



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2007, and we start as we don't mean to go on – running late already. We hope you had an excellent Xmas and New Year, if you can remember that far back, we can – we even have an outstanding article about the December Wales trip.

As ever it's been a busy start to the year with the cadets doing all sorts of activities, pretty much every weekend. We have had to say goodbye to some familiar faces and welcome some new ones. You may notice that Plt Off Davies is not writing the intro this month – that is because he is lugging a log around a field somewhere near Sandhurst – yes, for those of you that know Dan, he has finally started training to be an Army Officer. Great for him, bad for the Squadron. We have also welcomed three people on to the uniformed staff team (see Promotions section).

It is with regret I must also announce the death of Marine Tom Curry who was killed in action in Afghanistan. Tom was a cadet for 4 years. He will be fondly remembered and was friends with many of the staff team and ex-cadets.

With this newsletter you will have received the OC's letter regarding the increase in subs payments. Unfortunate, but I think it's fair to say there aren't many other organisations that give young people such great value for money (75p per night and free flying, gliding and shooting!!!)

As its now down to me to pull this novella together, and I have recently spent three weeks in Italy ice climbing with Plt Off Matt Davies (Staff Development training!) I apologise for any glaring errors – it was a bit of a rush this month. I would like to thank Cdt Emily Channon for helping with this edition – she may yet make sub-editor! Enjoy.

Nick Harvey
Flying Officer RAF VR(T)
OIC Adventure Training & Co-editor 241 Sqn Newsletter

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General News

The Squadron Social Events

Celebrating the end of '06 and the beginning of the 241's 67th Year.
Cadet Adam Sinclair

Throughout the year at 241, we have three main parties; the Summer party, the Christmas party, and the largest of them all, the Dinner and Dance.

To celebrate the end of 2006, the Christmas party was held at Wanstead Rugby Club. Everyone had a great night as always, dancing the night away, with great music, high spirits and a great atmosphere. We were all highly entertained by the costumes of some of the cadets which included, 'The Village People', the "Spice Girls", Santa's "Elves" and even a penguin! A big thank you to ICWO Molen and CPL Sandhu for organising it and everyone who helped make it such a brilliant night. A great way to finish a busy year for 241.

On February 2nd 241 had its annual Dining In night, in which the squadron formally dines out cadets and staff going into regular Service or other career paths and also to dine in some new members, as well as remember those who have sadly passed away during the year.

Leaving us this year were; Flt Lt Simon Grant who has been on the Sqn for 11 years, Plt Off Jason Reuben and Sgt Andy Webb, who are now Officer Cadets in training at RAF College Cranwell and ICWO Paul

Fothergill who is soon to be off travelling in Australia for 3 months.

This is also a chance for the ladies of 241 to buy extremely expensive dresses, to show them off and maybe impress a few people!

Upon arrival, the professional photographer took pictures of the cadets, and everyone had a chance to greet each other before making their way into the dining hall. Then a delicious dinner was served, and once everyone had eaten their fill, there were speeches made by Squadron Leader Jerry Godden and other members of staff. We toasted Royal Marine Tom Curry, an ex cadet who was tragically killed in action in Afghanistan. Also sadly missed was Ethel McGrath; the dear wife of Norman, who was also later toasted, a man who gave over 50 years of service to 241. Another toast too, to absent friends, some of whom are on active service.



Finally, the tables were cleared and we danced the night away - merrily, to say the least... All in all, a superb night! Thanks again to Plt Off Brogden-Knight and Sgt Dent who organised it and to everyone who has made the past year so successful for 241!

NCO Cadre

Cadet Bianca Nicklen

12 – 14 Jan

Our Squadron has some of the best NCO's in London Wing. To bring them up to such high standards we hold a BTEC approved weekend course at Crowborough in early (and cold) January.

We all arrived on Friday night and were briefed on the format of the weekend. Saturday was jam-packed with PT in the morning, breakfast and an intensive session of drill where we could all perfect our drill commands. After a quick break there was...more drill. But after this the blues side of the weekend was over and so commenced the field side. This consisted of a 24 hour field ex. The emphasis of this was leading a section, rather than being tactical. The weekend was very physically demanding with the walk out to the training area in full combats, bergan and kevlar. Once out there it was time to fill ourselves up on a ration-pack dinner.

When the sun had set, the night exercise began. The 2 sections were set off to go around Pipingford Park training area on their various missions. After completing these we set up our harbour position - the only time we had to rest on the whole field exercise - under the stars in the cold January night.

We were up early Sunday morning and this was as busy as the day before. In turn we took command of our section to complete a leadership task which was marked by the staff, after all, this was a pass or fail exercise. The final command task was to get from one side of the river to the other. The aim was to build a raft that would take us and our kit across. One section managed it well and everyone got across with all their kit dry. The other section on the other hand, didn't do so well. With the raft not staying afloat and together every cadet ended up in the water carrying their own kit, while trying to salvage their sinking raft.



The water at Crowborough is cold in January

After everyone was out of the freezing water it was a quick change of combats and it was the final TAB (Tactical Advance to Battle) back to camp. This was the final pass or fail element of the weekend. The TAB was up a steep hill and it had to be done as quickly as possible. When we reached the half way point we were given a stretcher with bergans on to carry back to Crowborough training camp. Working as a team and taking it in turns to carry the load we were back in no time.

Finally back at the Squadron we all reflected back on the weekend and how much we had encountered both physically and mentally. We had all learnt so much about what we are capable of and to top it all off there was a 100% pass rate. Everyone's hard work had paid off.

Wales Mountaineering Exercise

Cadet Adam Sinclair

2 – Mar 07

The other cadets and I got to the squadron at around 1830hrs, packed the kit and set off on our journey to the Welsh mountains. Six hours later, we arrived at the bunkhouse. We got our heads down as soon as we arrived so we could be prepared for the next day. When the morning came, my group (instructed by Plt Off. Matt Davies) climbed Carnedd Daffydd and Carnedd Llewellyn (both 1000m+) horseshoe from Llyn Ogwen, whilst the other group (instructed by Fg. Off. Nick Harvey) climbed the north ridge of Tryfan, Bristley Ridge, and the Glyderau. Meanwhile, the final group (instructed by AWO Morris) climbed Snowdon. I must admit, halfway up we peaked a small ridge which I thought was the final peak. I sat down with relief, only to hear Plt Off Davies happily singing "Sinclair Thought It Was Over, La la la" much to my dismay. When the group recovered from hysterics, we continued to reach the peak of Carnedd Daffydd. We were then told to navigate to the peak of Carnedd Llewellyn. All in all, this took us three to four hours including the first mountain and 'Admin Stops' (i.e. food breaks).



Once this was finished, we began to navigate our way down to the reservoir at the bottom. After a bit of contouring around vertical rocks, we reached the bottom. However, we were yet to find that we had a 4km walk back to the minibus! Some of us didn't quite make it back, so we had to be picked up along the way. Upon arrival to the bunkhouse, we each had a shower and were taken to the local town. We had dinner, which for most of us was fish and chips. Afterwards, we got back to the bunkhouse and stuck on a DVD.

The next morning we packed all of our kit away and in to the van, apart from our day sack. We were driving into town for some shopping as it was bucketing down with rain. After a while, the weather picked up a little, so we were told we would be abseiling. I thoroughly enjoyed this though because of the weather. This was one of the highlights of the weekend for me as it had a sense of challenge in it.



Abseiling in the rain

We departed for home, almost 'accidentally' leaving Cpl Ferrari in the petrol station! After another 6 hours of travel, we got back, unpacked the kit and went home.

Thanks to Fg Off Harvey, Plt Off Davies and AWO Morris for organizing a very enjoyable trip.

Region Cross Country

Cadet Fadhil

20 Jan 07

The inter-region cross country competition took place on the 20th January 2007 at RAF Cranwell. Nominated cadets were Sgt Fothergill, cdt's Fadhil, Al-aku, Windebank and Henry. We met up and where taken to Cranwell by coach the night before. We each had our own room for the night... though we didn't get much sleep! We had to be up at 7 for breakfast. We finally got going with the races later that morning. Jason Reuben had made his way there to cheer 241 on. The races proved to be over a difficult course, although Cdt Fadhil qualified to race at Corps level, which was quite an achievement. However, we all achieved region blues so we didn't come away with nothing.

ATC Sunday Parade at St Clement Danes 2007

Cadet Dawson

4 Feb 07

On the morning of Sunday 4th February 2007, we participated in the Annual ATC Parade, in which cadets come together from the various wings and march through the streets of London to commemorate the founding of the Air Training Corps. Many members of the public attended too; all of whom seemed both interested and impressed, many stopping to take pictures of the cadets parading to the RAF Church, St Clement Danes. We then attended a short Church Service in celebration of the founding of the ATC.

Team News



Mountaineering Team:

2 Flight and Mountaineering Team Trip to Wales

Cadet Johanson

Dec 06

On a cold November evening 2 Flight set out on a trip that was organised for the cadets and NCO's as a weekend to bond and to experience different activities that the mountains have to offer.

After arriving in Snowdonia after a near 6 hour journey, we were told that the girls would be staying in the heated house with a T.V in it, and, much to our disgust, us boys would have to be accommodated in the bunkhouse, complete with "hole in the fire door". We got on with the task in hand however and quickly chose bunks to stay in. We were then briefed about what was to happen over the coming weekend which, much to our surprise, wouldn't pan out quite as we would have liked. We woke early on Saturday morning to find that it had been, and still was, raining heavily. Our plans of Rock Climbing and Cycling were sent along with the rain, right down the gutter! However, in true 241 spirit, the weather failed to dampen our spirits and we went for a day in the town centre, to stuff our faces full of food and buy gifts for loved ones!

After a few hours roaming the streets there, we were ushered into the van and were told that we would be rock-climbing for the next couple of hours. We met up with FO Harvey and AWO Morris for a lesson in how to climb safely and most of all how to make it fun. We had a great time scrambling up the craggy rock faces and abseiling down them, all the while gaining invaluable experience in rock-climbing. A three-course meal at a pub followed and we all ate well and pulled Christmas crackers, not to mention Cdt Dawson getting ketchup all over his jumper, to the delight of the rest of us! We got back late and were greeted by SGT Bhadresha and SGT Fothergill who already had some form of party going, with music playing and everyone talking and having a good time.

On Sunday, the weather was so poor that we couldn't do anything! Once again we spent the day in the local town, taking in Welsh culture and, as one of our aims stated, bonded not only as staff, NCO's and cadets, but also has companions and as friends. We then returned home, not having done much climbing, but happy all the same! A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had by all and a big thank you to all those who organised it!

Shooting Team:

The season started with a great shoot in the spring sunshine. The team attended Ash ranges on Sunday 11th March for a Pre-Bisley shoot, where new team members got a chance to become familiar with the L81-A2 Target Rifle.

Minibus Fund

The minibus is ordered; we hope to take delivery sometime this century!

Promotions / Awards

Promoted to Corporal:

Ross Graham
Ryan O' Grady
Jak Ferrari

Commissioned into the RAF VR(T):

Matt Davies
Holly Brogden Knight

Commenced post as Adult Sgt:

Michelle Cheah

Joined as Civilian Instructors:

Dan Goldman
Nina Haywood
Kate Channon
Jodie Graham

Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

FS Pisano

Deputy Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

CWO Fothergill, CWO Molen

Your Views

This newsletter has taken a fair amount of time to prepare. We would appreciate your views on it. Is it worth the effort? Have you enjoyed reading it? How can we improve it? Also if you have any other comments on the squadron we would love to hear them too. Please use the contact form at:

www.241squadron.com/contact.php

Forthcoming events:

23 – 25 March: Crowborough (Recruit Course and Field Training Exercise)

30 March: Air Experience Flying

31 March – 7 April: Scotland (Mountaineering Team) **Only Three Places Left!!!!**

21 April: Shooting Competition

29 April: McGrath Trophy Inter Section Field Day (All Cadets!)

4 – 7 May: Rock Climbing in The Peak District

13 May: L81 Team Shoot, Wing Athletics

20 May: Squadron Shoot

26 – 31 May: Beginner's Lakes

