

THATCHAM NEWS



The band of the Coldstream Guards



Ref: 23-0226C

67 Military Intelligence Company march through Thatcham

Ref: 23-0226Q

Freedom honour for military company

Denison Barracks unit rewarded for contribution to town

CROWDS gathered to watch an army unit receive the freedom of Thatcham as recognition of its strong presence in the town.

On Thursday, June 4, 67 Military Intelligence Company, an army unit based at Denison Barracks in Hermitage, was granted the Freedom of the Town by Thatcham Town Council.

The company received the honour as recognition for its continuing appearance at many events in Thatcham, including the annual Remembrance parade.

It was accompanied by the Band of the Coldstream Guards and Thatcham's branch of the Royal British Legion.

The groups marched together through the town centre along the High Street before assembling in the Broadway.

The military company was then formally awarded the Freedom of the Town during a ceremony which included a formal inspection by mayor of Thatcham Mark Lillycrop, Deputy Lieutenant Richard Anderson, and Lieutenant Col Robert Feeney.

Salutes, prayers and speeches followed.

Addressing the crowd, Mr Lillycrop said: "Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire, High Sheriff, honoured guests, members of the armed forces, people of Thatcham, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to our town on this very special occasion."

"Thatcham Town Council has long enjoyed a close association with the Royal British Legion, particularly through our shared commitment to remembrance of those who have served."



Thatcham mayor Mark Lillycrop presents the Freedom of the town to 67 Military Intelligence Company

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"Together, we felt it was fitting to recognise the achievements and service of 67 Military Intelligence Company."

"In recognition of their valued connection with our community, the town council resolved to bestow upon 67 military company the honour of the freedom of the town."

He further acknowledged the unit for their internationally-recognised information operations and targeted support to defence priorities.

The Freedom is a medieval practice whereby civic authorities allowed troops to enter a settlement 'in column form' once they established the milit-

ary commander posed no threat.

In the modern day it is seen more as a gesture of thanks and recognition to a unit that has contributed significantly to a town and its community.

A representative for the Lord Lieutenant, the King's representative for the county, also spoke at the ceremony.

"It's a great honour to be here today to represent the Lord Lieutenant," he said.

"It's [the freedom] something that is very special - you've heard that it involves the carrying of bayonets through the town and banging of the drums, but actually what it involves is recognition of you as soldiers, not just as now, but of ex-soldiers who have also done their bit."

The commanding officer of 67 Military Intelligence Company added: "A number of years ago the company was invited to participate in the remembrance event here in Thatcham, and they've been coming back ever since."

"It's the growing bonds of friendship between the company and the people of the town which has led to today."

"Thank you to the people and the council for this absolute honour that you have bestowed on the company."



Saluting the crowd

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THATCHAM

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Man to go on trial over harassment

A MAN is to go on trial accused of harassing a woman.

Thomas Daddow appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on May 27.

The 46-year-old, of Barley Close, Thatcham, is charged with using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour with intent to cause Molly McLeod harassment, alarm or distress in Thatcham on October 17 last year.

Mr Daddow, who was legally represented by Robert Jacques, spoke only to confirm his details and to plead not guilty to the single charge.

He was told the case could proceed no further that day and that it would be adjourned for a trial to be arranged.

Mr Daddow was meanwhile released on bail.

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Members of the Royal British Legion on parade

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