

---

# The Military Survey (Geographic) Association



**Summer 2013 Newsletter**

**Issue 49**



## Auf Wiedersehen Deutschland

### 14 Squadron leave Germany after 68 years

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July at a ceremony in Ayrshire Barracks, Mönchengladbach, 14 Squadron lowered its flag for the last time on German soil marking the end of 68 years in the country.



*Corporals Petrow and Antoine lower the Squadron flag.*

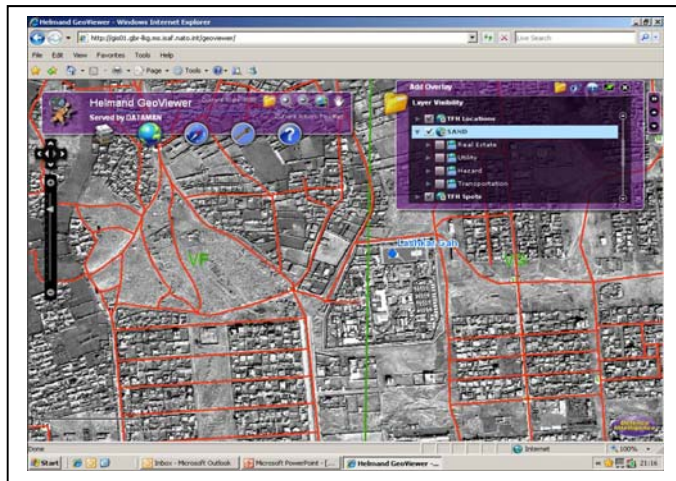


*OC 14 Squadron, Major Bryan Gifford, hands the flag to 2i/c Captain Jon Judge.*

14 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers



Most individuals who have served in Germany will have benefited from the work of 14 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers. 14 Geographic Squadron, returned to the UK in July 2013 leaving behind a legacy of sustained support to the garrisons and units of BFG and numerous products relied upon on day to day. During nearly seventy years in Germany the Squadron's primary role has been to provide geographic support to HQ BAOR and 1(BR) Corps, then after the Cold War HQ ARRC and 1 (UK) Div often on major exercises. More recently it deploys a constant flux of geographic technicians to support Op HERRICK and its associated exercises. In addition others will be more familiar with the day to day products printed by 14 Geo such as the JHQ map and the ever present BFG Route Planner.



Web services, Helmand Geo Viewer

Traditionally the Squadron was made up of surveyors, cartographers and printers engaged in the production of mapping and overlays to assist military staff in planning and execution of operations. Later, with the advent of the digital mapping and geographic information systems, these core skills became complimented with the addition of high-end Geo analysis, 3D visualisation and the provision of web services such as GeoViewer to put the information at the fingertips of those who need it. All this predominantly provided by junior soldiers deploying to the point of need, ensuring the Geo Analyst of today has a formidable array of skills. Still trained in the art of cartography they are also required to understand

geodesy, hydrography and meteorology along with the ability to manipulate intricate datasets to produce complex predictive analysis to answer the critical questions from decision makers.

14 Field Survey Company landed in Normandy on D+14 and immediately engaged in the production of enemy defence overprints, intelligence and goings maps and local surveys along with producing large quantities of mapping. The company worked at speed, on the move and all hours, supporting and moving with the Headquarters as it advanced across Europe. In the spring of 1945 it crossed the border into Germany where it was to stay for the next 68 years.

The Company was re-designated as 14 Field Survey Squadron RE in 1947 and in 1977 the Squadron took responsibility for 3 BAOR Map Depot and was renamed 14 Topographic Squadron then on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1988 it became 14 Independent Topographic Squadron RE with the granting the CO powers to the OC.

The story of the Squadron's Cold War years is told separately to this article however, during that time the unit did not escape involvement in the long running Irish Troubles. Not only did the Squadron deploy to Northern Ireland in an infantry role for a roulement tour but its German barracks was attacked twice by the IRA. Firstly on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1973, the IRA placed a device beside the WOs' & Sgts' Mess but fortunately only the detonator initiated resulting in no casualties.



14 Squadron on the streets of Northern Ireland.

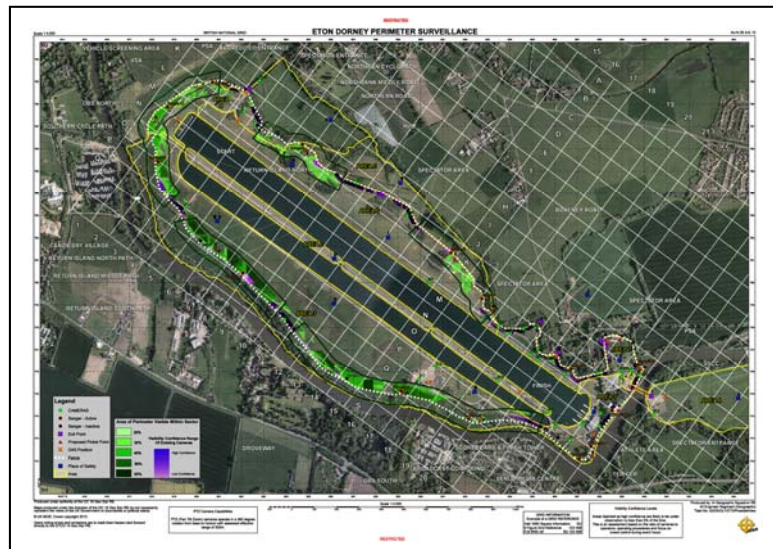
On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1988 the peace of Ratingen was shattered once more. A bicycle with saddle bags laden with explosives and metal fragments was placed against the perimeter fence of Roy Barracks, near the field survey block and Roy First School. The device was planned to explode at lunchtime, the target being squadron members who often used the side track to get to the nearby lakes for a run. Fortunately the device initiated earlier, at 1210, resulting in injuries to only three squadron members who were in the field survey block and a German worker who was hit by a piece of shrapnel while painting Roy First School, fortunately the school was closed for the summer break.



*Ready for a UN deployment.*

The ending of the Cold War saw a brief decline in tempo but then Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and with it started over twenty years of non-stop operations. 14 Squadron was Military Survey's lead unit in Op Granby, the first Gulf War, and since then Squadron personnel have been almost constantly deployed alongside other UK, NATO and UN forces throughout conflicts in the Balkans and Middle East. The Sqn deployed as a unit on several occasions during this time including Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan but has also continuously deployed individuals to provide specialised support to operations at all levels including Sappers to support Battle Groups and Special Forces in forward areas of Afghanistan.

The spring of 1995 saw the Squadron move to Ayrshire Barracks Monchengladbach, its last home in Germany.



*Eton Dorney perimeter surveillance analysis.*

The Squadron was even involved in international sporting events when, in 2012, a team was deployed in support of Op OLYMPIC; the Irish Guards having been tasked to assist with security at the Eton Dorney site requested some analysis be done on the perimeter surveillance cameras and observation posts. The team were able to provide a series of products which demonstrated the camera coverage and identified a number of vulnerable areas.

Recent years have seen the Squadron's commitments increase with the ever growing demand for geographic support both in preparation for and on operations.

The cartographer of old is now a multi-faceted technician who is able to deliver bespoke mapping, high-end geo analysis, visualisation, web services and survey.

The move to UK will see the Squadron reunited with 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) under the Joint Force Intelligence Group banner. An uplift in equipment is imminent including increased capacity to provide Geo information to military networks in the field and a bespoke lightweight vehicle, TIGAS (Tactical Information & Geospatial Analysis System), to enable deployment alongside formations on mobile operations. As to the future, only time will tell, but rest assured the maps will keep coming.

*Extracted from an article by:  
WO2 Andy Haslope*

14 Squadron: The Cold War Years

The end of the War saw the Military Survey presence rapidly reduce through demobilisation of soldiers and disbandment of the wartime created units so that by 1946 in Germany only 14 Field Survey Company based in Bad Salzuflen, 15 Map Reproduction Section (MRS) housed in the former JC Meyer printing works in Bad Oeynhausen and 3 Army Field Survey Depot (AFSD) remained. 15 MRS would become the civilian manned Survey Production Centre BAOR (SPC) and 3 AFSD the BAOR Map Depot. At this time of utter devastation in Germany 14 Company and 15 MRS provided not only all the survey production needs of the occupying army but also the main printing facility and supply of paper by cutting to foolscap size obsolete maps.

In 1947 the unit, now entitled 14 Field Survey Squadron moved to a former German barracks near Minden but two years later it moved again this time to Catterick Barracks in Bielefeld. Immediately the war was over the Soviet Union worked to push the western allies out of their occupation zones and its aggressive stance marked the start of the Cold War. The Berlin Blockade and the massive airlift that defeated it led to the formation of NATO on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1949 and a subsequent change of stance for the occupying armies. 14 Squadron moved again in February 1951 to Stornoway Barracks in Lemgo

but after yet only another two year stay in moved to the former Luftwaffe airfield, renamed Napier Barracks, in Dortmund which is described in the next article.



*Readying to deploy on Exercise Quick Train in front of the hanger at Dortmund in 1956.  
(Photo Ted May)*

By now BAOR had been organised as had the NATO structure and the Squadron was a 1(BR) Corps unit under technical direction of the AD Survey HQ BAOR and was busy on field surveys and the production of mapping to support NATO and also to meet HQ BAOR administrative needs. Exercises became frequent and in 1956 the unit deployed on the first Dominate exercise, the joint survey exercise involving British, US, German, Dutch and Belgian survey units. This series of exercises would continue throughout the Cold War, annually until 1970 and biannually. Yet another move occurred in May 1958 when the unit moved temporarily into Nicholson Barracks in Mönchengladbach where the SPC was now base. However, 'temporary' turned out to be six years!



*Receiving instruction on the newly issued SLR in Nicholson Barracks 1962.  
(Photo: Reg Banks)*

The wartime mobile reproduction was very worn out and just prior to Dominate IV in 1961 the unit took receipt of the prototype new print semi-trailer housing a Princess press. The complete set of vehicles arrived in 1963 and thus started of the years of the Mobile Train. The following year saw yet another move, this time into Tela Barracks at Ratingen, Dusseldorf which was already the home of 3 BAOR Map Depot and in 1965 the barracks name was changed to Roy Barracks in commemoration of General William Roy, the 'father' of Military Survey.

Throughout the Sixties the forces in Germany became increasingly more polished in their roles as a counter to the greatly outnumbering Soviet forces facing them across what was known as the

Inner German Border, or more usually, the Iron Curtain. With the ending of Britain's role east of Suez at

the end of the Sixties and this increasingly refined and practised technical capability, 14 Squadron was certainly Military Survey's most important military unit. As 1 (BR) Corps became increasingly mobile so Military Survey responded with the creation of TACIPRINT in 1974 to replace the slow and cumbersome Mobile Train which was later relegated to a stationary in-barracks facility.



*Gas Gas Gas! FFR inspection at Roy Barracks in the Seventies.*

wagging the dog!!!

It had long been apparent that NATO could not match the Soviet Bloc in terms of manpower or numbers of weapons and so its push was to concentrate on advancing the use of technology as a force multiplier.

New specialist map series were created and maintained such as the Cross Country Movement (CCM) map project started in 1971, there was also the Road and Bridge series, the Topographical Information Overprint (TIO) when traces of revision detail were produced so that existing 1:50,000 sheets of the Corps area could be rapidly updated by overprinting from the traces should the move to war take place. And then the new discipline of Terrain Analysis took off with the Squadron heavily involved in collecting data and creating the databases in the form of map overlays. The Squadron's partner unit, 3 Depot, developed the combat map supply system including introducing the unit basic load programme and the vehicle mounted mobile map supply point, MapSP.

As well as the multi-national Dominate an endless cycle of national exercises developed each practising a specific scenario for the transition to war or a set of plans; Jogtrot, Fast Buck, Summer Sales, Wintex, Spearpoint and more – these were what mattered in BAOR. 1980 saw Britain's biggest mobilisation since the Second World War when after years of testing the plans for the full reinforcement to Germany on paper it was done for real on Exercise Crusader 80 resulting in the call up of the TA and the move of 20,000 members of the Territorial Army and 10,000 UK based regulars to their war role on the continent within a 48 hour period. It is of note that 42 Regiment's role was to provide the men to reinforce 14 Squadron, 3 Map Depot and a complete second shift for SPC – a case of several tales



*TACIPRINT Mk 1*



*The Train in Roy Barracks shed – mobile no more.*

The Cold War lasted 44 years and today, after over 20 years of 'hot' wars, it tends to be either forgotten or treated lightly, almost as a joke. However, at the time there was a constant nuclear threat heightened at times by events such as the Cuba Missile, the building of the Berlin wall, the 1983's Exercise Able Archer (when the Soviets truly believed the exercise was a cover for a surprise nuclear attack) – it was all very real. And throughout this time it was 14 Squadron that was Military Survey's front line unit in Germany where World War 3 was to be fought. Thankfully it never happened,

Communism suddenly collapsed, the Berlin wall fell and the Cold War has since faded into history.

And now, at last, 14 has come home – welcome back.

## 14 Field Survey Squadron: Dortmund Days

After finishing Boy's Service at Harrogate in 1955 my first posting was to 14 Field Survey Squadron. The journey there started at the Transit Camp at Barton Stacey which turned out to be an interesting experience with many and varied duties to perform from cook house, coal yard and de-kiting.

This all came to an end after two weeks or so and Chalky White, a great friend from Harrogate, and myself joined a group going to Germany. We were gathered together and despatched to Harwich for the troop ship to the Hook of Holland and from there to Dortmund was by rail which after the troop ship was very pleasant. We arrived at Dortmund and were taken via the city that was still recovering from the wartime bombing to our new unit that was housed within 23 Field Engineer Regiment in the former Dortmund-Brackel Luftwaffe base. The accommodation was the very best with a mixture of 2, 4 and 6 man rooms all of which were centrally heated and with double-glazing, nothing like we had been used to.

Our work area was the other side of the airstrip, which was not now in use, and we were marched there every morning and returned for meals. We were housed in a compound that consisted of the control tower that was now used for offices, a hanger for the mobile print vehicles and several huts. The Print Troop had the same equipment that we used at Harrogate except for the camera pair that were very old and still had canvas hoods and screens. We were told the chassis were those used on pre-war London busses, this could have been the reason why they leaned so much on cornering.

The only new piece of equipment in Print Troop was a semi-automatic proofing press which was where I worked under the strict supervision of a National Service Sapper who had completed his civilian apprenticeship. I learnt a lot from him and will always remember his interest in my advancement in the so called Black Art.

I had not been long in the unit when I was put on a B4 driving course which was held in the main camp and attended by many. The course was intensive and held during the early winter resulting in a greatly reduced number of vehicles available due to accidents. Having completed the course and passed I was despatched to Shrivenham to attend a water duties course that I found very interesting as all aspects of water collection and treatment were covered. On return I was put in charge of a 15 cwt old water truck.

You never saw a lot of the Field Troop as they seemed to be out on survey tasks a lot and as printers we tended to be together on production work or preparing for exercises, these came frequently and were generally enjoyed by the Print Troop. There were a number of different Print Troop exercises including support for other units, the NATO geographic exercises called Dominate and the unexpected rapid call outs - Exercise Quick Train.

### ***Ted May***

1953: National Service – 6 Training Regiment RE; 1 Training Regiment RE; then the [now Royal] School of Military Survey; posted after qualification as a Surveyor A111 to 14 Field Survey Squadron RE, BAOR14.

In the Squadron, as well as a surveyor I acted additionally as squadron armourer. The Squadron occupied the control tower as offices and the main hangar for transport and mobile map-printing facility -- old Thornycrofts with pram-hood driver-space! My first driving lessons were in one: "First verse of 'God Save The King' between gears, double-declutching both UP and down! If you can drive one these, you can drive ANYTHING, including a camel!"

I was guard commander for 23 Field Engineer Regiment RE (on whom we were billeted in Block 38 of the Dortmund-Brackel Luftwaffe Kaserne) on the weekend of the celebration of Germany becoming the Bundes Republik and thus the cessation of the allied occupation. All very interesting.

*I was 22888060 L/Cpl Wood, M*

## 14 Squadron: Exercises with the Train

I arrived at 14 Field Survey Squadron in Nicholson Barracks, Mönchengladbach in September 1963. The SSM was Nick Carter with whom I had served in Cyprus so we got on quite well from the start. Late in September was my first Dominate exercise and the mobile train was deployed to Northern Germany inside a large wooded area. During the two plus weeks of the exercise it rained. It didn't stop and the site became waterlogged. Our semi-trailers sank up to their axles but the map products were still achieved in spite of everybody being wet and miserable. When the time came to leave it took two Gainsborough Recovery Vehicles over two days to winch the semi-trailers out of the wood, across a field and onto a hard road surface.

In all I took part in about twelve exercises with the train throughout BAOR over five years. Most were in woods as camouflaging these large vehicles was easier. Sometimes we were located in farmyards and on one occasion a disused brick factory. This was in the month of February alongside the River Weser which had ice flowing past. The ground was frozen so the whole Squadron was accommodated inside the huge brick ovens. At another site in June we even had snow on all our tents.



*Trying to hide! Ex Dominate IX 1964 at Wesum Sennelager.*

During the time I was in 14 Squadron I left the SQMS Jack Welsman. Having done an accounts course I was the Sergeants' Mess Treasurer and book-keeping helped with my new employment. I enjoyed the change and became part of the SSM's Recce and Advance Party team for all future exercises.

The tasks involved were various in nature. One was to locate the main water supply in the nearest village for we needed our water bowser to fill up at least twice a day. Usually the mains outlet was in the middle of a village housed in a lockup. The key was held in the local bakery and so the driver and his mate became daily visitors and benefited from the free cakes on offer. Another was to find an area outside the camp site that would be suitable for a helicopter pad. This would sometimes mean flattening a corn field by driving a land rover around in circles and then pinning down a white cloth "H". The farmer would then get compensation for the loss of his crop.



*German visitors to Dominate IIIIV in 1963 escorted by DD Williams and Ron Deakin.*

Each unit in BAOR had an identification number used to identify unit vehicles and for use in troop movement signs. Ours was 398. The sign had the number printed in white on a blue background with an arrow pointing left, right, or straight on. They were used to guide the Squadron to its exercise site and had to be put out along the route leading in from about a five miles radius – and then collected when we left. On one occasion the route took us under a bridge on which the usual road works were taking place. The 'Train' arrived at the camp site and when the exercise ended left to retrace its route home. Coming to where the road passed

-----  
under the bridge it was obvious that our 14 foot high semi-trailers were not going to make it. Apparently the road works on the way in had jacked up the bridge for repair and so, by happenstance, we could get underneath but now that they had finished the repairs it had been lowered back into place. Serious rerouting then took place.

During exercises I had to collect the unit's rations from Bielefeld and we got extra sacks of potatoes from other units that didn't want them. On return to camp these extra sacks were given to the MT whose task was to find farms that had pigs and chickens. The idea being to swap spuds for eggs. It worked and pleased our cooks no end.

There was an occasion when 14 Squadron took the 'Train' south to visit the US mapping unit near Frankfurt. The Americans didn't have a mobile capability so were impressed by our visit and what we could achieve in the field. As one would expect from them there was a sign above the main entrance which read "Through these portals pass some of the finest mapmakers in the world" On seeing this some wag from 14 said "You needn't have put up the sign just for us!" Hospitality was the order of the day and each one of us had an escort for the duration of the stay. Our 'other rank' snooker champion beat all-comers from the Americans even at their own game of pool. A return visit by them to Ratingen had them watch a rugby match which drew comments about the Brits not wearing protective padding like in American football. They did enjoy fish and chips wrapped in newspaper!



*Dominante X on a sports field in the Eifel.*

There were a couple of exercises when members of 135 Squadron (TA) came out to BAOR to join us. Within the next two years the whole of 135 Squadron with its 'Train' drove from Ewell via Dover and Zeebrugge and took part fully in an exercise in their own right and then drove back home again. Amongst the convoy was an old wartime Leyland Hippo that housed a small print machine. In the UK these were obsolete and no spares were available but at RAF Bruggen in Germany they still had them as searchlight vehicles and had plenty of spares. So the REME member of 135 paid them a visit and secured enough spares to extend the life of the Squadron's sole Hippo.



*A touch of class! 14 Squadron's Sergeants' Mess on exercise.*

Because the TA members came from all walks of life there were some of interest. One of the huge Thornycroft Tractor drivers was in civilian life a 'jobber' on the Stock Exchange where he wore top hat and tails but at weekends he drove a big truck! Another was a rep for a company and got 135 to act as a trial for one of the very first microwave ovens. This was mounted in the mobile kitchen and proved perfect for the job.

Our field surveyors would be out doing astro at night and this would mean extra cooking for their main meal when everyone else was on daytime routine. The microwave meant their main meal could be kept aside



-----  
and reheated in minutes. The visiting NATO observers were suitably impressed when offered a demonstration and a hot sausage.

Most exercises lasted two to three weeks with a weekend 'stand down' in the middle. During these we would get quite a few visitors, some from other NATO mapping units and usually a few local villagers and land owners. The latter would be seen looking around the camp and making note of any damage we had inflicted on the trees and landscape. This no doubt, led to a compensation claim at a future date. Most of the military visitors were taken aback because we had electric light in every tent and in the Sergeants' Mess there were crisp white tablecloths and the Mess silver (we did show off a bit!).

During my time in 14 Squadron we took part in many sporting activities beating all-comers at hockey and always taking part in the RE Games which were held in the Bielefeld, Osnabruck, Paderborn area. Many RE units would ask "who are these Sappers from Survey?" This in the end prompted the 'showing the flag' to the rest of the Army with a few days visit with the 'Train' to an Engineer Regiment where we demonstrated what we were about. Our boast was to arrive at the camp gates and have everything set up with the first map being printed as quick as possible. We managed to get it down to 17 minutes which made a good impression all round.

BAOR exercises certainly tested the system and our capability was far greater than all the other NATO mapping countries as regards production in the field. To be honest though, the lugging of those huge trailers around and finding it impossible to blend into the surroundings it's not surprising that they soon became outdated. Despite that, those of us that were associated with the 'Train' did manage to do the job they were intended for and have many mixed memories to look back on.

**Arnold Smith**

### **14 in the Early Eighties**

Regrets that I will be unable to attend the closure celebration but certainly appreciate the invite via Rod Siggs. I have nothing but the best of memories of 14 Topo, where I was a young Field Survey Tech 2 corporal during 1980-1983. My troop commander was the inspiring Peter Walker and the OC was Andy Hoon, later Angus Cross took over the lead of the squadron and Tony Keeley as Troop Commander.

My contemporaries were Mick Paskin, Ian Humby, Norm Beckworth et al. Al Beston and John Siddell provided SNCO troop leadership and Al went on to be SSM.

We worked damned hard, particularly on exercises and field data collection project (DEMs were the new thing) and played even harder, whether in the Altstadt or on the sports field. If memory serves the Squadron, excelled in rugby (minor units champions), sailing (Angus and I were Corps regulars), water polo (minor units champions) and hockey. I spent each summer as a sailing instructor at Kiel or Roermond, an extraordinary job. One year General Farrar-Hockley visited BKYC and proved to be a very able deck hand (young 'fieldie' barks orders at famous combat general!)

During my time based at 14, I got to see every corner of West Germany, including the US sector, as we completed ambitious data collection exercises for RAF, RA, and RAC purposes. We operated in small (2-4) Land Rover groups for extended periods and developed many technical and non-technical skills. I am sure that the young men of today have equal challenges and achievements.

The passing years, international air miles and red wine have faded my detailed memory cells but I do recall 14 Topo as a highlight in my RE time of 11 years.

*An email from Mick Barnes*

## News from the Military Front

### RSM's Column

I begin with a definition: *Tempo*. - *n*, *pl* - *pos*, - *pi* 1. *the speed at which a piece or passage of music is meant to be played, usually indicated by a musical direction (tempo marking) or metronome marking* 2. *rate or pace [C18: from Italian, from Latin tempus time].*

For a number of years the Regiment has been 'running hot' and 'Tempo' has been at a very high level. A symptom of that is that it seems like only five minutes since I was providing my last update to you. That was in the early part of the year and here we are already in July and rapidly approaching August and the summer block leave period.

To continue with the musical analogy I believe that we are playing very sweet music in the eyes of Defence with an enormous amount going on. We are at the very heart of the restructuring and rebasing of the Army and the full and complete integration of the Army Reserve (formerly known as the 'Territorial Army') into the 'one army' concept.

We have a number of strands running currently – most notably the transition to Future Deployed Geoint (FDG) which I hi-lighted to you in the previous Newsletter. For completeness, and to continue to inform, I include that particular piece again as it is hugely significant. We have also conducted Exercise 'FOUGASS STARTS' (24 Jun – 5 Jul) which was essentially a concentration of the Regiment at Hermitage. It consisted mainly of FDG familiarisation training and the running of Day in the Life Training (DITL) on these new systems and working environments, as well as looking at our impending move to RAF Wyton. The Regiment also ran a Commanding Officer's Section Competition and the annual sporting Sheppard Memorial Competition.

14 Geographic Squadron today (18 Jul) have their 'Flag Down' ceremony in Ayrshire Barracks with their last day in Germany as a formed unit 19 Jul. This marks the end of our presence as a formed body in Germany since the end of WWII and clearly is very significant. A history of the Squadron and its time in Germany follows later in this newsletter and the move itself is the prelude to the bigger departure of the Regiment from Hermitage in 2014. By September, 14 Geographic Squadron will be operational in their new home in 'Roy Lines' at Wyton Station and we open a new and exciting chapter on this new Joint Force Intelligence Group (JFIG) site.

### 42 Engineer Regiment - Operations Update (July 2013)

- The number of Geo personnel currently deployed on Op HERRICK (Afghanistan): 3 Officers, 20 Soldiers. These are stationed throughout Afghanistan (Kabul, Kandahar and throughout Helmand Province)
- The Geo Team within Helmand Province is commanded by Captain Paddy Snow, Geo personnel continue to provide direct support to offensive and strike operations down to Company level. This support includes complex geospatial analysis using intelligence gathered from a variety of methods. In line with the OP HERRICK draw down, RE Geo have been reduced by 5 posts since the last update, further reduction in manpower and equipment is also expected later this year.
- The Geo team at RC (SW) is now commanded by Major James Annear and are providing geo support to the regional command as well as providing a SNCO to instruct Geospatial Information Systems and map reading instructor techniques to the Afghan National Army.
- Task Force Helmand (TFH) HQ is relocating to Camp BASTION within the next month. This means that the Geo Cell in Camp BASTION is to be reorganised. TFH HQ SO3 Geo is to be replaced by a WO2. The SSgt from the BASTION Geo cell is to assume the Geo mentoring role located in RC (SW).

Contingency Teams

- The Regiment are providing Geo teams in support of contingency operations. These include supporting the Air Assault Task force (AATF), Lead Commando Task Group (LCTG), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Joint Force Head Quarters (JFHQ). A total of 10 on high readiness notice to move.

Exercises

- The Regiment hosted a concentration of its Geo personnel over a two week period to ensure the smooth running of the day in the life training of Future Deployable Geospatial systems.
- The Regiment has continued to support a large number of exercises in support of Brigades and Battle Groups in preparation for their deployment. Currently the Regiment **this month** are supporting external exercises with Brigade Field Training Exercises, in Kenya, 1 (UK) Armoured Division lead exercise support to OP HERRICK 19 Mission Specific Training in Germany, Thetford and Warminster.
- 13 Squadron have deployed on a ten day Military Aid to the Civil Community Task in the North West of England.
- 14 Squadron have their flag lowering ceremony this week which commences their move to Wyton over summer this year.

Future Deployable Geoint (FDG)

The Future Deployable GEOINT (FDG) capability provides geospatial information (GEOINF) and geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) support to deployed operations. FDG forms part of a larger programme that aims to improve and harmonise the provision of GEOINT across allied nations. The Allied System for Geospatial-intelligence (ASG) is a five-nation programme and the UK element will fund further improvements to deployed GEOINT capability, building on the capability and systems delivered under FDG. Below are illustrated the future vehicles for the Geo squadrons.

**Future Deployable GEOINT**  
Tactical Exploitation – MOWAG DURO II

**Key Features:**

- 2-man working environment.
- Custom container fitted to MOWAG DURO II 6x6 4T Chassis



MOWAG 'Mock-Up' ...

...user review.

MOWAG 'Loading-trial' ...

Not shown:

- External tent
- Access steps
- GUS(S) below operator desks



Access Door, Weapon storage, ACU (2), Generator, A0 paper storage / shelf, NBC Pack, Printer Access Door, Cabinet, Monitor, ACU (1), A0 plotter, Operator Workstation – deployed position, Seats – stowed position, A3 Printer, A0 Plotter paper storage

For more information contact:  
Dylan Hawkes: DESIMAGE-DJ2@mod.uk  
Maj Farmington: JAGD-CapDev-SO2@mod.uk  
John Tate: john.tate@tmco.com

TEAM SOCRATES de&s

**Future Deployable GEOINT**  
Tactical Map Dissemination Point (TMDP)

**Key Features:**

- 2-man working environment.
- 20' ISO Container with map storage for 25,000 line items
- 15T MAN Truck as prime mover.



Map table in 'deployed' position, Consumables storage, Internet laptop, 1 x A0 scanner, A3 colour printer, A3 scanner, 10 CD/DVD duplicator, Folding map table (shown in folded-out position), Floor lashing points, COTS Plan chests, Workstation with GIS and stock control software, Rear-Access door (with steps & platform) Jib arm not shown, Map storage for 25,000 line items, Map issuing counter, Stacked A0 Printers, Fresh air fan, Pressure relief valve, A0 Paper capture, Paper storage, Transport heater, Power Input/ Output Locker, NBC Pack, Jerry can, Fork pockets

Note: ACUs shown in stowed for movement position.

For more information contact:  
Dylan Hawkes: DESIMAGE-DJ2@mod.uk  
Maj Farmington: JAGD-CapDev-SO2@mod.uk  
John Tate: john.tate@tmco.com

TEAM SOCRATES de&s

The field deployable equipment therefore that 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) use will be refreshed and will see a move to new vehicle variants and new ways of deploying and working. Exercises this year in the Regimental Calendar will see FDG become the focus and the Commanding Officer's direction is that we will make this a Main Effort after Operations. 2013 will be an exciting year!

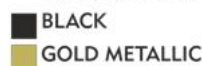
## Joint Forces Command (JFC) Formation Flash

A health warning before this brief paragraph begins; there are a lot of pneumonics! 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) sits beneath a 1 Star Command called Joint Force Intelligence Group (JFIG). This Command sits under the headline 'Defence Intelligence' and is itself part of Joint Forces Command (JFC) – headed up by a 4 Star Officer. What does this mean to 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) I hear you cry? As we move to integration with JFIG at Wyton Station we remain outside the 8 Engineer Brigade chain of command and are the only major Royal Engineer regiment to do so. Our sister units within JFIG and JFC therefore do not share the same tribal allegiances as us as Sappers. Therefore, it was felt that a common identity cutting across service and cap badge allegiances was required to bond the Command together with a common identity, and this has been achieved by the introduction of a 'Formation Flash' worn by all officers and other ranks (irrespective of service or regiment) within JFC. Everyone serving in 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic), or RSMS, now wear the following badges on their left bicep on the new Multi-terrain Pattern uniforms (A in Barracks and B in the field (subdued colours)):

# A



COLOURS USED



# B

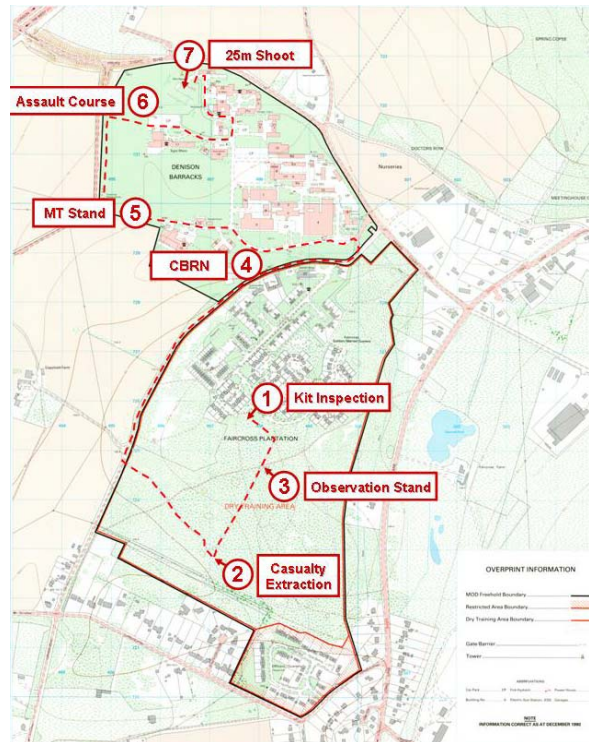


COLOURS USED



## Exercise FOUGASS STARTS – Commanding Officer's Competition 27 June 2013

As part of Exercise FOUGASS RETURNS the RSM ran a CO's competition with six Sections each comprising six junior ranks. The objective was to give junior commanders the opportunity to command sections of men and women in difficult and challenging situations and to use the competition as a vehicle for leadership development but also to promote teamwork, communication and Esprit de Corps. The competition was held at Denison Barracks and comprised several stands as can be seen below. The stands themselves were:



1. Observation Stand
2. Casualty Extraction (Stretcher Race)
3. Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear(CBRN) Challenge (Respirators, zero visibility, casualty evacuation and 'Eating Drills')
4. Vehicle Stand
5. Obstacle Course
6. Range (Strip and assemble blindfolded, timed followed by shoot)

As ever, when the soldiers of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) are presented with a challenge they rise to it and the grit, drive and determination of the men and women who participated was remarked upon continually by those running it and those that observed the sections going through the various stands. After an action packed and demanding day the Commanding Officer awarded the 'Pinnocks Progress' trophy to LCpl King of 13 Geographic Squadron.



### Cycling

Overall the Regiment has shown it has a very strong team and is the biggest unit contributor to the Corps' chances of winning the Inter-Corps Cycling Road Race Series. Spr Royle is currently leading the male overall race and LCpl Cripps is beginning to return to fitness and will hopefully be challenging at the end of the season. Another mention for Spr Royle is that he is the current National U23 leader in the UK Time Trial competition after two of the seven races.

### Rugby

SSgt Darrell Ball captained the Army team and retained the Babcock trophy in what was an enthralling encounter in front of 72,500 at the home of English rugby. The Navy started with a bang and created some very good scoring opportunities and as a result were 19 points up with 20 minutes played. The Army were shell shocked and were struggling to get a hold of the game. Patience and protecting the ball was what was required and when the Army began to carry this out, they created scoring opportunities. 3 excellent individual tries enabled the Army to tie the game at the break. The Army did have the last say in the game when the man of the match was named as SSgt Darrell Ball in what was an outstanding day all round.

### RE Games

The RE Games 2013 was a great success with over 75 of the Regt participating in the Games, Overall we came second in the Minor Unit category with some great performances which are as follows.

The Angling team for 42 Engr Regt (Geo) entered two teams this year captained by WO2 Craig Hall. The A team consisted of Lt Col Sherrington, WO2 Craig Hall, and Richie Rossier, the B team was made up of WO2 Si Allen, Nige Wiscombe and Chris Fish. The A team managed a 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place ensuring that 42 Engr Regt (Geo) won the competition amidst a number of Corps and Army Anglers.

For orienteering the Regiment entered a team of six which dominated the event, with the first fastest four coming from 42, WO2 (SSM) Noel and Kieras putting in some great performances and leading from the front. The Regt came first overall out of 15 teams that entered the competition.

### *SSgt Mobbs-McQuilkin RAPTC*

### RSM - Summary

The previous passages allude in part to some of the activities that the Regiment has been up to since my last update to you. However, they can not truly represent the scale of change and the tempo of life that our officers and soldiers are presented with. Demand continues to outstrip supply as regards that rare commodity: the Geo Sapper. Rebasing, Army 2020, redundancy and an impending unit move, not to mention routine Regimental business all add up to a very busy period for all.

We begin to look to the next 12 months and the inevitable move of the Regiment from Hermitage. The aspiration is to hold a 'Newbury Weekend' to coincide with Armed Forces Day weekend (27-29 June) which will see the Regiment working and ensuring that we mark our departure in a fitting way. We intend exercising the Freedom of Newbury by parading through Newbury, holding a Beating Retreat and Cocktail Party as well as an Open Day for 'Joe Public', and perhaps a Church Service with potential for an REA sponsored concert in the Corn Exchange to raise funds for the REA. All of this is still an aspiration and to be finalised, but the Regimental 2ic is engaged and the bid is in for the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers for the whole weekend. Initial scoping and reactions from the Corps to this request are very positive. Hermitage is hugely significant in the history of RE Geo and of course whilst RSMS remain after the Regiment departs it is more likely than not that they too will move in due course (although a firm decision is yet to be announced). We intend to celebrate our links with Hermitage and Newbury

-----  
fully and to take the opportunity to reminisce with those officers and soldiers who have gone before us and whose continued support we value enormously.

So, tempo! It remains high and is unlikely to diminish any time soon. The Regiment prepares to go on summer leave at the time of writing and it is very well deserved. The later part of the year will see a great deal of activity as we exercise our new FDG capability and begin the push to moving to Wyton in earnest. As ever, demanding times with our soldiers demonstrating their mettle and working hard to deliver Geographic support to Defence.



WO1 (RSM) WD Robinson  
RSM  
42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)

---

### A Thank You Letter from the CO 42 Regiment

Our Secretary, Rod Siggs, recently received the following thank you letter to the Association from Lieutenant Colonel Richard Blunt, the Commanding Officer of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic).

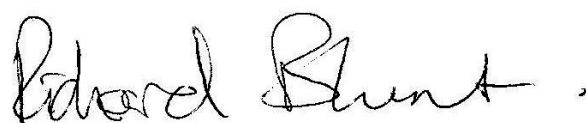
Dear Rod,

I am writing to offer my sincere thanks for the money donated by your Association which has purchased a 72 litre refrigerator and a 24 inch Multi System DVD combo television for use by our Officers and Soldiers in Afghanistan. I am sure that all your members will truly appreciate the effect a donation like this has on the morale of our Geographic technicians. I am fully aware that your Association has offered support to this Regiment on numerous occasions and the provision of money to pay for items like these is truly appreciated. Support of this kind and at this level clearly shows that you understand the need for compassionate and emotional support.

42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) continues to provide geographic information and deployed mapping support to UK Defence, and currently has a significant and enduring commitment supporting operations across the world. We remain particularly committed in Afghanistan where we routinely have just under 30 Officers, NCOs and Soldiers deployed (about 17% of my specialist manpower) over 6 month periods. They support many headquarters, command levels and organisations, and in doing so are situated in a number of dispersed locations across the theatre of operations.

Please could you convey my sincere thanks to all the members of your Association for their support to the Regiment and I look forward to catching up with some of you in the future.

Very many thanks



## A Thank You from Afghanistan

I would like to thank the members of the Military Survey (Geographic) Association for sending out a 24" TV to me at Camp Juno, Afghanistan. This has raised the morale, not only for myself, but for the team I work and live with; a J2 Analyst (Intelligence Corps) and a Royal Navy Data Manager. Having this TV has brought the lads together on evenings to use it as a bigger screen for having movie nights after work. This has boosted morale and allowed us to get to know each other better. This usually happens on a Saturday night and then we have a lie in on Sunday mornings (work commitments means this is not always the case!). However, this does not stop the lads getting together, sharing snacks and goodies that we have received, drinking a cold bottle of the Afghan best 'Crystal' (water) and relaxing to an enjoyable film. Thank you again.



*Dan Mumford on the left with the team and TV..*

***Cpl Dan Mumford***

---

## **MILITARY SURVEY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**1800hrs for 1900hrs Friday the 14th of March 2014**

**Location: SGTS MESS - DENISON BARRACKS - HERMITAGE**

Our next AGM will take place on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and, as previously notified, is separate from and some three months before the major reunion and farewell celebrations planned for the middle of 2014. We would encourage all members to attend and urge your support so that we may conduct the business of the Association.

None of our meetings are boring and anyone who has attended recent meetings will be aware they are short, to the point and entertaining; this will not change. We intend to provide sustenance in a similar vein to that of the last two AGMs which were highly commended by the diners. You will be asked to contribute something towards this on the night rather than in advance, any such charge per head is expected to be minimal (£10) and as you all know the beer is not expensive.

Thus your Committee with the kind permission of Commanding Officer, Lt Col Richard Blunt and of course the RSM, WO1(RSM) W (Will) Robinson, extend an invitation to members to attend the AGM in the Sgts Mess Hermitage at 1900hrs on Friday night the 14th March 2014. **So please do try to attend and support your committee.**

The return form to book your place will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

***Mick Perry***



---

## WARNING NOTICE

### THE DEPARTURE FROM HERMITAGE OF 42 ENGINEER REGIMENT (GEOGRAPHIC) 27-29 JUNE 2014

We have been advised that prior to the departure of the Regiment from Hermitage to Wyton it is hoped that the Regiment will say farewell to Newbury and the local community on a date to coincide with Armed Forces Day next year – that is the weekend 27 – 29 June 2014.

**Please note that at this early stage no date can be absolutely confirmed as planning is still in hand but whatever happens it is unlikely that the final date will change by much - if at all!**

**The general outline for the weekend as based on initial planning is to:**

Exercise the Freedom of Newbury by parading through Newbury

Have a farewell Cocktail Party and Beating Retreat

Run an Open Day for the Public

Perhaps have a Church Service

Perhaps arrange an REA sponsored concert in the Corn Exchange

**All of the above is, at this stage, an aspiration and remains to be finalised as it is very much dependant on a successful bid for the band of the Corps of Royal Engineers on the weekend.**

Hermitage is hugely significant in the history of Military Survey/RE Geo and whilst the Royal School of Military Survey remains after the Regiment departs it might not be too long before it moves (although a firm decision remains to be announced). It is intended to celebrate Military Survey's links with Hermitage and Newbury fully along with an opportunity for all those serving and retired to reminisce with all those who have gone before and whose continued support is valued enormously.

**So note the date and plan to turn up on what should be not only a memorable occasion but probably the last big event at Hermitage.**

---

### Secretary's Points

**"Out of office"** - Members please be aware that I will not be contactable from 18th October through to 9th December 2013.

Could you please note that all welfare events should go directly to our Welfare Officer, Noel Grimmett; email at [noel@burwells1.demon.co.uk](mailto:noel@burwells1.demon.co.uk) items for the website to Dave Johnson by email to [webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk) and newsletter notes and/or events directly to our Editor, Alan Gordon, at [alan.gordon67@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.gordon67@btinternet.com) or telephone 07765 577 754.

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS** - I have noticed that I have just received some new "failed email addresses" so if you have recently changed your email address **Please, Please** let me know.

**Rod Siggs (Hon Sec).**

### Deaths of Old Comrades

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of the following old comrades.

#### **Maurice (Moggy or Mogsy) Bowra**

Maurice (Moggy) Bowra died at the end of April in Bangkok after suffering with cancer for the previous few months.

Mog joined as a boy soldier at Harrogate in 1951 and served with 570 Map Reproduction Troop in Singapore from 1955 until 1958. A short spell with 13 Squadron at Fernhurst followed before returning to Harrogate as an instructor. He spent a year with the Regiment at Zyyi from 1962 until 1963 and then his final tour was with 84 Squadron in Singapore from 1964 until he left the service in 1966. When he left the army he joined Grant Advertising and subsequently worked for the UN in Bangkok.

#### **Jim Ironside**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April both national and southern region television news broadcasts ran the story of an emergency ambulance that crashed in the New Forest whilst taking an 88 year-old patient to Southampton Hospital. The paramedic driver and the patient died in the crash and a second paramedic and the patient's son who were travelling in the back of the ambulance were seriously injured. Sadly, the patient was Jim Ironside.

Jim joined up in 1941 and served a long and very successful career in Military Survey achieving the appointment of RSM of the School of Military Survey from 1958 until 1960 after which he was commissioned, finally retiring as a captain in 1967.

Jim's funeral took place at Bournemouth Crematorium on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013.

#### **Keith Mackenzie**

Keith's funeral took place on the 7th August at St Mary Church, Berry Pomeroy, Totnes, Devon.

Keith was a long standing member of our Association and had served in RE Survey from 1945 – 1952. He was stationed during this time at Longleat, Egypt with 512 Company which became 42 Regiment during his tour, and finally at HQ Allied Forces Central Europe at Fontainebleau Palace where his 'boss' was John Hunt of Mount Everest fame.

#### **David (Dai) James Marchant**

David more commonly known as 'Dai' within Military Survey sadly died aged 70 on 1 June 2013, following a stroke. His funeral was held at St Cewydd & St Peters Church, Steynton, Milford Haven on 14 June 2013 and was attended by his family and a great number of friends. The Pembrokeshire REA Standard was in attendance.

David joined the Army Apprentice College Harrogate in September 1959 (59C) and did his basic training at Hildebrand Barracks prior to moving to Uniacke Barracks to begin training as a Topographical Surveyor.

In April 1961 all the Harrogate RE apprentices relocated to AAC Chepstow. In April 1962 he was posted to SMS to complete his Technician Class 3 course on the Multiplex. He then underwent his combat engineering course at Southwood Camp Farnborough, and passed out as one of the first Air Survey Technicians Class 3 in the rank of L/Cpl.

His first posting was 1ASLS on Cyprus, later returning to Barton Stacey, and then to the School to complete his trade training achieving his Technician Class 1 in 1967. David instructed at SMS and AAC Chepstow, and also spent time at JARIC. His final overseas posting was at NATO HQ in Brussels, retiring as a WO1 in October 1982.

David spent the last 10 years in his home town of Milford Haven amongst his family and many friends.

David is survived by his wife Susan, a son Daniel of his first marriage, and daughters Emma and Hannah of his second marriage.

**Noel Grimmer (59C)**

### Website Accolade

Dave Johnson, the webmaster, recently received the following email shown here verbatim:

*Dear Sir,*

*Thank you for an very interesting and well done HomePage.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Johan Tengroth (Sweden)*

So well done Dave and the website really is well worth a regular visit: [www.militarysurvey.org.uk](http://www.militarysurvey.org.uk). In fact last month it received an average of 911 hits and 95 visits **each day** and so far this year it has had 197,759 hits and **20,825 visits**. To keep the web site vibrant and interesting it needs a steady stream of new material uploaded - so jot down those anecdotes and look out those old photos and send them to Dave at [webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk). If you don't have the means to scan them yourself Dave will be happy to scan and, if necessary, enhance any hardcopy photographs and return the originals.

If you are not online yourself it would be worthwhile visiting your local library every now and again to use their facilities to visit the website, staff will always help you if there's a problem.

Finally, one wonders what led Johan to visit our website!

### The SMS Course Photograph CD

The cd containing all the officer and soldier trade course photographs from 1963 until 1993 is available from Rod Siggs for the stunningly cheap price of £5 as a cheque payable to Military Survey Branch REA. Take a trip down memory lane and order a copy today.

### Current Financial Status

Bank accounts from statements as at 28 June 2013:

Current Account	£1,848.03
Reserve Account	£7,120.35
Total	<b>£8,968.38</b>
Cheques to clear	£71.20
Geo Soldiers' Fund	£2,460.19 Ring fenced
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£11,357.37</b>

Commitments

Geo Soldiers' Fund	£2,460.19
Other*	£2,316.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,776.19</b>

**Working Capital**      **£6,581.18**

\* contingencies ,standard bearers, awards, John Stevens Award, AGM and functions.

### Contact Details

#### Secretary

Rod Siggs  
11, Merlin Way,  
Southwood  
Farnborough, GU14 0PF  
email: [rod.siggs@ntlworld.com](mailto:rod.siggs@ntlworld.com)  
Telephone: 01252 654 599

#### Treasurer

Alf Isherwood  
8 Riley Road  
Tilehurst  
Reading  
RG30 4UX  
email: [alfish@ukfsn.org](mailto:alfish@ukfsn.org)  
Telephone: 0118 941 4355

#### Webmaster

Dave Johnson  
Auchen  
Hermitage Road  
Cold Ash  
Thatcham RG18 9JH  
email:  
[webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk)

#### Newsletter

Alan Gordon  
1 Majorca Avenue  
Andover  
SP10 1JW  
email:  
[alan.gordon67@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.gordon67@btinternet.com)  
Telephone: 07765 577 754

### Keeping in Touch

**Don't forget that the Secretary will be out of contact from 18<sup>th</sup> of October until the 9<sup>th</sup> of December so there will be no emailing of notices. To keep in touch visit the website regularly and click on the New Contributions tab.**

### In The Next Issue

As well as the usual eclectic mix of articles and updates the next issue will commemorate events of both sixty and fifty years ago:

**60 Years Ago:** The Coronation Parades.

**50 Years Ago:** The Regiment leaves sunny Cyprus and moves into a rather bleaker Barton Stacey.

Anyone with memories and especially photographs of either event please get in touch with the editor ASAP.

Articles and photographs of other subjects are as always – very welcome.

**Visit [www.militarysurvey.org](http://www.militarysurvey.org)**