



MUSA QAL'EH MAIL

2nd Battalion,
The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
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Issue 4

Battle Group (North West)

Page 1

EDITORIAL

Editor/Design:
Sgt Mark Duckett

Education Officer/
Unit Press
Officer: Capt Verity
Smith

Contact the
Editor:
Sgt Duckett
Op Herrick 10
MSQ DC

Phone: Ext 5516

E-mail:
3640ducke@armymail.mod.uk

MS:
ISAF MS GBR BG(NW) MEDIA OFFER

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

SECOND FUSILIERS BATTLE GROUP COMPOSITION:

Battle Group Headquarters
B Coy Group
C Coy (Influence Group)
Recce Group
HQ Coy
Fire Support Group
LAD (REME)
RLC (CHEFS)
RAMC
AGC (SPS)
AGC (ETS)

Attached Arms

2 PWRR
206 Pioneer Sqn RLC (Mastiff Group)
5 RRF (TA)
3 SCOTS Operational Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT)
52 Niagara Bty 19 Regt Royal Artillery
33 Armd Engineer Sqn
216/16 Royal Signals
Royal Military Police
OCC-D

Detached members of 2 RRF

A Coy Gp attached to 2 Rifles BG

The Commanding Officer on behalf of all 2RRF personnel serving in Afghanistan and back at home would like to extend his sincere condolences on the tragic death of Cpl Joseph Etchells A Coy. He was killed in action near Sangin on 19 July 09 while campaigning to bring peace. He was every inch the professional infantry soldier, universally respected and liked throughout the Battalion. Cpl Etchells was a true leader of men and it is a small comfort to know that he died doing the job that he loved, amongst his friends, at the front, and in the face of the enemy.

TRIBUTE TO A FAMILY MEMBER

Members of 2 RRF Battlegroup paid their respects to the late Cpl Joseph Etchells at a vigil service in Musa Qal'eh DC on 27 Jul 09. Capt Clive Musson who gave the eulogy said "Corporal Etchells was a remarkable young man. He showed a gift for soldiering that touched all who worked with him. His enthusiasm, determination, loyalty and professionalism would have seen him progress with ease through the ranks. Above all he will be remembered for the friendships that he easily made; at home, in barracks or facing daily adversity in Afghanistan"

The Battalion; his friends mourn his loss. However our loss is nothing compared to the loss sustained by his fiancé, and his family. Our prayers are now for them, Julie and her daughter."

It is also with great sadness to hear about the death of an ex serving member of the Bn WO2 Andy Whilton. Our condolences and thoughts are with his family at this difficult time "Once a Fusilier always a Fusilier"



Late Cpl Joseph Etchells (Etch)
23 MAR 1987 - 19 JUL 2009

A Company Group FOB Nolay Sangin



***Late Cpl Joseph Etchells (Etch)
Gone but not forgotten
"Once a Fusilier always a Fusilier"***

On the 19 July 2009 Cpl Joseph Etchells was tragically killed while on patrol in Sangin. Leading his section on a patrol through the Wishtan area, 3PI came under some heavy enemy fire and with the help of two other platoons as well as smoke provided by the 81mm mortars in Nolay they were able to extract and move away from the area. It was at that point that tragically the section was hit by an IED. The blast of the IED killed Cpl Etchells, and wounded Fus White, Fus Hughes and LCpl Hurley. Throughout the action the Platoon conducted themselves with the utmost professionalism and they all showed tremendous courage throughout.

As we sit here in Nolay we are acutely aware how the recent and tragic events are being reported across the world via television and other news Medias and how this must be affecting all in the Regiment and the wider family back home. As well as the loss of Cpl Etchells we must not forget the terrible loss of five Riflemen in the same area only nine days ago and no fewer than twenty one soldiers also injured in the same incidents who are now back in the UK recovering. We wish them all the speediest of recoveries.

Despite what has happened all of the Fusiliers are standing together alongside our brother Riflemen and our resolve is strong to finish what we have been asked to do and uphold the memory of those who have died by getting right back into it. Below is a small excerpt from the Cpl Etchells eulogy that was readout in a small memorial service that we held in Nolay last night.

Cpl Etchells was one of the most promising young Section Commanders in the Company and his death has left a void in the Platoon that will be impossible to fill. Born on 23rd March 1987 he joined the Army in December 2003, and on successful completion of his infantry training at Army Foundation College, Harrogate, was posted to the Second Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers later that year. He was always eager and proud to be a Fusilier and Infantryman.

Generous in nature and full of enthusiasm in all he did Cpl Etchells led from the front and by example. Cpl Etchells was an outstanding soldier and JNCO who will be deeply missed by his friends, colleagues and all who knew him. The loss to the Company is nothing compared to the loss that his family are only just starting to come to terms with and the thoughts of all of us here in A Company Group and especially those of 3PI are with his fiancé Julie and her young daughter at this time.

A Company Group FOB Nolay Sangin



Members of A Coy Gp prepare for future OPs

The Company Group, and indeed the wider Battlegroup, has had a hard month in terms of casualties. Most readers will already be aware of the injuries sustained by 2 PI during a Green Zone Patrol on 25 June. LCpls Marshall and Harding-Prior and Fus Alimo and Shepherd were all wounded during an extremely bold grenade attack and are now recovering in the UK. Cpl Pascall also has what the MO refers to as a 'retained fragment' in his left forearm, which he is very happy to demonstrate with a Hoodlum metal detector for a small fee. Overall, 2 PI did an outstanding job on the day; Sgt Valentine successfully dealt with a total of eight casualties, including the JTAC, the medic and an ANA Warrior, during a very tense couple of hours. We wish all our wounded well – I hope to see them all shortly during R&R.

This month has seen the Fusiliers much in demand in support of Battlegroup deliberate operations. 11 PI (with heavy backfill from 2 PI), under the temporary leadership of the IO, 2Lt Shaw deployed to assist C Company 2 RIFLES in the closure of FOB Gibraltar. As I write, 11 PI are again deployed out of area, this time in the Centre South AO as part of the Task Force reserve for Op PANCHAI PALANG. Sgt Hadley now lays claim to the Company 'professional vagrant' award, having now operated from a total of eight FOBs and patrol bases during the last three months. Deliberate ops and the R&R plot have hit our manpower, and the remaining troops have been working doubly hard to maintain the tempo in the local area and ensure that we don't begin to lose ground. I am hugely grateful for, and proud of, their relentlessly positive and professional attitude.

The unexpected arrival of an environmental health officer this week has caused some consternation for the keepers of the NOLAY menagerie. Fortunately, an extensive and highly professional dicking screen was quickly established to keep tabs on his movements, which has – so far – prevented compromise of Robin the puppy, now concealed in a Viet Cong-style sub-surface kennel. As a further precautionary measure, her Regimental collar has also been removed, thus making Robin a 'plausibly deniable asset'. Unless she gets excited and puts in an appearance at an awkward moment, we anticipate a B+ grade on the inspection. Sally the chicken, is thankfully, AWOL.

This week also saw the next OC NOLAY's initial recce. Maj Tim Harris from 3 RIFLES was received on the helipad by an honour guard and wildly cheering crowds, and then borne aloft at shoulder height to the company HQ building, where he was presented with a number of tokens of sincere appreciation by the grateful throng. His recce, though short, was very successful, and he went away with a sound understanding of the task. We really look forward to seeing him back in a few months' time.

Cpl 'Two Dads' Hale-Smith has undergone a crash course in air voice procedure since the sad wounding of Cpl Mather the JTAC. Now rarely to be seen without his 'special' ground-to-air radio clutched in his hot little hand, he can 'Lima Charlie' and 'Good Copy' with the best of them, although we've not let him try his hand at dropping any bombs just yet. Actually getting an underslung load onto the helipad undamaged will be a start, particularly after the last effort (ironically mortar ammunition), which arrived from considerable altitude.

Insert provided by Maj Butterfill– OC A Coy 2 RRF

B Company Group Woqab

Events this month have obviously been overshadowed by the very sad news of Cpl Etchell's death. As a former member of B Coy, he will always be remembered as an outstanding soldier and loyal friend. All in PB WOQAB send their heartfelt prayers, thoughts and condolences to Cpl Etchell's family and loved ones.



B Coy PB WOQAB

It been a busy few weeks since the last newsletter, and not only have I had the pleasure of commanding B Coy for the past three weeks (whilst Maj Rich Coates is on his well-earned R+R), but I also get the privilege of penning this months contribution to the newsletter. I am pleased to say that I found, and will leave B Coy in fine form. All ranks are conducting themselves in a most professional manner and enduring the heat and somewhat basic conditions in WOQAB with excellent humour. As the temperature has risen, so has the pace of life and we've received plenty of attention from the opposition, although we have responded robustly each time, and have repeatedly come off best. We continue to make in-roads with the locals, they obviously still fear the Taliban, but definitely support us, often giving us very useful information on enemy activity and the odd cucumber.



B Coy Patrol forward to clear the Desert Compounds

The main event during my short stint in charge was OP MAR STERGA (Pashtu for SNAKE EYE). This was a deliberate Coy Group operation to push further north into the Desert Compounds than has been done previously on this tour, with the purpose of disrupting enemy activity in the area. B Coy was well supported by 9 PI from C Coy (returning briefly to the WOQAB fold), a Warrior PI from 2 R WELSH, two Mastiff Tps, Combat Engineers, an Engineer CMD Team (small group of explosive enthusiasts) and cameo roles by Captains Tom Oliver and Matt O'Hare. Despite a tense insertion by night (with a short detour around a couple of IEDs and a river crossing over a very wobbly log) the op passed with little incident. We generated some enemy activity further north, but they clearly saw the formidable force we had on the ground and decided not to try their luck. The Op was

deemed a success, as we demonstrated our ability to project force north, and maintain freedom of movement in our area of operations. The CMD team were also happy enough because I let them demonstrate their (none too subtle) method of picking locks and felling trees.

B Company Group Woqab



CSgt Orange takes time out from his busy schedule for a quick photo shoot

There have been several other successes in WOQAB worthy of mention. Sgt Jay Orange was promoted to C/Sgt, leading to a few days of him answering the field telephone "Orange, like the Colour not the fruit". Also across in the 'other' compound 7 PI continue to bond with their ANA and ANP housemates, and have almost convinced them to join in the daily gym sessions. For the entertainment of all, Lt Chris Williams (having only just sobered up from R+R), allowed a wasp to sting him on the lip resulting in much humorous squealing and swelling. Sgt Al Howell our Forward Air Controller has set a new standard for sun tanning, achieving no less than 5 hours a day horizontal and fully oiled up, only occasionally having to take a break to talk to the odd jet that strays into our air-space. Cpl Dex Ansell regretted smoking his celebratory cigar earlier in the tour, as he finally got to fire not one but three Javelin missiles in action, in quick succession and to good effect (unlike our neighbours up on the hill!). Fus Brian 'Tesco' Sainsbury has mastered the art of officer maintenance, and now keeps not only all of our radios up and running, but also the OC and 2IC fed, watered and amused. On the subject of the 2IC, Captain Chris Dixon has now firmly established himself as a mentor/father figure to our fledgling PI Comds (often seen dispensing wisdom in the brew area, sometimes whilst wearing a headband and bearing a striking resemblance to 80's DJ Pat Sharp). Another visitor, WO2 'Spider' Taylor has also had a chance to put the skills learnt on his sniper cadre (some 20 years ago!) to good use and has spent many happy hours on the roof with a scoped rifle.

I've had a great time with B Coy, and wish them all the very best for the rest of the tour.

Insert provided by Maj Head– 2 RRF

C Company Influence Group

As I sit down to write this month's C Coy article we have just learnt of the very sad news of the loss of Cpl Joseph Etchells, A Coy, in SANGIN. He was well known to many of the company and the news is a bitter blow. All of our thoughts in C Coy are with his family and friends and we also pray for the swift recovery of Fus Hughes and White injured in the same incident.



C Coy Gp in PB MINDEN

For C Coy the month has been dominated by the planned move to PB MINDEN to assume command of AO(S) from C Coy 2R WELSH for an interim period whilst they depart to conduct equipment care in BASTION prior to handing over to A Coy 2R WELSH in August. The company looked forward to the new challenge in the knowledge we would be as close as anyone to the Taliban front line. Following a bumpy ride to the PB in MASTIFF vehicles we were briefed on arrival by OC C Coy 2 R WELSH that the plan had changed and a company from 2 PWRR (currently TRB in Cyprus) would be brought in to take control of the AO releasing 2 R WELSH for other tasks. So in a complex series of handovers that saw command pass from OC C Coy 2 R WELSH, to OC C Coy 2RRF, to OC B Coy 2 PWRR in the space of a week our babysitting duties came to an end after eight days forward rather than the twenty three we had hoped for.



***The arrival of B Coy 2PWRR to relief
C Coy 2RRF in PB MINDEN***

C Company Influence Group



Taking a breather during Masons Mad March from Minden to MSQ

With the unpredictability of SH and busy tasking of the MASTIFF company it was decided to walk out from PB MINDEN on our final morning. For some reason this became known as 'Mason's Mad March' but really it was no more than half an ICFT, with similar weight, conducted in the early hours of the morning to limit the heat we would have to suffer. I think the guys were genuinely pleased to be back in the DC with the benefits of electricity, light and comparatively decent food so the patrol back did not seem so bad after all.

R&R is now in full swing with many from 10 Platoon and Recce having departed over the last couple of days. On the flight in this morning the 2IC returned accompanying the new OC, Major Mike Cornwell, who begins his takeover this week.

For my part I handover a wonderful company of men having been in command a little over a year. There are too many characters in the company to name in order to show my gratitude, but I have enjoyed the camaraderie, the deep sense of friendship that has developed over the tour and the unforgiving banter that flies around freely. I am indebted to the CSM, WO2 Ned Miller, whose support and guidance has been unfailing. I leave in the knowledge the company will always be in good hands. I wish Maj Mike Cornwell every success as he takes command and to the officers, NCOs and Fusiliers I wish you a safe remainder of the tour and look forward to seeing you all when you return in October.

Insert provided by Maj Mason— OC C Coy 2 RRF



C Coy Plaque in PB MINDEN

BG (NW) FSG PB Roshan Tower

Life at Roshan Tower remains steady with the only real break in the operational routine being either enemy activity, or people coming and going from R and R. All force elements continue to pull together and all have been involved frequently in what has been our busiest month of the tour so far.

The full complement of the Bury MG Section is now in place and has been the mainstays in fighting off the frequent attacks from the North. Despite the 'regular' 'TA' banter the general consensus is these boys know how to handle a GPMG (SF) when they have to.



ROSHAN TOWER engage the enemy

The enemy forces within our primary arcs are becoming increasingly aware of the capabilities of RT, and are becoming ever more cunning in their attempts to avoid detection. Fortunately all of our observers are alive to this, and are ever vigilant and the vast majority of enemy movement is tracked and reported, and where ROE allow force is used to defeat them. The 29 Jun 09 was a particularly successful day with enemy forces attempting to attack PB WOQAB, and were identified by us and received the sharp end of 4 x 105 rds, 2 x Javelin, and numerous HMG rds. This seemed to dampen the enemy's spirit for a week or two.

On the 27 Jun 09 the progressively more annoying enemy mortar team, which had been using RT for target practice for over 3 weeks, were neutralised by counter battery fire from the guns at FOB Edinburgh following a LCMR generated fire mission. Since then there has been no indirect fire attacks on RT, which is universally appreciated!

Fusilier's Farrell and Whitehead continue to strive for all over bronzed perfection. Their hard work was appreciated by the Desert Hawk 3 Detachment who on an over flight had to witness on their downlink terminal, the pair of them wearing only an issue sock each (I am sure you can all guess where).

The visits from our neighbours in PB WOQAB have steadily decreased in the last month, which they claim is due to concerns over the enemy threat. We remain sceptical, and believe it is the hill up to RT they don't like, and the fact they have realised we hide all of our good rations when they come to visit.

Currently there is real concern at who is going to fill the considerable shoes of RT 'Combat Chefs' Fusiliers Masala and Fatiaki when they go on R and R later this month. They have consistently produced excellent evening meals from the 10 man rations every evening since we arrived at RT. Volunteers are presently thin on the ground, which is no doubt mostly down to the fact they will be a very tough act to follow.

RT 2IC WO2 Mitchinson has arrived back from R and R armed with yet another new camera, and appears to now be in a position to launch an all out assault on the monthly photograph competition running in this publication.

The mail and parcels from friends, family, and even strangers back in the UK continue to go down extremely well, and on behalf of all the troops please keep them coming. Due to a re-supply back log the last mail run brought 30 bags of mail making the welfare tent look like Christmas morning.

At the time of writing I am handing over command at RT to Capt Matt O'Hare, and I wish him and the rest of the team every luck for the remainder of the tour. For me it will be my first footsteps outside the confines of RT in over 3 ½ months which at the moment feels strangely daunting!

Insert provided by Capt Martin Hedley– OC ROSHAN TOWER 2 RRF

Fusiliers Forward Echelon in FOB Edinburgh

Hello from the wonderful world of FOB EDI. The Fusiliers are now well into the swing of things and have a good grip on activities within camp. The summer heat is in full force with temperatures reaching highs of plus 45°C in the midday sun. This is interspersed with occasional windy nights that, rather than offering relief, make it seem like living in a fan assisted oven. However, spirits remain high and the heat is certainly helping the weight loss program!



Cpl Wilson prepares another load for transport to Musa Qal'eh

Our primary function as the resupply hub for the BG in MSQ keeps us busy receiving stores by helicopter and the large logistic convoys from Camp Bastion. The CQMS's crew are now experts in moving the wide range of stores and equipment needed to sustain the BG on operations. We also play hosts to units transiting through the area, such as the recent move of the Warrior Company to conduct its maintenance period.

There has been a steady change over of manpower across all capbadges within the FOB. The mantle of 'The Duke (of Edinburgh)' being passed on by Maj Skelton to Maj Mellar and WO2 Reynolds is shortly to be replaced by WO2 Rawson as Camp Sgt Maj. This has led to a rapid 'Op Bronze' by the current incumbent. Cpl 'Geppetto' Clinton is continuing with his carpentry projects whilst Cpl Watson must be eyeing a future as a petrol station manager following his personal renovation of the POL point.



MASTIFF vehicles prepare to escort the convoy to Musa Qal'eh

Everyone is thinking of home and missing those back there. Having now passed the half way point time seems to be moving rapidly and it won't be too long until we are all safely home.

Insert provided by Maj Mellar – OC FOB EDI 2 RRF

Fusiliers Rear Echelon in Camp Bastion

The winds of change are blowing through the Bastion Detachment. The QM(M) has been replaced by the QM(T) "who got a get out of jail free card" from Rear Party. Cpl Robinson has replaced the creosote man, Sgt Bonsell who has gone back to make sure we have our ceremonial kit, boots crunchy crunchy and all that sorted for when we are back on the Blue Line. Cpl Coulthard is to be congratulated on the new addition to his clan. We wish him, Elaine, baby Kai and big sis Karla all the best.

The pace of life continues. As well as our normal vigorous routine we have had the 2 Combat Logistic Patrols to Musa Qal'eh and from Kandahar, the Equipment Support Inspection, insertion of the TRB Company and the Armoured Infantry Company relief in place to deal with. This has been an all hands to the pumps month and I would be surprised if those of you who have passed through on R & R have not noticed the Bastion Team are not big on down time and sun bathing.

I said this month would be the turn for us to catch up with the Beeps and the Bleeps. Anyone who has ever worked with the MT will know that they are a strange bunch. Even stranger than the Mortar PI at an Ann Summers Party. Luckily for the Bastion Detachment we only have a small selection of the Platoon to report on. Though we were blessed with a visit from The Egg and Silent Fart Robbo for the CLP. Our normal team consists of Sgt Jazzy Jeffers (the brains of the Outfit), Fus Davo Davison (the braun) and Fus Polly (Haley Cropper) Pollard. Up until recently we also had Cpl Smiler Spowart who unfortunately had to go home because nobody could get any work done with his constant laughing and joking about.

These guys put the G into Graft (or was it the T?). The QM can vouch for that. They love their job so much that they take turns in sitting in a vehicle revving away outside the QM's tent all night every night. Nobody can close a cab door or put down a tailgate with as much finesse as them. Cheers Lads!

We have an even smaller contingent from The Wireless Platoon or CIS as they are now known. Sgt Roger Daughtry and Cpl (Big Dave Twittle) Whittle are here ensuring that all the BG's signals needs are met (as long as you don't want any radios, ECM or batteries). No, really they have a great deal to do and a lot of responsibility. They are really fortunate to work from an ISO which on most days now reaches a temperature of about Gas Mark 7.

Sgt Daughtry must be commended for his commitment to PT. At the start of the tour he would be out running around 05:30 before many were up and about. I for one thought this would not last but it has. He continues to clock up the miles like a regular Forrest Gump. Well done. Cpl Whittle has had a bit of a break from Bastion, having gone forward to complete some education training and then covering as a sunbather, I mean signaller at FOB EDI.

As this is my last article for this newsletter before handing over to Captain Blinco, I would like to take the opportunity to pass on my thanks to all the team at Bastion. The whole team have given 100%. Many have surpassed expectations and all deserve a pat on the back. Thanks Fellas. See you all when you get home.

Insert Provided by Maj M McCarthy Quarter Master 2 RRF

Fusiliers Rear Echelon in Camp Bastion



a. PLANES



b. STRAINS



c. AUTOMOBILES

A Day in The Life of A Fusilier in Patrol Base WOQAB

This is my first tour so to be honest apart from what I had been told by other members of the battalion who have been on tour and what I had seen on the TV, I didn't have a clue!

The accommodation for most of the Fusiliers here consists of standard field tents which act like giant saunas during the day and night. The patrol base has not been long established so facilities are pretty limited. We have a welfare tent that consists of a pair of laptops with internet access, a text link machine, a shelf of old newspapers and books but also oddly enough a 32" flat screen T.V. When and only when the generators are working (which isn't very often), we can stick a film on, which results in 20 blokes stuffed in this tent trying to get a decent seat. As you can imagine there are a few arguments over which film to watch. We have toilets that consist of a wooden shack, half a petrol barrel and a sheet of MDF with a hole in it to act as a toilet seat, lovely! There is also gym (collection of dusty weights) and washing facilities that are made up of a couple of benches and some plastic bowls. By far the best part of being based at Woqab is our accesses to the "pool", its actually a canal that runs next to the camp and there is nothing better than having a quick dip to cool yourself down in the middle of the day. We have also found other uses for it, I had my Dad send over a cheap fishing rod and reel, and I managed to catch my first fish a few days ago. I was well chuffed, It was only small but how many other people from back home can say that they have caught a fish in Afghanistan?

Out here there are not many home comforts so as soon as all our mail and parcels arrive, every ones morale is lifted. It is also nice to think that your family, friends & girlfriend care and are thinking of us.

The routine out here is hard but you get on with it, patrolling during the day is the most physically demanding, 45 degree heat and up to 80 lbs on your back there isn't much you can do to prepare yourself for it. Patrols at night consist of me walking into trees and laughing at the man in front falling over. Finally there is force protection that basically means looking after the camp security. I have my R and R in a few weeks time, and can't wait! I miss my little home comforts so much! I have come to the conclusion that a cold pint glass of Ribena, medium rare steak with chips and peppercorn sauce will be my first meal. I can't wait! After my R and R I have only a few months to push out. To be honest all I can think about is how I am going to spend my money.

I know the facilities are not perfect and the heat is torturous but to be honest I am quite enjoying the tour, it's an adventure and a challenge which not many people back home can say they have done. I have 3 months left and all I can do is concentrate on doing my job, keeping my head down and dreading the next patrol to Roshan Tower!

Fus Gareth Brown 6PI B Coy

Expectations of a Platoon Comd

Having finished the Platoon Commanders Battle course on the 1st of May and completed OPTAG I arrived in the heat of Afghanistan on the 14th of May, under the impression that a baptism of fire awaited me...

Prior to deploying we received a short ground brief which made the situation a lot more real and it's fair to say my expectations were fairly high. The challenge that lay ahead was slightly daunting but more so was the excitement of the unknown. Based on the pace of life whilst training at Sandhurst and PCBC I was expecting to be getting into the thick of things 24/7.

The initial baptism of fire wasn't quite so, and after a comprehensive handover takeover period I had been given the reigns. The pace of life is somewhat different to what I was expecting, things can be fairly monotonous for days at a time, but activity will pick up in a flash and swiftly remind us of where we are. One of the key considerations of a new Platoon commander is his relationship between the platoon Sergeant and the Section Commanders. What is clear is that their knowledge and experience is priceless in all areas.

After the initial "shock of capture", I have settled into the new home at PB Woqab and continue to learn more each day. Family and friends are all very supportive sending out lots of parcels. Noel Webb and I arrived at the same time and are thus in the same boat together which is comforting. We are being mentored and supported by the Coy 2 IC who has a wealth of experience to share, and we have quickly learnt to respect and look to him as a father figure. Fortunately our progress is being diligently monitored by the 'Flap-o-metre' which is regularly updated by the senior NCOs' of B Company! I am now looking forward to the usual ice cold beer, steak and some quality time with my family.

2Lt Tony Bryant OC 6PI B Coy

MUSA QAL'EH RAP

With the advance party of the RAP arriving almost 4 months ago now there have been plenty of variety in the cases seen presenting at the RAP. In addition all of the medics have managed to get out of the DC for a taste of the 'real stuff'. We even let the Doc out for a spell during Op MAR LEWE, where by the sounds of it, he spent most of his time making walls and plastering rather than treating people!

Along with the usual doses of D&V, thankfully now settled after the introduction of the WAGBAG, we have seen some more unusual ailments and the odd scorpion sting. Fortunately we have seen a much lower incidence of serious trauma than other Battle Groups around Helmand amongst our own troops so far. The ANA and ANP have been less lucky and have provided the majority of the RAP's serious casualties.

There has been a steady trickle of Local Nationals presenting too – too often the unfortunate victim of enemy laid IEDs. One particular local of note though was a child brought in with burns. Unable to send him for care through our own system officially, we chose to treat him at the RAP over a period of time.



MO Capt Hawksley, LCpl Birkett (CMT1) and resident ANA medic dress a local child's burns.

During Op MAR LEWE two ANP policemen received gunshot wounds early on and were brought back to the CMT2 attached to the OMLT Tac Gp. Both were quickly patched up before being MEDEVAC'd by PEDRO US Blackhawks. Weeks later the same two policemen returned to MSQ RAP to give their thanks and have their well healing wounds looked at.



ANP Policeman with Pte Henry who had given him initial treatment at the scene of wounding during Op MAR LEWE, now back in the RAP giving his thanks.

Soldiers in Action

Photo Competition:

Entries for the photo competition are to be with the editor no later than the 14th of each month whilst in theatre. The winning picture will be judged and a prize of £50 awarded to the best image. All images are to be saved in JPEG and with the name of the photographer and a description of the photo (who, when and where).

Take a look below at the fist entries into the competition, Remember you have got to be in it to win it !

The Commanding Officer would like to commend the high calibre of photographs entered this month they were of an exceptional standard which made judging them a lot harder.

This Months Winning Image



**Dmr Shear plays the last post during
Fus Suesue sunset vigil
(prize £50)**



**RA Dragon gun fires in support of B Coy
Image supplied by WO2 Mitchinson**



**B Coy deploy on a GDA in the Green Zone
Supplied by 2Lt Piper**



B Coy tackles all obstacles



A Coy FSG provide FSP



Providing cover in the Green Zone

A Coy Gp in Action

