



Territorial Army
100 Years Old

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Known as The Tigers

Your Infantry Regiment for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Sussex,
Surrey, Kent, Middlesex and The Channel Islands



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'Tigers in Touch' is a new information sheet designed for easy reading, and to keep everyone informed about the Regiment and what activities have recently taken place. The last issue was in August 2007 with the Journal published in November 2007. This issue covers life in the Regiment from August 2007. The Regiment is in fine form. 2007 was a year of consolidation for Battalions in their bases. Deployment, will once again take place in 2008. The Battalions input only covers a few aspects of life. The 1st Battalion deployed a company to the Falkland Islands. The 2nd Battalion deployed a company to Kosovo in addition to seeing peace restored in Northern Ireland. Remember we are your County Infantry Regiment for further information go to our Website www.123pwrr.co.uk or Contact Regimental HQ email: rhq@123pwrr.co.uk



The Editor

2nd Battalion

A Light Role Infantry Battalion
based in Alexander Barracks,
Dhekelia, Cyprus.

2nd BATTALION MOVES FROM NORTHERN IRELAND TO CYPRUS

The move to Cyprus had been on the horizon for some time and the Battalion was eager to get out of cold, wet, Ballykelly and into the warm Mediterranean sunshine. Shackleton Barracks was closed down, the boxes were packed, and farewells were made. Having been in Ballykelly for over two years, the Battalion had become part of the community, but its purpose, with the end of OP BANNER, was not as clear as it had been.

By the end of March the whole Battalion had arrived in Cyprus and were settling into the new lifestyle, adjusting to the heat. There are superb opportunities for sport and adventure training in Cyprus and many of the soldiers and officers have made regular use of the water sports centre beside the camp. It provides wakeboarding, water skiing and sea kayaks, amongst other activities.

It was not all play though. The Companies have begun their training for the Battalion's upcoming role as the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB), using the local training areas and ranges to hone the skills that they developed through TESEX last winter. The Battalion will assume its role as TRB on 1 June and is anticipating that elements will deploy shortly afterwards on operations in Afghanistan. The Battalion is motivated and raring to go, with all ranks keen to get a slice of the action.



C Coy receive their Kosovo Medals



Lt Singleton in Kosovo

C Coy Op OCULUS Deployment 13 SEP 07 – 25 MAR 08 - KOSOVO

With the turn of the New Year, a new home and a return to an old role for the members of C Company, the last twelve months have certainly proved eventful and historical in many respects. With a busy 2007 during which the Company underwent a steady build up to the Close Observation Tactics and Training (COTAT) course and the historically significant conclusion to Op BANNER, the New Year would herald equally arduous and significant moments in Kosovo as the only operational British troops on Op OCULUS.

C Company's role was to provide situational awareness to Commander Kosovo Force through covert surveillance with a region wide area of operations. Working in conjunction with Swedish forces, the soldiers of C Company would build a very good rapport with the various Task Forces with whom they worked. Operating in a multi-national, multi-agency environment was an eye opening experience for all the members of the Company and regularly provided fresh challenges and opportunities to be overcome.

The soldiers and JNCOs especially, would demonstrate the quality that is evident within the Battalion, as they worked diligently and professionally with whomever they met and in some very arduous conditions. In particular the Kosovo winter was especially harsh and would test the soldiering and fieldcraft of all members of the Company. The willingness to accept responsibility and the professionalism with the mundane would serve to cement a reputation second to none amongst the members of the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Task Force. Over the historically significant time of independence for Kosovo, members of C Company worked tirelessly to ensure that a safe and secure environment was maintained for all sides. Now in Cyprus the soldiers of C Company can take pride in their efforts as they focus on the next series of challenges that await them over the forthcoming months. Their eyes now look east from Cyprus.

1st Battalion

Armoured Warrior Battalion based in Paderborn, Germany



1 PWRR on patrol

The last 6 months have been both busy and exciting for the 1st Battalion. The highlights have been a deployment to the Falklands and a testing collective training exercise with some sporting success thrown in for good measure.

In October last year, B Company deployed to the Falkland Islands for an intensive live fire package and some valuable light role training. A total of 18 days was spent in the field and it was a valuable chance for platoon commanders to conduct some long range patrolling. There was also time for some charity work – with a ‘Herculean’ attempt to break the World Record for pulling a C-130 transport aircraft.

In January, just 3 days after returning from leave, the entire Battalion deployed to Altengrabow, a former Soviet training area, to conduct company-level training. The training area proved to be a great place to practise company-level integrated manoeuvre before deployment to Canada this year on Exercise

MEDICINE MAN. All the Warrior companies also gained valuable experience of working in the Contemporary Operating Environment.

The Battalion can also boast of some recent sporting success and has created some firm foundations on which to build on. The Cross Country team have been crowned kings of British Army Germany (BAG) finishing top of a very competitive league, narrowly beating our close rivals 5 RIFLES. The Rugby team travelled to the UK to play 2 crucial matches to determine whether they were worthy of a place in the semi finals of the Army Cup.



Wave riders: Cpl Lea Herod (PWRR) and LCpl Simon Horsfield (Rifles) battle their way to a debut 14th place finish at the world catamaran championships.

Unfortunately they lost to the Royal Welsh and, in the last few seconds of the game against the RLC, a final try by the Army Number 8 meant a 2 point gap put 1 PWRR out of the Army Cup.

The Battalion’s footballers also had a measure of success in the BAG Cup coming from 3-0 down in the semi final against the Queen’s Royal Hussars to win 4-3 and secure themselves a place in the final. This took place against 1 Armoured Division Signals Regiment and despite going 2-0 up, they lost narrowly 3-2 and were denied any silverware. Finally, after 2 years, the Battalion has said farewell to Lt Col Roger Thompson and welcomes Lt Col Charlie Sykes who has taken over just in time for a frenetic training period in preparation for Canada, and subsequently for operations later in the year.



Members of 6 Platoon on South Georgia



1 PWRR cross country runners hold the trophy



Snow Tiger preparing for minus 40 centigrade wind chill factor

Surrey Army Cadet Force

A Hectic Year by Colonel Andrew Blowers, County Commandant

The UK/Australia exchange programme saw 30 adults and cadets spend two weeks in Western Australia and we look forward to their visit to the UK in August 2008. This year, Surrey ACF returned to Holland to compete in the Nijmegen Marches. Other cadets participated in Surrey ACF's annual parachute course in Germany, one of the most adrenalin charged activities in which cadets can engage. Annual Camp, at Longmoor, this year broke all records with 348 cadets attending. Recognition too went to our adult staff with several gaining their Cadet Forces Medal (recognising 12 years of dedicated service), Lord Lieutenant's Awards and ACF Certificates of Service and these dedicated and loyal adult volunteers are recognised individually in this review.



Cadet & Instructor from Yorktown Detachment assist the ABF at Sandhurst in June

I was particularly impressed this year by the large turnout of cadets for the Remembrance Sunday services within their local Detachment communities. The services this year had great significance given the huge sacrifices being made by the Regular and Territorial Army. Our cadets can be rightly proud of the military presence that they represented on this particularly poignant occasion. Indeed, throughout this year, Surrey ACF has raised nearly £50,000 for service charities.

Looking forward to 2008 there is much to challenge and motivate our cadets. Plans are in place to visit Brunei as guests of the Ghurkhas and 60 cadets will go to Egypt to participate in a conservation project whilst gaining a basic scuba diving qualification. As always these events require huge amounts of effort from our volunteer staff, not least in raising the sponsorship and funding necessary to make them happen.



Back row: Kilgour, McCarthy, A Young, C Young, Deinn, Lamble, Moran
Front row: Wilson, Dann, Barnes, Conway

3rd Battalion

An Infantry Territorial Battalion

Centres in Canterbury, Dover, Rochester, Farnham, Portsmouth, Brighton, Camberley & Worthing.

TIGERS DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN

16 Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion have mobilised in support of the Regular Army for an operational tour in Afghanistan. The soldiers from across 3 PWRR have joined 5 Scots (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) for the 7 month tour in Helmand Province. The Commanding Officer speaking after a farewell meeting with the troops said, "Our soldiers mobilising for such an important tour in support of the Regular Army just goes to reinforce the fact that the modern TA soldier is a well trained and

highly motivated individual. 3 PWRR have provided a number of soldiers to support operations over the past few years and will continue to do so. It is appropriate that these men are mobilising on the 100th anniversary of the TA and it proves that they are still crucial to sustaining long term operations".



The Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Mogg TD, with some of the troops who have been deployed to Afghanistan



Major M Butlin, The Contingent Commander on parade, Guildford

MARCH THROUGH GUILDFORD

Guildford hosted the launch of the Territorial Army's centenary celebrations with a parade through the town centre. The parade consisted of troops from 3 PWRR's A and D Coys (Farnham and Portsmouth) and other units. The PWRR Kohima Band and Corp of Drums led the parade. The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Mrs Sarah Goad took the salute.



Kohima Band leads the parade up the hill in Guildford



A Company Half Marathon Runners

FLEET HALF MARATHON 08

Seventeen members of 3rd Battalion sprang upon Fleet on 16th March to represent the Regiment in the competitive half marathon race. This event is also the TA National Half Marathon Championships, and the team placed a respectable second overall, consisting of Pte Johnson (A Coy, 1hr 31), Lt Curran (D Coy, 1hr 33) and the Bn 2IC Major Ladd (1hr 39). For the second year soldiers from D Company in Portsmouth had a good presence, all wearing Regimental Tigers T-shirts. Adding a slight twist to the event, 5 members of A Company, Farnham became 'Nuns on the Run' for the day and ran as a squad complete with outfits, makeup and all the typical religious accessories! All runners enjoyed the race, although they may not have felt that way the next morning!

Regimental News

L/Cpl J Beharry, VC

L/Cpl Johnson Beharry VC, at The Light Box, Woking. HRH The Duke of Kent officially opened The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment display to commemorate TA100 at Woking in February. An update on L/Cpl Beharry after receiving concentrated treatment for his wounds, his health has now improved and the pain slightly relieved.



Kim Labithiotis - The Lightbox

Injured Officer - **Fighting** fit for canoe challenge!

Major David Bradley (1 PWRR) was badly wounded in Iraq after being hit by two rocket propelled grenades in Basra in 2004, whilst rescuing soldiers from his company. He was given a 5% chance of survival, having lost the sight in his right eye, part of his right shoulder and hand in the attack. He received excellent medical support in the field and attended an intensive period of physical rehabilitation at Headley Court. Congratulations go to him and his team for competing in a 125 mile canoe race from Devizes to Westminster in 27hrs 30mins. And raising £11,000 for Help For Heroes. He said "I wanted to do something for Help For Heroes as I've been admitted to Headley Court six times and spent six months there in total."



Maj David Bradley (left) with Sgt Maj Declan Sibley, Maj Gary Graggs and Capt Steve Vinall, the canoe team.

Infantry Training Centre, Catterick

by W02 Dawes, Regimental Representative



Pass Out Parade

The Infantry Training Centre Catterick trains all recruits for phase I and phase II. The total period is now 26 weeks, this will include tactics, weapon training, bayonet fighting and drill to name a few. The recruits passing through are mixed from an age group of 17yrs to 32 yrs. The latter being the maximum age. Experience has shown that the transition from

home life to the discipline of military training at Catterick is a shock to some of the recruits. Careful nurturing and understanding is exercised by all permanent staff to ensure a good and successful training cycle culminating with the Pass Out Parade. At the moment we have 145 recruits training who will eventually join the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. We are proud of our achievements at Catterick. Frequently our recruits achieve good high standards by being the winner for best recruit or best shot in their platoons. We pride ourselves for caring and looking after our recruits.

Newly Commissioned Officers Join the 3rd Battalion



Two newly commissioned officers passed out on Saturday 29th March 2008 at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. They were 2Lt Manpreet Singh Sodhi and 2Lt David Rodrigues, who have now joined C Company as OC Regimental Recruiting Training Team and 7 Platoon Commander respectively. Both will swap rolls after six months in order to broaden their knowledge for the Platoon Commanders Course at Brecon.

Combined Cadet Force

THE SKINNERS' SCHOOL CCF, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9PG
by Lieutenant Colonel A J Holding

After a period of inactivity in the early part of 2008, there followed a month or so with three training activities in quick succession. Firstly, towards the end of February, a team of four cadets travelled to the Royal School of Signals at Blandford to take part in the first ever Cadet Signals Competition. Along with 15 other teams from CCFs, ACFs and ATCs across the country, including Dollar Academy all the way from Scotland, they completed a series of stands - some practical, some more mentally demanding - designed to test their signalling expertise, together with an orienteering and march & shoot (using the DCCT). Though not particularly successful (12th overall), it was nevertheless judged to be time well spent, and the competition is likely to become an annual event. A week later a party of 47 (thirty of whom were recruits) travelled to St Martin's Plain Camp for a Weekend Exercise. This comprised a morning of range shooting at Hythe, plus use of the DCCT and practise in patrolling



Signals team get to grips with the antenna

skills, to be followed by an afternoon learning about Section Battle Drills, with expert help from Frimley Park Instructor (and Old Skinner) Captain Nick Hill, Argylls. The night patrol he led for a section of senior cadets was enlivened by the unexpected presence of a TA Rapier Battery in a wood they recced; but were they seen? Meanwhile, the recruits had a less demanding task around the local area, but made up for it the next morning when they were engaged in their first ever blank-firing exercise. The third event was a Field Day and overnight exercise on Ashdown Forest. The whole contingent spent their day split between a variety of tasks involving infantry, signals, field engineering and orienteering, before 27 of the more hardy bashered up to practise harbour drills and ambushes, as well as getting to grips with Compo rations. Following this burst of activity, 22 members of the Lower Sixth (JNCOs) are now preparing for a week on Dartmoor in early April. There is a then a relative lull whilst exams take over before 80 or so deploy to Longmoor for Annual Camp in July 2008.



Captain Martin Smith briefs the recruits on their SBDs

Joining the Regiment

Why not try "LOOK AT LIFE"!

Finding young volunteers to join the Regiment is a full time job. The regiment is keen that nobody enters into it without having knowledge of the job and what is expected of the individual. To that end the Regiment has an input into the Army "Look at Life" (LAL) with the newly formed Army Recruitment Teams (ART) at Shorncliffe Folkstone, Pirbright and Thorney Island in Portsmouth. The PWRR also run open days where you can come along and talk to serving soldiers and see equipment that you would be using if you joined, this year Fierce Tiger One will held on the following dates: Brighton 10th May, Farnham 25th & 26th July, 6th September, 24th & 25th October. Fierce Tiger Two will take place in Germany with 1 PWRR -19th - 23rd May, and 22nd - 26th September. **REMEMBER - if you are 16 yrs old, try Harrogate.**

If you wish to take part either visit your local recruiting centre or phone 0800 169 5808.