

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another edition of the 241 Squadron Newsletter. It has been another busy couple of months for everyone on 241 (but when has it not?!)

With the exam season beginning, most other squadrons have slowed down their activities but over the past few months we've had more cadets than ever take part in the wide range of activities that the Corps has to offer.

We're also pleased to announce that our new building has finally been built! After 3 months of building work on the new extension, the Squadron can at last put to use the three new training rooms. This is great news for the Squadron, as with our ever increasing number of cadets; each class now has its own training room for their lessons on parade nights, which makes a pleasant change from teaching cadets out of the back of the Landrover!

Please take note of the open day. It's on 21st June and will be a day packed full of displays and stands for you to see what we get up to on the squadron!

Lastly, the decision has been made to change from a quarterly, to a tri-annual newsletter, but packed full of more to hear about!

Good luck to all those Cadets taking exams, and to the rest – have a relaxing summer.

Enjoy,

Alex

Alexandra Dutch
Sergeant
IC No.1 Flt and Editor 241 Squadron newsletter

Advanced Glider Training *Cpl Kiran Babla* 12-16th January 2009

During 12th-16th January, three of cadets from 241 Squadron (CWO Dent, Sgt Davidson and (then!) Cdt Babla) went on an Advanced Gliding Training Course at RAF Syerston in order to receive their Gold Wings, which comprised going solo 5 times and learning advanced flying techniques.

The week started off quite good, the food and accomodation at RAF Cranwell was amazing and we met 4 other cadets from other Squadrons, with funny Liverpoolian accents!

Unfortunately the weather let us down on most days. On Monday, all of flying and gliding was suspended due to the rain and poor visibility. However, Tuesday cleared up, and we all got out to fly! It was tricky going back and being slightly rusty at flying, not remembering some of the checks and I even landed quite badly, but this soon brought back memories and my mind cleared up for the rest of the week.

The weather was poor on most mornings, and we found ourselves sitting in the Flight Room going over ground lessons or watching Pearl Harbour and Titanic over and over! But when it cleared up for the afternoon, we were all taken outside to fly!



Cpl Babla sitting in the Cockpit of a Vigilant Glider

However, the week didn't seem to be getting better. By Thursday evening, only CWO Dent had gone solo. Which meant another 4 solos for her and another 5 solos left for myself and Sgt Davidson, which had to be done in one day. So we all assumed we'd be leaving without getting our wings, especially when we found the weather hadn't got any better on Friday morning.

On Friday afternoon, my instructor told me that the weather was too bad, so I couldn't go solo. I was annoyed that I had spent a week without flying that much, and I didn't even have the chance to go solo... but the weather felt sorry for us... and decided to clear up... in the last hour of Friday afternoon! I was told I could get 1 solo in, and maybe complete the 4 other solos next time I came, but I knew that I could do more.

Both myself and Sgt Davidson raced to get as many solos as we could and in the 1 hour we had, we both got 4 solos done, and we were told to wrap up. CWO Dent had done her 5 solos, so I thought she would be the only one who would get her Gold, but we were all given our Gold wings for effort and for completing 4 solos in such poor weather! I was really happy about getting my gold wings, and I'm sure CWO Dent and SGT Davidson are happy about it too! Next step: fast jets!

ATC Sunday *Cadet Hollie Fox* 5th February 2009

ATC Sunday - so what is it? It's the ATC's birthday! This year the Corps turned 90 and to celebrate many squadrons from the Region took part in a march through London, ending up in the RAF Church where a non-religious service took place. The service included readings, hymns and praise from Air Commodore Stewart AOC ATC.

The march incorporated a band, a banner party from each Wing and a Region banner party. The region banner party consisted of cadets from our squadron. In the banner party was the Banner Bearer - CWO Caroline Dent, Corporal Alex Dutch, Corporal Bianca Nicklen and myself Cadet Hollie Fox! I felt very honoured to have been picked to be in the Region banner party, and I think we did a great job and so did the rest of our squadron and wing. As well as this, Sgt Dominic Ischt was selected to carry the Wing

Banner. After the march, the region banner party had to stand smartly outside the church where we greeted many VIP's including Air Commodore Stewart who came over and talked to us and he told us how smart we looked, I felt very proud!

Overall this day was really good fun and I hope to take part in it again next year!

Epping Forest Night Exercise *Cadet Jack Dutney* Friday 13th February

Over the night of the 13th-14th of February cadets including myself took to the forest in 4 sections led by senior NCOs for an all night exercise.

Throughout the night we took part in a range of activities including a first aid incident in which we had to deal with and transport the casualties to the main road. All night we were navigating through the forests to get to the command tasks.

We were thrown straight into the activities, and within 10 minutes of navigating through the forest, we ran into our first obstacle – a river! Our section had to build a bridge over a 2 meter stretch of water using planks, scaffolding poles and rope after which we all had to cross without touching the water within a set time limit. After we had completed the exercise we tactically moved to another exercise to test our teamwork skills where we had to take 3 wooden poles up to flat ground where we used the poles and a lot of rope to build a very large tripod within a time limit.

After all the sections had completed their command tasks and returned to the FRV to be welcomed by a hot cup of soup. Every section set out carrying a barrel to the final assault point just 500 meters away. After a very eventful night we set out for the minibuses to transport us back to the squadron.

Field Training at Longmoor *Cpl Kiran Babla* 27th-29th March 2009

Being the best squadron in the country, 241 also doesn't fail at being the best at field training and that means that our Squadron's field training varies differently from others, pushing it's cadets to do their very best in various activities.

Field training, like many other activities, is like marmite: you either love it or you hate it. That is why our squadron takes a slightly different approach by putting our cadets through a phase system. There are 5 phases of field training, all of which must be completed consecutively. Phase 1 is an introduction to fieldcraft, teaching cadets how to survive in the field, how to communicate tactically, how to cook using a hexi cooker, different types of movements and all sorts of skills which are used in later phases. Each phase is harder than the last, Phase 5 being the last and the hardest. After completing Phase 5, a cadet can be awarded a Phase 5 Flash, which is sewn on their CS95 Shirt.

The field exercise at Longmoor was very different from the exercise that is usually held at Crowborough's training area - Pippingford Park. The scenery looked more like something out of the Jurassic Park movies, with various types of terrain, whether it was sandy hills or dense forest land, it was definitely a different experience from Crowborough.

We arrived on a Friday night, this weekend I was on Phase 3. We unloaded the kit from the minibus and were each given ration packs for the weekend, then set out for the night. We slept outside, under ponchos, which protected us from the rain.

We awoke on a wet Saturday morning, cooked, ate, squared everything away and completed Operation Wide-awake. This activity was a 500m run and press-ups with all our kit on and was our wake-up call for what we were going to encounter during the weekend. During the day, we were taught various skills in concealment and how to attack the enemy effectively. We were then invited to a burst of hail stones for a few minutes, leaving us wet for the rest of the day. However the day cleared up, and the sun came out, and we soon dried up!



Sgt Davidson briefing the cadets for the final attack.

The night came and we got ready for the night exercise. This included navigating and reconnaissance scenarios in a pitch-black environment, unable to see very much! After this exercise, we set up our ponchos, and got ready for the second night. Two cadets had to be on constant watch throughout the night, in case there were any enemy nearby. After not much sleep, we then woke up on a cold Sunday morning – the last day.

We cooked, ate, packed up and left for more field craft lessons. After a few hours of more fieldcraft, we came to the final activity, aptly named "Final Attack". This involved using all our skills to attack the enemy. After this was completed, we came to our very last activity, which everyone dreaded – the "tab back". This involved a 4 mile run back to the training camp, enduring steep hills, and wearing all our kit on our backs. This was completed in just over an hour.

For all the hard work and effort the 241 cadets put in to the weekend, we were all awarded a PASS, and a great sense of achievement, allowing us to take part in upcoming field exercise in November. Bring on Phase 3!!

Region Sports *Cadet Sophia Plent* 23rd March 2009

This year, cadets from London and South East Region were chosen, from Wing teams, to represent the region in both Junior Rugby and Junior Netball. The competition took place at Royal Air Force Cosford and teams travelled from as far Northern Ireland and Scotland. The day of the competition began bright and early

and the atmosphere was friendly yet competitive. Our region netball team, LASER, got off to a good start drawing their first match and winning the remaining four. The team bonded extremely well and worked as a team from start to finish and achieved a well-earned first place. The region rugby team were also very dedicated to their game but were unfortunately, knocked out during one of the earlier stages of the competition. I really enjoyed participating in the Region netball competition and really hope to be chosen again next year. The experience was fun and I made lots of new friends within the region.

241 Wins the Mayors Challenge *Sgt Alex Dutch*
5th May 2009

On the 5 May 2009, representatives from 241 Squadron were invited to attend the Mayor's Challenge presentation at the Ilford Town Hall. Those in attendance from the Squadron were Sgt (ATC) Daniel Goldman, Cpl Alex Dutch, Cdt Akshay Mandalia and our Squadron Chairman Mr Richard Barnes.



Sgt (ATC) Dan Goldman, Cllr Lorraine Sladden, Sgt Alex Dutch, Cadet Akshay Mandalia after they received the award.

The Mayors Challenge is a scheme put into place by the Mayor of Redbridge, who pledged to raise £100,000 during her Mayoral year. All the money raised goes to Haven House Hospice (who the Squadron has been working with over the past couple of years) and the Dream Factory. Both are charities that work specifically with children. This year, the Mayor decided to give out awards in recognition of all the money raised throughout Redbridge, and introduced various categories to enter and prizes for the most amount of money raised in each category.

241 entered into the Youth award, and ended up raising over £1000 through bag packs. It was a very prestigious event with many different organisations and local dignitaries in attendance as well as the mayor and deputy mayor. After a quick introduction, the prize giving started, and Sgt Goldman went up to collect our certificate of achievement from the Mayor. When the awards for the winners in each category were announced, it was wonderful to hear that we had won the award for the collecting the most amount of money in the Youth Category. When the awards ceremony had finished we went to have our photo taken with the mayor, who then invited us, along with the rest of the winners, for tea and biscuits in the parlour. It was great to be able to talk to the

other people, and to see how they'd raised money for this challenge.

The Mayoral year has just finished, so hopefully the new Mayor will carry on with this scheme. If so, 241 will definitely enter next year and go out to raise even more money!!

London Wing JNCO Course *Cpl Yazmin Gachette*
14th-15th March 09

On the 14th March 2009, myself and Cpl Babla attended the London Wing JNCO Course for Corporals all over London. It was held at The TA centre in Mile End and unlike all other previous JNCO courses, this course – the 10th of its kind, was to be non-residential. So already, before it had even begun, we expected the course to be very different to the last course that some of 241's NCOs had previously attended and recommended.

On the first day, we were welcomed by familiar faces from around the wing, and soon got the usual questioning that many cadets from 241 receive, asking us how we win every event going! However, before we knew it, we were formed up outside having a formal uniform inspection and learning how to properly inspect a section of cadets ourselves. We then got assigned a mentor which was a member of London wing staff, who was going to be constantly assessing our progress on the course. After lunch, we all got out our loud drill voices and began shouting drill commands, using the right technique – which in my opinion was the best part of the course! The afternoon saw us sit down for a bit, taking notes on leadership theory, followed by putting the newly learnt skills to practise in several command tasks, whilst under careful watch by London Wing Staff.

Sunday, the last day of the course began with drill, ended with drill and had a general service knowledge test sandwiched in the middle. The first drill session showed us the correct way to call and perform various different drill commands. The General Service Knowledge Test was turned into a fun team game of giant snakes and ladders – to demonstrate that not all lessons have to be theory when at the squadron on parade nights. Then, just before lunch, we had a surprise visit from the Wing Commander, and she complimented our efforts so far on the course. The second drill session of the day was to teach us how to make drill more appealing to recruits, which was particularly useful for us 241 cadets, seeing how many recruits join every year! The day quickly ended and all cadets were debriefed, and told whether they passed or failed the course. Both myself and Cpl Babla passed the course with Merit passes, and overall, I feel the course was very useful in helping me learn how to be a JNCO on 241 squadron.

McGrath Trophy Competition *Cadet Hollie Fox*
26th April 2009

The McGrath trophy is the premier military skills event that is run by the Sqn and sees the 3 main Flight's sections battle it out with each other in the following events; first aid, drill, observation, shooting, orienteering, command task, obstacle course and general service knowledge.

I was in 2 Section, which was led by then, Cpl Alex Dutch. In our section there were 10 of us, which meant two people could sit out

on each event as only 8 cadets, including the section commander, were needed; this was an advantage as we used our best cadets per event. Unfortunately, most of us 'died' on the command task; however we brought it back with the obstacle course beating the second best section by half a minute.

Training for McGrath became a regular occurrence, every Wednesday we ran the BFT, went over GSK and other things we needed to polish up on such as drill. We were pretty confident when competition day arrived, and we were all rearing to go, even on the journey there we were reading over GSK and first aid.

Overall we won 5 out of 8 events, which is really good going! Each time they announced we won an event it felt like such an achievement, and when the final result was announced, and we found out that we won, we all couldn't help but give a cheer and smile. After all the effort put in by every member of the section we won! It was such an enjoyable day with really hot weather to go with it, and everyone put in 101% from all sections. Thanks for all the staff and NCOs that organised it, and well done 2 section!!

Lord Lieutenants Cadet for London Sqn Ldr Jerry Godden
13th March 2009

On Thursday 15 March a proud Cadet Warrant Officer Ajvir Sandhu received his Lord Lieutenants Certificate and badges from the Lord Lieutenant of London, Sir David Brewer CMG JP, at the home of the Reserve and Cadet Forces at Fulham, in front of a high ranking audience and his mother and sister. One of three cadets, one from each service so honoured each year; Ajvir can look forward to a busy and eventful year of duties.

Chosen from over 4000 Air Cadets Ajvir is the London Wing representative for the Dacre Sword Competition (for the best Male Air Cadet in the UK, and thus is in the top 36 Air Cadets in the Corps), holds a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Gold Gliding Wings and has been selected for a Flying Scholarship in July, as well as being the Senior Cadet NCO on the largest Squadrons in

the country. He is the latest in a long line of holders of this Office from 241 Squadron, with recent holders of the post being Fg Offs Nick Harvey, Holly Brogden-Knight and Plt Off Kris Pisano, all having been honoured when cadets. As a Lord Lieutenants

Cadet, Ajvir will assist the Lord Lieutenant with his ceremonial duties over the next year and will get to rub shoulders with the great and the good during this time. He will act as an ambassador for the ATC and be a visible link to the Corps with the opinion makers he will meet.

Lord-lieutenants are the monarch's representatives in their lieutenancy. It is their foremost duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown, and in so doing they seek to promote a spirit of co-operation and good atmosphere by the time they give to voluntary and benevolent organisations and by the interest they take in the business and social life of their counties.

Promotions / Awards

Promoted to Corporal

Kiran Babla
Yazmin Gachette
Jessica Murphy
Luke Thompson

Promoted to Sergeant

Alex Dutch
Adam Sinclair
Jack Chavner

Promoted to Flying Officer (VRT)

Holly Brogden-Knight

Recruiting

The next Recruit Course starts on Wednesday 10th June will be another big recruiting effort so if you have any friends or relatives who wish to join, bring them along.

Forthcoming events

June

10th June – Recruit flight 62 starts
13-14th June – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions
20th June – GIC
27th June – Summer Ball

July

5th July – L81 Shoot
9th-12th July – ISCRM
29th-31st July – Gold/Silver practice expeditions

August

1st-8th August – St.Mawgen Camp
22nd-29th August – Gold/Silver Lakes

For a more detailed calendar please go to the forum!