

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



FREEDOM PARADE

**34th (NORTHERN)
SIGNAL REGIMENT
(Volunteers)**

Saturday 3rd July 1999

***The Boulevard, Russell Street
Middlesbrough***

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The Freedom of the Borough was given to the 34th (N) Signal Regiment(V) in 1969 by the former Teesside County Borough Council, this right was then transferred to the Borough of Middlesbrough in 1974 as a result of Local Government Re-Organisation.

On behalf of the citizens of Middlesbrough I am delighted to welcome them once again, to exercise their right to march through the town with "drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed".

On behalf of the people of Middlesbrough I thank them for their past service and I wish them well for the future.

Councillor Michael J Carr
Mayor of Middlesbrough

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

1999 has been a year of great change for the Territorial Army. It is therefore a particular honour and privilege for my Regiment to have been invited once again to exercise our rights to the Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Middlesbrough. The Tees Valley area is the home to over half of the men and women who serve in the unit as well as being my headquarters. I consider that we are extremely fortunate to be based in an area which produces so many fine volunteer soldiers and which gives such whole-hearted support, encouragement and help to us at all levels.

David Hargreaves
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

ABOUT THE PARADE

The ancient ceremony of conferring the freedom of entry to a town upon a regiment has its origins in medieval days when fortified towns would fasten the town gates and man the defences in some alarm at the approach of a formed body of troops. Certain regiments, however, came to be trusted by the citizens of the towns through which they passed and in recognition of that fact were accorded the "right, title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the town with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed". This custom has survived as one of the most prestigious of our civic ceremonies and today many units of the British Army have the freedom of entry to towns with which they have particularly close ties. The freedom of entry to a town or borough is a highly prized honour as it implies a long and harmonious association between a regiment and the community in which it lives.

34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) is proud to have been granted the Freedom of Entry to the three northern boroughs with which it is most closely linked. Leeds, Darlington and, of course, Middlesbrough. It is one of only two Regiments, the other being the Green Howards, to have been honoured with the Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough.

ABOUT THE REGIMENT

34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) was formed on 1st April 1967 by the amalgamation of two famous Divisional Signal Regiments - 49 (West Riding) and 50 (Northumbrian).

49 (WR) Signal Regiment traces its history back to 1861, when William Child formed a Regiment of Engineers in Leeds. This Regiment provided communications throughout the 1914/18 war and during the 1939/45 war served in Norway, Iceland and Europe.

By contrast, 50 (Northumbrian) Signal Regiment traces its history back to the formation of the Northumbrian Divisional Signal Company RE in 1908. The unit served on the Western Front during the First World War and in 1940 was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France. After being evacuated through Dunkirk, it served in Syria, the Western Desert, the invasion of Sicily and the Normandy landings.

The present Regiment is based at Brambles Farm TA Centre, Middlesbrough and has four squadrons Headquarters and 90 (North Riding) Signal Squadrons are co-located with Regimental Headquarters in Middlesbrough,

whereas 49 (West Riding) Signal Squadron is based in Leeds with a detachment in Hull and 50 (Northumbrian) Signal Squadron is based in Darlington with a detachment in Newcastle. The Regiment's Band, the only established TA Royal Signals Band, is also based at Darlington, although it performs throughout the region and nationally.

The Regiment's role in support of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps has been re-endorsed by the Government's recent Strategic Defence Review (SDR) and the Regiment has just taken over an additional TA Centre in Hartlepool. Later this month the headquarters of 90 Signal Squadron will move out of its old home in Brambles Farm into its new base at Hartlepool, leaving behind a sizable detachment in Middlesbrough.

The Regiment today completes a highly successful two-week summer camp, which has mixed a communications exercise with more general military training. It has also seen the integration into the Regiment of members of 8 other TA units whose size has been reduced as a result of SDR. The ability of TA soldiers to move effortlessly from one regiment and role to another once again demonstrates the flexibility and commitment of the country's volunteer soldiers.

PARADE FORMAT

- 10.55 The Regiment forms up on Park Road South
- 11.00 The Regiment is inspected by the Worshipful the Mayor of Middlesbrough
- 11.15 The Regiment marches off from Park Road South and parades through the streets of Middlesbrough:
 - Linthorpe Road*
 - Grange Road*
 - Albert Road*
 - The Boulevard*
- 11.35 The Civic Party moves from the Town Hall to the Saluting Dais outside the Civic Centre.
- 11.45 The Mayor of Middlesbrough takes the salute as the Regiment marches past the Civic Centre.
- 11.50 The Regiment halts outside the Law Courts. The Mayor addresses the Regiment and exchanges gifts.
- 12.00 The Civic Party departs and the Regiment falls out.

PARADE PERSONALITIES

Parade Commander	Lieutenant Colonel DA Hargreaves R SIGNALS
Parade Adjutant	Captain DT Wilson R SIGNALS
Parade RSM	W01 (RSM) NC Yarwood R SIGNALS
Regimental Second-in Command	Major AM Grindrod TD R SIGNALS (V)
Regimental Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer	W01 MJ Buckler R SIGNALS (V)
HQ Squadron Commander	Major R Holmes R SIGNALS (V)
49 Squadron Commander	Major DE Sixsmith R SIGNALS (V)
50 Squadron Commander	Major G Jennings R SIGNALS (V)
90 Squadron Commander	Major IT Hall R SIGNALS (V)