



30th May 2009

Spitfire March

21 Air Cadets and 6 staff from 134 (Bedford) Squadron have successfully completed an action packed training weekend held at Dibgate Camp, St Martins Plain, Folkestone, Kent.

The cadets arrived in Folkestone on Friday 22nd May and were accommodated in an impressive tented camp set up by the Squadron staff prior to their arrival. The camp facilities boasted a cook tent complete with military field kitchen, mess tent, cinema, Sgts Mess and male and female accommodation.

Making good use of the military training facilities available within the South East Army Training Estate, the cadets travelled to Lydd Camp on Saturday 23rd May where they spent the day honing their marksmanship skills on the Dismounted Close Combat Training Range under the watchful eye of WO Taylor, the Squadron's Range Conducting Officer.

Shooting the L85 A2 rifle on the range using the computer diagnostics, allows the cadets to learn about the principles of marksmanship and apply these in a safe environment. By the end of the range session all 21 cadets and staff had significantly improved their shooting ability with some very respectable groupings having been achieved.

Returning from Lydd the Squadron drill team took full advantage of the parade square at Dibgate Camp to practice their routine for the Wing Drill Competition that will be held at RAF Wyton in June of this year.

Having eaten a sumptuous evening meal consisting of home made meatballs in tomato sauce and pasta followed by apple pie and custard the cadets relaxed and watched Top Gun in the cinema tent.

The main purpose of the camp was to participate in the annual Spitfire Cadet March which was held on Sunday 24th May and saw 5 cadets and Civilian Instructor Croft tackling the gruelling 27Km Red Route, whilst those new to road marching set off on the 16Km Blue Route with Plt Officer Kitchener, WO Taylor and Sgt Tye.

During the course of the march Warrant Officer Taylor delivered a history presentation on the Battle of Britain and Operation Sealion, the German plan for the invasion of Britain. Then the cadets visited a WW2 pill box to see for themselves the preparations that were made to defend the country from invasion.

Both teams successfully completed their routes and whilst some declared a few blisters the cadets were delighted at their achievements and the knowledge that they had worked hard to gain their medals.

Warrant Officer Paul Taylor who organised the weekend said, "Excellent weather, good food, plenty of activity and a great bunch of cadets, what more could you ask for. We have had a fantastic weekend and the cadets should be proud of their achievements especially in completing the Cadet March and gaining their medals."

Notes for editors:

2009_05_30a.jpg - Cadets on the spitfire march.

2009_05_30b.jpg - En route, cadets get a quick history lesson on the Battle of Britain.

2009_05_30c.jpg - Tired feet are rested, and boots are polished



2009_05_30c.jpg



2009_05_30b.jpg



2009_05_30a.jpg