



**LEICESTERSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE
YEOMANRY
(PRINCE ALBERT'S OWN)
B SQUADRON
THE ROYAL YEOMANRY**



From Colonel R.E.J.Boyle DL the Honorary Colonel, October 2012

I am beginning by saying how delighted I am that those members of the squadron who were deployed last year in Afghanistan and also Cyprus all returned safely in time to go on post operational tour leave over Christmas and the New Year. The host regiments in Afghanistan were the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the 9/12 Lancers and both regiments were highly complementary on the professionalism that was shown.

This year has been as hectic as ever and it has been marked by the squadron receiving the Freedom of Oadby and Wigston. We exercised the Freedom on 19 May, and the Mayor Mrs Linda Broadley took the salute with the Regimental Honorary Colonel Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner in attendance on his first visit to the squadron. It was a historical occasion which was much enjoyed by all as the squadron marched back to barracks with the Regimental Band leading the way. We also hold the Freedom of Derby which has not been exercised since 1946 so it must be time for us to visit the city again!



**The Honorary Colonel with
the Mayor of Wigston and Oadby**

I am also thrilled that the squadron now has formed an affiliation with the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters which traces its origins back to 1589. The livery company are predominantly East Midlands based and so with this affiliation which was formalised in April we can look forward to many happy years of cooperation and friendship. Each year the Company will make two awards to members of the squadron in September at their Leicester dinner in recognition of their contribution to excellence within the squadron in the previous year. We will reciprocate where possible but notably we will invite their Master annually to our Frezenberg parade and any further Freedom parades.

Other activities which have involved members of the squadron were firstly Her Majesty's Diamond



Jubilee when a lance guard was at Burghley House near Stamford with the Guidon. Two troopers: Pearce and Ilic were privileged to stand on the two corners of the dais when Her Majesty was given a rousing three cheers before her departure at the conclusion of her visit hosted by the Lord Lieutenants of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. Very sadly His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh was unable to attend.

enjoyed by all and some outstanding sporting moments were witnessed at first hand.

Secondly at short notice the squadron mobilised fourteen members for Operation Olympic which by all accounts was much

I now turn to the future and we are again committing a substantial number for Operation Herrick in Afghanistan next year. Already the names have been put forward and the training is underway. As before there is no diminishing of enthusiasm to be involved and we wish all those who will be deployed a successful tour and safe return. A part of the training for future operations will be done in Denmark which all are keenly looking forward to. The need for us all to continue to support the Welfare Fund is ever pertinent with a further deployment; bearing in mind that what we are establishing is a fund that can be used to support our members not so much in the near future but in the years to come.

Finally I should mention that our affiliated regiment the 9/12 Lancers will be merging with the Queen's Royal Lancers as part of the reorganisation of the army. We have enjoyed this affiliation since the two yeomanry regiments were amalgamated in 1957. I know that I can speak on behalf of all ranks that it comes as a great sadness but I have no doubt that as ever everyone will look upon this as a new and exciting challenge in the future.



Col Nick Turner of the Framework Knitters receiving a presentation from Maj Paul Davey at the Frezenberg Dinner

Squadron Report by Major Paul Davey.

This is my first report for this Newsletter as Squadron Leader following my return to the Squadron in February this year. I first served with the Squadron from 1998 – 2003, initially as Troop Leader and latterly as Squadron Training Captain during which time the Squadron re-rolled from NBC (now CBRN) Reconnaissance supporting the Joint NBC Regiment, to providing Reserve Challenger 2 tank crew in support of our then partnered Regular Cavalry Regiments, the Scots Dragoon Guards and Queens Royal Lancers. After a period away from Regimental Duty, due to the increasing demands of developing my own business and a growing family, I returned to

serve as Second in Command of A (Warwickshire,

Worcestershire & Staffordshire Yeomanry) Sqn, The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry prior to returning to the Royal Yeomanry.

The period from the last Newsletter to my return to the Squadron in February this year was largely taken up with the safe return of 16 Squadron members from overseas Operations, 14 from Afghanistan and two from Cyprus, culminating in an excellent combined Welcome Home and Christmas Party at the Squadron in December. The period since February has been extremely busy, conducted during a period of considerable unease for the Army, both the Regular and Territorial components, due to the eagerly awaited outcome of Army 2020 for the Regulars and Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) for the TA. More on this is to follow later in this report.

Preparation for the Royal Yeomanry Homecoming and Freedom Parades in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea on Saturday 10 March and the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham on Sunday 11 March took up most of the Squadron Training Programme for February. These events, to mark the successful return of Regimental personnel recently deployed on Operations, of which B Squadron accounted for the majority, and for the Regiment to exercise its freedom of both Borough's were a huge success. They also provided very useful training opportunities for the Squadron to practice in preparation for a big day entirely of our own, a parade to exercise for the first time our newly Granted Freedom of Oadby & Wigston

The Freedom was granted to the Squadron in a Civic ceremony at the Borough Council Chamber on the 17th April. The following weekend the nine Squadron members volunteering to be mobilised to deploy to Afghanistan on Operations in 2013 commenced Regimental Pre-Deployment training, whilst the remainder of the Squadron underwent MATT's testing at Chilwell. Further mobilisation training and an operational shooting range weekend at Lydd followed three weekends later and then the big day for the Squadron was upon us.

Despite gloomy weather on the day, the streets filled with cheering crowds for our Freedom Parade, a very moving experience for all of us. We then marched back to the TA Centre for a reception with our families and local dignitaries. These included the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of Leicestershire, The Honorary Colonel Royal Yeomanry, Lt General Sir Barney White-Spunner, our Commanding Officer Lt Colonel Newton Astbury, and former Squadron Honorary Colonel Brigadier Hugh Pye. The annual Frezenberg Dinner was held at Tigers Road in the evening, with some 120 past and serving members of the Squadron and their families. The following morning the Frezenberg Memorial service was very well attended and fully supported, as always, by our affiliated ACF Squadron, F (LDY) Squadron, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland ACF.



**The Freedom Parade, Capt Nigel Benner
The Lord Lt Lady Gretton, SSM Graham Haldane**

We then fast forward to Annual Camp, now referred to as Annual Training Period (ATP), which was a courses camp based at Bovington. August saw a number of the Squadron deploy on Operation OLYMPIC, providing venue security at the main Olympic Park in London. Central TV and the Leicester Mercury both ran major features on B Squadron personnel returning from the Olympics with interviews at the TA Centre with a number of the Troops who were mobilised for the deployment.

Into September and B Squadron provided a major contingent within the Regiment embarking on Exercise VIKING STAR, a joint Exercise with the Danish Army conducted in Denmark from 15th-30th September. This was a dismounted training exercise with a major FIBUA phase and an excellent range package

As a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the TA had been waiting to find out what the implications as to the size and role of the TA of the future were to be. This was revealed in July this year with the announcement of Future Reserves 2020 (FR20). The announcement revealed the existing four Yeomanry Regiments are to remain. Three Yeomanry Regiments are to be partnered with Regular RAC Regiments in the Light Cavalry role, with the remaining Yeomanry Regiment to partner with a Regular Challenger 2 Regiment. Whilst the Light Cavalry role has yet to be clearly defined, our new training platform has been confirmed as being RWMIK, an enhanced stripped down land rover mounted with either a 50 calibre or 7.76mm General Purpose Machine Gun. It appears we will be moving full circle to regain our traditional Yeomanry role of mounted reconnaissance.

The emphasis for the Reserve element of the Army can be encapsulated in the phrase "Raise, Train & Retain". The TA, to be re-named the Army Reserve, is to increase the number of Phase 2 trained soldiers to 30,000 by 2018. We will see a greater integration of our training with our Regular partnered Regiment, the identity of which is to be confirmed to following finalisation of Army 2020 in December, and we are to marry our training cycle with theirs, comprising, Year 1 Other Tasks (trade courses, etc.). Year 2 Training (Collective Training Levels 1-4). Year 3 High Readiness.

Under FR20, it is expected that the Reserve component to partnered Regular Regiments on operations is to increase to 41% over the next 5 years. The possibility of deployment as formed Sub Units is firmly in the frame. In a nutshell, we will be raising our game on integrated training with our regular counterparts whilst also focussing heavily on ambitious, but achievable recruiting targets.

The Squadron will, as a consequence of our new role and recruiting target, be concentrating on training for our new platform and recruiting for the remainder of the current training year. We have much to look forward to and I am confident B Squadron will rise fully to the challenges set before us.

Squadron Transfers In

Potential Officers – Transferred in under the Territorial Army Sponsored Officer (TASO) Scheme: OCdt's Richard Hill, Daniel Paul and Laurence Hill from Birmingham University Officer Training Corps;

OCdt's Alistair Tew and Christopher Musgrove from East Midlands Universities Officer Training Corps.

WO2 Nick Galley –Regimental Training Warrant Officer 9/12L, joins as Squadron Training Warrant Officer.

WO2 Ieuan Webber –CSM 3 Royal Anglian, joins as Squadron Recruiting Officer.

Sgt Karl Stanley – 9/12 L, joins as PSI D&M.

Squadron Transfers Out

Major Richard Legh-Smith – to RARO

Captain Jim Graham – to East Midlands Universities Officer Training Corps

Captain Julian Harris – to RHQ as RSO.

WO2 Darren West – to RHQ as RQMS

SSgt Andrew Johnson – 9/12 Lancers, leaves the Squadron for resettlement training following accepting voluntary redundancy.



The Guidon Party outside Newtown Linford church with RQMS Darren West

Obituary

Corporal Paul Martin 26 Sept 1959 – 29 Aug 2012

It is with great regret I announce the sad passing of Corporal Paul Martin on 29th August 2012. Corporal Martin had served with the Squadron for 18 years and was a solid cornerstone of the Squadron's Admin Troop. He had been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal, Queens Golden Jubilee Medal, Volunteer Reserve Service Medal, and the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Corporal Martin was consistently reliable and extremely loyal. He enthusiastically participated in all Squadron events, both military and social, and has always enjoyed the full support of his family throughout his career. He leaves his wife, Lynne and son James. He will be sorely missed by us all.