



EXERCISE ISLAND CAT 101 ENGINEER REGIMENT

Over 100 Territorials from 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), have just returned from their Regiment's Annual Training Camp in the Channel Islands - Exercise 'Island Cat'.

They were carrying out three main tasks, a live Explosive Ordnance Clearance (EOC) on the island of Lihou off Guernsey, some construction and refurbishment works in Jersey, known as 'Military Aid to the Civilian Community' and also conducting other training including a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer's (JNCO's) Training Cadre Course.

EOC on Lihou Island

The small island of Lihou lies off the West coast of Guernsey and is connected by a causeway only exposed by low tides a few times during the fortnight. During the Second World War the island had been used by the occupying German forces for target practice. Since the end of the war numerous items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) have periodically continued to surface due to weather and geological conditions.

101, the only Territorial bomb disposal regiment, had been assigned the task of clearing the whole of Lihou Island (about 1 Km x 1/2 Km) in 14 days

in collaboration with the Government of the States of Guernsey. Not only did extreme care have to be taken with the explosive risk of dealing with old and potentially unstable buried ordnance, but also in carefully carrying out this work on a site of special scientific interest with its protected flora, fauna and archaeological remains.

In total, 111 live items were found, 20 of these items were unsafe to move and needed to be destroyed on Lihou. Finds included 80mm and 100mm mortar bombs, tank and artillery projectiles from 37mm to 240mm diameter.

MACC Tasks in Jersey

Various MACC tasks were conducted in aid of the Channel Islands Occupation Society and the local community. Some of the jobs are also in WW2 locations, presenting unique settings for those involved to practice some of their military engineering skills on works ranging from construction to refurbishment. They include refurbishing a WW2 Gun at Moltke Battery, St Ouen, building a path with steps leading to another German WW2 gun emplacement, and refurbishing portacabins used as a Youth Hostel's washing and showering facilities.

Regimental JNCO Cadre

The Regiment also carried out a required training course for a cadre of 19 potential Junior NCOs. The course included basic infantry skills, drill, fitness PT and field exercises, all designed to develop and test the students' command and leadership skills

Lieutenant Colonel Terry Smith, the Regiment's Commanding Officer summed up the Annual Camp saying, "We were very pleased to have had this invaluable opportunity to practise and gain experience in our various skills in these superb settings, whilst also aiding the local communities. We have successfully achieved all of our aims, especially the explosive ordnance clearance of Lihou Island. I am extremely proud of the hard work, enthusiasm and professionalism shown by all who took part and congratulate them on their outstanding efforts."

