

## From the Fourth ...

The last three months have been somewhat hectic for the Regiment with little time spent in barracks for most of the officers and men; either adventure training or the work-up and deployment to Suffield being the main occupations for the majority.

In the case of A, B & G Squadrons, 4 RTR Battlegroup on Exercise MEDICINE MAN 7 was the main commitment, bringing with it the prospect of a cold four weeks in Canada and awakening memories of 'tanking in the snow' from the same exercise two years ago. Preliminary training on the Soltau-Luneburg Training Area went by in September and provided the chance to meet and become used to working with the other parts of the Battlegroup. There were those, such as 97 Battery, 4 Field Regiment, who were familiar, others such as Left Flank 1 Scots Guards who were strangers at the outset, and also those (C Company 2 Princess Patricia's Own Canadian Light Infantry) whom we were not to meet in their entirety until reaching Canada itself. Of those who attended the training, all benefitted and enjoyed the usual pleasures of a couple of weeks holiday in one of the most attractive parts of Germany.

Less than a month later the Battlegroup found itself embarking for Calgary onward to Suffield itself. Here it must be mentioned that Lieutenant Corbin really managed to excel in his task of Unit Explanement Officer, succeeding not only in sending everyone to the correct country, but also getting all concerned where they wanted to be at the right time.

On arrival weather conditions were discovered to be more than acceptable and indeed, except for some rather chilly and blowy nights, this situation held for the remainder of the exercise. Our Canadian colleagues had also arrived with their own equipment in the form of American M113's, M16 rifles and a great deal of very warm clothing of good quality. Together we deployed into the middle of nowhere - and stayed there for the next two weeks.

On the exercise, once again we all found how worthwhile and vital it is to have the benefits of live firing in such an open and realistic manner. Without doubt everyone improved during the course of the training and set high standards in the climax of Exercise ALAMEIN.

After the end of the exercise period came perhaps the hardest work of the whole stay in Canada clearing up and handing over the vehicles - a task which never carries the same sense of achievement as the exercise play itself but which is still of a real importance. All ranks worked with dedication the long hours required and can be proud of a good job well done.

After the hard graft, came the chance to relax, the delights of cities such as Edmonton and Calgary, in addition to the more familiar Medicine Hat.

At the same time as the others risked life and limb for Queen and Country, C & D Squadrons took the chance to go Adventure Training down to Haus Panzer. All those who went enjoyed the ability to try their hand at some new skills and to enjoy a well-earned break from the Tank Park.