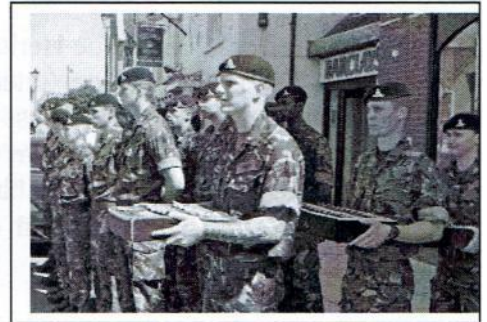


Historic Ceremony in St. Peter's Square, Emsworth on 16 June 2010

On Wednesday, 16 June a unique ceremony was held in St. Peter's Square, Emsworth when soldiers from 58 (Eyre's) Battery 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, Thorney Island were presented with their campaign medals. This is the first time a parade has been held in the town for returning servicemen and women to receive their medals and thousands of residents and visitors turned out to cheer them and wave flags. Traditionally the battery's parades have always been held in Lancashire or Cumbria from where most of the soldiers in the Eyre's Battery are recruited. The Regiment has been based on Thorney Island for about two years and expect to remain for several more. Because of the success of the St. George's Day events they asked if the medal ceremony could be held in Emsworth.



The parade of about 100 soldiers, lead by a military band, made its way up Queen Street and around part of Spring Gardens to The Square where Honorary Brigadier Mark Pountain, their commanding officer Lt.Col. Nick Pond and Havant's Mayor Cllr. Yvonne Weeks awarded each of them with the Afghanistan campaign medals. The ceremony concluded with a flypast by a Lynx helicopter as the national anthem was being played.



A record of the event is being compiled, to be held in the Baker Barracks Library and Emsworth Museum's Archive. We also have a film taken by the video team and John Tweddell.

Dorothy Bone