

Drumbeat



Issue 126 Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Community Newsletter November 2007

Secretary of State officially opens new Barracks in Tidworth



The high standard of single soldiers' accommodation for the future was revealed last month, at the official opening of the first new barracks to be completed under Project Allenby, the largest accommodation/services Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to be signed by the Ministry of Defence. The Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Des Browne and the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion outside the Regimental Headquarters of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, the Unit which has just moved into the new barracks.

Full story inside ...

Welcome Home



to
the
Kings
Royal
Hussars



Win £100 in time for Christmas !

106.8 Garrison FM is giving you the chance to have £100 in your hand for Christmas. Just answer the question below and send or drop off your answer to 106.8 Garrison FM, Ordnance Road, Aspire Business Park, Tidworth SP9 7QD.

Who is the 106.8 Garrison FM Breakfast DJ ?

A) Stu Campbell B) Mark Page C) Thierry Henry

Name/Rank

Address

Phone No.

Listen out to the breakfast show on Monday, 10th December at 08:00 to see if you're the winner !

And this time, England won !

British Troops in Iraq entered into the Rugby World Cup spirit last month by holding their own Tag Rugby Sevens Tournament, with national teams represented by different units working in the COB. In the final, England (4th Bn The Rifles) played Wales (2Bn the Royal Welsh). The teams were so evenly matched that the game ran to extra time, with a last minute try from England sealing a hard fought victory.



Drumbeat online : www.drumbeat.org.uk





Commander 12 Mech Brigade speaks about Op HERRICK 6

The last unit from 12 Mech Bde left Afghanistan today and our 6-month tour of Afghanistan has drawn to a close. It is now appropriate that I say a few words about our deployment in Helmand Province as Task Force Helmand from April to October this year.

When we arrived in Afghanistan in April, it was clear that the enemy - the Taliban - were building up for an offensive against the ISAF and Afghan National Security Forces. It was therefore important that we beat them to the punch, in order to gain the initiative and maintain the



momentum throughout the summer. We had to put them on the back foot and through a series of Task Force level operations (Ops SILICON, LASTAY KULANG, CHAKUSH and PALK), 12 Mech Bde took the fight to the enemy in the jungle-like Green Zone, the flood plains of the River Helmand. The fighting was tough and the terrain and climatic conditions made it even tougher. The temperature hit 50 degrees during the peak of the brutal summer months. The enemy was cunning, determined and ruthless, utilising every terrorist tactic against us, the Afghan soldiers and police and the representatives of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. However, every time we closed with the enemy, we beat him - and beat him well. This was down to first class junior level commanders, well trained and motivated soldiers, excellent equipment and outstanding multi-national support.

But 12 Mech Bde also made progress in other areas. Our cooperation, coordination and integration with the civilian representatives of the Foreign Office and Department for International Development were excellent. We helped improve local governance



in Lashkar Gah and Gereshk, the 2 most important towns in Helmand.

In terms of significant changes, one only has to look at Sangin. Six months ago, this town was held by the Taliban and the small ISAF unit was under siege on a daily basis in the District Centre. The local population was in fear of their lives and most had left the town. However, since we secured the town in April, the situation has completely changed - for the good. There are now genuine signs of tangible progress there: the town has a Governor and a Chief of Police; the bazaar is thriving; stabilization projects and development programmes have been initiated; contractors are engaged on reconstruction tasks; and there is an over-riding sense of hope and

optimism.

We worked very closely with the Afghan National Army. There is no doubt that it is improving and far more capable than it was one year ago. The relationships that we established with the Afghan officers and soldiers were strong and based on openness and mutual trust; we lived together and fought side by side. We leave Afghanistan with great memories of these brave soldiers. On the other hand, our work with the Afghan National Police is only just starting: our Police Mentoring Teams have now begun to train and mentor the local Afghan police in Helmand. It is early days, but the signs are positive.

But all of this has come at a cost. Over the last 6 months, 30 UK soldiers were killed during operations in Afghanistan, all but 2 in Helmand. Many of my soldiers have been wounded in action and flown back to UK. Some of them have suffered life changing injuries. Our main effort now that we have returned is to look after those soldiers who have been injured - both physically and psychologically - and their families.

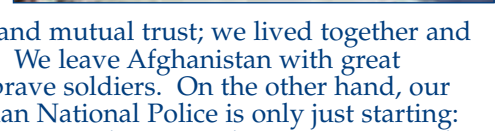
Our 6-month deployment to Afghanistan has been both challenging and rewarding. It has been a real team effort and no one unit stands out. All of them have contributed to the progress that has been made. Throughout the tour, morale has been sky high; this is probably because my soldiers have been doing exactly what they joined the Army to do, and as importantly, exactly what they have been trained to do.

We leave Afghanistan with a feeling of quiet professional satisfaction that we have done a good job in challenging circumstances, recognising the fact that there is much more to be done over the next few years. The authority and influence of the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been extended, and we have given the people of Helmand Province a glimpse of a better future.

**Brigadier J G LORIMER MBE LATE PARA
Commander 12 Mechanized Brigade 24 Oct 07**



Sangin, April 2007



Sangin, July 2007

A new Charity is launched ...

A new charity called **Help for Heroes**, launched last month, is aiming to build a new swimming pool and gymnasium for injured Service personnel at the Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre in Surrey.

To make a donation and for more information about the charity, visit : www.helpforheroes.org.uk



Early Early Christmas Fair

Many thanks to everyone - organisers, stall holders and shoppers ! - who helped to make this year's traditional Early Early Christmas Fair at Tedworth House such a success. This popular annual event again broke all previous records, raising over £30,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Come again next year !

Making Soldiers' Lives Better - a new barracks is opened

The first new barracks to be completed under Project Allenby/Connaught was officially opened on 19th October by Defence Secretary Des Browne and the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt.

The 28 buildings which comprise the new barracks in Tidworth provide 452 single en-suite bedrooms for senior and junior ranks, a regimental headquarters, two mess facilities, a large joint diner, a leisure facility, workshops, training buildings and storage. Alongside the living and technical accommodation, a range of 'secondary assets' such as bin stores, boot washes, garages, a football pitch and landscaped gardens have also been supplied. Sustainable features such as solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems and an urban drainage system have also been included, as have special measures to encourage local wildlife.

Mr Browne and General Dannatt chatted to soldiers from 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in the new Hub Diner and toured the accommodation blocks before the opening ceremony.



This picture : Andover Advertiser



"I am very impressed by the scale of what has been achieved under Project Allenby Connaught so far, delivered both on budget and on time, just 16 months after contract signature", said the Defence Secretary.

"There has been a legacy of under-funding in Armed Forces' housing: this new accommodation exemplifies the way that is changing. This is the standard of accommodation that our Forces deserve. But it is more than just accommodation. The work done in Tidworth represents our recognition that our Forces expect and need a major change in the way we provide for them."

Speaking after the ceremony, the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt, said :

"I have been very encouraged by what I've seen today here at Tidworth with the Project Allenby / Connaught development.



"This major programme is a significant step along the way to addressing the shortcomings in Army accommodation and I would like to pay tribute to all those involved in bringing it about.



"The soldiers that will occupy these new barracks will now have excellent single living and working accommodation - which is exactly what they deserve. It also sets the standard for the continued delivery of similar projects in the future and, as the Chief of the General Staff, I am determined to see that the overall standard of our soldiers' and families' accommodation is improved and as quickly as possible."

Project Allenby/Connaught has its origins in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review. The PFI contract with Aspire Defence Ltd is an ambitious 35-year programme of redevelopment worth some £8 billion, affecting 20% of the Army. Across the whole project, Project Allenby/Connaught will deliver and maintain 11,500 single en-suite bedrooms, together with dining centres and new facilities such as theatres and community centres, supporting the changing needs of the Army for more than 18,500 military personnel in garrisons across Salisbury Plain and Aldershot.

The Chairman of Aspire Defence, Arthur Moore, said :

"This opening shows what the private sector can achieve in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and the Army; on time, on budget and with a long term commitment to high standards of quality. I want to thank the leaders and teams in the Carillion/KBR services and construction joint ventures that have worked so hard to make today possible. For them, it is the first milestone on a 35 year journey".

The ceremony was also attended by the Chief Executive Officers of Carillion plc and KBR, the two major partners in the Aspire Defence Consortium which was awarded the PFI contract in March 2006.

Carillion (50%) is one of the UK's leading support services, construction and PPP project companies, particularly in the Defence, Education and Health sectors. KBR (45%) is a global engineering, construction and services company, supporting the energy, petrochemicals, government services and civil infrastructure sectors.

After the ceremony, both Don Kenny (Carillion) and Bill Utt (KBR) told Drumbeat that they were very pleased to have been able to witness in person the marking of Aspire's first major success - indeed, Bill Utt had flown in that morning from America, specifically for the occasion! They attribute reaching this first milestone within time and on budget entirely to the time spent working very closely with the MoD and the Army before the Project began and are confident that early success and high standards will be maintained throughout the 35-year life of the Project.



left to right: Don Kenny, CEO, Carillion plc
Arthur Moore, CEO, Aspire Defence Ltd
Bill Utt, CEO, KBR

The Force is strong at the COB !

On his whistle-stop tour of the Contingency Operating Base in Iraq, before filming took place for the Pride of Britain awards, Ewan McGregor took time to meet some of the soldiers based there.



Banter was soon being exchanged as he mingled with the crowd of troops who had gathered to meet him and the air was thick with subtle (and not so subtle!) quotations from Star Wars. As they talked to him about their experiences in Iraq, one Rifleman was heard to remark that his sniper rifle was 'such an uncivilized weapon' and others that there was really



no need to show him any of the kit they had on display as

he had been in Blackhawk Down and had seen it all before ... all feigning surprise that he seemed so interested



in the weapons display after using the best weapon in the world ... a light sabre !

Afterwards, he was given the chance to drive the Bulldog Armoured Fighting

Vehicle which he drove at top speed over the dust bowl as if it was his cross-country motorbike; later he also met members of the Danish Army and Air Force, who live alongside 4 RIFLES in Camp Copenhagen, making a quick detour for some Danish coffee and cake !

After untiringly signing a multitude of autographs (most of which were directly onto the soldier's combats and helmets) and stopping for numerous photos, Mr McGregor remarked how humbling it was to meet the soldiers who had been based in Basra Palace and

fighting on the streets of Basra for the past three months.

The feeling was entirely mutual - it's not every day that one gets to meet a Jedi !



Tidworth Neighbourhood Policing Team September Survey Results

Your main concerns and what we are doing about them :

- **Anti-social behaviour**
- including the throwing of eggs and flour.

Extra patrols will be conducted by all 3 Policing agencies and local shops will be asked to monitor sales of eggs and flour to under-18s.

- **Dog fouling in certain areas of the town**

The Kennet District Council Animal Welfare Officer will patrol from time to time with the PCSOs. FREE scoop bags will be available at local shops, Unit Welfare Offices and at the Tidworth Leisure Centre.

Our next NPT Survey will be carried out in November

MODern
housing solutions

Improving our Quarters ...

Across the Plain, MODern Housing Solutions (MHS) is undertaking a major boiler replacement programme in Service Families' Accommodation (SFA) and has recently started re-roofing 70 houses in Tidworth and Larkhill, with 29 in Bulford to follow soon.

There is also a nationwide programme underway to survey all 44,000 SFA in England and Wales, in order to allocate funds and prioritize any necessary work. These surveys are being conducted for MHS by a company called Faithful and Gould and should take less than an hour to complete. Families will receive a letter giving an appointment date at least 10 working days beforehand and if they are unavailable they can contact Faithful and Gould to arrange a more convenient time. Local HIVEs will hold up-to-date information about where the surveys are taking place and which surveyors are operating in the Salisbury Plain area.

Under Starter's Orders !

A team of soldiers from 3 (UK) Div Signal Regiment took part in a pit stop challenge last month, competing against three World Championship Touring Car



teams from Thruxton Circuit. The competition marked the opening of the new Holiday Inn at Solstice Park.

"I want the hotel and the restaurant to be seen as a facility for the whole community, including soldiers and their families", manager Tanya Smith told Drumbeat. "Watch out for family offers and special discounts for soldiers !".

Thank you

Maj Dave King, WO1(ASM) Ian King, WO1(ASM) Sev Parkin and Sgt Joanne Mears of HQ 3(UK) Div in Bulford would like to thank everyone who sponsored them on Trail Walker UK 2007.



It took us 21 hrs 39mins and 2,63.2 miles, finishing 35th out of 450 teams and we raised well over our target £1500 for the Ghurkha Welfare Fund and Oxfam. Special thanks to WO2 Alex Snowdon and Cpl Charlene Rolf who acted as the support team, without whose help we would never have managed !

26 Engineer Regiment Medal Parade



Operational Service Medals have been presented to 26 Engineer Regiment, to mark their tour in Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 6. The General Officer

Commanding Theatre Troops, Major General Hamish Rollo, presented the medals and paid tribute to the soldiers and their families at a parade held in the pouring rain at Tidworth.

During their tour, the Regiment had Squadrons based at Camp Bastion, home to several thousand British troops in southern Afghanistan, another at Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital, as well as numerous outstations around Helmand Province.

The Engineers operated in conjunction with the Infantry, Signallers and Gunners when out on the ground in what was a hazardous environment.

"Our soldiers out on the ground came under daily attack in hostile surroundings; we were very lucky," said Captain Toby Farrell, the Operations Officer.

"There were several themes to our role in Afghanistan," he continued. "Life support to our soldiers was one. We provided water, electricity and force protection measures such as hard cover in the event of mortar attack. These are especially important to the soldiers based in the smaller outstations where attacks were commonplace."

The Engineers also provided mobility support, such bridges and equipment for crossing ditches and canals, so ensuring the patrols out on the ground could move around. On one occasion, 40 soldiers from 26 Engineer Regiment constructed a 30-meter girder bridge close to the Helmand town of Garmsir. The operation was launched at night on Wednesday 20 June with the engineers being supported by 100 troops from the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters. The mission, codenamed Operation Bataka, was the first time since the Malayan conflict of the 1940s and 1950s that Royal Engineers have had to build a bridge while under fire.

But reconstruction and development was their key role during the tour and the Engineers completed about 100 projects, including building roads, police stations, schools and midwife centres. "Although these were mostly in Lashkar Gah because that was where stability was greatest, we did complete work in other areas too", explained Captain Farrell. "The most visible was in Sangin. When we arrived the main street was barren, now there is a thriving bazaar. We made a huge difference."

Captain Farrell emphasised that the projects could not even start unless security was in place. "Once you have security, then the contractors will begin work so security has to be the first priority. You cannot begin reconstruction without it".

Operational tours are off the calendar for a while as the Regiment goes into a training phase in 2008 and the early part of 2009.



Remembrance Sunday

11 November 2007

Bulford

St George's Garrison Church

An all denomination Service of Remembrance for all Bulford Units, their families and members of the civilian community who wish to attend. Please be seated by 10:40 for start at 10:50

Tidworth

St Michael's Garrison Church

An all-denomination Service of Remembrance for all Tidworth Units, their families and members of the civilian community who wish to attend. Please be seated by 10:45 for the Service to start at 10:50.

Holy Trinity Church

10:30 Service includes Act of Remembrance

Shipton Bellinger

10:50 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the High Street, followed by a Service in St Peter's Church

Ludgershall

10:00 Service in St James's Church, followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11:00

RBL Remembrance Concert

Sun 4 November Salisbury City Hall
A Falklands Tribute
Royal Marines Corps of Drums & Bugles
Displays, Community singing,
Compre Rosemary Squires MBE
Tickets from City Hall : 01722 - 434 434

Thank you ...

Many thanks to 26 Engineer Regiment for organising this year's Bonfire Night. Thanks also to Mr Monckton from Bradford who very kindly donated £500 for the benefit of soldiers from this Garrison and their families.



Christmas Concert

Sat 8 Dec 19:30

Shipton Bellinger Village Centre
Hampshire Ex-Servicemen's Band
Tickets from Parkhouse Stores or call Pam on 01980 - 842011

Special Christmas Shopping Days

5 and 12 Dec 10:00 - 16:00
at the Museum of Army Flying
Craft stalls, Coffee & Mince pies

Centenary Christmas Concert

11 Dec 19:30 - 21:30

at the Museum of Army Flying
Band of the Army Air Corps
Tickets : 01264 - 784 421



Drumbeat Noticeboard



B F B S Forces Radio

Radio requests & dedications
Call : 08701 20 21 21
 (calls are charged at the national rate)
Website : For overseas commands and Northern Ireland visit www.bfbs.com and go to the "Dedications" page.
 Or by email : requests@bfbs.com
 Now on Sky Digital Guide no. 0211

Garrison 106.8 FM

Broadcasting to Tidworth, Netheravon, Bulford and Larkhill from the studio in The Old Armoury at the top of Ordnance Road
Call 01980 - 602277 or Email : salisburyplain@garrisonfm.com

Castledown Radio

Broadcasting to the Tidworth Community Area on **104.7 FM**
 email : studio@castledownradio.info
 or call: 01264 - 84 1047

E Blueys

Log on to www.bfpo.com

Plastic & Cardboard Rubbish

Skips will be in Wylve Road Community Centre car park
10:00-12:30 14 Nov & 12 Dec

Chatterbox Pre-School

Trenchard Lines, Upavon
 Vacancies for children aged 2-4
 For details call : 01980 - 618196

Jumping Jacks Pre-School

Airfield Camp, Netheravon
 Vacancies for military & civilian children aged 2-4. For details call : 01980 - 678259

Career Transition Partnership

RRC Tidworth : 01980 - 602689

Army Scripture Reader

Nick Wilson 05601 - 793 541

SSAFA Forces Help

Call 01980 - 670540 or 01980 - 670345

Sodexo Defence Services

Job vacancies : Catering & Cleaning
 Call 01980 - 656 026

AWS Job Vacancies

Full & part time childcare job vacancies in the Garrison
 Call Chris on 01980 - 673379

Aspire Defence Helpline (24/7)
0845 168 2300 or Mil 96340 2300

Defence Estates Housing Information Centre Service

Call 0800 - 169 6322
 Mon - Fri 08:00-16:30

Repairs to Army Quarters (24/7)

MODern Housing Solutions Helpline
 Call 0800 - 707 6000

Emergency Numbers :

MDP : 01980 - 60 3099
 RMP : 01980 - 67 2251 & 67 2334
 Wiltshire Police : 0845 - 408 7000
 Police Emergency : 999 or 112
 Crimestoppers : 0800 - 555111

Tidworth Leisure Centre

TLC Opening Times

Monday - Friday 09:00 - 21:00
 Saturdays 08:00 - 17:00
 Sundays 08:00 - 21:00

Telephone : 01980 - 847 140
 General Manager : 602030
 Outside Pitch Bookings : 603416
 Library Opening Times :

Mon 10:00 - 17:00
 Tues & Thurs 14:00 - 19:00
 Wed & Fri 10:00 - 17:00
 Sat 10:00 - 13:00
 Call: 01980 - 843460 or 602568

Library Videos and DVDs for hire
 From £1.50 for up to a week

Coffee Carousel :

Open 7 days a week from 9:30
Tidworth HIVE Opening Times :
 Mon - Fri 09:00 - 15:00
 Call Carol Morris : 01980 - 602224
 Website : www.hive.mod.uk
Purity Beauty Salon :
 Mon-Sat 9:00 - 20:00 Call 07958-911928
Physiotherapy & Sports Injuries :
 Physiotherapy : 07768 - 737 646
 Sports Therapy : 07796 - 230 571



Storybook Soldiers

Being deployed ?
 Home on R&R ? Record a story for your child to listen to while you are away. Phone 10AEC : 01980 602370 (Tid Mil. 94342 2370)

Army X Country Steeplechase

22 November Tedworth Park
 For details call Capt (MAA) Rick Young 94371 - 2189 or 01258 - 482 189

French Market in Salisbury

Market Square, 22 & 23 November

1 Mech Bde proudly presents :
Cinderella

23 Nov Tedworth House, Tidworth
 30 Nov Bulford Study Centre, Bulford
 18:30 - 20:30

Reservations via Unit Welfare Offices
 Fancy Dress : Prizes for best Cinderella and Prince Charming

Bulford HIVE - Now Open

Monday - Friday 9:15 - 13:15
 at The Beeches Families Centre
 Call Silke Linthwaite 01980 - 672420

Pewsey Vale RFC

Seeks new players: Adults : Tues 19:00
 Youth & Mini Tag : Sats 10:00
 Angela Yeates Ground, Wilcot Road,
 Pewsey. Call 07880 - 788 765 or
 07976 - 882 103 or www.pvrgc.org

Uniformed Youth Groups

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers & Explorers
 Call Arthur Kendrew 01980 - 597 341
Guides, Brownies, Rainbows
 Call Connie Patrickson 01980-845715

T 2 A Adventure Sports Club

Wall climbing, orienteering & mountain biking for 11 - 18s
 For details call TLC 01980 - 847140

Tidworth Youth Centre

Tues & Thurs 18:30 - 21:00 13+
 St Andrew's Hall opposite the Oval
 Call Sarah Pearce 01980 - 842748

Tidworth 10 K and 3K Fun Run

A sponsored run across Salisbury Plain to raise funds for the Salisbury District Hospital Stars Appeal
Sunday 4 November
 Lucknow / Mooltan Sports Pitch
 3K at 10:00 10K at 10:45
 Details at : www.tidworth10k.co.uk

Paddington Playstation

Autumn Fair 9 Nov 14:00 - 16:00
 Drummer Lane, Tidworth
 Bouncy castle, face painting, crafts, stalls

Children are our World

Official opening of the Windmill Hill Children's Centre for families with children under 5. All welcome
Wylve Rd Community Centre,
Sat 10 Nov 9:30 - 12:00
 11:00 Official Opening by Rt Hon Michael Ancram MP
 10:15-10:45 Children's Entertainer

Bluez 'n' Zuz Youth Disco

13 Nov and 11 Dec 19:00 - 21:00
 Clarendon Junior School, Tidworth
 Come in November and get free entry to the December Disco !

Army Arts Society Exhibition

17 & 18 Nov 10:00 - 16:00
 Mediaeval Hall, Salisbury
 Paintings, drawings, ceramics, bronzes & craft work

Health & Fitness Evening at the Tidworth Leisure Centre

Wed 28 Nov 18:00 - 21:00
 £6.50 14 yrs + Taster sessions,
 Free fitness assessments, Stalls - cosmetics, beauty products, therapists, personal trainers.

Salisbury Christmas Lights

Thursday 29 November
 18:00 Carol Service at the Cathedral
 18:45 Christmas fun in the Guildhall Square + Open air ice rink
 19:15 Christmas lights turned on
 Thursday late night Christmas shopping begins

Stay with the beat !

Deadline for December 2007 issue : 12 November 2007
Drumbeat, 10 AEC, Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, SP9 7AY
 Call Rosemary Meeke on 01980 - 602980
 or email : drumbeat_tidworth@hotmail.com

Website : www.drumbeat.org.uk

Drumbeat is funded and produced by Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Garrison. A contribution towards the cost of copies for the Civilian Community in Tidworth is made by Tidworth Town Council. Civilian copies are distributed by Tidworth Trust.