

<p style="text-align: center;">No photo available</p>	<p>Captain R J "Dick" Swainson.</p> <p>Dick Swainson joined PARA Regt as a Pte in 1962. He underwent Recruit Trg at Depot PARA, Maida Bks, before going to Army School of Education, and then RMA Sandhurst in 1963.</p> <p>He was commissioned to R Signals in Dec 1964, and won the Sword of Honour on the R Signals Young Officers' Course at Catterick. It was presented by his father, then SO-in-C.</p>
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Dick was immediately posted to 216 Para Sig Sqn, but hankering after more excitement and activity, managed to have himself cross-posted to D (Patrol) Coy, 1 PARA. The Bn was by then preparing for an Operational Tour in Borneo. Unfortunately, the "Confrontation" ended abruptly, and 1 PARA was never deployed, although it completed jungle training in Malaya.

In 1967, Dick was posted to the School of Infantry Signal Wing at Hythe, and then to the R Signals Sqn at the Junior Training Regt (Troon).

He was promoted Capt in 1970, but, faced with the prospect of a BAOR tour, decided to retire early, despite the attempts of all his friends in PARA Regt to persuade him to transfer.

He came back to us briefly in 1994, when he helped produce the special exhibition in the museum to commemorate the 50th Anniversaries of Normandy and Arnhem.

Dick died suddenly on 27th Jan 2001, aged 57, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

(Extract from Pegasus Journal, 2001, author unknown, probably 216)