The formation of 'THE RIFLES'

Being totally confused into how the previous Light Infantry Regiments were incorporated into the new configuration called ‘The Rifles’ I sought help from a senior person involved with them. Below is a full and easy explanation that has helped me to understand the new arrangements.

The Rifles: Established on 1 Feb 2007 with The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry (RGBWLI -1 Bn), The Light Infantry (LI-2Bns) and The Royal Green Jackets (RGJ – 2 Bns) to form The Rifles.

Size:
5 Regular Bns (1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Rifles)
2 TA Bns
2 Independent TA Coys
Over 100 affiliated Cadet Detachments
Numbers:
460 Regular Officers
220 TA Officers
4,500 Regular Riflemen
1,500 TA Riflemen
12,000 affiliated Cadets (ACF & CCF)

Locations:

Regular Battalion’s locations:
1 Rifles, Beachley Bks, Chepstow NP16 7YG – 3 Cdo Bde
2 Rifles, Abercorn Bks, Ballykinler, NI, BFPO 805 – 19 Inf Bde
3 Rifles, Redford Inf Bks, Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH13 0PP – 52 Inf Bde
4 Rifles, Kiwi Bks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9HZ – 12 Mech Bde
5 Rifles, Alanbrooke Bks, Paderborn, Germany, BFPO 22 – 20 Armd Bde

TA Battalion’s locations:
6 Rifles, Wyvern Bks, Exeter, Devon EX2 6AR, based on the West Country
and largely incorporation former D&D and LI TA.
7 Rifles, Brock Bks, Oxford Road, Reading Berks RG30 1HW, based on the
Home Counties and London and largely incorporating former 4RGJ and 5RGJ
TA. Two Rifle Companies based in London, Davies Str and West Ham.
Independent TA Companies locations:
D (Rifles) Coy Bishop Auckland, Durham
E (Rifles) Coy Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Operational Brigades:
All battalions are in proper main line operational brigades and their
roles range from
a. Commando Support (1 Rifles)
b. Light Role Infantry (2 & 3 Rifles).
c. Light Role Infantry (4 Rifles)
d. Armoured Infantry (5 Rifles)

Operations:
Regular Battalions: High operational tempo since just before and after
formation of the regiment.
1 Rifles came back from Iraq in Sept 06.
2 Rifles came back from Iraq in March/Apr 07.
3 Rifles came back from individual company postings in Iraq & Afghanistan early in 07.
4 Rifles returned from Basra/Iraq in Dec 07.
1 Rifles are returned from Afghanistan in Apr 09.
2 Rifles returned from a peace support operations in Kosovo in Jul 08.
3 Rifles rotated their Rifle Companies through the Falkland Islands in Aug 08.
5 Rifles returned from Iraq in early May 09.
2 Rifles returned from a 6 months operational tour to Afghanistan in Oct 09.
4 Rifles (Elements) deployed in Afghanistan to cover elections in summer 09.
3 Rifles commenced a 6 month operational tour in Afghanistan in Oct 09.
A Coy 4 Rifles commenced a 6 month operational tour with 3 Rifles in Afghanistan in

Oct 09.
TA elements have and will continue to deploy with the regular Bn’s throughout.

TA Battalions: TA contribution has been significant in the form of composite companies and lots of individual reinforcements for both Iraq and Afghanistan.
A composite company of 6 Rifles returned from Afghanistan in May 07.
A composite company of 7 Rifles returned from Afghanistan in January 08.
6 Rifles had a TA company (Corunna Coy) of 110 in Afghanistan till Mar 09.
7 Rifles sent a contingent with 2 Rifles to Afghanistan in Apr 09.
Elements of both 6 & 7 Rifles deployed with 3 Rifles to Afghanistan in Oct 09.

Reservists: A high proportion of former members of the forming regiments of The Rifles are to be found in all theatres of operations fulfilling their reserve liabilities or having olunteered for vital tasks in support of their regular colleges.

High Operational Tempo: The current high operational tempo has given the new regiment a true baptism of fire and has helped to bind it early on in its existence through common operational experience. Hardly a patrol or convoy, in their current and previous operational theatres, returned to base without having had some sort of contact or fire fight often at uncomfortably close quarters employing every weapon in the armoury including hand-grenades. Having returned to base they have been are then additionally exposed to intense mortaring. Testimony to their steadiness under fire is the excellent basic and pre-operational
training they get before deployment.

The person who supplied the above details also added this extra very interesting information
Unlike some of the other regiments in today’s Army the Rifles, on formation, took a very conscious decision not to include the names of their forming Regts in their titles. Hence there is no individual Bn linkage to a particular Bn of the former Regt.
The Rifles have had considerable exposure as they were the last major unit out of Iraq (5 Rifles) and have had a Bn in Afghanistan since about Oct 08. 1 Rifles with the CDO Bde, 2 Rifles with 19 Bde, 4 Rifles for the recent elections and 3 Rifles there currently with A Coy
4 Rifles as their 5th Rifle Coy and TA attachments from 6 & 7 Rifles. The traditional County links are there but they apply to the whole regiment and not a particular Bn hence not reflected in the titles.

Thanx Rod