

During the last three months there have been a number of changes in Regimental Headquarters including the Commanding Officer, the Second-in-Command (who was suddenly posted to the Gulf), the Adjutant and the Regimental Sergeant Major. To increase the confusion this all took place within a six-week period! The squadrons have also not escaped the musical chairs. Squadron leaders have changed and in some cases more than once. Life has, however, continued in an ordered manner due in no small part to the excellent support given by the senior non-commissioned officers and all ranks of the Regiment.

Since the beginning of the year the Regiment has continued to provide a large number of personnel for the numerous extra duties which have been thrown up by Operation GRANBY. Their work includes ammunition guards for the transport of materials to the Gulf, ship escort duties and site and station guards to provide security for the large garrison. These duties have now become very much a part of life in Rhine Army.

Individual training and the repair of vehicles have been high priorities. Each squadron has rotated through a three-week 'Op GRANBY' training package during which they have concentrated upon completing the Army Training Directives, developing the Individuals' Royal Armoured Corps crew skills and improving the squadron's standard of physical fitness. The package concluded with a 24-hour test exercise. To date all who have taken part appear to have enjoyed themselves.

In order to restore our vehicle fleet to an operational standard a regimental reconstitution programme has been established. A tank 'factory' has been set up in which all equipment and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers personnel have been centralised. At the time of publication we hope to have 30 fully operational tanks and by September 1991 a further thirteen. Our aim is to re-establish the regiment as a Type-43 regiment by December.

Looking to the remainder of this year the Regiment has a number of commitments which should keep it busy. Annual firing will be completed at Hohne during the beginning of April. The ranges will naturally be preceded by an intensive preparation period for both equipment and crew skills.

After ranges and some leave, the Regiment will be waiting to assume its responsibilities in June as the British contingent of the United Nations force in Cyprus. The Regiment will be the first to deploy as the UNFICYP Roulement Regiment. This is a change in role from the original Cyprus emergency reinforcement regiment task done in 1989. We have a commitment of two squadrons only to the United Nations.