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Dear George,

This is just a very short note to thank you formally for allowing us to use the White Ensign Club as a facility to enable us to both prepare for, and recover from, our inaugural Freedom of Exeter Parade. Those who had volunteered to man the bar and kitchen were incredibly welcoming, and I know that the offer of a cup of tea and a bacon roll was very welcome for those whose four o'clock start had precluded breakfast at home!

As you may be aware, the parade went extremely well, with our two flights marching through the City centre with 'bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying'. Despite the incessant rain and the fact that it was a Monday morning, there was a very strong turn-out from the local community - it is always very reassuring to see how much the Armed Forces remain valued across the country. I am also pleased to report that our C130 Hercules also managed to duck below the weather and carry out his fly past over the parade at just the right moment, before disappearing back into the clouds. Perhaps next time we should schedule our parade for the summer.

With the dreadful weather throughout the morning, I know that all those on parade were very, very grateful for the opportunity to dry off, warm up and have a 'pint and a pasty' in the Club straight after the final march past. Again, the catering team looked after us beautifully, and we were all made to feel extremely welcome by those Club members who, whether they were on hosting duty or not, hosted us impeccably.

Accompanying this note is a Royal Air Force Brize Norton station plaque, which I hope you will find space for amongst the other memorabilia on display, as a mark of our gratitude and as an ongoing reminder of the relationship between the Station and the City of Exeter.

Yours sincerely

Eddie