



Prime Minister

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MR. POWELL

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REACTIONS TO GULF POSTINGS

- 1. The Prime Minister might be interested to see the attached letter from the Commanding Officer of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, describing the Regiment's reactions to their posting to the Gulf.

- 2. The Queen's Irish Hussars are an amalgam of the 4th and 8th Hussars. The former was, of course, Churchill's old Regiment, in which as Honorary Colonel he continued to take a close interest when I served briefly with them.

- 3. Their enthusiasm for active involvement in the present crisis was to be expected. Their reactions as described in the CO's letter are nonetheless heartening.

ChC

CHRISTOPHER CURWEN

12 OCTOBER 1990

FROM: LIEUTENANT COLONEL A G DENARO



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS
BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE 38
FALLINGBOSTEL MIL EXT 203
HOME 01049-5162-5327

DO/AGD

22nd September 1990

Dear Irish Hussar,

I had planned to write to you all having returned from my recce to Saudi Arabia, but that has now been delayed and I may not have time to do it afterwards: this is therefore just a short note to bring you up to date on the Regiment and our preparations and plans for deployment on Op Granby as part of 7th Armoured Brigade.

The Corps Commander visited us on the 2nd of August whilst we were training on Soltau. It was 30 degrees heat and the dust was horrendous as those of you who know Soltau can imagine. It was the day Iraq invaded Kuwait and I jokingly said that the conditions we were experiencing on Soltau made us ideally suited for deployment to the Gulf....

It was not however until the day that the Secretary of State for Defence announced that he was planning to send 100 tanks and 5000 men to the Gulf that we really started to believe that the Regiment had a chance of going. The confirmation that 7 Brigade was to go, came on Friday the 14th. I returned from the Divisional Commander's O Group at 1700 hrs and spoke to the whole Regiment. The Guidon was marched on accompanied by the Pipe Major and the band played: for those of us on parade, it was a day we will always remember. From that moment to this, we have been working almost a 24 hour day.

You will know the Brigade orbat from the various newspaper accounts. It is great for us to be under command of Brigadier Patrick Cordingley of the Skins, and to be along side our friends, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. As we have gone up to 'war establishment', I have been able to invite reinforcements from other regiments, principally 17/21 Lancers and the Skins. There would not have been room for any of those if I have been able to take all the volunteers from Regimental officers and other ranks who are at ERE. Sadly I couldn't. That said, we have been able to pull back a good number; even Tim Bidie, who left us 7 years ago, has somehow managed to sign on as a TA officer attached QRIH, and is coming with us. I attach a list of officers.

You can imagine the kind of preparations that are going on; they are no different to those many of you have made in the past. You can also imagine what an incredible feeling there is in the Regiment at the moment; an eagerness, a pride and an awareness of the responsibility we carry. Over all, the support in every single facet from across the Divison, the Corps and the Army has been almost overwhelming. One of the most practical offers of help came from the QDG who are going to look after most of our 22 polo ponies throughout the winter!

There is a goodwill, with a barely concealed envy, from everyone who is not coming. This has been particularly heartening in respect of the families who we are leaving behind. A very good system for caring for them has been established and will be up and running before we go.

We deploy in about a fortnight by ship and air, the details of which are yet undisclosed.

I would like to thank all of you who have written, signalled or telephoned your support; I have had Colonel George's '400' points for Desert Warfare typed out and distributed to all tank commanders - they are invaluable.

All of us in the Regiment are mindful of the heritage that we bear and are determined that the great name of the Regiment will continue to be heard and read about throughout this next chapter in our history.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Harris

Pristine virtutis memores

Mente et manu

APPOINTMENT

1. CO - LT COL ARTHUR DENARO
 2. 2IC - MAJ RICHARD THORNELY
 3. ADJT - CAPT ANDREW CUTHBERT
 4. OPS - CAPT ROBERT HUTTON
 5. RSO - CAPT ROBIN MURRAY BROWN
 6. IO - CAPT TOM BECKETT
 7. BDE LO - CAPT BOBBY NOONE
 8. FLANK LO - CAPT TIM BIDIE
 9. WKPR - CAPT RICHARD PALEY
 10. WKPR - CAPT NICK MARSHALLSAY 1RTR
 11. WKPR - CAPT PADDY ACHESON
 12. WKPR - CAPT PIERS HANKINSON 17/21 L

A SQN

13. SQN LDR - MAJ HUGH PIERSON
 14. 2IC - CAPT STEVE McCLUSKEY
 15. BC - CAPT PETER McFARLANE 5 INNIS DG
 16. TP LDR - LT DAVID MADDEN
 17. TP LDR - LT MICHAEL HARTWELL
 18. TP LDR - SSGT WRIGHT
 19. TP LDR - LT NICK COTTON 17/21 L
 20. LO - CT CHARLES MALET

B SQN

21. SQN LDR - MAJ DAVID SWANN
 22. 2IC - CAPT JOHNNY ORMEROD
 23. BC - LT TONY HOOD 5 INNIS DG
 24. TP LDR - LT SIMON REDMAN
 25. TP LDR - LT JAMES RAINBIRD
 26. TP LDR - SSGT STEVENSON
 27. TP LDR - LT TIM BUXTON 17/21 L
 28. LO - CT DARA SUGRUE

C SQN

29. SQN LDR - MAJ NIGEL BEER
 30. 2IC - CAPT CHARLES ALEXANDER
 31. BC - LT DAVID YOUNG 5 INNIS DG
 32. TP LDR - SSGT HAYDEN
 33. TP LDR - LT ANDREW BOTT
 34. TP LDR - CT RUPERT JOCELYN-THOMAS
 35. TP LDR - LT WILL WYATT 17/21 L
 36. LO - CT HENRY CAMILLERI

D SQN

37. SQN LDR - MAJ TOBY MADDISON
 38. 2IC - CAPT PHILIP NAPIER RRW
 39. BC - CAPT IVAN RUTHERFORD
 40. TP LDR - LT CHRISTOPHER MILLETT
 41. TP LDR - SSGT SMITH
 42. TP LDR - LT ALEXANDER CORMACK
 43. TP LDR - CAPT TIM PURBRICK 17/21 L
 44. LO - CT DAVID WEBB

HQ SQN

45. SQN LDR - MAJ MARCUS PILLEAU
 46. 2IC/MIO - CAPT ARTHUR CURRIE
 47. QM - CAPT PHIL NUNN
 48. QM(T) - CAPT TIMMY TIMMONS
 49. PWR - CAPT MICK BADDELEY
 50. M) - CAPT JOH SYDENHAM
 51. RECCE TP LDR - CAPT ALASDAIR MURDOCH

LAD

52. EME - CAPT PAUL ARMSTRONG
 53. EMELET - 2LT HARVEY GORDON-SAWYER

RAP TP LDR - CT SIMON BOREHAM
 2ND RHQ TANK - CT JAMES MOSELEY

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

SIR CHRISTOPHER CURWEN
CABINET OFFICE

REACTIONS TO GULF POSTINGS

The Prime Minister was grateful to see the letter from the Commanding Officer of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, attached to your minute to me of 12 October.

CDP

CHARLES POWELL
14 October 1990

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