



2008
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 now an established publication with this being the fourth issue. It is produced to keep everyone informed about the Regiment and what activities have recently taken place. The last issue was April 2008. The Regiment, like a sleeping Tiger, is now gearing up for deployment after a recovery year in 2007 from operations. The First Battalion has a company deployed in Afghanistan and the remainder of the Battalion will deploy to Iraq by the end of the year. The Second Battalion although based in Cyprus has a company plus deployed to Afghanistan with another two companies following soon. The Third Battalion has 16 soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and has recently completed a successful Annual Camp on Salisbury Plain. The planned Annual Camp for B Company the London Regiment to Georgia was changed to Wales due to political uncertainty in Georgia. We are your County Infantry Regiment and for further information go to www.123pwrr.co.uk Or Contact Regimental Headquarters on rhq@123pwrr.co.uk



The Editor

1st Battalion Armoured Warrior Battalion based in Paderborn, Germany

1 PWRR PREPARE FOR AFGHAN DEPLOYMENT IN ONE OF UK'S LARGEST EVER TRI-SERVICE EXERCISES

Up to 5,800 troops of 3 Commando Brigade (Royal Marines), supported by 200 vehicles and 20 fast jets, aircraft and helicopters, have deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation HERRICK. The Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX), began on 21 July, and was a prelude to the deployment of the Brigade. A small number of Afghan military personnel participated in the exercise to add realism and to further promote the close co-operation that exists between the two countries.

The overall aim of the exercise was to test the command and control structures of the Brigade and is the culmination of intense sub-unit training designed to shape all the service personnel into one effective military organisation. The Army has been in the forefront of operations in Afghanistan since 2001 and will provide about half of the total manpower to 3 Commando Brigade's deployment including an Armoured Infantry Company and Reconnaissance Platoon from the 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.



Armoured Warrior



The Advance

B COMPANY, 1PWRR - PRE DEPLOYMENT TRAINING FOR OP HERRICK 9

by Capt Matthew Moore

1 PWRR recently detached B Company to 3 Commando Brigade who, at the time of this article going to print, are currently establishing themselves in Afghanistan, working extremely hard to take over a vital role and provide the Armoured Infantry support. The company has been busy since it formed up in January of this year; the normal template of an armoured infantry company was bolstered by members of the Fire Support Company to provide Snipers, Mortars and Javelin capability. It also gained members from the REME, the Logistics, the Medics and a healthy supply of members from 3 PWRR.



Live firing Javelin

1 PWRR TIGERS RUNNING CLUB 07/08

The Running season 07/08 was an excellent season for the Tiger's Running club. The following soldiers represented the battalion: Capt Wright (Team Capt), LCpl Taylor, W02 (SQMS) Maclellan, LCpl Voller, CSgt Adkins, Pte Bowman, SSgt (SSI) Baker, Pte Chiverton, Sgt Bowdler, Pte Duke, Cpl Warburton, Pte Dyer, Cpl Maclean, Pte Johnson, LCpl Beddoes, Pte Kennedy, LCpl Folan, Pte Lambert, LCpl Hawkins, Cfn Leighton, Cpl Jenkins, Pte Nops, LCpl Moralee, Pte Ship, LCpl Percival, Pte Thurlow & LCpl St-Paul. BA (G) 10 KM Road Race Champions, BA (G) Cross Country League Champions, BA (G) Cross Country Championships Runners Up, 6th in the Army Athletics Association Cross Country Finals RMAS.

After the Operational Training and Advisory Group briefing the company again returned to England, but this time to Thetford, Norfolk in order to take part in the live fire exercise which was part of the confirmatory training. This was an excellent package which pushed the company with both live and dry serials which involved, Fast Air, Support Helicopters, Amputees in Action and a multitude of theatre specific scenarios. The live firing was arguably the best piece of focused training that confirmed that the company was ready to deploy. The commanders gained confidence at all levels, and teams, sections and platoons developed their drills and skills to very high levels.

2nd Battalion

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

THE ARRIVAL OF THEATRE RESERVE BATTALION AND THE ONSET OF UNCERTAINTY

'We won't know where we are going until we get there or how long we'll be there until we get back' CO 2PWRR



Awaiting the arrival of the helicopter - A Coy

As the UK's strategic reserve for Afghanistan and Iraq, the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB) role was always going to prove an unpredictable period for all in the 2nd Battalion; indeed all we can expect is uncertainty. With the move to Cyprus complete, the Battalion embarked on its main period of Pre Deployment Training (PDT). Following the mandatory OPTAG briefings and a period of progressive field firing on Pyla ranges, the Battalion, less the rear party, departed on a confirmatory exercise in Thetford; the culmination of the PDT. This proved a timely exercise; A Coy deployed directly from Thetford to Afghanistan, arriving 5 days before we were due assume responsibility for the TRB!

Once their ITT was complete they moved forward to join 5 SCOTS Battle Group at FOB Edinburgh just outside Musa Qaleh in Northern Helmand. Musa Qaleh is a strategically important town to the Taliban and therefore it was not expected to be a quiet deployment. To date they have not been disappointed; it has been a fairly eventful tour with several large scale contacts; all of which have ended in our favour. The Company have performed superbly and professionally and are expected to return in September.

For the remainder of the Battalion, the return to Cyprus allowed more focused training and the a short period of routine business. At the time of writing the uncertainty has continued with Battalion HQ and B Coy now deployed to take over a role within Battle Group South in Southern Helmand. C Coy, still fresh from their Kosovo experience, have become the reserve Company which has allowed them more training time to adjust from the surveillance role to the more conventional infantry tactics being employed in Afghanistan.

Away from operational activity, life goes on apace. The wives have thrown themselves into all things SSAFA, including a thoroughly challenging 24hr swim in which they came second overall and a highly successful fundraising cocktail party. Battalion sports teams also continue to thrive. The football team have started to make a mark on the Island, and the rugby team, fresh from a successful tour to South Africa, have now joined the Army Rugby Premiership for the forthcoming season. Elsewhere, the triathlon club and orienteering club continue to grow in stature, the Dhekelia Water Sports Centre is well used and the Sub Aqua Club is providing ample opportunity for some quality diving. The last six months have been particularly busy and exciting for 2 PWRR.



Retuning from a successful operation - A Coy

A Coy initially deployed to Camp Bastion for an intense period of re-acclimatisation, mandatory briefings and some critical in theatre training (ITT) with the new equipment and vehicles they would use over the forthcoming months.



Country Mobile Patrols

City of London & NE Sector - Army Cadet Force

PWRR cadet unit is a beacon for London youth

by C/Sgt Instructor Rob Hutton, Detachment Commander, Bethnal Green



The log race

With teenagers hitting the headlines for all the wrong reasons, an army cadet detachment in London's East End, sponsored by the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, is helping young people to buck the trend. In the summer of 2005, City of London & North East Sector (COLNES) Army Cadet Force was under little illusion as to the task ahead when it set about reviving a moribund PWRR army cadet detachment in one of the country's most deprived and crime-ridden boroughs. But a dedicated team of adult instructors knew that, with hard work and a strong sense of tradition, the unit and the lives of those joining it, could be turned around.

Today 25 Cadet Company PWRR in Bethnal Green boasts four adult staff and nearly 30 cadets. It is also the second oldest cadet unit in the UK, drawing its provenance from Number 72 Coy Bermondsey/Southwark in the late 1800s. Today's recruit has to complete his basic training (approximately two months) and take part in the

Queen's Battle March (QBM) before being presented with the prized PWRR beret, flash and cap badge. The QBM is a final test on a recruit weekend which binds new and current cadets together for a maximum team effort. All senior cadets in the unit repeat the run for every recruit intake – and the staff, too! A combination of weekends of field training, barrack and shooting camps, and map and compass exercises, have bolstered the cadets' skills, helping them to achieve an above average progression in their Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) syllabus.

The unit also takes part in events and camps for the whole of COLNES, turning out in full for the local remembrance parade and representing London in the national cross country competition (well done Cadet Pte Michael Rose). Cadet Cpls James Laye and John Norwood, with Cadet Pte Gohuer Ijaz, even got their faces on television at London's Lord Mayor's show last November. In the few short years since the unit's regeneration, it has also supplied 1 PWRR with a new member: Pte James Bartle, currently stationed in Germany, often revisits his old cadet company and carries its best wishes and expressions of good luck as deployment approaches. A bright future lies ahead for 25 Cadet Company PWRR and any young person walking through its doors in search of challenge, comradeship, military skills and all the achievements on offer through membership of the ACF. There is no doubt that, with support and inspiration from today's Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the adults of tomorrow at 25 Cadet Company will continue to fulfil their promise and live up to the personal and collective standards of the ACF and the army itself.



Remembrance Sunday

3rd Battalion

An Infantry Territorial Battalion

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

Annual Camp 2008

The Combined Annual Camp of 3PWRR and The Puerta Rican National Guard took place on Salisbury Plain training area in June this year. It was an excellent opportunity for both nationalities to share military knowledge and tactics prior to deployment.



Lt Col D Mogg, The Commanding Officer addressing the men prior to deployment - Knook Camp



Platoon Commander's briefing



Preparing to enter the building



The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General PR Newton speaking to the National Guard



Exercise Enemy

Pte Louise Starling - The Regimental Fencing Champion



Pte L Starling

I joined the TA three years ago. Back then, the main things I associated with the TA were weapons and Combat 95s, and although the swords I use as a fencer are weapons, it is not quite the same! In fencing there are three weapons – foil and epee (the point weapons) and sabre (the slashy, 'Three Musketeers-esque' weapon). I have been fencing for about five years now and for two of those years, I have been an Army and Combined Services Fencer.

Earlier this year I competed in the Aldershot Open, representing the Army. The Aldershot Open is a national competition organised by the Army Fencing Union and attracts some of the most talented fencers in the country. I came 32nd.

The 2008 Army Fencing Championships were fantastic, I fought well finishing 5th in Foil, 3rd in Epee and 2nd in Sabre. These results secured my position as best TA Fencer (Womens) for Foil and Sabre. Most recently, I have fenced at the Inter Services 2008 Competition, held at RAF Cosford. Having not fenced since the Army Fencing Champs due to exams and dissertation, I came 12th in sabre, 11th in foil.

The Chattri Indian War Memorial

The Chattri Memorial is on the South Downs overlooking Brighton. It is situated where the Indian (Sikh and Hindu) soldiers were cremated after dying in hospitals in Brighton during the 1914 -18 war. 2nd Lt MS Sodhi from the 3rd Bn represented the Regiment and laid a wreath.



Lt MS Sodhi having laid a wreath (fifth from left)

Regimental



Middlesex Show, Uxbridge - Major P Hooker accepting the Outstanding Achievement Award for All Sons of Middlesex, serving with the Regiment, be they regular TA or cadets.



On Tuesday 15th July The Tigers Freefall Parachute Display Team completed several tandems. The tandem jumps were completed for The Young Carers Charity which happens to be located within our recruiting areas of Hampshire/Sussex. One of the tandems carried out was with Chris Evans (Radio 2 DJ, presenter of Drive Time 17.00hrs each day) who was also there in support of the charity event.

News



The Fovant Drumhead Service (Wiltshire) - in memory of those who trained before going off to the Great War. Maj James Coote DSO, Brig (Retd) Gordon Reinhold MC, Pte (Retd) Victor Westow and Lt Col Rory Steevenson.

Infantry Training Centre, Catterick

by Capt B Kemsley, Regimental Representative



The permanent staff settling down to a well earned cup of tea

The PWRR have a healthy pot of recruits at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, and we continue to send a steady flow of well trained and well motivated soldiers of the 1st Battalion in Germany and the 2nd Battalion in Cyprus.

There is a good mix of recruits here, with the majority coming from the South of England as you would expect, however we have a few from other parts, including men from South Africa, the Caribbean and Russia to name a few. Whilst the training program is busy there have been some excellent opportunities to carry out more varied activities. Sgt Lewis, Cpl Fergusson and Cpl Roadnight were part of a team taking part in the Nijmegen Marches in Holland in the last week of July. The march commemorates the monumental achievement of the forces that marched 100 miles in four days in full kit, to rescue the Airborne soldiers trapped in Amhem as a result of Operation Market Garden during World War Two. Every year thousands of soldiers from all over the world complete the march in remembrance of this achievement.

Training Platoons have conducted battlefield tours in Belgium to study the Battle of Ypres in World War One, adventurous training in Lancashire, which involved canoeing, climbing, caving and hiking - all designed to test individuals outside the military environment, recruit and staff alike! Platoons have also taken part in activity days including quad biking, paint

balling, confidence courses and archery. These activities are usually run over weekends and are aimed at showing the recruits the fun side of Army life, whilst giving them a welcome change in pace of training. Life at the ITC is fast paced, but fairly structured. However with the natural flair, dedication to the task, professionalism and motivation inherent to "The Tigers", we are able to add a great deal to the positive experience that recruits receive here at the ITC, whilst also instilling our recruits with the friendly, yet highly professional approach of our fine Regiment and finally, as always, showing fierce pride.

Combined Cadet Force

THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL CCF CONTINGENT
by Major Sue Sheldrick, Contingent Commander

This year we were delighted to celebrate the life and strength of The Portsmouth Grammar School Combined Cadet Force at our 60th anniversary Inspection and Reunion.

The school has enjoyed a long and fascinating relationship with the military, symbolised by the school's location in a former barracks in a Garrison City. The Portsmouth Grammar School Combined Cadet Force can trace its existence back 145 years to the establishment of a Portsmouth Grammar School cadet contingent within the local Volunteer Company of the Hampshire Rifles in 1863. Although the school closed down briefly during the 1870s, the Portsmouth Grammar School Cadet Corps was reformed shortly after the school re-opened in 1879 and has been in continuous

operation ever since. In its early days the Portsmouth Grammar School Corps was

attached to the Territorials and attended their camps and exercises, as well as Public School camps and field days. In 1908, however, the Portsmouth Grammar School Corps was accepted by the War Office as an Officers Training Corps (OTC); this was re-named the Junior Training Corps (JTC) and the Air Training Corps (ATC) in 1941 and then as the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) in 1948. A Naval section was established at Portsmouth Grammar School for the first time in 1949.

The Portsmouth Grammar School, as one of the earliest OTC members is one of only a handful of schools entitled to wear its own cap badge, rather than a generic CCF badge. The 60th anniversary was attended by over 60 old boys and girls who formed the Guard of Honour. The Guard of Honour was inspected by Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns GCB KCVO CBE FRAeS, a former old boy of the school. The march past was accompanied by the 50 strong band. After the inspection the current pupils took part in activities ranging from archery, rock wall, signals, command tasks and took pleasure reacquainting many old cadets with the field gun as well as introducing them to the Cadet rifle.



The Junior School brass band, conducted by Mr. Graham Brown



Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns speaks to a cadet

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 will 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. Fierce Tiger One will be held on the following dates in Brighton 24th & 25th October. Fierce Tiger Two will take place in Germany with 1 PWRR 21st - 26th September, 9th - 14th November, 30th Nov - 5th Dec. **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 or go to www.123pwrr.co.uk