were all packing our bags again heading to southern Germany to use the US Army Simnet facility. That was not before the Warrant Officers sat down to a lunch to ensure we were well nourished before departing.

All the crews soon got used to sitting in an enlarged MFO box for eight hours a day. Just in case the odd commander or driver should try to make a break for it, the American controllers appointed the Battle Masters, RSM Lister and SSMs Smith and James to put a stop to any attempted escapes. The RSM arranged his own senior ranks escape committee one evening to sample the local cuisine of pizza and a few beers. The enjoyment police did not notice the breakout as we made it back into the delightful forty-man room before lights out!

No escape was planned during the firing camp at Hohne, as it was full steam ahead for the tank tps to achieve a high pass at gunnery. At the same time RQMS Oliver and RQMS(T) Lewis's admin chains poured their resources into the mission delivering ammunition, spares and fuel, with SQMSs Sym and Loftus achieving a high standard in range burgers and a very unhealthy but nice line in cream cakes. No problem we all said, we can loose the weight when on exercise in Poland which followed ranges. We did not take into account the Mess function and the week's leave we just had to take on our return to York Barracks.

The Medieval theme night was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone especially as a few were reluctant to dress up. Most impressive was the DJ who actually came from that era! Thank you to the Mess Barmen Spesh and Shilly for their hard work decorating the Mess and drinking the bar dry! The Barmen were without the Mess Manager that night as Sgt Pinkerton and his wife were in the Osnabruck Stadt Clinic for the birth of their daughter Gina. Mid-June saw the KRH BG moving to the airfield for the flight to Canada. No time for another party in Munster, so we packed a jacket and tie and said let's have a function in Crowfoot Camp! Well, as normal the Regiment put its all into the task in hand, coming out of the prairie training with a glowing report, but only 24hrs for R&R before flying back to Germany. Mess members made the most of this time even if the transport was a little cramped!

In the meantime back in Munster WO2 (SSM) Thompson was busy trying to juggle gate guards, giving manpower to the BG, visiting the Danish Army and trying to keep the men happy. We must not forget the warriors from C Sqn who have been training with the Irish Guards for Ex MM6. Don't worry Sgt Evans, Warrior chain gun 7mm will not penetrate a Challenger turret!

The jacket and tie was returned to the wardrobe and the Mess dress dusted down for the dining out of the Commanding Officer Lt Col Bradshaw. This was enjoyed by all, maybe a little more than most by Mr Vice Sgt Rodmell. Towards the end of the year we also dined out Mr Phil Baker (WO2) who travelled back to Germany to leave the Mess in a fitting manner and he was sent off in good Mess style.

The Caveman Night in October proved to be very popular and it was wonderful to see everybody forgetting his or her usual niceties to play the roll to the full. Special mention must go to Sgt ‘Ginge’ Marshall who didn’t have to dress up to look the part. October also saw WO1 Smith taking over as RSM from the now Capt Lister.

The highlight of the year in the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess must surely be the anniversary of the Battle of Ramnugger. A church service was held on Sunday 22 Nov ’98. With Mess members attending, the RSM marched on the Guidons to remember all the members of the past Regiment that fell that day 150 years ago. This was followed by a Families’ Lunch.

The following weekend saw the Ramnugger Ball at which The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier E C W Morrison OBE was the principle guest. The RSM’s speech was accompanied by stirring music to add a little cavalry panache to the proceedings, as Mr Ramnugger, WO2 Thompson marched the cup on parade. All attending enjoyed themselves: some made it to midnight, a few made breakfast and a handful even made daybreak!

Well done to SSgts Richardson and Cannar for all their efforts as PEC and to WO2 (SSM) Winchcombe as PMC, and to all the committees during the year.
The Mess also said farewell to WO2 Pete Robo, Sgt Stev Robo, BSM Addie Harris, Sgt Ginge Sawdon, Sgt Vickers, Sgt Skeats, WO2 Devine and far too many more to mention. We wish you all well for the future. We also welcomed Sgts Foss, Farrell and Rodmell on promotion along with all the other SNCOs posted into the Mess.

The notes will finish much as they started. The Mess is working hard this year to ensure the Regiment is in good

A E S

CORPORALS’ MESS

Once again the Cpls’ Mess had a hectic year, but one thing the JNCOs have always done is party when time permits and 1998 was no exception!

The year started with the Valentines Dance. A flurry of heart shaped balloons, candle lit tables and good music gave Mess members the opportunity to wine, dine and romance the ladies in our lives, keeping them sweet for those weeks of separation coming up in the months ahead.

Then it was into the ever popular Kareoke nights and various theme nights where it would not be unusual to see LCpl Thompson of D Sqn attempting to sing ‘Wild Rover’ while dressed as a gangster. Please Tomo, learn the words to something different, and all those drag queens out there admit your problem and book an appointment with the MO!

The highlight of the year for many in the Cpls’ Mess was the Medicina Ball, held on the 25 Apr 98. The Ball was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by all those that could make it. The RSM - always with a keen eye - could not find Cpl Grove’s ‘Posse display of breakdancing in Mess Dress’ in any book of Cavalry traditions.

After April members of the KRH BG discovered that the time had come to hang up their Mess Dress, remove party heads and in Tomo’s case swap the stage microphone for an ANR headset. We went into the training cycle of Poland, Canada and Poland yet again, with that little thing called leave only occasionally getting in the way.

With the Training Year drawing to an end we bid farewell to the CO, Lt Col Bradshaw, sending him away armed to do battle on a river bank in the UK with his Fly Fishing kit presentation. In return the CO presented the Mess with a magnificent oil painting of General Tito, obtained in Bosnia.

Within a month the PMC, Cpl Crowley, had the task of finding a presentation for the outgoing RSM, WO1 Lister. What to buy the man who has everything - including a commission… a clock was the answer! In return the main man added to our property an 11th Hussar snare drum, and added to our Mess bills after an excellent dining out.

It should be pointed out that the activities at the end of the year were carried out without C Sqn’s JNCOs, as they preferred to train with the 1IG BG on Ex MM6. The Mess saw many members moving on through promotion, posting and discharge. We wish them all well and welcome all the new members to the Mess.

The Mess has lived life to the full both in barracks as well as in the field. All members are looking forward to the arrival of the newly commissioned Medicina Cup, to be displayed in RHQ. Right now, though, we are now looking forward to that well earned Christmas leave.

A E S
With a busy 1997 behind us, the Families Office embarked on 1998. Capt Dave Ashton began his third year in civvies, still full of enthusiasm and ideas. There were, however, personnel changes in the fighting arm of the Dept. Ginge Sawdon left to don lederhosen and live the next 22 years on his wife Annette’s terms. Bri Espie left an enormous gap when he was posted to Southampton, Steve Hambling departed for Netheravon, Gersh Irwin launched himself into civvy life ‘up north.’ Frenchie Renouf returned as Tp Sgt, bringing a wealth of knowledge and useful tips (‘When I did this job before...’). New Boy LCpl Halsall (Dangerous Dave) quickly became known as a bit of a geezer, being on coffee and cake terms with most of the Bde hierarchy. Tpr Doc Martin remained as indispensable as ever with his tool bag. Deborah Smith finally got to grips with the computer, and now holds the highest score for Solitaire.

We said a very sad goodbye to Belinda Penkethman, who handed over the reins of the PRI to Shirley Walton. Jenny McCloskey provides the other pretty face in the shop. Brisk and efficient business continues to be done, and we’ve heard that Belinda is applying all the skills and experience she gleaned as manageress of a busy Regimental concern in her new job in UK. “Mine’s a pint!” (Ed. Yes Dave but who’s paying?)

The Community Centre Committee continues to hold it’s lively and productive debates once a month, thrashing out the details for all the functions and events enjoyed by the wives and children. Sally Bradshaw was replaced as chief loafers-and-pearls by Boo Powe; Maureen Lister handed over Presidency to Liz Smith, and Maureen McLaren took on WRVSness from Anne Butterworth. Petra Greenwood, Nicola Binge, Sian Sheppard and Joanne Crozier had to be off, but with several diehard stalwarts and some jolly new faces, the CCC remains a force to be reckoned with. The Community Centre continues to throb with activities and services, notably Munchies - now under new management as ‘Billy’s Bistro’, the very popular Bingo Coven and the children’s’ facilities (which have gone from strength to strength) to name but a few.

Particular Families events over the year included a farewell BBQ for Sally Bradshaw who was extremely touched by the number of people who turned up to wish her well.

The KRH Anglo-German Fun Day was well up to it’s usual high standard, and raked in a ludicrous amount of money, despite awful weather. Halloween was celebrated in the Officers’ Mess crypt with dozens of small draculas, mummies and witches having a screaming good time. Bonfire night was enjoyed by all, especially the German visitors.

In amongst the specific doings were ‘Bar Open’ evenings, Sunday lunches and coffee mornings, all well attended and enjoyed.

We ended the year with the traditional Childrens’ and then Wives’ Christmas Parties.

Although there was a slight hitch with the Children’s entertainer - he didn’t turn up! - you can’t keep an excited child down and they all ran about, made a mess and snatched their presents from Santa, unaware that they weren’t being entertained. Due to a bit of an incident in the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess last time out, the wives were demoted to dining in the Cookhouse, there being no silver to pinch there. The atmosphere didn’t suffer at all though and the festivities continued in the Cpls’ mess until the small hours.

As the very last year of the millennium dawns we contemplate the leaving of Dave Ashton. Many a thing could be said of the man, but we thought it best to keep it brief and unsentimental. Bye Dave. Capt Dave Oliver will be assuming command which, it is certain, will ensure that the extremely high standards of the Families Office, and it’s various arms and legs, never falter.

DA
SPORT

BOXING

The 1998 Brocklehurst Competition took place in early March due to the busy run up to Christmas. The fighting, however, lost none of the intensity and several preliminary fights took place on 2 Mar 98.

There were eight weight divisions in the finals from feather to heavyweight. The standard of fighting was good across the board, most notably between Tprs Ashton and Pollard. All fights were hard fought and fair in the true Sqn spirit. Results are listed below.

Perhaps most important are the awards. The ‘Best Boxer’ of the evening went to Tpr Webster of D Sqn. The Brocklehurst Trophy, for the best overall performance, was won by D Sqn. Congratulations to them and to all those involved in what was truly an excellent evening.

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<td>Welter</td>
<td>Tpr Webster D</td>
<td>Tpr Brinkworth A</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Welter</td>
<td>Tpr Pounder A</td>
<td>Tpr Gregory HQ</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Tpr Keenan C</td>
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<td>Blue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feather</td>
<td>Tpr Durrant C</td>
<td>Tpr Roberts D</td>
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Cpl Portwood and Tpr Beaver fight for the Heavyweight Title

FOOTBALL

On our return from Bosnia the football team soon re-established itself into its normal socialising stride with a couple of friendly games against a local German side, namely Albachten. The German team came away with the impression that we were indeed the team to beat, well, in the bar anyway!

Regimental Football Colours were awarded to WO2 Keith Dawson, Sgt Dave Ford and Cpl Chris Adamson which were justly deserved for their notable contributions over the past few years to Regimental Football. Still nobody can comprehend how Keith Dawson manages to see through those large eyebrows. Answers to the Football Officer please.

We also said a few farewells this year, firstly to Sgt Dave Ford who left on posting. This was followed by LCpl Gersh Irwin who felt that existence as a civilian was far better than playing football and scruffing his way through the Sports Bar after every game. This was an
unfortunate loss for the team as both were influential players.

Football has developed into such a popular game within the Regiment that at the present time the we have 2 teams in the Premier West league. Nowadays there are over 60 players registered on the club's books which ensures that the strongest conceivable teams are put out on match days. It has also unveiled a considerable amount of young talent for the future. The 'A' team is currently top of the league with the 'B' team in 8th place.

Noticeable performances this year have come from Sgt Micky Caulfield who spends more time rolling around on the pitch laughing than actually playing the game. He'll never change! Then there is Sgt Pete Surrage who has kept a clean referee's notepad by not getting booked or sent off this year. He has also had seven unsurpassable opportunities to score, hindered by his wayward shooting. Never mind Pete you can only improve. And then there is Sgt Geordie Kennedy who after years of playing has actually found his left foot, and believe it or not managed to score from 40 yards, or so he tells the story in the Sports Bar. We all know the true story, so lets just say that all their defence touched it, the wind took it, and the equivalent to Oxford Utd's goalkeeper let it through his hands. What a genius he is.

On the Army Challenge Cup front the team had a magnificent result against 21 Engrs in Osnabruck with the only goal of the game scored by Sgt Jessup. We are currently in the Quarter-Final stages and are still waiting to see who our opponents will be. On the Cavalry Cup front we are to play either the Light Dragoons or 2RTR in the Semi-Final. So at the present time the team is still in two cup competitions and is currently leading the Premier League West. Hopefully there will be a piece of silverware to display at the end of the season as promised to the CO.

Finally, many thanks to the management team that lurk in the background organising all the admin for each game which is very time consuming. A special mention must go to Cpl Lewie Lewtas for all the effort he has put in over the past year despite sometimes suffering from the ill effects of a good night out. Also a big thank you to Cpl Frenchie Debaughn who is finally up to date on his football subs or so Cpl Robbo Robinson tells us. Unfortunately we cannot mention everybody, but many thanks go to all the younger members of both teams who are starting to establish themselves and will be the players of the future for the Regiment. So lets have a successful season and keep the level of our football in line with our achievements on the social side of the game.

REK

SKIING

Whilst the Regiment was in the final throws of the OPEVAL, the Alpine Ski Team escaped to Verbier, Switzerland to compete in the RAC and AAC Ski Championships. Four men from the ten-man team would go forward to the Div Championships and hopefully individuals if not a team would then continue to the Army Championships. This hinged around successful qualification.

An uneventful deployment was soon marred by the Team Captain making the first insurance claim. Unable to negotiate the supermarket entrance, his tooth came off second best! Having had twenty-four hours to settle in and carry out the necessary administrative details, the team faced the annual ski-off. This required every individual, 105 in total, to reveal their talent on skis, so that they could be put in to one of nine ability groups. For LCpl Mackay and Tpr Webster it was an awe inspiring prospect since neither had skied before.

Once in their groups, the following two weeks were spent acquiring ski legs and concentrating on technique. It was during this time that Tpr Chiverton decided that he was more suitable as a chalet girl. He had sustained a fractured tibia whilst executing a death defying jump and so with his leg in plaster he became very adept at washing and cleaning. He was joined later by LCpl Mackay, also with a
fractured tibia, and together they made an excellent team. “You wash today, and I’ll dry”.

Week three saw the introduction to pole training. Whilst the top groups practiced slalom again and again, the lower groups continued to improve at a remarkable pace. Tpr Webster and LCpl Mackay had by this stage moved up a group.

Whilst the team continued to work hard on the slopes, it also executed a demanding routine in the evenings. Vodka & Redbull shakers in the Pub Mont-Fort for the soldiers, Royales in Les Croquignoles for the offfrs, a quick trip to Marshall’s and then the final lap in the Farm Club. Liaisons with chalet girls, nannies and ski reps became common place with the soldiers and never even got started with the offfrs. Tpr Chiverton fell hopelessly in love, whilst Tpr Hudson borrowed other people’s.

Each weekend a Regiment took it in turn to host their own brand of party. The KRH teamed up with The LD’s to host an evening unsurpassed by all others. The traditional Warrior party was a huge success, with those disrespectful of the awesome drink ending up in rather more trouble than they had anticipated!

By week five the standard of skiing had improved immeasurably and the initial seeding races saw some good results. Tpr Hudson was seeded 15th, Lt Stephenson, Lt Rogers and LCpl Alway were in the 20’s and Cfn Earle-Mitchell and Tpr Walters were not far behind.

Christmas bought with it a three-day break from first parade, and the mysterious appearance of a Christmas tree. LCpl Alway assured the Team Captain he knew nothing of its arrival but the EMELET set about shortening it to fit into the chalet. Christmas day dawned for most in the Farm Club, and was followed by a team fry up and presents. Champagne up the mountain with the Black Watch ensued with Cfn Earle-Mitchell doing his best to kill himself whilst perfecting back flips and flying upside down. A fantastic day then culminated with the team being entertained by the RDG’s for dinner.

With the break gone it was then time to concentrate on the racing. Much hard work and effort was put into the first race on New Year’s Eve, but New Year’s Day stopped play for a further twenty-four hours. Midnight in the main square of Verbier is an experience not to be missed and is a definite must for the millenium where-to-be shortlist.

Race week produced some good results for the team. Tpr Hudson achieved a top ten result in the Downhill and two top fifteen results in the Team GS and Team Slalom. Tpr Walters and Cfn Earle-Mitchell should also be congratulated on some excellent results in their first seasons racing. On the strengths of these results and form shown throughout the exercise Lt Stephenson, Lt Rogers, LCpl Alway and Tpr Hudson were chosen to represent the Regiment at the Divisional Championships.

After the prize giving, at which the B Team - led by Lt Biddulph - collected a medal for their fine result in the Super G, Lt Rogers collected a medal from Croqs for his achievements in the Royale competition. A final night in the farm and it all came to an end. Verbier will not be the same until the cavalry return!

Les Contamines in France was the venue for the Div’s. It was here that the team’s results reflected the tremen-
dous training received in Verbier. Tpr Hudson walked away with three of the four medals for the junior competition and was subsequently declared the Junior Divisional Champion. It was also the first time a team from the KRH had qualified for the Army Championships and so as January neared its end the team moved to Serre Chevalier.

At the Army Alpine Ski Championships all successful individuals met up for the culmination of a season's training. Of note is the fact that only twenty teams across the whole Army made the final hurdle, and so with a sense of achievement the team set about its duty on the ‘wall’. Tpr Hudson’s improvement continued unabated. First junior in the Individual Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Giant Slalom assured him the title of Army Junior Champion. It was an excellent achievement and bodes well for the future of Regimental alpine skiing.

J A S

POLO

The 98 polo season was a full one for low-goal polo in Germany, although marked by insufficient KRH players to put out a full team and rather a lot of unseasonably foul weather that seemed to strike only at weekends.

After the progress made during 97 in putting Münster Polo Club firmly back on the map, with the help of the Coldstream Guards, it was a shame that their successors to the Guards’ German country seat - the Irish variety - announced their reluctance to follow suit. This, combined with the withdrawal of three of our players from the game at the end of the 97 Season, and a further two during 98, meant that an ad hoc KRH Team, rarely containing more than two KRH players - essentially Lts Cotton and Stanley-Smith - was the norm. Lt Stephenson did make a few appearances but on balance found his loyalties pulling him elsewhere. A brave man; it has been several years since a newly arrived Sublt has dared to take on a polo pony for a year, do the ski season in Verbier and finance a girlfriend in England. Congratulations and commiserations respectively. Capt Juxon could always be relied upon to buy a few chukkas if a tournament had a good party in the offing. Maj Arrowsmith took over the reins from Maj Palmer, and furthered the cause of providing affordable polo to those wishing to play. Indeed, he even got back in the saddle on a few occasions to discover that he had not forgotten too much, save some of the rules. LCpl Penlington remained the backbone of polo in the yard, managing to get the occasional game himself (where he put the offers to shame). It was encouraging to see Cpl Barber earn his ‘polo wings’, proving that the KRH do more to promote polo for other ranks than any other regiment in Germany, if proof were needed. On the ERE front I understand that Lt Will Anderson has founded the first AAC Polo Team. Air Cavalry indeed!

It should come as no great surprise that we did not win a great deal this year. Nevertheless, the learning curve has been considerable for Lts Cotton and Stanley-Smith who found themselves with far greater horsepower (and stables bills) in 98, enabling them consistently to have a full game on all significant days of play. It was a huge shame that the KRH place in the Rhine Army Polo Team at the German Low-Goal Championships in Berlin should have been given to a hired assassin, who was neither in the Army or even British! This meant that the expected string of defeats were less conspicuous and, therefore, easier to swallow. However, committed Army players were deprived of an important opportunity to develop their playing experience, not to mention the signal given out to potential new players. An object lesson for the future of Army Polo in Germany. Lt Stanley-Smith was at least lucky enough to be given time off to represent the Regiment in the Inter-Regimental back in England. This was a knockout competition, though, and sadly we were beaten in the first game by just one goal. Many thanks to Colonel David Woodd for his efforts.

The highlight of the season must have been the KRH Polo Tournament, over the weekend 13-14 June, which was more ambitious than that of 97. The weather
threatened terrible things but happily the rain stayed at bay, and the sun was out for the better part. The ground was brought up to superb condition, once again, by Trevor and his team from Tylers, to whom a huge vote of thanks must go. The Regimental hot air balloon flew, and offered tethered rides to all, thanks to Capt Dickie Pearce. Capt Peter Vickery was again there to help, and kindly orchestrated the umpiring. His daughter Fiona strengthened the Regimental connection by playing on our team. Oeding-Erdel, the exclusive Münster jeweller, kindly agreed to sponsor the Team. We hope that their representatives who came to support us enjoyed the weekend. Finally the Polo Party was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by those who could make it. We even made it to our own final, where we succumbed to Keiling’s under-handicapped and over-practised team from Hanover.

At the time of writing, an LABG deployment to Kosovo (or at least Macedonia) looms large, and consequently much polo for us in 99 seems unlikely. We look forward to the move to Tidworth where, with its proximity to London and impressionable girls (hope springs eternal), within no time I’m sure everyone will want to be a budding Heguy, or at least act the part! “Polo Gold Card? That’ll do nicely. ” Membership has its privileges.

J B C

SAILING

1998 has been another good year for sailing. As I cast my eyes down the list of achievements I see that 35 soldiers have undertaken various courses at either Kiel or Gosport. Of that number two have qualified as Day Skippers and the remainder as Competent Crew.

The sailing season began back in April when seven soldiers went away and gained their first nautical experience by breaking the ice at Kiel and around the Baltic. Whilst the majority of the BG were Dry Training at Hohne after ranges, Maj Beresford, Capt Haslam and 2Lt Hayes carried out very wet training whilst competing at the RAC Seaview Regatta.

Prior to deploying to BATUS the Sailing Officer crewed a yacht from Miami to Bermuda some 1000 nautical miles. Worried calls were relayed to York Barracks via the Florida coastguard as at one stage, due to engine failure, it looked unlikely that I would make it to dry land in time to deploy to Canada. It turned out to be a close thing, and I cherish the memory of my six hours on Bermuda.

Following Ex MM3, Lt Col Singer, and Capts Holloway and MacGregor competed at Cowes week on the Army Sigma 38, Redcoat. After a solid start to the week, we lost our mast in spectacular front-page style, and lost two days of racing. Despite this Redcoat came third in class.

During the post-BATUS leave Capts Berchem, Pettinati, Haslam and Holloway chartered a yacht by the name of ‘Carabistouilles’ - a fair mouthful to say to the water taxi at the end of an evening ashore. We sailed across the Channel in a flat calm visiting Cherbourg, Alderney, St Vaast la Houge and contemplated the D-Day beaches and Mulberry Harbours on the way to Ouistreham, before returning to the Solent. The return crossing was an interesting night passage. The wind was a Westerly Force 7 with large rolling seas. Just before last light Capt Haslam was required to go up the mast and after two broaches he returned to deck level a changed man. Seeing Selsey Bill at first light, with the wind abating, was most reassuring. All survived the week without serious permanent mental or physical damage.

Next on the busy programme was the RAC Offshore Regatta. All survived racing in a variety of demanding conditions. We won three races and secured second overall. Tpr Hadfield was the winning helmsman in the crews’ race.

Capt Slack and Tpr Nowell went to Gosport for the RAC Yacht Club’s Ex Leading Light as soon as Endex was called after Ex Ulan Eagle. Capt Slack returned with a
Day Skipper ticket and Tpr Nowell with more valuable experience and eager to do more. Towards the end of the year Capt Mann and Tprs Martin and Wimbush got up to Kiel for a week at a time.

Throughout the year Kiel have been extremely helpful in loading KRH soldiers onto courses at late notice. They have been instrumental in getting the numbers of soldiers qualified. All who have been sailing this year have expressed enthusiasm regardless of the occasionally demanding physical conditions. Soldiers who spend a week sailing have every right to feel that they have achieved something, learning new skills and operating in an alien environment. Most importantly the sailing at Kiel and Gosport is free - so bother your Tp Ldrs and get out there!

Next year’s programme is already looking good, with a series of regatta weeks over the summer months, as well as an opportunity to sail on the RACYC yacht in the Channel Islands. The courses at Kiel and Gosport go on.

FISHING

This year has been an almighty success for the squad which until recently consisted of only two committed members, namely WO2 Smith and Sgt Evans. As ever recruitment was a big problem and had to be addressed early on if we were to have any chance of entering a KRH team in the Army Shore Championships being held towards the end of the year in Dover. Having trawled the Regiment for potential fishermen (which included a non-violent advertising campaign) about ten names went into the melting pot.

WO2 Smith was quick to organise some casting practice on the Polo field for the new blood in the team, and so began the training.

A point to note about shore casting is that it takes time to master a cast which can propel a lead weight of 6oz over an average distance of 140 yards, travelling at speeds in excess of 70mph, whilst keeping control of the line screaming from the reel and avoiding, of course, the potential birds nest and line separation. Cpl Ian Williams (REME) was the first to learn this invaluable lesson and took most of the skin off of his right thumb - just for good measure - during his training. Although others were keen to learn it took a while for them to actually turn up but we got there in the end. Tuition also included how to tie knots, make rigs and service equipment. With a firm base of knowledge it was time to put it all into practice at an excellent venue in Holland: Ijmuiden, west of Amsterdam.

Having already fished here on several occasions, WO2 Smith and Sgt Evans could dedicate time to assisting the others and giving tips on catching the numerous
species of fish that to be found. Ultimately, however, the target species was cod.

Praise is deserved by WO2 Smith who, during the busy Training Year, was elected to the post of Group 7 (BFG) Match Secretary and successfully boosted membership throughout Germany from 7 to 33 members (mainly KRH and RHF). This was noted at the AGM AAA Sea Section.

Before we knew it the Army Shore Championship was upon us and after some serious jet lag from BATUS, Sgt Evans returned and the team departed to do battle on the infamous Dover Breakwater. The KRH four-man team consisted of WO2 Smith, Sgt Evans, Cpl Williams and LCpl Russell, with LCpl Wild placed in an ad hoc team. The event was fished over two days against some extremely tough opposition with 67 anglers competing in singles, pairs and team competitions. When the final results were published the KRH team had come 3rd (out of 17 four-man teams) and WO2 Smith and Sgt Evans had come 3rd in the pairs (out of 33). Individual results (from 67 anglers) were Sgt Evans 3rd, WO2 Smith 12th, Cpl Williams 15th, LCpl Wild 26th and LCpl Russell a well deserved 35th. With a lot of noses pushed out of joint the KRH had stamped its authority on the Army (Sea Section) match circuit. Congratulations!

In addition WO2 Smith and Sgt Evans were selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Shore Championship at Holyhead Breakwater, North Wales in December, which the Army won. The squad continues to grow in strength and welcome anglers of all levels to join and with plenty of forthcoming events, next season should be even better. Tight lines!

G J E

TRIATHLON

On 28 Jul 98 the first known KRH Triathlon Team entered a Sprint Triathlon at JHQ Rheindahlen. The three-man team consisted of SSgts Beaver and Jefferson, and LCpl Farling. The results were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Time</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSgt Jefferson</td>
<td>1 hr, 28 mins &amp; 5 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCpl Farling</td>
<td>1 hr, 33 mins &amp; 2 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSgt Beaver</td>
<td>1 hr, 38 mins &amp; 49 secs</td>
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The winning time was 1 hr, 16 mins & 47 secs. This was a good day out and it is hoped that the Regiment will become more involved next season.

LCpl Farling, SSgt Jefferson and SSgt Beaver
In Jan 98 three young officers decided that it was high time they set about spending some of the money they had just saved in Bosnia. What better location than the exclusive resort of St Moritz in Switzerland, and what better way to spend it than for the privilege of hurtling head first at 70 mph down an ice run on a tea tray? Capt Mann and Lts Valdes-Scott and Haslam were those people, and this is their story.

The process of taking part in the Army Cresta Run championships is, unsurprisingly, a very regimented affair and is reminiscent of Sandhurst. One has to parade at the correct place and time – in this case an unhealthy 0730hrs – in the correct order of dress in order to receive detailed briefings and occasionally be spoken to like a child by a senior officer. This order, though, comes not from the fact that it is an Army competition but rather the fact that the St Moritz Tobogganing Club is run with a ruthless efficiency far beyond anything that the Army could possibly muster. “Do listen!”

Somewhat apprehensive and not a little hung over, we presented ourselves at the Cresta Club on the novices morning, plus fours and all, to be taught the ways of the famed Cresta Run. We were shown x-rays of those that had gone before us with a blasé approach and suffered the consequences. Then we were required to write disclaimers to the effect that we accepted all responsibility for any physical damage that might happen to us... “Do write clearly!” What a build up. This was going to be fun.

The paperwork out of the way, we were shown the requisite techniques for a slow run to give us a feel for the ice and, of course, ‘Shuttlecock corner’. Much was said about this particular corner and how those who paid it insufficient respect were often punished for their folly by way of agonising injuries and broken limbs.

On our first few runs we did well, showing much control. We were also lucky enough to be on the receiving end of some sound advice from Capt (Retd) Daly, seemingly a seasoned veteran, who pointed us in the right direction. After a few runs we were all progressing pretty well, and putting in reasonably respectable times for ones with such inexperience. Naturally, though, with confidence comes a lack of attention to detail, and errors. Lt Valdes-Scott, on his penultimate run, hurtled around Shuttlecock with one runner of his sledge out of the track and his legs dangling back inside the track to keep him in. In the words of the commentator, “heaven knows how he stayed in. ” Capt Mann, having taken a sharp exit at Shuttlecock on one of his later runs “…apparently unhurt,” went on to produce some very reasonable times, assisted by his weight advantage. Lt Haslam was described as “not a pretty sight” going around Shuttlecock, and on his next run, trying to shave valuable seconds from his time, left the run completely at the same place. He too went on to clock up some fairly respectable times and with further practice could also have run from the “top” of the course. Doing that, though, adds another 30mph to one’s speed around Shuttlecock. The line between bravery and utter stupidity was a clear one. Quite content with our achievements, we attended the Inter- Services drinks party before, if you will excuse the expression, sliding away. A truly outstanding week, and thoroughly recommended.
In the early months of 1998, Lt MacGregor came up with a cunning plan to take fifteen members of the Regiment trekking in Nepal. After the CO gave the plan the thumbs up, hopeful would-be trekkers put their names forward and Lt MacGregor had the task of choosing the lucky few.

Funding for the expedition came from various Army coffers and Regimental funds, meaning personal contributions were kept down to a mere £350 each when the full cost per person was about £2,000. SSgt Sammuels tried raising extra funds by selling his body, but the highest offer he had was 23 pfennigs from the Medical Centre, and that was only for scientific research!

After a luxurious and spacious ride to London Heathrow thanks to MT, we embarked on a 13 hour flight to Katmandu - the capital of Nepal - via Quatar in the Middle East. Nepal is situated to the north of India and has Bangladesh to its East. Upon arriving in Katmandu and finding a palatial hotel (with running water!), it was decided that the team should go out and socialize to try and take our minds off Munster and the beloved Tank Park that we all missed so very much.

The next morning everyone awoke bright eyed and bushy tailed for a brief from Capt Dorton-Duff and Lt MacGregor with reference to timings, medical cover and the route.

Later that morning Capt Dorton-Duff and Lt MacGregor went about finding eight porters, a guide and sorting out trekking permits, whilst Lt Perry emptied the Royal Nepalese Bank of all its money for meals, accommodation (very cheap ‘tea-houses’ ranging in cost from 20 pence to £3 a night) and other expenses. Because Lt Perry was carrying so much money, bodyguards were thought to be a good idea. The two Kevin Costners in the team were obvious and LCpl Griffis and LCpl Addison instantly got the part. The rest of the team went about buying essentials like walking poles, iodine droplets for water purification and, of course, clean T-shirts for another night socializing.

An excellent night was had, with Cpl Underwood showing the officers the Cpl’s Mess two step along with some true disco and aerobic style dancing (enough said about that). The highlight of the night was a rickshaw race around Katmandu with Tpr ‘Hercules’ Forrest showing...
us his impression of Stevie Wonder at the helm. Needless to say the telegraph pole won and the rickshaw came a close second.

The next morning, feeling fresh again, we had to take the dreaded eight hour bus drive to Besisahar (880m) which could only be explained as white knuckle ride. A few of the team members spent most of the journey with their heads out of the window admiring the view. In the early afternoon we arrived at Besisahar, found a tea-house and settled down for the night, that is after a delicious water flavored curry sauce, rice and chicken bones for tea. A taste of real Nepal.

On day one of the trek we started off nice and early which was a good job because the photo shoot seemed to last until the afternoon. Our first impressions of Nepal were of dirty kids, poverty and over populated streets but as we moved out of the town and onto the trail this was replaced by breathtaking landscapes, friendly people and not forgetting lots and lots of dodgy bridges to cross. On the way to Bahundada (1311m), our first night’s stop, we encountered our one and only rainstorm of the trek.

During the first couple of days we were met by even more beautiful sights of streams, waterfalls and thick secondary jungle which would not look out of place in a Jurassic Park movie. Moving on we made for Bagarchhap (2082m), a village where in 1994 many trekkers and villagers were killed in a landslide. Speeding up and treading lightly, we headed for Pisang (3254m). After a well-earned and splendid night’s rest the team split into two groups. One group was to make the gradual climb to Manang (3500m), and the other would go up the very steep ascent and take in some of the best views of the Annapurna mountain range. Needless to say the noodle arm quire boys who took the easy option missed out on a breathtaking experience, in more ways than one!!

As the days went by the acclimatization process was going well. The days varied in distance covered depending on how much you could climb in one day. A safe rate to ascend in one day above 3,500 -4,000m is said to be 500m, which made some days very short - only two to three hours walking - as opposed to some of eight to twelve hours. Day eight was spent at Manang to acclimatize to 3500m, and to muscle in on an HRA (Himalayan Rescue Association) Acute Mountain Sickness lecture. The lecture was given by an American doctor and his (AMS) team, who man the one and only hospital type set up for travellers and locals who suffer with AMS. A few more days seemed to slip past as we gained in altitude and acclimatized at a very slow rate in preparation for the Thorung La Pass. It was noted at this point that Marijuana plants grew wild along the trail, which is probably the reason why the donkeys looked so happy carrying their heavy loads up and down the trail. A happy trip indeed!

Eventually we arrived at a very cold and destitute Yak Karka at 4000m, the last but one stop before the summit. After a further breathless and tiring four hours of trekking we arrived at Thorung Phedi at the height of 4500m, the final stop before Thorung La Pass: the highest pass in the world. I have to add at this point that at Thorung Phedi there are only two tea-houses, so they could charge what they liked. Prices were so extortionate that they made the NAAFI look like a charity shop. That night was very cold and Cfn Kev Scott was heard to be crying out, due to a mouse wanting to jump in his sleeping bag with him. Many tears were spilt, but no blood was found from the mouse.

The day of the summit climb started at four o’clock in the morning. We had to leave that early because if you leave too late it gets too hot to climb. AMS really started to kick in for a few members at this point. It can only be compared (in the early stages) to having the worst hangover of your life, multiplied by ten and then some. At midday on day eleven we reached the pass at the height of 5, 416m or 17, 800ft. The weather could not have been any better, allowing us an amazing view. A quick photo shoot was called for to capture the team at the top of the world (well almost!).

After four or five hours of descending (or four or five hours of LCpl Truesdale thrilling anyone lucky enough to be
The next morning we said a tearful farewell to the porters and headed for Jomson international airport, a run down barn and very dodgy runway. After the worry of weighing all of our Bergen's, which turned out to be bang on (15kg each), we nervously boarded our plane - a twin propeller, 16 seater - which was presumably ideal for your average Nepalese person. That was okay for LCpl Addison or LCpl Griffin but we had a few strapping lads on board.

At last the plane took off and 45 minutes later we arrived in Pokhara. We were hosted very kindly by the Gurkhas who let us stay in their selection camp for the night. Down-town in Pokhara it seemed that every other shop was either a camping shop, bar or restaurant, much to the disappointment of the lads. Surgery was needed to take the smiles off LCpl Daz O'Donnell and Tpr Calvert's faces. Meanwhile LCpl 'Dusty' Coleman was dancing La Bamba with anyone who went by in the street.

The next day we set off on a two-day white water rafting trip. On the River Gandaki we passed through beautiful sights of yet more jungle, with plenty of rapids on route. Four days earlier two American rafters died in rapids because they were not wearing the correct safety equipment. Like the rest of the trip this went all too quickly and before we knew it we were back in Kathmandu for the final night, where Sgt Thomas stole the final rickshaw race title from Cpl Underwood, much to his disappointment.

At Kathmandu airport members of the team seemed still to be suffering from the symptoms of AMS and a long delay at the airport did not help.

Ex Gandaki Diamond was a once in a life time experience. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Lt MacGregor and all those who made it possible.
It was when my Sqn Ldr, Maj Palmer, was interviewing me for my first confidential report that the question came up. “Would you like to go away for a few months over the winter – New Zealand let’s say – to improve your polo? God knows you need it!” “Is the Pope catholic?” I felt like saying, but opted instead for “I’d love to… how soon can I go?”

It was then the early part of the 1997 polo season and Maj Palmer had masterminded the return of Regimental polo after its absence for several years. The sport had paid a heavy price for the Regiment’s commitments over the previous few years, and a gap in knowledge and experience had developed. Having started to play at University and continued throughout Sandhurst, whilst still very much a novice, I was apparently the most promising of all the subalterns or Captains at RD… and who was I to argue?

I was told that as soon as I got back from Bosnia in the middle of December, I could go. Who, though, would take me under their wing in New Zealand? Luckily a Kiwi couple working for Bad Bentheim Polo Club just an hour from Munster, with whom we had close ties, were only too happy to oblige. Simon Broom – a two goal player who chased summers and polo between home and Germany every year – with his girlfriend-cum-groom Angie Norrie (a handy nought goal) were to be my foster parents and coaches for 10 weeks. I would be a ‘playing groom’, exercising their ponies during the week in return for ponies to play at weekends and a place to sleep.

When I eventually touched down in Christchurch, South Island I found myself in the middle of their driest summer for a decade, a far cry from the bleak German winter that was closing in on Munster as I had left. I shivered at the thought and gratefully accepted the cool beer being thrust into my hand. I had arrived on the night of a party chez Simon and Angie. It must have been good, as I cannot tell you whether it was held in my honour or, for that matter, for any occasion, as frequently there was none. Later that evening, when my jet lag got the better of me, I discovered that my ‘place to sleep’ was a small bed in the same room as and right next to that of Simon and Angie. I hadn’t appreciated that they would themselves be roughing it with a friend, in the little wooden shack he called home. Simon had just given up a job as a farm manager, and the house and paddocking that went with it. This unexpected arrangement made for much comedy but was not to be a great problem as, in any case, most of the time was spent on the road.

There are, in fact, only four polo clubs in the South Island (South Canterbury, Christchurch, Blenheim and Amuri), and these are spread out over great distances. The majority of polo in New Zealand is actually played in the North Island, but expeditions across the water by teams from either side are rare. Every weekend, then, one of the four southern clubs would host a tournament which the other three would attend. The horseboxes they use are a comical collection of decrepit lorries, none having been manufactured with this purpose in mind. Not one of them would have passed an MOT in the UK let alone be allowed to transport horses! My club, South Canterbury, was the farthest south, so that when we had to go to the northern most club we would allow an entire day and night, passing through staggeringly beautiful countryside and coastlines on the way.

The polo played in the South Island is almost entirely ‘farm polo’, but pursued with much dedication and considerable ability. Not only is the number of players per capita in New Zealand about ten times that in the UK, but the average handicap is also far higher. This meant that as a -1 goal player I was something of a rarity (there was only one other in the South Island) and so I had little difficulty finding teams to play on, as I could conveniently bring their aggregate handicap down.

I gradually got used to the higher standard of play, but had more than my fair share of bashes and falls on the way, which in turn contributed to the rise of my learning curve. During my first competitive chukka, for example, my pony reared up unexpectedly so violently (twice!) that her neck pushed my guard into my face, forcing a tooth to pierce a hole clean through below my bottom lip. On another occasion I was glad of the protection afforded by my face guard when a ball hit me at full pelt, square in the face. I was left shaken but intact, thankful.
that I had decided not to remove the guard after all. Later, in a hard ride off, I was helped out of my stirrups and saddle by my adversary. Despite desperately trying to hang on to my pony's neck I soon came crashing down only to have my right hand trodden on by her at full canter. My hand ballooned to twice its normal size before my eyes. Luckily nothing was broken and I was playing again after a week, although after almost a year I still have part of a shoe print on my hand.

The ten weeks flew by, and looking back I think that I improved a good deal. The work could be very demanding at times but the rewards were high, and it was above all a great experience. I only wish I could have stayed longer.

EXERCISE SCANDINAVIAN CADET

by OCdt B N A Grey, RMA Sandhurst

All cadets at Sandhurst are required to plan and execute their own adventure training exercise over the main leave period of the Commissioning Course - in our case during August. In our platoon we were lucky enough to have a qualified Yachtmaster Offshore, OCdt Chris Gent. Coupled with a lot of keen sailors in the platoon it seemed natural to steer towards a sailing expedition, and a plan for seven of us to charter a Rustler 36 from the Adventurous Sail Training Centre at Kiel in Germany soon transpired. Sandhurst efficiency proved itself well as the ATFA made it's way back to us many, many times covered in red pen for re-submission - we all pretended not to see the dreaded brown internal mail A4 envelope that kept landing outside Chris's room. It seems that unless somebody has actually been offshore sailing then it takes a lot to convince them that by it's very nature it conforms to the ethos of adventure training, and that a sail of say 150 miles (a demanded requisite in our plan) may not necessarily be as hard and demanding as a day or night sail in anything over a force 7. This proved to be the main problem in the planning stage, convincing the staff that Ex Scandinavian Cadet would be arduous enough.

Time passed extremely quickly and before we knew it our happy crew, with myself as one of three unqualified sailors, was underway in the Baltic Sea. The Centre was extremely helpful in chartering the boat and I thoroughly recommend them to anybody as a user-friendly establishment. The boats are very well kept and our Rustler ('Kittiwake') soon had us heading up the eastern side of Denmark with the first port of call being the little harbour of Sonderborg. We arrived at 0200hrs to a tricky night entry made by a combination of unlit buoys, a very non-descript Baltic Pilot book and a spotlight that an issue right angle torch could outshine. Nevertheless, it was fun and a real test for all the crew, gently picking our way into the harbour under engine. Worried faces appeared around the depth gauge at one point until the mate, a future Irish Guardsman who shall remain nameless, had to be reminded to keep the red flashing buoys to port side! Sonderborg was great and we soon found ourselves heading up the coast again until calling in at Horsens and Arhus. We had a really mixed bag of weather but unfortunately a predominantly Northerly wind, making tacking the order of the day on many of the legs. The mixture of heavy seas and rain that would quickly turn into a gentle breeze the next day and outstanding sunsets really made a fantastic exercise. We had a couple of excellent spinnaker runs and occasions which would suddenly require a change in sails - all fantastic for bringing the crew together with teamwork and initiative. There were a number of problems which made the journeys even more interesting including engine failure, broken winches and a nasty leak from one of the taps that soaked all of our beer and pasta. However, the highlight of our problems was running aground, which fortunately did not do the boat any harm but did dent our first mate's ego a bit.

The whole exercise lasted ten days and I can honestly say that variety really is the spice of life on the high sea. On return to Sandhurst we reckoned that we had one of the best trips, offering just a bit more than the standard hill-walking/climbing expeditions. I shall now look forward to the first time I get the chance to continue my sailing within the Regiment and to taking some soldiers adventure training.
Phase 1 Training for new recruits for the British Army has undergone a major overhaul in the last 12-18 months, and several members of the Regiment have been involved in instigating the new system here at the Army Training Regiment, Winchester. The Sir John Moore Barracks is a modern establishment, which was originally built as the new depot for the Light Division in 1987 prior to being re-roled as ATR Winchester in 1992.

Everyone remembers their basic training, and most vividly in particular the rapid introduction to Army life at the hands of the awesome Section Commander. The new system, however, allows the recruit to spend three weeks in the Army Foundation Scheme (AFS) where they embark upon the initial stages of their introduction into the modern British Army. Following this crucial grounding in the absolute basics, and provided they pass their initial fitness tests, the recruits progress on to the Common Military Syllabus for Recruits (CMSR) which lasts 11 gruelling weeks. Provided the CMSR training objectives are met, a comprehensive handover takes place and the recruits pass out and move to Phase 2 Training at Bovington.

‘A’ Sqn provides training to four RAC Tps at any one time plus a Pl of Int Corps. Invariably, though, the training team here encounter a less tribal organisation to train, consisting of recruits aspiring to pass out into the Light Division, AGC, AAC and Int Corps.

The King’s Royal Hussars has several of its members in key appointments within the Squadron. In SHQ, WO2 Gaskell who, in between refereeing rugby matches, golf matches, attending to his Jack Russell terrier (Winnie) and his SSM duties, is also responsible for the Cpl’s Mess. This has been a task that he has carried out in his customary flair lending some cavalry tone to a traditional bastion of the Light Division.

Sgt Sloan has recently moved from Waterloo Tp to the Int Corps Pl where, in between games of rugby and golf, he has been training a mixed bag of cap badges. He has also been involved in training a Sect of that monstrous regiment of women - not, I hasten to add, bound for the RAC - assigned to his last Tp as a temporary overflow from the AGC Coy.

Cpl Wood has probably been the busiest of us all as he has moved from training the RAC and Int Corps recruits (formerly known as crow) and is now involved in remedial training and devoting his time to the new alloy wheels on his car. He is looking forward to returning to the Regiment in Apr 99.

Cpl Chalis arrived in the summer and has completed two intakes with Cambrai Tp. He soon proved in the true spirit of the Winchester Cup march and shoot competition, that he is the best of the best, by winning the first competition. He has recently purchased a house in Warminster and is thoroughly looking forward, as we all are, to the Regiment returning to England.

The newest arrival is Capt Penkethman who has taken over as A Sqn 2IC and is also getting to grips with the additional jobs of Mess Secretary, Families’ Officer and Courses Officer for the permanent staff.

For those who could be considering a spell at ATR Winchester I would thoroughly recommend it, despite the obvious frustrations of turning civilians into soldiers, and not killing them in the process. The structure of the programme provides permanent staff with a great deal of stability and there is a good deal of satisfaction too from passing out each intake, even if the finished product can leave a little to be desired.
The 13 Sep 98 saw a new batch of recruits march through the gates of ATR Bassingbourn to form the long awaited School Leavers’ Scheme (South). The SLS(S) is a 28-week course, based on CMS(R), that aims to prepare selected school leavers for specialist training in the Army through character development, military skills and education. It consists of five weeks of basic military training in barracks, three field training exercises, four weeks of progressive adventurous training (including adventurous training overseas and a Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Expedition) and an education package. It also includes extensive range work, up to field firing level, including introductions to firing the 9mm pistol and the LSW.

The task of setting up SLS(S) fell to Maj Richard Abbott RE, who was already in place as one of the sub-unit commanders at ATR Bassingbourn. Most of the Permanent Staff Instructors came from within the Regiment, although some were posted in to coincide with the start of the scheme. The first 46 recruits to arrive formed Alamein Tp; the second 46, who arrived on 11 Oct 98, formed Korea Tp. The third platoon, Normandy Pl, is expected to form up on 31 Jan 99, with 54 recruits due to arrive at the time of writing this article. Approval has now been given for a fourth platoon to begin training in Sep 99.

The ‘school leaver’ recruits (who are cap badged by the end of the first five weeks) are expected to reach ATD standard before progressing to special-to-arm training. Recruits come from right across the country, from Aberdeen to Devizes, and their cap badges are just as diverse. Recruits joining the Artillery and the Signals train side by side with recruits from the various Infantry divisions. The RAC and HCR are also well represented, and as the instructors are also chosen from a mixture of Corps and Regiments, the scheme has a truly multi-cap badge flavour.

The education package gives recruits the chance to achieve NVQs in Key Skills in either level 2 or level 3. Using brand new computer suites with the latest hardware, civilian lecturers teach the key skill subjects of IT: numeracy; communications; working with others and improving own learning and performance. This part of the scheme is an excellent chance for a recruit to improve his or her knowledge and abilities, and be paid for it!

The course also provides the recruits with the option of participating in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme, and aims to help every recruit achieve a Bronze award. Each maintains a log book, detailing a recreational activity (usually a hobby, conducted in the evenings); a skill, which might be a sporting activity; and a service, such as assistance to the local community - Alamein Tp, for example, is currently helping a local special needs school. Finally, each recruit takes part in a four-day expedition, usually a trek over one of the training areas in the UK, to qualify for the award.

The SLS is demanding; many recruits are unaware of their full potential, never having been stretched - physically or mentally - either at home or at school. It is designed to better prepare them for the challenges of a career in the Army, and to help them find their strengths and develop their abilities. If they have it in them, we will bring it out!
After successfully completing flying grading in November 96 and spending three months with OPFOR working for Maj Felix Gedney, I embarked on the new Joint Army Pilots Course. The Pilots Course no longer takes place solely at Middle Wallop but starts at the Joint Elementary Flying Training School (JEFTS) in Cranwell, continues at the Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) at Shawbury, and then concludes at Middle Wallop.

I started at JEFTS in Mar 97. It was all very new when I arrived and there were some teething problems with the arrival of soldiers and sailors into the Air Force environment. The flying was exciting as the Slingsby Firefly is fully aerobatic and had a very comprehensive instrument and navigation suite making the Chipmunk seem very out of date.

From July to December 97 the course moved to the DHFS at Shawbury and started what I thought to be the best element of flying. This consisted of 36 hrs of basic rotary with 660 Sqn AAC, learning to handle a helicopter including the ever-challenging hover lessons. Advanced rotary was with a Royal Naval Sqn, namely 705 Sqn, and this took us through instrument flying, low level map reading and more advanced handling techniques. These included more engines off landings, rapid descents and wingovers, which did concentrate the mind!

After Christmas leave the course commenced with the tactical and 'Army' aspects of flying at the School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop. Here the course were introduced to real low flying - at 150 feet and below; mountain flying around Snowdon; formation - with up to six aircraft - and more night flying, including with night vision goggles.

It was a long course, and one that was taxing, requiring 100% effort throughout; a bit like taking a driving test everyday. We were presented with our wings on 29 May 98 and I was awarded the trophy for Best Pilot.

I am now serving with 662 Sqn AAC at Wattisham after completing a Lynx conversion. This included firing TOW, which was sadly not quite as exciting as 120mm from Challenger! I have approximately 260 hrs and will be deploying to Bosnia in Jun 99. The last seventeen months have been extremely exciting; I have learnt a great deal and made many great friendships. I have been able to play polo and continue sailing to a high standard.

The aviation environment is very different from the cavalry and one does miss the history, tradition and responsibility of commanding soldiers from a family regiment. However the RAC has a lot to offer the AAC, both on the ground and in the air, and will continue to do so with the advent of the Attack Helicopter.
ARMS CONTROL IN KAZAKSTAN

by Maj P N Eliott-Lockhart

The Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG), based at Henlow in Bedfordshire, is MOD UK's agency for implementing Arms Control policy and ensuring that British units adhere to the Arms Control and Verification regimes to which the UK is signatory.

Current AC agreements include the treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Vienna Document 1994 (VD94) on Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM), the INF treaty, the Dayton Accords, and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); not yet fully implemented is the Open Skies (OS) treaty.

During the course of a year JACIG conducts many inspections to foreign parts, and also hosts incoming inspections by foreign inspection teams to UK. In early Oct 97, under the terms of the Vienna Document (on CSBM), a JACIG Team conducted an inspection to Semipalatinsk, an unremarkable industrial town, population 300,000, situated on the River Irtysh in north-eastern Kazakstan, Central Asia. Semipalatinsk, or Semey (the Kazak name for the city), is a large garrison town, home to a number of Kazak army units and a corps HQ. The size and number of the units warranted a visit, not only to see what sort of military activity was taking place but also to let the Kazak Arms Control Agency know that UK is prepared to go to distant parts to ensure that the spirit of CSBM is promulgated.

The journey to Semipalatinsk was by RAF Hercules C-130, needed to transport not only the four-man JACIG inspection team but also The Band of the Royal Engineers, scheduled to appear in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for British Week organised by the British Embassy there. The aircraft was therefore crammed with band kit - 35 large crates of instruments and ceremonial uniforms for 40 bandsmen - not leaving much room for the four JACIG Arms Control inspectors!

A four-hour flight took us first to Kiev in Ukraine for a refuelling stop, followed by another six-hour flight to Tashkent where the band off-loaded. Then two hours more flying from Tashkent to Almaty, the capital of Kazakstan, where we transferred to a Kazak military Antonov 26 aircraft. The Antonov, which seemed like the equivalent of a Dakota, took us on the last two-hour leg of the journey to Semipalatinsk. Flying in the An-26 was a novel experience; seating consisted of bare wooden foldaway seats along either side of the interior, and a sofa for VIP seating also parked along the inside of the aircraft. Other items included an aircraft spare wheel (don't think that the ‘loadie’ did his tyre pressure check!), a couple of sacks of potatoes, and two loading ramps.

Semipalatinsk (the name denotes a place with seven palaces) is an ordinary industrial town located in a country where distances between towns and cities are long. The city lies on one of the two major overland routes into Western China. On arrival, the Team was taken to the Garrison Officers Mess restaurant where, to the sounds of a circa 1980 recording of the pop-group Boney M singing ‘Ra-Ra-Rasputin’ (how appropriate!), we were served a modest meal by a grinning babushka and a particularly large, Slavic looking Kazak, complete with boots, apron, and beard. Attempts by the wife of our restaurateur to introduce herself and ask if the meal was satisfactory, were met by much cursing and the Russian equivalent of ‘get back in the kitchen!’ After the meal, we were taken to a local civilian hotel, which, contrary to expectations, had bedrooms with en-suite bathroom/shower and hot water, and electric lighting which suffered no power cuts!

The following day it was breakfast (bread, jam, and tea seemed the least risky choice!) at the Garrison Mess restaurant. Then it was on to a briefing at the Garrison HQ. The Team's plan was to carry out a two-hour recce by helicopter, followed by a garrison tour in vehicles. The helicopter trip was an interesting experience. Confidence was not bolstered at the sight on the tarmac of six Mi-8 HIP-C helicopters all with bits missing - a rotor blade here, a tail rotor there. But there was one which seemed, visibly, at least, to have all the necessary appendages, and this was our aircraft. The surprise came when we saw that inside the aircraft were two large fuel tanks strapped to the floor, and what seemed like some very flexible (to cope with the aircraft vibration) fuel line couplings. This was definitely not going to be a Western safety standard helicopter trip! At one point during the flight, when we asked to put down, the pilot responded that it was not possible as he was not certain if he could get the aircraft started again if he landed and shut down. So a two-hour non-stop flight it was, then, over some featureless landscape, and miles of pine forest.

Once back on terra firma, the Team was shown around the Garrison, in which there were a number of large units. Generally, however, entry to the units (not a right, but one can ask) was not permitted; disappointing though this was, our ground tour gave a fair impression of the military capability currently still residing in Semipalatinsk, as well as sight of a tank park/graveyard.
of at least 1,000 tanks. The following day there was more touring of the garrison. One of our local escorts actually became quite interested in our mission and was keen to learn about armoured and infantry training techniques in the British Army, but Semey is a long way from UK, and very different ground.

As such inspections are only permitted to last 48 hrs, when time was up, it was back on the Antonov to return to Almaty. (Since the JACIG visit, however, the city of Akmola, some 650 miles to the North West of Almaty has been named as the country’s new capital). Back in the (then) Kazak capital, the Team had time to see the sights. Although deep in the heart of Central Asia there was plenty of evidence of Western business and commerce, and even cast-off German buses complete with German advertisements, which looked somewhat out of place. All major car brands were also to be seen. There were also a small number of international hotels. As for shopping, best buy was a bottle of good quality vodka at US $ 2!

The part of Kazakstan we visited alternated between vast expanses of barren land and extensive pine forests. Interesting, however, was the ethnic mix of the population seen in the streets: Western, Slavic, oriental, and maybe even influence from the Himalayas, all with corresponding ethnic dress codes; smiles revealing heavily gold capped teeth were also much in evidence on the faces of the locals. Such a mixture of ethnic origins promoted images in the mind, of Golden Hordes, Monguls, and a heritage of skilled horsemanship. Almaty lies on the former Silk Route between China and Eastern Europe, and it is evident that Almaty’s prosperity is derived from its strategic position for trade. Shame then that the decision to shift the capital to a reportedly dull industrial city in the North of the country has been made – especially since many Western embassies have set up shop in Almaty!

The RAF Hercules aircraft stood ready on the tarmac at Almaty. It was interesting to watch the procedures adopted by Kazak Airlines aircraft. Be happy that Western aircraft are not so cavalier as Kazak ones when taxi-ing around the apron! With the backdrop of the Zailiyskiy Alatau mountains, the Hercules lifted away West to collect the RE band from Tashkent (Uzbekistan), just two hours flying time, and then on to Incirlik (Turkey) for refuelling, and subsequently a nine hour flight to Lyneham.

For its part, JACIG hosts ‘return matches’ for most of the countries it has visited during the year. Either, teams from the invited country to spend two weeks on Arms Control related English language training. Confidence and Security Building Measures, Partnership for Peace, Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, Reductions, and other nomenclature are the buzz phrases of today; gone are Iron Curtain, Power Blocs, Warsaw Pact, et al. In this climate of co-operation, JACIG will continue its work in the Arms Control field.

Post-script

Maj Peter Eliott-Lockhart was commissioned into 14/20H in Dec 68. His military life has taken him to the usual British Army locations with the Regiment. Subsequent ‘porridge’ at the Staff College Camberley has also been an occurrence. He has completed a number of Staff jobs, which have all offered travel to distant parts, including US, Canada (not BATUS!), and Australia. More recently he has worked in the MOD in the Intelligence Staff. In 1995 he was posted for two years as an Exchange Officer to the Canadian MOD in Ottawa, and in Aug 97 he came to JACIG to take up the post of Operations Officer, where he maintains his travelling profile.
“Major, my country must be allocated a more important officer position in one of your multinational brigades”. His English was faultless, if heavily accented, and the colourful gold braid on his excessively elaborate uniform suggested that whatever funds his country felt able to make available for defence in its brave new post-communist era were not being spent on equipment or infrastructure.

“I shall of course see what I can do, Brigadier, “ he having so introduced himself “But you will appreciate I’m sure that all nations want such positions and there are very few of them”. His swarthy dark features split into a massive smile, full of expensive dentistry.

“I’m sure you’ll do your very best, Major”. He paused, his eyes showing none of the light heartiness that his grinning features were meant to convey. “And I think: most nations use the term Brigadier-General, do they not?” The squeezing of my upper arm as a parting gesture was probably intended to be friendly. But somewhere in the cloud of garlic and tobacco fumes that masked his departure, I sensed the lingering suspicion that he knew a lot more about me than I knew about him. Had I led a yet more colorful life, risking exposure as a druid or transvestite for example, he might have had a stronger hand. But, secure in the knowledge that any youthful indiscretions of mine were anyway shortly to be revealed in my Best Man’s memoirs (with his agent at the time of writing, I believe), I felt emboldened.

“Redoubled!” I was tempted to call out after him, but my legendary diplomacy won through again. I merely smiled winningly, apologised profusely and consulted my pocket book on ‘Badges of Rank of the World’s Armies’. I was right, as was my seating plan: he was a Colonel, though clearly one harbouring aspirations.

We were between sessions of the Second Central Planning Team Meeting for Exercise Cooperative Lantern 98 (COLA 98), due to be held at the Hungarian Home Defence Force’s Recreation Centre in May. All twenty-eight states in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme had been invited to participate in this, the latest in the series of Command Post Exercises (CPX) planned to help Partner nations to prepare staff officers for duty in multinational HQs in Peace Support Operations, such as IFOR/SFOR. Fortunately, not all twenty-seven had accepted, since, combined with the sixteen NATO nations, we would have had an impossibly cumbersome organisation. But some were never very likely to join in - Liechtenstein and The Holy See come to mind from among the Partners, as do Luxembourg and Iceland from the home team.

As it was however, we had twenty-three states involved and with the players or training audience, limited to two bde HQs, positions for ambitious young thrusters to gain experience of NATO staff duties were not plentiful. They were made even scarcer by the need to build each of the bde HQs on a 50% core from a real NATO Bde HQ, so as to retain some sense of cohesion, experience and direction. France and Belgium were the two countries concerned, which allowed exploitation of their many similarities, not least in their military equipment and their interest in good food. France’s lack of coordinated NATO military experience and her unique flair and approach to matters military, ensured that we were all kept on our toes. The French also know how to throw a good party, which led to some healthy competition in this regard, a challenge avidly taken up by some of the other contingents, notably the British.

Both Multinational Brigades (MNB) had seven battalion level Response Cells (RC) to act as Lower Controllers, including reconnaissance, engineer, mechanised infantry and logistic units. Each had about six officers, usually provided by a single nation, but in three instances they were shared. Belgium formed a logistics RC with Hungary and the UK partnered Poland in forming reconnaissance and logistic RCs - multinational logistics being a subject of particular interest in PSO.
Above the two player bdes was a Higher Control with a div command structure, 50% based on the 1st (US) infantry Division. The remaining half was manned by officers from all participating nations, affording further opportunities for me to find an important position for my friendly aspiring Brigadier- General’s delegation. But this was not the first time I had put together an exercise of this type and I had become very wary of allocating too many senior positions to nations which invested excessively in gold braid alone. There seemed to be a hidden formula which suggested that useful productive endeavour came in inverse proportion to the garishness of the uniform.

One of the particular difficulties such nations have is their lack of officers able to speak English? except for the very few whose previous employment required it - hence my earlier suspicions. This caused us difficulties in many areas, one memorable instance of this being when a Russian speaking NATO officer was despatched to a major airport in Germany to meet a delegate coming to one of the preparatory conferences for our previous exercise in the series COLA 96. When they met, the newly arrived had some question about his return ticket, which togethet they put to the desk representative of the relatively undistinguished airline involved. Their business concluded, the desk representative asked our man if he had come to meet another gentleman who had been hanging about the airport since his arrival the previous evening and was beginning to look a little frayed at the edges. The answer was negative. but he offered to meet the fellow to see if he could help. Once found, it quickly became apparent that whatever language the man spoke it was not generally recognised west of the Urals. However, sense was made of it by the recently arrived delegate, who discovered that the man had indeed been sent, unannounced and at very short notice to attend the conference, which, like all our exercise activities was being held in English. I don’t think he gained much from it, but he enjoyed the shopping.

COLA 96 was held at the home of the German Armour School in Munster. Our commander at that time a US four-star general, had recently been told to take the HQ to Bosnia and was a busy man. But he insisted on making time to visit the exercise, flying up to the local military airfield at Fassburg, and using, his ‘hard car’ (an armoured Mercedes) to tour the area. So it was no surprise when we received a telephone call one night from one of his bodyguards, telling us that they were on their way - the ‘hard car’, a ‘chase car’ and a bunch of hoods with ill-fitting jackets.

“We’re at Munster and there are no signs to the exercise” came the aggressive assertion.
“If you make your way to the ring road, you’ll find it well marked from there” we replied.
“We’re on the ring road and there ain’t no signs. Someone screwed up!”
“Are you sure you’re in the right town?”
“Course I’m sure!”
“Where exactly are you?”
“We’re stopped on a bridge over a canal”.
“Please stay where you are and we’ll ring you back”.

A glance at the map established that while there was no canal in Munster, there was one in Münster, and a quick telephone call set wheels in motion. We rang, our American friend.

“Do you have a map with you?”
“Of course!”
“Please open it at the page showing Hanover. From there find an autobahn running north to Hamburg. Halfway up it are the turn-offs to Soltau, and just to the east of them is the town of Munster. That is the
exercise location Are you there?”
“Errrrrrrr, no Sir”.

“Then please stay where you are. The police are on their way to you and will escort you to the autobahn and point you in the right direction. Military police will meet you at the Soltau North exit and escort you to the exercise”.

When they arrived some hours later, we found them a little subdued but a delight to work with.

While the exercises in this series all follow a successful and well established pattern apparently affording the Partner nations just what they want, each one produces its own particular surprises. Like the old adage that “children and animals will always let you down’ flags and maps are our areas of greatest potential for embarrassment. Not only are they constantly changing, but also the high profile of the PfP Programme, which many nations see as a route towards eventual NATO/EEC memberships attracts all sorts of high priced help. Government personalities from participating nations visit and offer photo opportunities’, and the host Nation, on whose territory the exercise is being held, tends to send a daily cavalcade of polished limousines. Such levels of interest attract the media, and out of date maps and inverted flags can turn into very athletic hares.

Another source of potential trouble is the exercise scenario. For a PSO exercise there has to be a fictitious source of historical conflict and oppression, with a bit of cleansing thrown in. A couple of states need to have been at loggerheads for a generation or two and the UN have asked NATO to intervene to steady the situation. To exercise Joint Military Commissions, at which military formation commanders responsible for a patch of disputed territory meet leaders of the warring fractions and try to knock some sense into the situation, there have to be some bad guys. For this we use role players, who often rise enthusiastically to the occasion. arriving scowling and unshaven to make the most of every oppertunity to be bolshy and obstreperous, and testing (almost to destruction) the limits of their brief to be realistic. So far, we have had only one Bde Cmdr lose his temper on such an occasion, the video of the event quickly becoming hot property and extremely marketable. But the real problem is that many nations are keen to host these exercises: the scenario is best set in the territory of the Host Nation; and there are very few areas of Europe which are not riddled with real ethnic or minority population difficulties, which the exercise scenario might accidentally echo to everybody’s collective embarrassment. Just as somehow we managed to circumnavigate or survive the many pitfalls in COLA 96, so we did with COLA 98. Over 800 officers and NCOs from twenty countries eventually took part, one NATO and three partner nations having dropped out and deciding just to send observers. An ex - UN Assistant Secretary General attended all our preparatory conferences, joined in our preparation of the scenario and events lists, and acted the part of the UN High Representative during the exercise. Agencies such as the UNCHR and the IRC, civil police and border, all took part. Over 150 journalists visited and television coverage spread as far as Japan. Part of the attraction of the exercise was its location. Situated south west of Budapest at the edge of one of Europes largest lakes, Batalaton, the Recreation Centre is at the heart of the country’s tourist region. That was brought home to us by the fact that all the property ‘For Sale’ notices were made in German. Inevitably, enthusiasm to attend these activities always seems greater when they are being held somewhere interesting.

Now we are preparing for COLA 2000. France has agreed to host it in May of that year and has suggested two possible locations. One sounded ideal, with plenty of training area, military infrastructure and not too far from here in Heidelberg. But I think we have persuaded them to choose the other site, just along the coast from Nice. It makes my job so much easier if people want to join in!

But what of my friendly ex spook from an erstwhile unfriendly nation? Well, part of our job is to seek out worthy nations with uncertain economies and help them join these activities by refunding most of their travel and accommodation costs. The next time I saw my friend was when he came to collect a large sum of US dollars in repayment for his flight ticket. He assured me that the sum demanded was correct, but seemed reluctant to let me see his ticket, which would confirm the cost. Eventually I had to explain that for paperworks sake, I had to insist on ‘No ticket, No cash’. That seemed to settle the issue until I saw that the cost shown was half what he had demanded. I mentioned this as subtly as I could, but he earnestly pointed to a figure ‘2’ in an unrelated part of the ticket, and seemed somewhat upset and disbeliefing when I explained that this does not mean the cost should be doubled, but merely stated how many pieces of luggage had been checked in. Nor was he keen to sign the receipt for the amount due. So I felt little sympathy when later I heard that ‘one of our guests’ was being asked to fly home early, after an interview with security staff in the US Tax Free shop in connection with attempted shop lifting.

I never saw him again, and his national delegation to the exercise was very adequately represented by a useful officer of refreshingly modest status.
For the last 15 months I have been on the staff of the Commander UK Task Group (COMUKTG), a Royal Navy two star who is the Navy’s primary sea-going Admiral. I was selected for the post following attendance at the Joint Service Defence College based within the Royal Naval College (RNC) Greenwich – the Military Secretary’s rationale being that, after 6 months at Greenwich, I must have picked up at least something about the Navy and so would be ideal for the new trial post of SO2 N3 LAND at COMUKTG. No, in reality I actually volunteered for the post based on very little information but believing it to be preferable to an out and out desk job in the MOD, or elsewhere for that matter. I was not to be disappointed when my arrival instructions indicated that I should join the COMUKTG staff aboard HMS Illustrious somewhere south of Cyprus on her way back from the Ex Ocean Wave Far East deployment in late 97. There followed a balmy cruise back through the Mediterranean, stopping for several days in Malta and getting to know the staff, before arriving for work proper at our shoreside headquarters in Portsmouth.

COMUKTG’s role and itinerary is enviable. He is the Royal Navy’s primary maritime commander of National, Joint or Combined forces anywhere in the world when such a Task Group or Force is put together. Also, as Commander-in-Chief Fleet’s out of area adviser, he has a remit to visit RN ships and interests worldwide and spends much of his time doing just this. For example, during an average month (Nov 98) he visited Brussels, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Cyprus, USA and the Falkland Islands. Air miles, if MOD rules allowed individuals to retain them, would not be a problem! He is supported by a Staff of 36 all ranks (18 officers, 7 senior rates and 11 junior rates), a small staff for a two star when compared with an equivalent Army headquarters. This Staff is thoroughly Joint, with representation from the various Navy disciplines (above, on and under water, plus aviation, communications, meteorology and oceanography), the Royal Marines, Army, RAF and RFA, and Combined, with representation from the United States, French, Dutch and German Navies. All are at R1, that is 48hrs notice to deploy.

When not deployed on operations, such as the Op Bolton aircraft carrier deployment in the Gulf in late 97/early 98, the Staff is involved in a series of National and NATO exercises. In these, the SO2 N3 LAND is responsible for briefing the planning, conduct and implications of the land campaign to the maritime commander, and vice versa. During 98 we took part in a computer simulation CPX at the US Joint Training Analysis and Simulation Centre in Norfolk, Virginia USA; Ex Strong Resolve aboard the USS command ship Mount Whitney off the coast of Portugal and Spain, and the UK Joint Force Headquarters Afloat exercise, Ex Purple Sound, aboard HMS Invincible off Scotland. All these were stimulating in their breadth of scenario and in the regular contact with other nationalities. Each component headquarters (maritime, land, air, special forces and logistics) was represented on ship, and all had to suffer the vagaries of the weather and life at sea. The various ‘runs ashore’ at Endex in Lisbon, Rota (in south west Spain), Norfolk (Virginia, USA) and even Kinloss more than made up for the hardship.

As the Staff’s regional desk officer for the South Atlantic (from Brazil south, down to and including the Falkland Islands) and West Africa (from Morocco down to and including South Africa), I have also been responsible for tracking political and military developments in these areas, briefing these to the Admiral and accompanying him on visits to both regions, visiting UK forces, RN ships and other Navies. The expressions of confusion on others’ faces when an Army officer (particularly one in KRH ‘rig’) appeared in tow behind the Admiral were a joy to behold, and were played for their full worth.

It has been a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable 15 months, and fascinating to be at the forefront of the post SDR emphasis on ‘jointery’ and ‘defence diplomacy’. Anyone offered a similar opportunity should jump at the chance. I thank Rear Admiral Ian Forbes and all those on his Staff for making me so welcome. Now that the trial has proved successful and the post formally established, I wish my successor well for his time with COMUKTG.
Working at the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG) – where my appointment is Ops Offr - is akin to the TV commercial that advertised beer which reaches the parts other beers don’t reach; the work at JACIG provides the opportunity to reach places, to which 10 years ago it was not possible.

Under the terms of various internationally agreed treaties, the signatories from West and East conduct throughout the year a regular schedule of inspections of units, military facilities, and specified areas. The inspections usually take the form of a day’s travel to the inspected state, two days of inspections; then, if time permits a day’s cultural visit; and finally a day to return. Last September, I found myself on a mission to Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan lies immediately to the East of the Caspian Sea, and to the North of Afghanistan and Iran, and is one of the five Central Asian States (the others being Kazakstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan).

Courtesy of Lufthansa (cheaper than British Airways), the four-man team from JACIG comprising a Naval Commander as Team Leader, a Captain complete with red and white hackle from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, our interpreter in the form of an RAF Flight Sergeant, and myself as Team 2IC arrived late in the evening on a warm night in the capital city of Ashgabat. After introductions and issuing of visas, we were taken to our accommodation. This was not one of the internationally recognised hotels such as a Sheraton or Hilton, but a somewhat drab ex-military hotel’. Actually, by general Turkmen standards, the hotel was reasonable: a simple bedroom, complete with cockroaches that hopped in and out of your suitcase and climbed up your jacket in the cupboard, an en-suite hip-bath with hot and cold running water; loo; and even soap and a roll of corrugated (recycled?) loo-paper. The bed-sheets were clean, even if there was the odd cohabiting cockroach; and there was an ancient black & white TV set sporting five channels. Each floor of the hotel had its own concierge, and ours was ‘controlled’ by a colourfully dressed, large smiling lady – no unauthorised visitors here! ‘Niet’ thank you!; who does she think she is, interrupting my sleep! But such calls late at night are standard practice for those in search of extra income, offering late night ‘services’. Our ‘floor guard’ was evidently delighted that one of our number could speak Russian, judging by the rather drawn look of our interpreter at breakfast the following morning; evidently she could handle the beer very well!

Our visit provided a good insight into the types of units and airfields visited. Moreover, our hosts could not have been more open; at no time was any restriction regarding photography, either from the air or on the ground, placed on us. Obligingly, the Turkmen MOD had provided us with an Mi-8 HIP helicopter – the workhorse of the forces of the Former Soviet Union. Sturdily built, with extra internal fuel tanks added to allow extra range, the HIP flew us 2 hours to the garrison town of Kizyl- Arvat, where we visited a number of units: air-defence, artillery, motorised rifle regiment, Div HQ, men’s accommodation, vehicle park, etc. Certainly, the soldiers we saw going about their daily tasks all seemed well turned out, and were meticulous about saluting. Superficially, all seemed well, but only in the week before the JACIG visit, some soldiers in a nearby town had been on a shooting spree in which number of people had been killed. With the subtlety of a Blue Peter TV presenter, our local Escort Officer told us that the Div Cmdr, whose troops they were, had gone sick and was ‘in hospital’ – read ‘prison’. But don’t hold your breath for humane prison regimes in Turkmenistan; the country has a poor Human Rights record, and prison conditions are allegedly not the best! The following day we flew from Ashgabat, three hours up country to Turkmenbashi on the eastern Caspian Sea coast. From Turkmenbashi we visited three more units: an airfield, filled with decaying MiG 23 Flogger aircraft, a motorised rifle regiment, Div HQ, men’s accommodation, vehicle park, etc. Certainly, the soldiers we saw going about their daily tasks all seemed well turned out, and were meticulous about saluting. Superficially, all seemed well, but only in the week before the JACIG visit, some soldiers in a nearby town had been on a shooting spree in which number of people had been killed. With the subtlety of a Blue Peter TV presenter, our local Escort Officer told us that the Div Cmdr, whose troops they were, had gone sick and was ‘in hospital’ – read ‘prison’. But don’t hold your breath for humane prison regimes in Turkmenistan; the country has a poor Human Rights record, and prison conditions are allegedly not the best! The following day we flew from Ashgabat, three hours up country to Turkmenbashi on the eastern Caspian Sea coast. From Turkmenbashi we visited three more units: an airfield, filled with decaying MiG 23 Flogger aircraft, a motorised rifle regiment and, la pièce de résistance, the Turkmen Navy’s naval base. The naval base consisted of a couple of jetties, alongside which were three small auxiliaries, and the Presidential launch. It turned out that the Chief Escort Officer had been a submariner, with a specialisation for nuclear propulsion, in the days of the Soviet Navy; he had spent ten years working from the northern Soviet port of Murmansk. He was, therefore, naturally proud to show off the Turkmen Navy. By coinci-
dence, the JACIG Team Leader was a Royal Navy aviator with experience in anti-submarine warfare so there was an instant ‘bonding’ between the Senior Inspecting Officer and the Senior Escort Officer! Lunch was taken under the canopy on the aft deck of the Turkmen Navy’s ‘hospital ship’. Much effort had gone in to preparing for our visit on board, so the SEO was not best pleased that the provision of soap and towel in the heads had been overlooked, which resulted in angry words in Russian, to get it sorted. A very harressed and sweaty cook, clutching a grubby towel and grey coloured bar of soap, subsequently appeared from the depths of the vessel. In Turkmenistan, the level and quality of hospitality is an important issue; some dishes, such as fish, are expensive by local standards, so to be constantly offered fish dishes was a mark of hospitality and esteem; however, the indifferently butchered lambs’ meat was another story! On such occasions a modest consumption of vodka is a must, not only to keep the bacteria at bay, but also to fulfil toasts! A convivial occasion, indeed.

Geographically, Turkmenistan is very largely desert. Our journeys by helicopter gave us a good view to the north of a desert criss-crossed by numerous tracks; one wondered who had business, which took them across such wilderness to distant towns. To the South of our flight path was the border with Iran, and mountains displaying some amazing configurations. In other areas, predominantly near the oil industry centre of Turkmenbashi, there were fields of ‘nodding donkey’ oil pumps. Evidently oil is so plentiful that in some areas, the desert surface could be seen to be black with oil impregnation. Indeed there is so much oil (and gas) that it is delivered free, as is electricity, to all inhabitants in towns and villages. As for wildlife, there was plenty of evidence of camels, which, we were told, all belong to someone, no matter how stray the animal may seem – so camel rustling is not on!

Militarily Turkmenistan is a neutral country, and has chosen not to enter into any military alliance with its neighbours Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, both of whom provide troops for the Central Asian Peacekeeping Battalion, supposedly at the disposal of the UN. As for Afghanistan, and Iran, our hosts would not be drawn on commenting on the nature of conflicts within those countries. Turkmenistan has been left with Soviet military infrastructure, which is of solid functional design. Independent, now, for seven years, Turkmenistan is trying to cut its military cloth according to its needs; its army is therefore small, approximately 15,000. This caters for the self-defence roles, which it sees as the primary military mission. However, the risk of conflict to Turkmenistan is more likely to be caused by arguments over the supply of water, of which there is no natural abundance, rather than any local military sabre-rattling. So long as the country’s leader, President Niazov, also known as Turkmenbashy, or ‘leader of the people’, is in the chair, the country has firm leadership. However, in Ashgabat there are symbols of grandeur, such as gold plated palaces, that betray the President’s autocratic style.

Of course, visits carried out by JACIG can offer no more than a superficial look at a few of a country’s military units or facilities. Yet, when visiting and talking with Arms Control personnel, you feel that they too want to show that they are willing to enter into the spirit of confidence and security building measures (CSBM), even if some unit commanders find this difficult. What the JACIG team saw, and the way it was hosted, bodes well for the future. By way of reciprocation, JACIG expects to host a visit from the Turkmenistan Arms Control Agency at some time in the coming year.

No mention of Turkmenistan would be complete without a reference to carpets, for which the country is famous. Whilst time did not allow any visits to carpet factories, we visited several Government-approved carpet shops, and as expected there was a myriad of carpets from which to choose. For the real carpet-buff, however, antique carpets were difficult to find; the only consolation was to learn that one of our escorting officers had a brother in the antique carpet business; this left me wondering what the Turkmen equivalent of ‘Del Boy’ was like! If you do get the chance to buy one from these parts, pay cash in US $$, get a receipt, and ensure you are given a licence to export the item.

As for our return journey, Turkmenistan Airlines flew direct from Ashgabat to Birmingham; flight OK, shame about the food! Ukraine, Berlin, and Rotterdam all looked very picturesque as we passed over, in brilliant weather. Birmingham, on the other hand, was shrouded in rain – honest!
The Jamaican Junior Command and Staff College is very much a Commonwealth affair. Run by the Jamaicans and the Canadians it takes students from Canada, all Caribbean Commonwealth countries, Guyana, Belize and British Overseas Territories such as Bermuda. The students are Lts (Naval) or Capt/Subltns from their countries’ defence forces - Coast Guard, Land element and Air Wings. Jamaica also sends policemen, prison warders and firemen - all these latter at Deputy Superintendent rank. Into this mixture is added a token British Directing Staff. Usually the British Army sends a Royal Logistic Corps offr to the first ‘staff duties’ phase, and a teeth arm offi- officer to the second, tactics, phase.

The course takes place at Newcastle Hill Station, 19 miles north of Kingston in the Blue Mountains. Newcastle is 4,500 feet above sea level with spectacular views, humming birds and its own micro-climate. Between Oct and Dec the latter means 37” of rain. Newcastle was built in the 1840s by the then GOC, Lt-Gen Sir William Gomm, as a ‘change-of-air’ camp. Until Newcastle was built the average death rate from ‘Yellow Jack’ (Yellow Fever) for British troops was one death a day: a fairly un-nerving statistic. With the move the death rate dropped dramatically to barely a couple a month!

Newcastle is an archetypal British hill station: white washed bungalows (called ‘The Priory’, ‘Rose Cottage’) with large verandas, perched on the side of a hill. In the bungalows’ gardens are (whitewashed) dog grave stones; surrounding the camp are memorials to long forgotten regiments and countless tragedies. The Motor Transport store is the old mule stables. No one has removed the hay racks, or knocked down the loose-box partitions. The only sadness is that the whole place is suffering from three decades of neglect and two hurricanes.

On my arrival I suffered from deja vu. After a while I knew why; everything reminded me of the hill stations in Malaysia, the Cameron Highlands and Frasers Hill, to which I was taken when small. This feeling of being ‘at home’ was increased when I started working. The Caribbean and Canadian Directing Staff and students could not have been more welcoming, and appreciative, of the British connection. The fact that I was in a minority in my syndicate in not having been born in the UK further established my ‘multi-cultural’ roots. That, together with knowing a number of the Canadians from Yugoslavia, ensured I felt thoroughly comfortable. I know I am designed for hot-weather soldiering - a thought reinforced when I look out of the window on to a damp, grey, dismal Munster.

Having just completed two years of the staff college and the Sqn Ldrs’ course, teaching in Jamaica seemed to be just a continuation. The major difference was that, as Directing Staff, one had to do all the preparation - as a student one can bluff. Despite that downside it was excellent to be on a posting where the people were good value, the polo was the best I have played and one could ‘week end’ on Mustique. I was pleased to learn that as I flew out from Mustique David Wiggin flew in - thereby proving that serving and retired Cherrypickers have friends and holiday in all the right places. Though I remain astonished at having been sent to Jamaica during my Sqn Ldr tour it was excellent fun.
1 RGR

1998 has seen 1 RGR continue in the accepted way for the UK Battalion, of rushing from one commitment to another with everybody keeping extremely busy dealing with fast, slow and middle paced balls.

Early in January the Bn deployed on Ex Chiso Hawa for ten days at Thetford. The weather was seasonal with a leavening of snow half way through. OC Sp Coy, Guy Glanville, had written and organised a comprehensive exercise and arranged a savage enemy in the form of 6 R Anglian (V) under the command of Rupert Lucas, an ex-2nd Goorkha. Everyone benefited from the exercise, particularly Bn HQ which with a new Bn 2IC, Adjt and RSO welcomed the opportunity to shake out. The party at the end revealed hidden dancing talents in both Offrs’ and Sgts’ Messes, and Pipe Major Yubaram’s rendition of Nepali tunes on the pipes was a tour de Force.

The return from Thetford saw the Bn rushing around to prepare for two months as the Spearhead Bn. Despite everyone’s fervent wishes this passed off uneventfully despite the CO’s best efforts to Recce Antigua as a Mounting Base for evacuating Monserrat.

The Bde Concentration took place in March and 1 RGR embarked on a comprehensive package of field firing at Otterburn which culminated in a BG Live Firing attack with three batteries from 7 RHA, the Mor Pl and the MG Pl firing in support. No sooner were we back from the concentration than Bn HQ deployed on a Bde CPX on Salisbury Plain for a week, which proved most useful.

Meanwhile Angus Forbes escaped with A Coy to warmer climates and enjoyed a fruitful month on the Oman on Ex Rocky Lance, which the Coy returned from suitably suntanned. They had spent most of the time living in a tented camp which, on one occasion, was hit by a tornado that in a most rank conscious way destroyed the SNCOs accommodation whilst leaving the offrs’ and junior ranks’ untouched.

May saw Sp Coy running the JLC in Sennybridge. The OC, having been warned to deploy on an STTT to Lithuania, left the cadre in the hands of his 2IC, Jitbahadur Saheb and OC Milan, Spyro Marcandonatos who did an excellent job running it.

By the end of May it was B Coy’s turn to escape and Simon Clements took them on Native Trail to Belize, which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

In early June the Bn organised the 50th Anniversary Cocktail Party and Beating of Retreat which was an enormous success, thanks to a great deal of hard work particularly by Padamal Ale Saheb and the Assault Pioneers for producing the backdrop. The weather was kind for the few hours necessary and much champagne was consumed.

In July the Bn deployed on Ex Pegasus Anvil, the 5 AB Bde FTX. It was a superb exercise. The QM, Jim Heycock and his team had spent several weeks turning a disused airfield in Norfolk into a Forward Mounting Base and the whole Bde deployed through the Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney and then by simulated air move to the FMB.

The Bde then planned and mounted the theatre entry operation through Hullavington onto Salisbury Plain. The 1 RGR BG then bounced from one activity to another with the Bn HQ plans team always having one operation on going and another being planned which kept the Bn HQ team, under the Bn 2IC Adrian Griffith, pretty busy. The exercise culminated with a Bde Live Firing attack in the impact area at Larkhill.

Just prior to the FTX the Bn were stood to as Spearhead Bn at short notice as 1 Para were sent to N Ireland, but once again nothing required the Bn’s deployment.

In early August the Wallace Memorial Trophy was competed for and C Coy emerged as the winners. The Pipes and Drums, along with those of the 2nd Bn performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo throughout August to the delight of thousands of visitors.

In September A Coy and several young offrs as umpires were involved in Ex Ulan Eagle in Poland, conducting a TALO onto an airfield in the middle of what had been a Warsaw Pact training area. They were back in time for Dashain, which was celebrated, in the best traditions.

As I write, in mid-October, the Bn is about to deploy on Ex Lanyard, another airborne exercise where 1 RGR will engage a rebel force who have invaded Norfolk! C Coy will deploy to the Falklands in November for four months, initially under Udai Gurang until the normal OC, Chris Warren, recovers from a ruptured Achilles tendon and is fit to join them.

November will see A Coy off to Scotland on a Coy Ex, B Coy also in Scotland as enemy for a 3 Cdo Bde exercise and Sp Coy running reinforcement cadres. It will culminate with the Bde March and Shoot Competition, which is taking a particularly high, profile this year. Finally in
December A Coy will provide a platoon to C (Gurka) Coy 2 Para for their Bosnia deployment.

No newsletter would be complete without a mention of the families, which have now been in the UK for over a year. They have settled in very smoothly thanks to a lot of agencies being most helpful and thanks to the Gurkha Major and Families Officer’s hard work. Many Gurkha children go to local primary schools and many Gurkha ladies who do not have small children are working in the Fleet area. The families have taken the many huge differences of UK life in their stride and have become a welcome part of the local community.

As we now have so many families and so many more Gurkhas around the area, in particular the coy with 2 Para and the coy at Sandhurst, 1 RGR are attempting to set up a Nepali radio service with the help of BFBS. A trial of Khukri FM was conducted in September, which proved the service was enormously popular and it is hoped that the Radio Authority will issue a licence in the near future.

In sporting events the Bn swept the board at the Div SAAM, came second in the Welsh 1000s and won the Army Volleyball Championships. The X Country team under Krishnaparsad Saheb are doing extremely well in the Forces Competition.

Many personalities have changed. Lt Col Bijay handed over command to Lt Col Sean Crane on 5 Jun 98. Maj (QGO) Kulbahadur Thapa took over from Maj (QGO) Balkrishna Gurung in March and we were delighted to see his MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List. Maj Adrian Griffith and Capt Sebastian Bather took over as Bn 2IC and Adjt from John White and James Elliot respectively, in January. We welcomed Maj Chris Warren across from 2 RGR in May 98.

1998 has been a momentous year. The Strategic Defence Review saw the demise of 5 AB Bde which we, the UK Gurkha Bn have belonged to for so long. The future role is uncertain though we hope it will be as the Air Land Battalion of 16 Air Assault Bde.

The A (RWY) SQN ROYAL YEOMANRY ANNUAL REPORT
July 1997 - July 1998
Capt BDA Ridge

The last 12 months have been a period of dramatic change for the entire Yeomanry with the publication of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR). The detailed implications as far as A Squadron is concerned will not be known for another three months, however, in the mean time, the squadron has continued to perform its unique role with distinction as part of the British Army’s only NBC Defence Regiment.

The key challenge has been to ensure there are enough qualified personnel to fulfil all the requirements of a complete FUCHS crew. In particular, there is the continual need for HGV licences to release the more experienced members to command the vehicles rather than drive them. In the meantime, the FUCHS simulator (installed during 1996) has proven invaluable as a training tool the new MMS* operators. This has been so successful that in the field the time taken required to conduct chemical surveys has halved in many cases.

The exercise continues to become more complex and demanding. On the most recent Regimental training exercise the FUCHS troops were detached to other squadrons within the Regiment. Troop leaders therefore had to command their troop, report to an unfamiliar SHQ whilst attempting to keep A Squadron SHQ appraised of the situation. This year, the Squadron team also went on better than last, winning the Regimental endurance march across the Brecon Beacons in a new record. Furthermore, due to the speed with which they blazed across the Welsh hills, they even found time to enjoy a brief ice cream at the Storey Arms. Every effort has been made to vary the training programme. An example of this was a joint exercise with the Queens Own Yeomanry that provided an opportunity to practise our medium recce skills against a genuine opposition.

Annual Camp was held in the Border country between England and Scotland. The first week involved intensive training including range work and various troop level tests. There was also a twenty - four hour survival exercise run by the SAS. For this, the Squadron was split into a number of sections who were stripped of their bergens, warm clothing and navigational aids. No food or drink was permitted except for a few raw potatoes and a live chicken between each section - one of which made a vain bid for freedom by hiding in the PSAO’s sleeping bag! For many soldiers afterwards, army rations had never looked so good. The second week consisted of a major Brigade level exercise entitled “Deep Gorge” and involved most of the Yeomanry regiments. Whilst the FUCHS performed well, it found the going difficult due to its size. Indeed there was one incident where 1st Troop sank their vehicles on the dri-
veway of none other than the former G.O.C. Scotland (and Honoray Colonel of the Scots Yeomanry). Undaunted, they mounted a positive P. R. campaign by busying themselves with other tasks such as walking the General’s dogs and fetching the groceries from nearby shops.

Recruiting remains healthy under the discerning eye of Staff Hunt with 21 new faces appearing during the last year. The Squadron’s profile within the district is also benefiting from new opportunities such as the Wootton Basset show where we signed six potential soldiers. Other events have also proven popular. In June, we took a stand at the Marlborough Cup. The FUCHS was an instant hit with a mass of six year olds who wasted no time in trying to show their parents the business end of a GPMG!

In January, we said farewell to a formidable double - act, Major Simon Brooks - Ward, our Squadron Leader and Major Charlie Hamilton Russell, our Adjutant. They were instrumental in the successful transition of the squadron from National Defence Reconnaissance to its current role. Major Richard Nall takes over the helm as Squadron Leader with Captain Lance Lindsey (another QRL refugee) filling the Adjutant’s post. We also parted company with S/Cpl Evans who returned to the HCR claiming to have found a new respect for the TA. Certainly we shall miss his dynamism and humour on the tank park. He has been replaced by S/Sgt Morris of the Light Dragoons.

Looking to the future there is plenty to be excited about. Our next camp in October will see us deploying to Alabama, USA, to train at the United States Army Chemical School. During our stay we will take part in a joint Anglo - American excercise called “Alabama Star” which will be the first overseas training excercise since the collapse of the Berlin Wall. A link up with the Army Corps is planned for September whilst intensive trade training will commence once again in January.

* Mobile Mass Spectrometer - the computer system which detects and analyses chemical substances.
3 June 1998, the Master, his wife, the Clerk and six members of the livery of the Salters Company, four accompanied by their wives, arrived at Münster to spend two days as guests of the Regiment. We were divided into five groups and were to be most hospitably looked after in the homes of field offrs and their wives, enjoying an excellent dinner. It was not exactly an early night it being soon apparent to us all that the Regiment was determined to make us very welcome.

Although it had rained quite hard during the night, the following morning was dry and quite warm. After breakfast we embussed for the Dorbaum Training Area where we were to find a Challenger, a Recce vehicle together with two tracked REME vehicles which had returned only on the previous day from an exercise in Poland. Suitably clothed in overalls we were all invited to drive a Challenger or the Challenger Armoured Recovery vehicle or the smaller tracked 438. We all took advantage of this generous offer and under supervision of the long suffering drivers, whose night out on the heath in the rain had in no way diminished their courtesy or patience, negotiated with varying degrees of ability a circuit among the trees. Perhaps the most amusing incident involved a walking patrol of German soldiers, presumably returning from a night exercise, who were somewhat startled to see a Challenger bearing towards them driven at speed by a grey-haired Granny peering over the front of the tank at them: they would have been even more impressed had they known who she was! I think I should admit at this stage that I declined an offer to drive Challenger but opted for the large REME Recovery Vehicle. Concerned that I might have trouble getting into the driving seat and certain that there would be problems in getting out of the seat, I was attracted by a vehicle which carried its own winch! Even so for our ex-14th/20th offrs since they had no previous opportunity to drive a Challenger.

A welcomed hot drink, and then bussed back to the Offrs’ Mess for lunch and a chance to meet all the offrs. Following the lunch we were addressed by the CO who briefly described the relationship between the Regiment and the Salters Company and how much this had owed to Col Basil Wood who had both commanded the Regiment and, in 1957, been Master of the Salters Company. He then expressed some kind remarks about the Salters Company and added how pleased he was that they now had an opportunity to repay some of the hospitality that they had received in the past. On behalf of the Regiment he presented to the Master, on a long loan, a fine statue of an offr of the 14th/20th on horseback, pointing out that the officer chosen as model for the statue had been Col Basil Wood when he was Adjutant. He concluded by presenting to the Master two delightful small salt cellars in the shape of ‘The Emperor’. In reply, the Master, himself an ex-offr of the 14th/20th, thanked the CO both for the gifts and for his kind remarks and assured him that the statue would grace our table at official functions; in turn he presented on behalf of the Salters Company to the Offrs’ Mess a silver topped claret jug, one of a number that had been commissioned for the Company’s sexcentenary in 1994.

We then repaired to the rifle range where we were invited to fire either a pistol or a rifle; I do not recall damaging my target to any significant extent! We then proceeded to the tank park where we had an opportunity to talk to the Tprs and their NCOs as they were carrying out maintenance on their tanks which had taken part in the exercise in Poland. We had also met some Tprs in the morning on the training area and I think we were impressed by the morale of all those whom we had the chance to meet. I am sure it was not just because of the impending visit to Canada! We then walked across to the stables to have a look at the polo ponies and it was at this time that I understand that two eminent past COs were locked in single combat on the rifle range. Rumour has it that neither was injured and that the final score could not have been any closer.
It had been for us a full, happy and fascinating day but there was more to come as we were to be guests at a Ladies Guest Night in the Offrs’ Mess; as a result we were to enjoy a truly splendid evening. An abiding memory will be the candle-lit setting of the tables, laden with Regimental silver, the accompaniment of the band and the charming company. We all slept well that night.

The following morning was for us a leisurely start after which we were taken to Münster first for a short but very interesting guided tour of the cathedral, the outstanding feature an astronomical clock. We then crossed the square to the Rathaus where we were greeted by the Burgomaster who invited us into the famous room where the Treaty of Westphalia, which was to signal the end of the Thirty Years War, had been signed. He spoke to us about some history of Münster and the unfortunate damage to the centre of the town which had taken place shortly before the end of the War. He spoke in German through an interpreter who translated manfully, or should it be in this case womanfully, with some not inconsiderable assistance from the Regiment’s own German speaking specialist! We were then invited to a glass of wine which was the opportunity for the Master to offer a short speech of thanks.

The CO and Mrs Bradshaw, together with several of the offrs, then treated us to an excellent luncheon in an upstairs room in a restaurant which was incorporated in the Rathaus building, much of it post-war.

Sadly all good things must come to an end and after returning to the Offrs’ Mess to bid farewell to our hosts, we were taken to Dusseldorf Airport. The flight was uneventful other than that two very senior offrs, already referred to as taking part in a private shooting contest, managed to make a great hit with one of the more mature air hostesses. I say no more.

Reflecting on our visit four things stand out. First the most generous hospitality bestowed on us by the Regiment. Second, the manner in which our hosts and their wives had gone out of their way to make our stay so comfortable and enjoyable. Third, the spontaneous kindness and friendliness of all ranks whom we met and, fourth, the impeccable organisation by the then Major, now Lt Col Jonty Palmer which ensured an unforgettable experience for those of us from the Salters Company who were fortunate to take part in this visit.

I hope this does not sound too much like a travelogue but it is difficult for me to visualise how much was fitted in during our short stay. I am, at least, relieved that the itinerary did not allow time to put us in those horrific cages suspended from the church spire in the centre of Münster!
During the past two years, the main thrust of the Regiment’s training has been the preparation for the Combat Readiness Evaluation testing conducted in Oct of 98. The purpose of this testing was to develop a ‘report card’ on each unit within the Reserve Forces. This report assessed how well each unit was performing in various categories, such as training, administration, finance and even community involvement. Needless to say, the current discussions around the future of the Reserves and the continued concerns with the budgeting for Canadian Forces’ activities was a cause for some anxiety on the part of the 1st Hussars. It was critical that we should not only meet the required standards, but also make every effort to exceed them to ensure the survival of the Regiment. We are happy to report that the unit performed well in all aspects of this testing and we are looking forward to continued success in the future.

The Regiment has conducted several range training weekends in the past two years as well as the annual gun camps at the Meaford Training Centre. We have not only fired the C7 rifle, but have also managed to throw grenades, fire the M72 inserts and fire the C6 and C9 machine guns. The last range qualification was conducted in Nov 98 and we were blessed with extraordinarily fine weather, something we don’t often see at that time of year in Southwestern Ontario. We were also fortunate to qualify almost every member of the Regiment on his or her personal weapon.

Both of the Cougar Gun Camps were conducted extremely well with many compliments from the Regular Force on our efficiency. The highlight was an artillery supported night shoot that went extremely well. We were also pleased to play host, at gun camp, to many of the civilian employers of our reservist members. They attended the gun camp to see just what their employees actually did in their ‘other’ job. All of them were quite impressed with the activity and the training that took place. The work-up to the gun camp training, as well as the field operations, included visits to Fort Knox, Kentucky where members of the Regiment trained in the M1A1 tank simulators at the US Armd Corps facility. This provided excellent training for all and allowed the Regiment an exciting opportunity to try something a little different from the normal activities.

One of the purposes of a military regiment is to be able to provide assistance to the civilian authorities when required and the 1st Hussars have been able to do just that on two separate occasions in the past two years. The first chance was during the Manitoba floods of Apr 97. We sent ten personnel to the Red River area, near Winnipeg, to assist in stemming the flood of the century. Nine months later, 39 members of the Regiment were dispatched to Eastern Ontario to assist in the cleanup from a devastating ice storm that blacked out large regions of Eastern Ontario and Quebec. 1st Hussars personnel helped to restore power, clean up debris, assist the civilian population and provide essential services. The Regiment received glowing letters of appreciation and commendation from many individuals and organizations for the outstanding efforts of its members.

In addition to the assistance to civilian authorities, we sent six more Hussars off to Bosnia to serve as members of the NATO force deployed in that region. This brings the total number of augmentees to Bosnia to twenty-two personnel over the past three years. The rest of the Regiment stayed in Canada, where they were kept busy with several field-training exercises that exercised the field sqn in the various phases of war.

We also participated in several ceremonial activities, including the annual D-Day parade in early June and the Remembrance Day parade in November. The highlight of the D-Day parade was the presentation of a replacement plaque by the Dutch-Canadian Community in appreciation of the efforts of the 1st Hussars during the Second World War. This was mounted on our tank memorial ‘Holy Roller’ in Victoria Park, replacing an older plaque that had deteriorated over the years.

Notwithstanding the military activities described above, we also had the honour of hosting several members of the KRH for an extended period of time. Needless to say, we cherish this association and the rapport with our affiliated Regiment. Now that we have proved to our political masters that we are worthy, and capable of performing at a high level, we look forward to many more opportunities to train and socialize together. Hodie Non Cras.
The past two years have been a busy but rewarding time for HMS Beaver, having steamed over 61,000 miles and visited some 22 ports in 16 different countries all over the globe. The highlight was undoubtedly ‘Ocean Wave’ which took place between Jan to Aug 97, a deployment involving 6 warships culminating in the handover of Hong Kong. Beaver visited Spain, France and Israel, taking every opportunity to liaise and exercise with other Navies, before transiting the Suez Canal and spending a month involved in Gulf Ops with the US and UAE Navies. Visits to Goa and Phuket were enjoyed before a short stay in Hong Kong, the last visit of a British Warship prior to the handover. Whilst the handover ceremonies were conducted Beaver remained an ever present reminder to the new owners before departing to Thailand and Singapore and a truly memorable visit for the Ship's Company to Vietnam.

Australia provided the next stop for Beaver before she commenced the long passage home on 21 Jul, arriving back in Devonport a month later to throngs of excited families many who had been apart from loved ones for seven months. Whilst Ocean Wave was a very high profile and glamorous trip, it was very successful operationally with Beaver having taken part in three major exercises, two operational theatres and worked with eight non NATO Navies. The strengthening of ties and raising of UK profiles achieved by Beaver in a rarely visited part of the world remain one of the highlights of this hardworking ship’s history and a lasting memory for the Ship's Company.

The remainder of 1997 was taken up with well earned leave, maintenance and training. 1998 has been a very mixed year with two very successful visits to our affiliated town of Bolton and seatime for other affiliations including the Scriveners and the KRH, but has ended on a lower note with HMS Beaver detailed as one of the ships to undergo disposal by mid 1999. Despite this, Beaver has continued to make a mark with the successful two month deployment to the Mediterranean last Easter before returning for further operations around her home base of Devonport. Despite the uncertainty over the future, her new Commanding Officer Lt Commander Nick Barker, is ensuring that life is continuing with as much normality as possible, and that Beaver continues to actively pursue her affiliations with vigour, as those of the Regiment who have visited will testify.
The Regimental Association has enjoyed another successful year. Members have held branch reunions all over the country with good attendance. This has included Edinburgh, Winchester, Dorchester, Cambridge, Darlington, Stafford, Preston and Gloucester. Branches are continuing to look for new members and serving personnel are always welcome to attend. ERE Personnel continue to support local branches in their area which is good to see.

The major highlights of the year have been the Cavalry Memorial Parade and Luncheon, the Central Southern Reunion at Winchester and the Northern Reunion held at Preston. Though the Regiment was unable to attend the Cavalry Memorial Parade in any great numbers we still had quite a good turnout with 117 on parade and 153 sitting down for the Luncheon. The numbers were down slightly on last year but hopefully next year the numbers will be greater. The Central Southern Reunion was held at The Guildhall, Winchester and organised by Bob Penfold who did a splendid job. 179 members attended and there was a good mix of comrades from the 10th Hussars (PWO), 11th Hussars (PAO), The Royal Hussars (PWO), the 14/20th King’s Hussars and The King’s Royal Hussars. The Northern Reunion was again held at the Barton Grange Hotel, Preston with 450 members attending. This was followed on the Sunday morning by a Service of remembrance at the Regimental church, which again was well attended. The Regimental Guidons were on parade thanks to the RSM and Guidon Party who had given up valuable time to rush over from Munster on the Friday evening only to leave again on the Sunday morning. Thank you RSM.

At our Annual General Meeting in November Maj Willie Trotter retired as our Vice chairman. The Association owes him a great deal for all his hard work in binding the Regimental Association together during its early years. Lt Col Peter Harman, presented Willie with 2 KRH whisky tumblers and a KRH glass paperweight in acknowledgement of all his hard work and loyalty. The Chairman welcomed the new Vice - President, Lt Col Johnny Kaye JP DL who was the last Commanding Officer of The Royal Hussars (PWO).

Welfare continues to be the main workload at Home Headquarters (North) and this year has been no exception. Requests for assistance come to us from SSAFA and the Royal British Legion, as we do not deal directly with the majority of cases. The Welfare Fund has paid out a total of £42,166 to 142 welfare cases, of which £22,031 has been granted towards these cases by the Army Benevolent Fund. The main income for the fund is the one - day’s pay scheme, so it is very important that every individual contributes. This money is then invested to give a greater return so that when the need arises for financial assistance the fund can do something about it.

It is hoped that the Regimental Association affinity card will be up and running by March 1999. Not only will this give the fund another avenue of income but will also provide a personalised Visa or Master Card for all those who apply.
NEWS FROM HOME HEADQUARTERS

Home Headquarters continues to operate split between North, in Preston, and South, in Winchester. We have recently been reassured by Headquarters DRAC that they do not plan to alter this arrangement, as long as we can manage to work with the staff of one Home Headquarters. Pressure may come from other directions, notably from those who control the budgets for buildings, but so far no hint has been made that Home Headquarters should move or close.

It may be helpful to remind readers of the split of responsibilities between North and South.

South

All officer matters are dealt with by HHQ(S). This includes the interviewing and processing of potential officers from initial contact until they are commissioned into the Regiment. The Regimental Secretary liaises with the offices of the Colonel-in-Chief and Deputy Colonel-in-Chief on behalf of the Regiment. Officers’ dinners and reunions are organised from Winchester. Assistance to former officers, their families or widows is provided, after consideration by the Trustees of the C B Wilson Bequest, through HHQ(S). Finally, contemporaries are notified by letter of the death of former officers of any of the founding regiments, so please let HHQ(S) know of any death.

North

HHQ(N) is responsible for all soldier matters including welfare, and the Regimental Association. Area reunions are arranged in conjunction with branch secretaries. It is also responsible for the Association’s attendance at the Cavalry Memorial Parade and for arranging the lunch. HHQ(N) produces the Association Newsletter early each year giving details of all reunions and this is distributed to all active members of the Regimental Association, some 2,500. Notification of the death of former soldiers should be sent to HHQ(N), who will pass on the news to contemporaries.

Finally, the staff at each Headquarters are:

HHQ(S) - Telephone 01962 828539 (Fax 828538)
Regimental Secretary-Major (Retd) Patrick Beresford
Admin Officer-Mrs Angie Marshall
Museum-Miss Claudia Forciniti
HHQ(N) - Telephone 01772 260310 (Fax 260553)
Assistant Regimental Secretary- Captain(Retd) John Cornish
Admin Officer-Mrs Christine Swift
Museum-Mr Ted Butcher

THE KING’S ROYAL HUSSARS MUSEUMS

The Regiment has two museums based on the collections of the founding Regiments. The Trustees agreed this year to rename the museums to better reflect today’s Regiment. The former Royal Hussars Museum is now called The King’s Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester, and The 14th/20th King’s Hussars Museum has become The King’s Royal Hussars (14th/20th Hussars) Museum and is housed in the Lancashire County Museum in Preston. Both will display items from The King’s Royal Hussars as these become available.

In 1998 the Army Board approved a paper outlining the MOD(A) strategy for military museums. Military museums are considered to be part of defence. In return for continuing expenditure from the defence budget, museums are required to meet certain criteria including achieving Registration with the Museums and Galleries Commission. Each museum is to have a ‘Customer Services Agreement (CSA)’ drawn up in conjunction with RHQ/Museums Branch AG HQ. The CSA will specify what the museum is to provide in terms of opening hours, research facilities, display of artefacts and registration in return for continued MOD funding both in the form of salaries for the museum attendants, and Propman ie fuel and light and building maintenance costs. An annex to the paper lists both our museums as receiving museum attendant funding. Thus both museums will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The King’s Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester faces a further period of uncertainty because the buildings are
expensive to maintain, and Director Infantry, from whose budget the maintenance is paid, is reviewing the use of the buildings and how the costs might be met. There are five military museums and four regimental or home headquarters housed in three buildings.

A number of options, including disposing of one building, are being costed and considered. However, KRH Museum in Winchester, as a MOD funded museum should continue to operate.

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**An 11th Hussar in Tunisia, 1943**

**Evening Standard 1/6/43**

*Here is a letter from Trooper William Hasted, a member of the Evening Standard composing room staff who is in Tunisia. Hasted writes with vigour and freshness of a man who has experienced big things.*

_HERE_ we are all again, all merry and bright, still very much perpendicular, but must confess with a slightly larger chest expansion. As you surely must have heard, the regiment were first in again - I'm speaking of Tunis, of course - but what is not generally known is which squadron. Well it was ours. Benghazii, Tripoli, and now Tunis. “A” Squadron relieved Tobruk.

By the time you receive this it will all be ancient history, but to me it can never be; on that score I know you will pardon me, maybe a little personal vanity in acquainting you of what it felt like to be among the first two dozen men to enter a city so long coveted by friend and foe alike.

Dramatic, indeed, was the order of the regiment to switch from the Eighth to the First Army. We proceeded straight away, travelled all night through country not unlike the Cumberland fells, country that, had it been daylight, would have been a real treat to the eye, and by day break we were only 80 kilos from our appointed position. At noon we arrived. We had a brew up and a feed, and then commenced the trek. Day after day we lessened the distance, dodging through cornfields around mountain passes, through small villages. Strafed, shelled, bombed (once by the Yanks, so far ahead did we get), until at last we reached the last range of hills, at the peak of which we knew we would have Tunis in binocular range.

Make it we did on that memorable seventh of May, our viewpoint, a vine-yard on the slope of a hill. Down into the valley we went, a cart track taking us past a farmhouse leading to the tarmac road and a sign post - Tunis eight kilos.

A beautiful road it was - lovely and smooth, winding its way through suburban villas to be found on the outskirts of any big town. It was all very homely.

Suburbia finished, we reached the great archway which marks the entrance to the city. There our little column had a check-up. All present. Two dozen men astride nine armoured vehicles. I was on seventh.

_THEN_ in we went. Through the archway, down a slight incline, straight into the Arab quarter. The pavements were lined with picturesquely garbed natives. They merely stood and stared. On we went to the city proper, through cobbled tram lined streets with great buildings either side. Rooftops, balconies, window and pavement chock-a-block with people, their faces all conjecture. Who were we? No steel helmets, just an unfamiliar red beret. Were we the last of Jerry or the vanguard of the deliverance so long promised still not a murmur.

Then we spotted two jeries in a barber's having a coiffure. We had them out with their hands up.

A Jerry officer arm-in-arm with a blonde spotted us. He tried to bolt, but bang!

Then the people knew. From a seeming whisper the cheering and clapping became one consistent roar. Jeries and Ities appeared from seemingly no-where, hands well above their heads. Then we started the great round-up. The locals knew the hide-outs and the rest was easy. Through the town we went, but slower and slower. Men and women climbed all over us and kissed our hands, faces, showered us with flowers and gifts of wine. It had to been seen to be believed. It seemed as though the heart of a great city was burst. Men and women unblushingly cried. Believe me, it was a great experience, and one I shall never forget.

_HEREDITY_, in my opinion, can always be defined, be it humans, horses or dogs. If the strain was there, breeding will always out; but in the matter of tradition of institution, schools, regiment and suchlike I have always been a little askance. But not so now. It does not seem that the flame kindled by that “famous 600” had not been dimmed or extinguished by the passing of the years. Tradition is not merely an abstract flowery form of expression.

Little did I think, when we started the long trek from Alamein, that it would all fall to our lot to set the seal on a campaign, and I feel sure that when the story of the fall of Tunis is finally chronicled it will reveal one of the most imputant and satisfactory actions executed by British arms. Two dozen “Cherry-pickers” aboard rubber tyred mobility! We are now in rest, and yesterday we were given a treat. We were taken for a trip to Tunis in real style. We all made for a bath and haircut, it was grand.

Well, Napoleon conquered the Alps, Cecil Rhodes made a good job of Rhodesia. And now I am laying claim to something. I'll wager I was the first L. S. C* member in Tunis. Fleet-street was well to the fore. But I had a good start. Sincerely Yours,

_BILL_

*L.S.C-London Society of Compositors.*
LEST WE FORGET

We extend our deepest sympathy to relatives and friends of former members of the Association who have died:

Sgt R E Schulz 10H 11 Aug 95
LCpl C C Peck 14/20H 11 May 97
LCpl D G Bellinger 14/20H 06 Sept 97
Lt M C Hughes 14/20H 04 Dec 97
Cpl M G Heather 10H 01 Jan 98
Tpr R Clutton 10H 13 Jan 98
Tpr H Harris 10H & 14/20H 04 Feb 98
Maj IM Davies 11H 07 Mar 98
SSgt D Redmond 14/20H 25 Mar 98
Lt The Viscount Villiers 11H & RH 19 Mar 98
Maj A F Prevett JP 14/20H 01 Apr 98
Sgt E W G Pemberton 10H 04 Apr 98
LCpl G Giles 26H 19 Apr 98
Capt H B Hewitt 14/20H 20 Apr 98
Maj J A Hall MBE 11H & RH 13 May 98
WO2 B Dunn 11H & RH 15 May 98
Tpr M J Wiseman (formerly Doswell) 10H 26 May 98
Cpl L A Pearce 11H & RH 29 May 98
Tpr J D Greenaway 10H 03 June 98
G A Dellow 10H June 98
LCpl E M Pearson 14/20H 21 July 98
SSgt R Burkey 14/20H 07 Aug 98
Cpl R Neeld 11H 15 Aug 98
Cpl H G Dedman 10H 18 Aug 98
Maj C R Parker DCM 11H 23 Aug 98
Tpr N G Bennett KRH 30 Aug 98
WO1 B Thomas (Director of Music) 14/20H 02 Sep 98
Sgt F G Billinge 10H & 23H 04 Sep 98
Mrs Barbara Pemberton (Widow of Lt Col J H Pemberton 14/20H) 14 Sep 98
Mrs P Donner (Widow of Maj P J Donner MC 10H & 11H) Mid 98
Mrs Daphne Preston (Widow of Capt the Hon RFH Preston 11H) Mid 98
WO2 E P Jones 14/20H 04 Oct 98
Lt MCS Pumphrey 10H 06 Oct 98
WO2 B J Conway REME att 10H 10 Oct 98
Tpr E Smith 10H 24 Oct 98
Tpr J Kimbell 11H 10 Oct 98
SSgt W H G Lewis (Regimental Carpenter) 11H 02 Nov 98
Maj K B Bateman 10H & RH 11 Nov 98
WO1 (RSM) P C Witney 14/20H 11 Nov 98
Cpl J Selwood 10H 14 Nov 98
Mrs Rene Reddish (Widow of RSM Reddish) 10H 30 Nov 98
Tpr H J Inwood 11H 02 Dec 98
Maj Mick Keats 11H, RH & KRH 05 Dec 98
Sir William Stuttaford 10H 02 Jan 99

In the ‘Lest we forget’ column in last year’s Journal it was wrongly reported that Major E S N Clarke MBE MM, 11th Hussars, had died. The entry should have read Mrs E S N Clarke who died in March 1997. Sincere apologies are offered to Major Clarke for this unforgivable error and the embarrassment this may have caused. Heartfelt sympathy goes out to him on the sad loss of his dear wife.
OBITUARIES

MAJOR KEN B BATEMAN

Ken Bateman was born in Edmonton, North London on 24 September 1928 and died at home in Wareham, Dorset on 11 November 1998.

Ken had joined The 10th Hussars in 1946 and soon became noted for his high standards. He moved into the technical department and rose to become a first class TQMS. As a member of the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess his ability as a playwright came to the fore. He was commissioned in 1968 as MTO. With great courage Ken overcame enormous grief when in 1969 his wife Hazel died.

After amalgamation Ken spent the rest of his service on ERE appointments. On one of these, as the Range Officer at Lulworth, he met and married Ruth. He was then Adjutant and QM on the ranges in Kirkcudbright. In 1977 he was promoted and moved to Second-in-Command of the Armoured Delivery Squadron in Hamm. His final appointment before retirement was Garrison Adjutant in Detmold.

In retirement Ken moved back to Wareham and immersed himself into his new life. He became a mature student at Bournemouth and was awarded a BA (Hons) degree in English and History. He became a member, and eventually President of the Wareham Lions Club.

We offer our sympathy to Ruth and all his family.

MAJOR IEUAN M DAVIES

Ieuan Davies was born in Aberystwyth in 1918. He spent his boyhood and school years in Wales. When war came in 1939 he joined the Army and was one of the first to serve as an Officer Cadet in the newly formed Reconnaissance Corps. This had been created to fill the urgent requirement for the infantry divisions to have their own integral reconnaissance units. After initial training at Lanark this Officer Cadet Training Unit was transferred to Sandhurst to combine with the RAC OCTU forming there.

He joined 43rd Recce, the unit with 43rd Wessex Division, at Dover in 1943 on commissioning. Shortly afterwards they moved to Dover in time for the Normandy invasion. The Regiment was moved soon after D-Day in a liberty ship, which was struck by an acoustic mine and sunk just off the beaches. 180 all ranks were drowned and 100 injured in this disaster which only left the bows exposed. By intensive effort some of the vehicles were beached through the bow doors. Luckily the Regiment were rested for a short
period to gain reinforcements and reorganize. They were able to then take their part in the beachhead battles.

Breaking out in the Caumont area they were in the vanguard of the army advancing through France and Belgium. The Division was allotted a role on the left flank of Second Army in the attempt to relieve the Arnhem battle for Nijmegen. Ieuan had his armoured car knocked out by an 88mm gun, his driver was killed and he was wounded in the leg. The war went more quietly on to the final victory in Germany.

After the war the Recce Corps was disbanded and Ieuan elected to join the Regular Army. He was commissioned into The 11th Hussars in 1946 and joined at Osnabruck in 1948. He was appointed as the Garrison Adjutant and established himself quickly as a popular figure in the Regiment. He was noted for his individual style of addressing all German employees, whatever their job, as ‘Ollo’.

Ieuan made his truly professional mark when he was promoted to Major in 1953, appointed to command the Advance Party to Malaya and then to be Squadron Leader of B Squadron. This command was independent from Regimental Headquarters and 160 miles distant from Seremban at Johore Bahru just north of the Singapore Causeway. He had the whole of the large State of Johore to cover with his armoured cars. He ran an operationally efficient and happy team in the testing days of the Emergency.

Back at Lulworth in 1954 he instructed at the RAC Tactical School before returning to Carlisle to rejoin the Regiment in the RAC Training Regiment role. In 1959 he went with them to Northern Ireland as Second-in-Command and would have moved to Aden had he not suffered a severe back problem. He was appointed Training Major of The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars at Cirencester where he stayed happily for four years.

During his time he met and married Patricia Elliott in 1964. Their wedding photo is unusual in that it featured his inimitable Labrador – Brigitte Bardot. His last Army appointment was in Libya with the British Military Mission. After 2 years the Mission was expelled when the Israelis had their Seven-Day war against Egypt.

Ieuan retired to Cornwall and did a Retired Officer job for some time. His Regimental years were very popular, he was liked by all and respected within and without the Regiment. He was prominent in rugby, squash, swimming and other sports. He keenly followed Tim Forster’s racing fortunes and success.

We offer our warm sympathy to Patricia and thank her for all the support she gave Ieuan during long years of his declining health.

P U

WO2 BRIAN DUNN

Brian was special to everyone - his wife Celia, his children Robert and Louise, his little granddaughter Ashleigh, his relatives, his friends and his colleagues. He was driven by his work and was the best, most caring person you could hope to meet.

He was born in 1942 in Amersham. At the age of five he was sent to the National Children’s Home ‘Clarendon’ in Cardiff. Here he spent ten very happy years and learnt to sing the Welsh National Anthem and numerous songs in Welsh! He was always proud that he rode in the charge of the Guard, in the Guard’s van on the train ‘Red Dragon’ between Cardiff and London.

At the age of 15, Brian went to Slough where he studied for his City and Guilds Certificates in catering. This gave him the qualifications to work as a chef at the Bell Inn in Aston Clinton. He added to his qualifications and became a bus conductor and driver for London Transport - this would prove handy later on in his life!

In 1967, when he was 25, Brian enlisted into the Army where he served his 22 years. First with the 11th Hussars (10 Alpha to some!) and then with The Royal Hussars, Prince of Wales’s Own. ‘Dolly Dunn’ retired as a Warrant Officer Second Class in 1989, having earned the General Service Medal with Clasp for service in Northern Ireland and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

On retirement, Brian went back to school! He took a computer studies course and came out with a distinction – what else! He then went into the Civil Service, first at RAF Fairford, then for seven years at the School Bus Offices at RAF Feltwell and RAF Lakenheath. His knowledge, experience and total dedication was the mainstay at the Lakenheath office. Brian had that ‘special’ quality with endless charm and patience, that one comes across, maybe, once in a lifetime.

He will be sadly missed.
Major John Albert Hall MBE, known in the Regiment and throughout the British Army as ‘Nobby’, died of a heart attack on 18 May 1998 in Reading Hospital.

Nobby was, in the opinion of many of us, one of the great Regimental characters of all times and certainly of the post-war era. His memory can live easily alongside those of Tom Upton or Reg Chadwick of former years. He was admired and respected by all, seldom did he ever raise his voice, he possessed a commanding authority and seemed to attain the highest standards from those around him with the minimum of fuss, or effort.

Nobby possessed a lively sense of humour and was an amusing raconteur with a fund of Regimental experiences and stories. These were always told with a wide smile, which seemed to split his face in two.

Having joined The 11th Hussars as a sixteen year old Band Boy in 1938 at Helmhich Barracks on the outskirts of Cairo, Nobby was to leave The Royal Hussars 48 years later in 1986 as a Major, with an MBE and two mentions in Despatches.

With the advent of war in North Africa, Nobby was to leave the Band in 1940 and join the sabre troops. Promotion followed quickly and by 1942 Nobby was a Sergeant, having as a Corporal acted for a short time as personal wireless operator to Brigadier ‘Jock’ Campbell, a legendary desert figure.

Sometime after El Alamein, Nobby joined A Squadron, then commanded by John Lawson. It wasn’t long before Nobby was given the responsible job of Sergeant Troop Leader of 2nd Troop.

John Lawson in A Squadron’s war diary records, “Sergeant Hall and 2nd Troop were sent out to ascertain what had happened to the Jeep Troop at Bungem. This was the first individual operation Sergeant Hall had been asked to undertake, they had to go some 50 miles south into the desert, most of this way out of W/T contact”. They returned late that evening and John Lawson went on to say “How well 2nd Troop had performed in accomplishing a difficult and dangerous task”. John Lawson further added “They were all so young and undertook these dangerous tasks with relish”.

Nobby’s speed of reaction was again tested in Tunisia when his armoured car was halted beside a track with a palm grove some 400 hundred yards away on his left. Hardly had he stopped before he heard a fire order ring out in German, followed by the clang of a breechblock closing. Nobby just had time to shout to his driver to advance, before the anti-tank shell passed where his armoured car had been seconds before. No wonder that Nobby not only had the trust of those in his Troop but also the respect and confidence of his superiors.

Wounded in the hand in Italy, Nobby was evacuated to the UK to rejoin The 11th Hussars at Ashridge in time for the Normandy Invasion.

During the hard slogs in the Normandy bocage country, and during the breakout over the River Seine, Nobby was back in A Squadron as a Troop Sergeant, this time to Dick Sutton, who was to become one of Nobby’s great friends.

Dick was always to say that had Nobby been with him the day that he was captured he is certain it would never have happened. However, by then Nobby had once again been given his own Troop. This he was to lead until Operation Python was to claim Nobby just before the end of the war, when he was ordered home to England as an Instructor with 59th Training Regiment at Barnard Castle. It was here that Nobby met and married Gladys and theirs was to be an idyllic marriage. Their sons Peter, Kenneth and Colin were born and for thirty years Gladys was to follow the drum in support of Nobby. Three years before his death, on the 20 Oct 1995, Nobby and Gladys were to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Peacetime soldiering came as naturally to Nobby as wartime soldiering. Promotion followed quickly as Nobby rose to the peak of his profession to become SSM A Squadron under George Hodgkinson in Malaya, and what a happy Squadron that was. Then RSM to The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, followed by commissioning as Technical Quartermaster and finally as Quartermaster to the 11th Hussars and The Royal Hussars after amalgamation. For his outstanding contribution as Quartermaster, Nobby was awarded a very well earned MBE.
There were, I know, many moments of great pride in Nobby’s career. One of the foremost perhaps was the day he was selected from his fellow Troop Sergeants in A Squadron to be Troop Sergeant of the Regimental Composite Troop that accompanied Sir Winston Churchill on his visit to Tripoli on his victory parade in 1943. Another was the time in Malaya when he went off to the Far East Fencing Championships. Here his speed of reaction not only won him the Sabre Championships but also the Epee. When one considers he had no sparring partners in Seramban except the enforced services of the Regimental PTI his achievement becomes even greater.

Then there was the Guidon Parade of 1965 in Hohne when, with his friend Harry Addis, he unfolded the new Guidon, which bore among many others, ten Battle Honours that Nobby had been personally involved in.

How touched he was when Dick Sutton came in to his office one day to tell him that he, Dick, was to be the Commanding Officer of the 11th Hussars. As Dick put it “I want you to be the first to know.”

However, his proudest moment was in 1967 when his own son Peter was commissioned from Sandhurst into the 11th Hussars. Father and son serving together at the same time in the same Regiment. Has it ever happened before? Certainly not in the 11th Hussars’ history.

What a wonderful man, and everyone who knew Nobby Hall will have special memories of him. Our sympathies must go to Gladys and her three sons, over the sad loss of a loving husband and devoted father.

“Treu Und Fest” faithful friend.

In his professional life he had a distinguished career in Cancer research gaining an international prize for his work on the effect of radiation on living cells, but he said that he felt a far greater affinity with his Army colleagues than any he experienced with those in the scientific community.

He regularly attended the Officers’ Dinner in London and the Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park. He was, therefore, able to continue the comradeship begun many years before which he valued throughout the rest of his life.

Our deepest sympathy is offered to his wife, Eileen.

WO2 (SSM) E P (PETER) JONES

Peter Jones, who died at the age of 71, joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars on its return from Wuppertal in 1947, following two years as a Gunnery Instructor with the Training Regiment in Catterick.

On completing a course at the Gunnery School, Lulworth, in 1948 with a P1+ pass, he was selected to the staff as an Instructor, where he stayed until 1957. During this time he met and married Greta, and they had a daughter, Lesley.

He rejoined the Regiment in 1957, serving with B Squadron in BAOR, returning to the Gunnery School as a Senior Instructor from 1959 until 1962. On his return to the Regiment he saw service in Tripoli and Benghazi, where he was SSM of B Squadron. From here he was posted as PSI to The Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry.

On leaving the Army in 1967, he rose to become a Superintendent Registrar in Liverpool where he remained until his retirement in May 1992.

In his youth Peter Jones was a fine soldier and a first class instructor. In later years he became a dedicated photographer, who turned the black and white photograph into an art form. He had a tremendous zest for life, and was well liked and respected by all who knew him.

CAPTAIN HAROLD B HEWITT

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dr Harold Hewitt who died on 20 April 1998 aged 83 years.

Dr Hewitt served as Medical Officer to The 14th/20th King’s Hussars from 1941 to 1943, joining the Regiment in India and going with them to Palestine. During this period he was made a member of the Regiment, an honour which he always greatly esteemed.

In his professional life he had a distinguished career in Cancer research gaining an international prize for his work on the effect of radiation on living cells, but he said that he felt a far greater affinity with his Army colleagues than any he experienced with those in the scientific community.

He regularly attended the Officers’ Dinner in London and the Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park. He was, therefore, able to continue the comradeship begun many years before which he valued throughout the rest of his life.

Our deepest sympathy is offered to his wife, Eileen.

WO2 (SSM) E P Jones.
MAJOR MICK W KEATS

It was with great sadness and shock that his many friends and colleagues learnt of the death of Mick Keats on 5 December 1998 aged just 51. Mick joined the 11th Hussars (PAO) in 1964, serving exclusively in B Sqn with both the 11th and then The Royal Hussars (PWO) after amalgamation in 1969 until 1980. On the Regiment’s move from Catterick to Fallingbostel he became SSM of C Squadron. He was made RSM in 1984 and was subsequently commissioned in 1986. He was the QM(T) for 2 years and served as QM for his last 4 years at Regimental Duty. He only ever spent 2 years away from the Regiment as a SNCO with the RAC Sales Team and the Armoured Trials and Development Unit in Bovington.

Just Prior to the amalgamation with the 14/20th, he was posted to Bovington as the Equipment Manager. He continued in this appointment as a Retired Officer. His natural talent for staff work was quickly recognized. Within HQ DRAC his experience and wisdom quickly won him a rare level of respect. He was instrumental in the work of restructuring the RAC after the Strategic Defence Review and the introduction of the new tank.

His dedication to the Regiment and to the Royal Armoured Corps and his utter selflessness knew no boundaries. Even in his last year, after the death of his son Malcom and during his final illness, Mick continued to give his whole heart to the cause. With unique determination he strove to rise above the mental and physical pain and fight to the end. For those who had the privilege of serving with Mick over many years, he has left us with inspirational example.

The huge turnout at his funeral was the most eloquent testimony and tribute to a wonderful friend. He will be sorely missed and we send our deepest sympathy to his widow Eileen and his family.

MAJOR CLIFF R PARKER DCM

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Major Cliff Parker on 23 August 1998.

Cliff Parker joined the 11th Hussars in 1943 and by the start of hostilities was a Lance Corporal in B Squadron, which he represented at boxing and cricket.

He was awarded his DCM for his part as a Troop Leader in B Squadron during an attack on Fort Capuzzo in 1941. A daring attack out of the desert by two Troops of B Squadron and one from C Squadron was driven off by enemy aircraft. All except two members of the Troop were wounded in the action.

After the war Cliff transferred to the RAOC where he rose to the rank of Major before retiring in 1969.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, Eileen, and family.

CORPORAL LESLIE ANTHONY PEARCE

Leslie joined the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington in 1966 and soon showed his skills not only as an all round sportsman, but excelling in rugby and gymnastics, spending two years at the RAC Centre before eventually passing out to the 11th Hussars at Hohne in Germany.

On the Regiment’s return to Tidworth he moved across to the Demonstration Squadron at Warminster before moving into Guided Weapons Troop where he remained until his discharge in 1977. In 1975 he claimed his brother Clive to the Regiment who had at first joined HQ Squadron LAD before seeing the light and transferring to The Royal Hussars in 1977.

He was married in 1975 to Denise. They had two sons, Gareth and Nicholas, and a daughter, Rachel.

Les’s passion for rugby and his ability as a player was well known whilst serving with the Regiment. On returning to civilian life he rejoined his old Rugby Club and carried on his passion until injury prevented him from playing any further.

Les joined ‘A’ Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Squadron, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry in 1978 and remained with them until 1996 when he retired. He attained the rank of Squadron Sergeant Major before taking the post of
RQMS but felt he was best served as an SSM and returned for his last two years with the Squadron in 1994. A larger than life character, Les enjoyed life to the full. His passion for rugby will always be remembered and prior to his sudden death whilst on holiday in Greece he was Chairman of the Coney Hill Rugby Club, Fixtures Secretary of Matson Rugby Club, and also coach of the Children’s Mini Rugby.

We send our thoughts and sympathy to his wife and family at their terrible loss.

**SIR WILLIAM STUTTAFORD KT CBE**

Bill Stuttaford joined The 10th Hussars in August 1952 having been educated at Gresham’s, where he was Head Boy, and Trinity College, Oxford.

The 10th Hussars, like other cavalry regiments, recruited most of their young officers from Regimental families or on recommendation of serving or retired Regimental officers. Bill and his younger brother Tommy, (‘The Times’ medical columnist and former MP for Norwich) who joined the Regiment two years later, were the sons of Doctor William Joseph Edward Stuttaford MC, a Norfolk county doctor. Their father was a close friend and neighbour of Captain C B Wilson of the 10th Hussars, whose only son had been killed whilst serving in the Regiment in North Africa.

Bill, when he joined the 10th Hussars was three months short of his 24th birthday and thus older than the majority of his brother National Service officers. Apart from being extremely able he possessed a maturity of outlook that might have been the envy of a man many years his senior. In his quiet efficient manner he was extremely popular with all ranks of the Regiment. He was someone of whom one was never heard to say a bad word. A committed Christian he was a regular attendee at the Garrison Church in Iserlohn and by his example encouraged others to do the same. For those who have read the Obituary Notice in ‘The Times’ and in ‘The Daily Telegraph’ his subsequent career in the City and in politics are well known. In 1994 he chaired the Conservative Party Conference in Bournemouth.

His great love was, however, for the country and for country pursuits and in those long ago days in Iserlohn he actively encouraged us at weekends to go for walks with him in the beautiful forests surrounding the town. If we were lucky Bill, as one of the few young officers who owned a car, would take us further afield, park the car and we would explore new country. In later years he became a keen racehorse owner, and when still working in the City he used to try and get home to Great Wigborough and avoid having to spend the night in the City. Bill was a very ‘proper officer’ and he will be greatly missed by his family and by those of us who were lucky enough to serve in the Regiment with him.

**CAPTAIN BARRY M THOMAS**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Barry Thomas, who died at the age of 68 on 2 September 1998 after a long illness, gallantly borne.

Born in 1929 in London, Barry enlisted into ‘The Duke of Wellington’s’ (The West Riding Regiment) on 21 January 1945. During his service with ‘The Dukes’ he became a very accomplished cornet player, achieved a high standard of musical knowledge, and acquired an accent more compatible with his county of adoption than that of his birth. His fondness for Yorkshire cricket and brass bands reflected his time spent amongst the ‘broad acres’. He was appointed Band Sergeant of The Dukes and was selected to attend the student Bandmasters’ course at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. On successful completion of the course he became an associate member of the Royal College of Music and in July 1962 was appointed Bandmaster of the 14th/20th King’s Hussars shortly before the Regiment left for service in Libya. Barry served continuously with the Regiment through Libya, Tidworth and Paderborn. In 1969 he left the Regiment on being appointed Bandmaster to the Wessex Division, a position he held until 1973 when he was appointed Director of Music of the Malay Regiment in Brunei. In December 1974 he retired from the Army at the rank of Captain.

On return to civilian life he obtained a post with the Department of Inland Revenue but sadly over the last few years Barry was plagued with poor health as a result of kidney trouble. This necessitated him attending for dialysis treatment on a regular basis. Despite all this he maintained a cheerful disposition throughout and kept in contact with past members of the 14th/20th King’s Hussars Band.

His passing is deeply mourned and our sincere and deepest sympathy goes out to Barry’s family.
WO1 (RSM) PHILIP CHARLES WITNEY

Philip joined the Army in 1940 and was sent out to India in 1941 to join the Regiment as a Radio Operator. He then served with them through the War years and on cessation of hostilities moved to Germany as part of the occupation forces.

Philip stayed with the Regiment in Germany as RSM and served with the Regiment in Benghazi until 1964. Philip’s next posting for 2 years was as Garrison RSM in Belgium, he was then posted to SHAPE (Paris) as International RSM serving until SHAPE was relocated to Belgium in 1967. He completed his service in Aldershot and retired in 1971 to the family home in Swindon.

E W

VISCOUNT VILLIERS

It is with deep regret that we learnt of the death of George Villiers on 19 March 1998, aged 49.

George Villiers was commissioned into the 11th Hussars in 1968 and completed his Short Service Commission in The Royal Hussars in 1971. A few weeks after joining the Regiment he considered leaving to take up music full-time but was persuaded by his father and his CO to remain in the Army. He served in both B Squadron, as 3 Troop Leader, and later with A Squadron in Tidworth. Always keen on music it is little wonder that the Regimental Journal of the time records “an excellent Squadron party organised by 2Lt The Viscount Villiers as his own farewell gesture” shortly before leaving the Regiment.

Music remained his main passion and he studied classical guitar making regular appearances on television and radio. He formed his own band and produced a number of records. He also wrote commercial video, radio and television theme music.

We extend our sympathy to Stephanie, his third wife, and family.

(Acknowledgement to The Daily Telegraph)
THE KING’S ROYAL HUSSARS

1998

COLONEL IN CHIEF

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal KG GCVO

DEPUTY COLONEL IN CHIEF

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester GCB CI GCVO GBE

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Brigadier E C W Morrison OBE

HOME HEADQUARTERS

Brigadier E C W Morrison OBE  President Regimental Association
Lieutenant Colonel P Harman  Chairman Regimental Association
Lieutenant Colonel JRD Kaye JP DL  Vice- Chairman Regimental Association
Major P J C Beresford  Regimental Secretary (South)
Captain J C Cornish  Assistant Regimental Secretary (North)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Lieutenant Colonel J J Powe  Commanding Officer
Major C H D Danvers  Second-in-Command
Captain A T L Potts  Adjutant
Captain T G Mallinson  Operations Officer
Captain R O Slack  Signals Officer
Captain S Pettinati  Intelligence Officer
WO1 (RSM) A E Smith  Regimental Sergeant Major
C SQUADRON

Squadron Leader: Maj Todd
Second-in-Command: Capt Mallinson
Squadron Sergeant Major: WO2 Simpson

SHQ TROOP
SSgt (SQMS) Richardson
SSgt Pooley
Cpl Benson 610
Cpl Wade
LCpl Brown 760
LCpl Durrant
LCpl Farling
LCpl Moss
LCpl Shephard
Tpr Blair
Tpr Eadsforth
Tpr Gallery
Tpr Hudson
Tpr Pearce
Tpr Preston
Tpr Silvey

1 TROOP
Lt Cotton
Sgt Evans
Cpl Masters
Cpl Davis
Cpl Bradley
LCpl Jones
Tpr Hall
Tpr Helm
Tpr Lee
Tpr Lloyd
Tpr Mitty
Tpr Pollard

1 TROOP
Cpl Bellman
Cpl Bland
LCpl Caldwell
Tpr Bensley
Tpr Burns 859
Tpr Hadfield
Tpr Harper
Tpr Lancaster
Tpr Sherrington

2 TROOP
Lt d’Apice
Sgt Whittaker
Cpl Jagger

2 TROOP
2Lt Hope-Hawkins
Sgt Simpson
Cpl Bayne
LCpl Baird
LCpl Goodson
LCpl Joliffe
Tpr Bainbridge
Tpr Budd
Tpr Butterworth
Tpr Dugdale
Tpr Hampton
Tpr Paine

2 TROOP
Cpl Taylor 880
LCpl Fuller
LCpl Hepworth
LCpl Hunt
Tpr Ashton
Tpr Forrest
Tpr Gartside
Tpr Minton
Tpr Ridealgh

3 TROOP
Lt Biddulph
Sgt Caulfield
Sgt Rodmell
Cpl Wilson
LCpl Benson 249
LCpl Jackson
Tpr Ashton
Tpr Briscoe

3 TROOP
Tpr Burns 289
Tpr Keenan
Tpr Pugsley
Tpr Shores

FITTER SECTION
SSgt Holmes
Sgt Boyes
Sgt Howell
Sgt Maycock
Cpl Brown 194
Cpl Burns
Cpl Fawcett
LCpl Warrender
LCpl Wrench
Cfn May
Cfn Preston
Cfn Vaughan
Cfn Williams

A SQUADRON

Squadron Leader: Maj Palmer/Maj Hannay
Second-in-Command: Capt Juxon/Capt Haslam
Squadron Sergeant Major: WO2 Smith 761

SHQ TROOP
SSgt (SQMS) Loftus
SSgt Towell
Cpl Hargreaves
Cpl White
LCpl Godfrey
LCpl Gwynne
LCpl Truesdale
Tpr Brinkworth
Tpr Calvert
Tpr Dargue
Tpr Fowler
Tpr Gonthier
Tpr Henderson
Tpr Lafferty
Tpr Rae
Tpr Smith 867
Tpr Szulc
Tpr Warren

1 TROOP
2Lt Hope-Hawkins
Sgt Simpson
Cpl Bayne
LCpl Baird
LCpl Goodson
LCpl Joliffe
Tpr Bainbridge
Tpr Budd
Tpr Butterworth
Tpr Dugdale
Tpr Hampton
Tpr Paine

1 TROOP
Cpl Taylor 880
LCpl Fuller
LCpl Hepworth
LCpl Hunt
Tpr Ashton
Tpr Forrest
Tpr Gartside
Tpr Minton
Tpr Ridealgh

2 TROOP
Lt MacGregor
Sgt Jessup
Cpl Grove

2 TROOP
Cpl Abrahams

3 TROOP
Lt Kingsford
Sgt Thomas
Cpl Slater
LCpl Dix
LCpl Hill
LCpl White 188

3 TROOP
Tpr Abrahams
Tpr Bennett
Tpr Blacklock
Tpr Freeman
Tpr Nowell
Tpr Stagg

FITTER SECTION
SSgt Samuels
Sgt Edgar
Sgt Martin
Cpl Fisher
Cpl Hymas
Cpl Pickett
Cpl Pounder
LCpl Duggan
LCpl Griffin
LCpl Henderson
LCpl McLean
Cfn Goldsmith
B SQUADRON

Squadron Leader: Maj Arrowsmith
Second-in-Command: Capt Mann
Squadron Sergeant Major: WO2 Thompson

SHQ TROOP
SSgt (SQMS) Brushett
SSgt (SQMS) Jeffreson
Sgt Hendry
Cpl Whittaker
LCpl Alway
LCpl Devoy
LCpl Jones 730
Tpr Burnie
Tpr Hendron
Tpr Jones 889
Tpr Kelly
Tpr Letties
Tpr Meldrum
Tpr Scarrott
Tpr Slater
Tpr Smith
Tpr Steel
Tpr Walker

1 TROOP
Lt Stanley-Smith
Sgt Hanratty
Cpl Sheppard
Cpl Green
LCpl Clough
LCpl Ives
Tpr Barlow
Tpr Bryant
Tpr Field
Tpr Penning
Tpr Weir
Tpr Wild

2 TROOP
2Lt Mainwaring
Sgt Spyers
Cpl Binge
Tpr Brace
Tpr Buffey
Tpr Hawkins
Tpr Marson
Tpr Walters
Tpr Wilkinson
Tpr Winstanley

2 TROOP

3 TROOP
2Lt Buczaki
Sgt Ward
Cpl Adamson
Tpr Beaver
Tpr Bradley

FITTING SECTION
SSgt Cannar
Sgt Berry
Sgt Cameron
Cpl Bate
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Jenkins
Cpl Jones
Cpl Underwood
LCpl Cobb
Cfn Scott
Cfn Price

D SQUADRON

Squadron Leader: Maj Joynson
Second-in-Command: Capt Williams
Squadron Sergeant Major: WO2 James

SHQ
SSgt Myler
SSgt Sym
Cpl Almond
Cpl Loftus
Cpl Portwood
LCpl Ashley
LCpl Bretherton 292
LCpl Irwin 970
LCpl O'Donnell
LCpl Price 230
LCpl Shearman
LCpl Taylor 342
LCpl Taylor 425
LCpl Thomson

1 TROOP
Tpr Astley
Tpr Buckley
Tpr Harris
Tpr Marshall
Tpr Meldrum
Tpr Roberts 654
Tpr Smith 372
Tpr Webster
Tpr Williams

2 TROOP
Cpl Brannick
LCpl Allen
LCpl Ormond
Tpr Davies
Tpr Garrington
Tpr Macdougall
Tpr Murphy
Tpr Robinson
Tpr White

2 TROOP

3 TROOP

3 TROOP

2 TROOP

2 TROOP

2 Lt Stephenson
Sgt Surrage
Cpl Lewtas

3 TROOP

3 TROOP

3 TROOP

3 TROOP

Lt Perry
Sgt Brushett
Cpl Weeke
Cpl Crowley
LCpl Lee 721
LCpl Whitehill
Tpr Bennett 492
Tpr Breen
Tpr Chiverton
Tpr Cropper
Tpr Milligan
Tpr Walls

FITTER SECTION
SSgt Gardner
Sgt Mitchell
Sgt Wood
Cpl Bell
Cpl Nixon
Cpl Underwood
LCpl Balcombe
LCpl Kavanagh
LCpl Ring
LCpl Tindal
Cfn Fayers

HQ SQUADRON

Squadron Leader: Maj Ross
Squadron Sergeant Major: WO2 Winchcombe

SHQ TROOP
SSgt Shelley
Cpl Mason
LCpl Joab
LCpl Murphy
LCpl Price 300

COMMAND TROOP
Capt Slack
Sgt Kvesic
Cpl Barber
Cpl Burton
Cpl Debaughn
Cpl Hill
Cpl Medley
Cpl Ross
Cpl Spyers 236
Cpl Witham
LCpl Bretherton
LCpl Edwards
LCpl Gray
LCpl Greyo
LCpl Madigan
LCpl Miller 239
LCpl Owen 849
LCpl Smith 275
Tpr Addison
Tpr Clark 650
Tpr Clayton
Tpr Davis
Tpr Everitt
Tpr Fenby
Tpr Murphy
Tpr Philpott
Tpr Thornton
Tpr Yeo

RECCE TROOP
Capt Holloway
SSgt Collins
Cpl Bell
Cpl Childes
Cpl Penkethman
Cpl Pomfret
Cpl Price 575
Cpl Sword
LCpl Baird
LCpl Coleman
LCpl Taylor 616
LCpl Wild
Tpr Adams
Tpr Chippendale
Tpr Hawkins
Tpr Neve
Tpr North
Tpr Pierce
Tpr Pollard 999
Tpr Preston
Tpr Russell
Tpr Turner 714

COMMAND TROOP
Sgt Foss
Sgt Skeats
Cpl Dacre
Cpl Proctor
Cpl Thorngate
Cpl Wainwright
Cpl Whittaker 130
LCpl Andrew
LCpl Godwin
Cpl Boase
Cpl Chesterman
Cpl Handy
Cpl Keeley
Cpl Lee 172
LCpl Bourne
LCpl Challis
LCpl Chapman
LCpl Grainger
LCpl Grief
LCpl Hince
LCpl Maclean
LCpl McKnight
LCpl Osmundsen
LCpl Partington
LCpl Ruddick
LCpl Shaw 143
LCpl Shaw 260
LCpl Shearman
LCpl Wilkins
LCpl Woods
Tpr Ames
Tpr Bartholomew
Tpr Benham
Tpr Eddowes
Tpr Finney
Tpr Flather
Tpr Greggsory
Tpr Hamilton
Tpr Hides
Tpr Holt
Tpr Locket
Tpr Mackay
Tpr Mann
Tpr McKenzie

QM(T) DEPARTMENT
Capt Kalewski
SSgt Lewis
Sgt Arnold
Sgt Smith
Cpl Megraw
Cpl Morris
Cpl Pearson
Cpl Pendlebury
Cpl Taberner
LCpl Arrow-Smith
LCpl Kostilek
LCpl Miller 345
LCpl Weatherby
Tpr Kershaw
Tpr Walker

QQM DEPARTMENT
Capt Halffman
WO2 Oliver

MT TROOP
Capt Wild
SSgt Morgan
Sgt Farrell
Cpl Ashton-Yamanikar

QQM DEPARTMENT
Capt Halffman
WO2 Oliver
## PERSONNEL AT ERE

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<th>FAMILIES’ OFFICE</th>
<th>PADRE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ssgt Orr</td>
<td>Lcpl Keetley</td>
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<tr>
<th>PERSONNEL AT ERE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Gen Sir Robert Hayman - Joyce KCB, CBE. -</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCDP (Ops)/MGO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brig Smales - ACOS G3 Res, HQ LAND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brig Price - DS, DHE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brig Morris - CH EAD, HQ UKSC(G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Thoyts - DA Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Woodd - Col C Div, JSCSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Shirreff - Comd 7 Armd Bde (Designate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Flach MBE - Project Mgr TRACER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Fairman MBE - SO1 Dep Pres RCB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Fellows - SO1 BMM, Saudi Arabia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Singer OBE - FLS (Army)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col East - SO2 G1, Manning/Recruiting HQ DRAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Tilney MBE - SO1 ATRD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Suchanek - SO1 (W) Land Req Sect, SHAPE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Tennent - SO1 J7(LW) PJHQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Rogers OBE - CO, D&amp;M School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Darrell - SO1 G3, Land</td>
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<td>Lt Col Ashbrooke - SO1 J9</td>
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<td>Lt Col Garbutt - CO, KOYY (LI)</td>
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<td>Lt Col Wade MBE - Phil Int Rel, Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col Bradshaw OBE - SO1 DS, JSCSC</td>
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<td>Lt Col Clarke - CO, Sheffield UOTC</td>
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<td>Lt Col Howard - CO, Northumbrian UOTC</td>
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<td>Lt Col Polley - HS Course, RMCS</td>
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<td>Lt Col Palmer - SO1 DS, JSCSC</td>
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<td>Lt Col Draper - QM, RAC Centre</td>
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<td>Maj Scott - SO2 Proj Offr, Land</td>
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<td>Maj Elliott - Lockhart - SO2 Ops, JACIG</td>
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<td>Maj Lang - UN Mil Obsvr</td>
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<td>Maj Bowring - SO2 (W), DDOR</td>
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<th>STABLES</th>
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<tr>
<td>LCpl Penlington</td>
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<td>Tpr Gilpin</td>
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<th>POST BUNK</th>
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<tr>
<td>LCpl Townsend</td>
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<td>Tpr Watts</td>
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<td>Tpr Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSgt Walters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl Copestake</td>
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<td>Tpr Elmes</td>
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<th>SERGEANTS’ MESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl Baker 220</td>
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<td>LCpl Shillington</td>
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OCdt Michael
Ocdt Smith
Ocdt Hackney
Ocdt Moulton
Ocdt Banks
Ocdt Ashby

TA/ALL ARMS WATCHKEEPER POOL

Capt Fowle
Capt Huelin
Capt Willis
Capt Graham
Capt Daly
Capt de Normann
Capt Reid
Capt Pearce
Capt Bland
Capt Doyle
Lt Smyth

SOLDIERS AT ERE

WO1 Hardbattle - RMSI Gsry School, Lulworth
WO1 Stobbart - AYT North East
WO2 Beaver - ATR, Bassingbourne
WO2 Brown - Dorset Yeomanry
WO2 Cox - Sigs School, Bovington
WO2 Gaskell - ATR, Winchester
WO2 Greenwood - JATE, Brize Norton
WO2 Leaver - RWxY RHQ, Cirencester
WO2 Milner - OCE Land
WO2 Mogg - Dorset Yeomanry
WO2 Peachey - Sigs School, Bovington
WO2 Wheeler - Tayforth UOTC
SSgt Adesile - RWxY A Sqn, Gloucester
SSgt Carmichael - 19 CTT
SSgt Douglas - AMTC, Leconsfield
SSgt Leach - HQ 1 Recce Bde, Netheravon
SSgt McMullen - UNICOM Team, Worthy Down
SSgt Spyers - RAC Centre, Bovington
SSgt Towell - RWY, Swindon
SSgt Vickers - Prov Sgd, Bovington
SSgt Wills - RWxY B Sqn, Salisbury
Sgt Baker - ACIO, Workington
Sgt Bartley - 40 CTT
Sgt Brady - AFCO, Preston
Sgt Donald - Gsry School, Lulworth

Sgt Espie - ACIO, Portsmouth
Sgt Ford - D&M School, Bovington
Sgt Hawkins - UNICOM
Sgt Robinson - Gsry School, Lulworth
Sgt Rutter - D&M School, Bovington
Sgt Scott - 1 Regt AAC, Gutersloh
Sgt Sloan - ATR, Winchester
Sgt Ward 934 - JACIG
Cpl Annett - RAC Centre, Bovington
Cpl Blackledge - ATR, Winchester
Cpl Challis - ATR, Winchester
Cpl Childes - ATR, Winchester
Cpl Gardner - AFC, Harogate
Cpl Gwynne - ATR, Winchester
Cpl Hambling - AARC Bde
Cpl Hobbs - CATC, Warminster
Cpl Holiday - RMA, Sandhurst
Cpl McDonald - AARC Bde
Cpl Parker - JCU, NI
Cpl Portwood - AFC, Harogate
Cpl Russel - HQ Cyprus
Cpl Sinclair - RAC Centre, Bovington
Cpl Thornhill - CATC, Warminster
Cpl Wood - ATR, Winchester
LCpl Burnham - RMA, Sandhurst
LCpl Chapman - AARC Bde
LCpl Grainger - RDG
LCpl Howels - 15 Fd Wksp REME, Catterick
LCpl Lee - CATC, Warminster
LCpl McParland - JHSU, RAF Odiham
LCpl Miller - HHQ (N), Preston
LCpl Walden - RWxY HQ, Cirencester
Tpr Bourne - RDG
Tpr Robinson 715 - Att HHQ (N), Preston
Tpr Kaye - Att HHQ (N), Preston

LONG SERVICE LIST

WO1 Eccles - JACIG, RAF Henlow
WO2 Cawley - Svcs Families’ Centre, Corsham
WO2 Dukes - ACIO, Burnley
WO2 Devine - AFCO Bristol
WO2 Little - JACIG, RAF Henlow
WO2 Wainwright - SSO Osnabruck
WO2 Williams - ACIO
Births

Maj & Mrs Hunter - a boy, Harry on 15th December
WO2 & Mrs Parkin - a girl, Isabelle on 12th May
WO2 & Mrs Wells - a girl, Salina on 2nd January
Sgt & Mrs Pinkerton - a girl, Gina on 7th June
Sgt & Mrs Whittaker - a girl, Lauren on 10th February
Cpl & Mrs Armstrong - a Daughter, Lucy on 10th November
Cpl & Mrs Danson - a boy, Luke on 10th January
Cpl & Mrs Fyfe - a girl, Caitlin on 18th January
Cpl & Mrs Jagger - a boy, Benjamin on 29th September
Cpl & Mrs Pickett - a boy, Daniel on 17th July
Cpl & Mrs Ruddick - twins - a girl, Sarah & a boy, Michael on 13th November
Cpl & Mrs Scott - a boy, Jamie on 6th January
Cpl & Mrs Smith - a boy, Harry on 19th December
Cpl & Mrs Woods - a girl, Jodie on 3rd January
LCpl & Mrs Ashley - a boy, Brendan on 7th November

LCpl & Mrs Bretherton - a boy, Thomas on 9th November
LCpl & Mrs Eddowes - a girl, Natalie on 12th July
LCpl & Mrs Gilpin - a boy, Elliott on 13th October
LCpl & Mrs Jones - a boy, Keiran on 17th November
LCpl & Mrs Madigan - a girl, Shannon on 14th January
LCpl & Mrs Price - a girl, Aleshia on 14th December
LCpl & Mrs Rees - a girl, Abigail on 19th April
LCpl & Mrs Shaw - a girl, Molly on 10th July
LCpl & Mrs Warrender - a boy, Brandon on 5th January
LCpl & Mrs Whitehill - a girl, Summer Paige on 10th August
Tpr & Mrs Dugdale - a girl, Courtney on 3rd May
Tpr & Mrs Flather - a boy, Kyle on 28th November
Tpr & Mrs Silvey - a girl, Jade on 24th January
Tpr & Mrs Smith - a boy, Blake on 18th December
Tpr & Mrs Thornton - a boy, Joshua on 28th December
Tpr & Mrs Walker - a boy, Callum on 4th November

Marriages

Capt Potts to Miss Anna Varney at Our Lady of the Angels, Princethorp on 24th October
Sgt Berry to Miss Julie Marie Thomas at Registry Office, Litchfield on 10th August
Sgt Spyers to Miss Jennifer Caroline Goldsmith at St Pauls Church, Tadley on 16th May
Cpl Adamson to Miss Tracy Catherine Wilkinson at St Peters Parish Church, Ashton Under Lyne on 13th June
Cpl Burns to Miss Fiona Marie Madin at Dunniker House Hotel, Kirkcaldy on 5th December
Cpl Bushell to Miss Jacqueline Teresa Bouskill at Club Palm Gardens, Beruwala, Sri Lanka on 30th December
Cpl Davis to Miss Sharon Anne Dean at Parish Church, Prenton on 2nd May
Cpl Green to Miss Leslie Dryburgh at Registry Office, Ledbury on 10th October
Cpl Masters to Miss Karen Lesley Starling at St John the Evangelist, Hedge End on 27th June
Cpl O’Sullivan to Miss Sarena Marie Ashley at Andover Registry Office on 9th May
Cpl Smith to Miss Emily-Jane Stevens at Chiddingstone Castle, Kent on 6th June
Cpl Taylor to Miss Melanie Jayne Maston at Quality Royal Hotel, Hull on 14th February
Cpl Wild to Miss Karen Andera Ewan at Ashton Memorial, Lancaster on 10th January
Cpl Williams to Miss Sarah Ann Stringer at Registry Office, East Retford on 15th August
LCpl Goodson to Miss Helen Jean Boyce at Registry Office, St Lucia on 24th August
LCpl Hampton to Miss Alexandra Jane Chalmers at Parish Church, Chichester on 7th March
LCpl Maclean to Miss Sarah Louise Wilson at Registry Office, Middlesborough on 17th August
LCpl Preston to Miss Kayko Hoja at Sandle Halsey, St Lucia on 29th December
LCpl Shephard to Miss Lavina Louise Whelan at Victory Lutheran, Medicine Hat, Canada on 3rd January
LCpl Sladden to Miss Louise Sophie Dye at John Pounds Memorial Church, Portsmouth on 16th May
LCpl Tindal to Miss Julie Louise Ann Metters at St John Methodist Church, Sunderland on 8th August
Tpr Ames to Miss Elizabeth Jane Pearce at Parish Church, Aylesbury Vale on 22nd August
Tpr Blacklock to Miss Lyndsey Jayne Moore at Our Lady of the Sea Staines, Hindhead on 19th December
Tpr Keenan to Miss Joanne Marie Lister at Registry Office, Middlesborough on 25th November
Tpr Milligan to Miss Emma Jane Fielding at St Georges Church, Münster on 14th March
Tpr Smith to Miss Kimberley Angela Janielle Carriere at Registry Office on 21st February
Tpr Winstanley to Miss Sarah Bell at Registry Office, Weymouth on 14th July