

SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN'S

UNCONQUERED I SERVE
1966-1992



HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II

**Our Allied Colonel-in-Chief and Patron
A Regimental Tribute**

THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

2024



FOREWORD

**By His Excellency René Dinesen, His Majesty King Frederik X of Denmark's
Ambassador to The Court of St James**



It gives me much pleasure to have been invited to write this foreword to the *Queen's Regimental Association's Journal* for 2024 particularly as it is, in the main, a tribute to our beloved Queen Margrethe II who abdicated after 52 years on the throne.

Her Majesty's direct association with the Queen's Regiment goes back to 30th May 1972 when she was appointed one of the Regiment's Allied Colonels-in-Chief, presenting the new Colours to The Regiment's battalions at Armoury House 2 years later on 4 May 1974. The less well-known fact is that the regimental connection with the Royal House of Denmark goes back as far as 1689 when the then Prince George of Denmark was appointed Colonel of the 3rd Foot, The Admiral's Regiment, subsequently The Buffs and Queen's Own Buffs, one of the Queen's forebear regiments. She maintained this

connection by continuing as Patron to the Regiment's Association after the amalgamation, taking a great interest in the Regiment's veteran affairs. I suspect that there are very few comparable enduring links between a royal household of a sovereign state and the military of an ally.

Her Majesty's interest and involvement in her Regiment was similarly constant and enduring. She was well informed about the Regiment's many operational deployments and visited battalions in the UK, in BAOR and especially whenever one or other was by happy circumstance deployed on exercise in Denmark. When she made the decision to abdicate earlier this year, it was my privilege to transmit the loyal message from the Queen's Regimental Association, which is published in this journal, and respectively Her Majesty's gracious reply to the Association.



EDITORIAL

BY ASSOCIATION SECRETARY
MAJOR A M GOULDEN



The Association has been privileged to have had Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, not only as our Allied Colonel-in-Chief from 1972 to the date of our amalgamation in 1992, but also as Patron of our Association for the last 32 years. It was with great sadness that we learned of her abdication but the messages I received from many of you, following the news, showed the very great affection with which Her Majesty is held in our hearts. This Journal's tribute is but a limited expression, a very inadequate expression of our thanks to her, and the respect in which we hold Her Majesty.

My thanks to His Excellency René Dinesen for agreeing to write the foreword. It is very fitting that we should have such a Foreword from him for this special edition.

Thank you everyone for submitting articles and anecdotes for this year's Journal, especially those of the happy times you spent either in Her Majesty's presence or while interacting with our Danish comrades. It cannot be produced without your input. It never ceases to amaze me what varied and amusing stories still keep coming. Long may this input continue, because without it, we would have no journal. This year's submissions have proved to me that the Association is obviously alive and well and it is clear that Queensmen continue to lead varied and interesting lives, still getting into scrapes, still contributing to the community and still looking after each other. In fact, this Journal at a 144 is the largest Journal produced! So please keep the articles coming. May I commend one article to you in particular – 'It's Funny How Things Turn Out' by Vicky Newsome-Hogan, who I believe has shown great courage in sharing her story.

My thanks, of course, go to my proofreaders, Anthony Beattie, Mike Jelf and Nick Keyes whose assistance ensures that this Journal, the 12th in its current form, continues to be of the highest quality.

My final exhortation in this homage is to say:

GOD SAVE HER MAJESTY!



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HER MAJESTY'S ABDICATION LETTERS



Your Majesty,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Queen's Regimental Association, to present the heartfelt gratitude and appreciation of all members in thanking you for your continued patronage of our Association since the Regiment's amalgamation with the Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Our pride in having Your Majesty as Allied Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen's Regiment has been reflected throughout and thereafter in the same pride the Association has treasured in your patronage.

We wish Your Majesty health and happiness in the future following your abdication from the Throne of Denmark.

I have the honour to remain,
Ma'am,
Your Majesty's most humble and obedient servant,

Anna Beattie

AAA BEATTIE
Colonel (Retired)
President and Chairman
The Queen's Regimental Association



Colonel (Retired) AAA Beattie
President and Chairman the Queen's Regimental Association

Barn Cottage
Fisherton de la Mere
Warminster
WILTSHIRE
BA12 0PX
United Kingdom

Dear Colonel A.A.A. Beattie,

Thank you very much for your kind letter and good wishes on behalf of the Queen's Regimental Association. I hold countless good memories from my many visits and engagements with the Queen's Regiment over the years up until its amalgamation into The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and from my later engagements with many members of the Queen's Regimental Association on various subsequent occasions. Fond memories for which I am eternally grateful.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to provide patronage to the Queen's Regiment and in later years the Regimental Association, and I wish all the best for the Queen's Regimental Association in the future.

Kingston

DENMARK - APRIL 1968

By Bill Kempton

In April 1968, while stationed in Germany, B Coy 3 QUEENS plus a platoon of Sp Coy travelled to Denmark, to spend two weeks with the 1st Falsterke Fod Regiment in their barracks at Voordingborg in Denmark. As guests, we had our own barrack block, though we had brought our own compo food and beer with us. The local soldiers, who were conscripts, liked our beer because it was much cheaper than theirs.

On Day Two, we travelled to the Danish Army training area of Jaegerspris for a four-day field exercise, known as 'Ex APRIL FOOL'. We practiced advance to contact, part of it along a beach, and then set up a defence near a tank range. After a night out cooking compo, we did an eight-mile march, and then attacked a Danish position heavily defended by .5" Browning machine guns. Their weaponry was largely American, their rifles M1 Garand carbines dating from WW2. The latter were better for long-range target shooting than our own SLRs, and they easily beat us for that reason during the next week in a shooting competition. However, I won the prize for best British shot, and was presented with a large wooden matchbox holder inscribed with their regimental badge - which I still have. As well as shooting, we competed with the Danes in soccer, assault course, tug-of-war and other sports.

We did get days off from training, including a day trip to Copenhagen to see the sights. One of these was the Tuborg brewery. After doing the tour, we were served a complimentary beer, during which we sang rugby songs. Our tour guide was so amused, he bought us all another round out of his own pocket just so we would keep singing!

On our last weekend in Voordingborg, we took part in the annual march through the town to celebrate the liberation of Denmark from the Germans in 1945. All the houses had candles lit in their windows. The following day, Sunday, some of B Company also took part in the Remembrance Day ceremony. This was not so easy, because as they formed part of the Danish parade, they had to learn certain drill commands in Danish. On Monday we headed back to Lemgo, happy to have exercised with our Danish brothers and made good friends while we were there.



Danish band and drums at Remembrance Day parade



British contingent at Remembrance Day parade, led by 2/Lt Clive Gabb



Wooden matchbox holder with Danish military crest



Base camp at Jaegerspris



MEMORIES OF DENMARK

By the late Major Roddy Mellotte

Since the BALTAP area of responsibility was seen as potentially a very vulnerable one, the AMF(L) was regarded as an integral part of Denmark's defence plans and so given total support and cooperation. Accordingly, its commander was treated as a VVIP whenever he visited. Coincidentally and happily for me, the incoming commander was to be British, and the Major General appointed was none other than a Queensman and my first company commander and friend, Mike Reynolds.

...My American 'bird' colonel superior did not quite understand my relationship with the Queen. However, he wasn't the only one. When Mike Reynolds, de facto a sort of potential 'saviour' of Denmark turned up as Commander AMF(L), bringing my NATO and regimental jobs together as it were, perhaps 'blurred' would be the better word, this was almost too much for him and some others. "Who is this British major who had an audience with the Queen on handover and went off to see her from time to time, and was on first name terms with the Commander AMF(L)? Whoever he is – 'handle with care'!"

With our 3rd Battalion stationed in Hohn, not too far south of Hamburg, it occurred to me that their band might come up and play for the Queen sometime, although I was vague as to exactly what. I floated the idea of offering Beating Retreat, playing during a dinner and even dancing. I was greeted with rather more than, and certainly expected, enthusiasm coupled with the suggestion that they could come to Marelisborg, her (comparatively small) summer residence near Aarhus on Jutland. The plan was that Her Majesty would have a private party and the band, 'Her Band', would Beat Retreat in front of the palace; they would play during supper and would play for dancing afterwards.

I explained to HM the form the Retreat would take and that at the end the Band would march past and salute. I asked her to duly step forward and acknowledge it... she said, "Why don't you stand behind me and tell me what to do?" So, the Band did their thing and she and her guests and children stood watching on the steps of

the palace...She was in a full-length gown, the hem of which lay on the rising steps behind her. At the appropriate moment, I stepped forward and said, "Now, Ma'am." Nothing happened. As the Band drew closer, I said again in a slightly louder voice, "Now, Ma'am". She didn't move. I was about to repeat it a third time when she turned to me and with a broad smile said, "Major Mellotte(r), if you could step off my gown, then I can step forward!" (Mellotter was the Danish pronunciation of my name!)

In order to get close enough to 'stage whisper' my prompt, I had unwittingly stood on her dress. She thought it hugely funny, and we had a good laugh about it afterwards and, indeed, when I was presented to her many years later when she made another visit to Canterbury, we recalled the occasion and the incident and again with much laughter.

After the Retreat, we all went for a lovely, relaxed and informal evening. After drinks, all the guests were seated according to a seating plan on small round tables of about 8 or 10 each. I was placed beside HM and Marybell beside Prince Henrik, her French husband. A section of the band played afterwards. She and I, Marybell and Prince Henrik led the dancing and later I was to discover that she was no mean jiver, too! I reckon I must be the only person in the Regiment, if not the Army, who can claim to have jived with their Colonel-in-Chief!

At the end of the evening, I got the firm impression that she had greatly enjoyed it. It was certainly the first time the Regiment had been able to do something personal for her.

(Ed: The items in this article are taken from the private memoirs of the late Major Roddy Mellotte by kind permission of Mrs Marybell Mellotte. Roddy served as a SO2 in Headquarters Allied Forces Baltic Approaches (BALTAP) from 1978 – 81, an appointment that was regimentally tied and conferred upon the incumbent an informal status as an honorary ADC to HM The Queen of Denmark.)

DENMARK IN THE COLD WAR

By John Acworth

We can forget that the 1980s were still very much the Cold War era. In fact, a visiting lecturer to the NATO HQ in Denmark said then that if the Berlin Wall came down within 25 years, it would cause disastrous instability throughout the world. Three years later the Wall came down!

So living in Denmark in the mid-eighties was very different to anything after 1991. NATO's emphasis was on deterrence and BALTAP, the Danish led NATO HQ, was the key to this deterrence. So how did they achieve this with the Russians just the other side of the Baltic?

Let us forget the strategic battle and concentrate on the land and air, with the emphasis on the land forces. First, the Danes. They worked a system called Total Defence. Most men and many women either served as regulars, were in their equivalent of the TA, or were part of the Home Guard. This was very different from Captain Mainwaring and his platoon! The Danes were trained to fight in their home areas and to be ready for any surprise attack. They kept their weapons and ammunition at home, some even storing anti-tank weapons. Just imagine that in this country!

The NATO forces which came and exercised in Denmark were the Ace Mobile Forces(AMF). Our contribution was

part of the 'Land Element': AMF(L). The aim of AMF was very simple - to show the Soviets that if they attacked Denmark, they were attacking the whole of NATO. An AMF exercise was different from any others. On arrival, the force would split and spend the time in local communities carrying out some low-level training but also getting to know the local Danes through sporting and social events. This exercise was known as Ex BOLD GROUSE which happened every two years. In alternate years, a serious war rehearsal took place called Ex BOLD GUARD. This was not only comprised of most European nations, in particular Germany, but also a large US component made up of strong air and US Marine Corps units.

To put a regimental slant on this, the Queen's representative in Denmark, apart from the occasional Royal duties, was the NATO exercise planner in BALTAP and the majority of his work involved BOLD GROUSE and BOLD GUARD. Her Majesty Queen Margrethe always visited the exercises and on one occasion had lunch in her welly boots because her shoes had been forgotten. During the lunch, all the lights went out when the Danish air force attacked the marquee we were in!

I spent a simply wonderful two years there - lovely place, lovely people and an interesting job!

ROYAL STORIES



Queen Margrethe's grandfather, King Christian X of Denmark was Colonel in Chief of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) which was a forebear regiment of the Queen's and PWRR. He stood some 6 ft 7in tall in his stockinged feet. One day, when he was visiting the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs he entered the Officers' Mess and hung his service dress cap on one of the many antlers that decorated the upper part of the walls of the entrance hall. When, an hour or so later, the time came for His Majesty to leave, there was a rush of subalterns to collect the Royal Sam Browne, sword, greatcoat and other accoutrements. All were handed to him with the exception of the royal cap, which even the tallest officer standing on tip-toe could not reach. With a twinkle of genuine amusement in his eye and to the delight of all present, the King reached up and without difficulty retrieved his headgear.

Raymond Grace



PRESENTATION OF COLOURS 4TH MAY 1974



*Presentation of Colours
to the
1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions
The Queen's Regiment
by
Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II
of Denmark
Allied Colonel-in-Chief
at
Armoury House, London
4th May, 1974*







NECIC TEAM IN DENMARK 21ST - 28TH SEP 1975

By Mike Hurman and Tony Robinson

With this year's theme of Denmark and HM Queen Margrethe, I thought it was a good time to recount our efforts in Borris, West Jutland in Denmark as competitors in the Northern European Command Infantry Competition (NECIC).

NECIC was an annual Cold War NATO Northern Command Europe (AFNORTH) competition led by the Danish, Allied Forces Baltic Approaches (BALTAP), a competition between infantry sections selected from Denmark, Norway, Germany's 6th Panzer Division and their Commandos, UKMF's 1st Infantry Bde Tidworth and the Royal Marines, Canadian and Dutch Marines teams.

A (Kirkes) Company and C (Sobraon) Company 1 QUEENS were tasked to produce teams with just one team being selected to represent the UK Mobile Force 1st Infantry Bde. A limiting factor was that the soldiers, except the Section Commander, had to be under 20 years of age and to have served less than two years. This meant that those selected for the section teams actually came from across the Battalion. We had nine weeks of training starting in Kiwi Barracks in Bulford, initially with four teams. Team training was led by the then Captain Peter Swanson, Sgt Bluey Hedges and assisted by Cpl Jap Butler who between them did the heavy lifting behind the scenes organising our instruction, the training programme, range and training area bookings, ammunition, our accommodation, transport, and flights.

The final two section teams comprised of:

A Company:

Cpl Ian Johnston (Cpl Bickham reserve)
Pte Charles Bamford (Noddy)
Pte Mick Cope (Radar)
Pte Steve Furnass
Pte Bob Gardener
Pte Hastings (GPMG)
Pte Mathews (Drums PI)
Pte Tim Sullivan (Reserve in final team)
Pte Ian Todd (Reserve in final team)

C Company:

Cpl Bob Clay (Cpl Brian Allen reserve)
LCpl Tony Robinson (Injured)
LCpl Bill Broomfield
Pte Dave Bullard
Pte Simon Friend
Pte Mick Hurman
Pte Roy Pickering
Pte Keith Robinson GPMG
Pte Dennis Stickland



Borris West Jutland

The 3rd and 4th teams were led by Cpl Brian Allen and Cpl Ollie O'Donoghue. Others involved or helping in our training were: LCpl Bob Goodman, Cpl Willy Wilson (NBC) LCpl Hinds (PTI) Assault Pioneer Sgt, LCpl Medic. Apologies to those not mentioned by name due to fading memories.

The contest was aimed at testing average Infantry skills. By the end, we were far from average! Competition between the teams was, as you can imagine, fierce! Morale was extremely high and we were tested to the extreme by 'Bluey' and our section commanders.

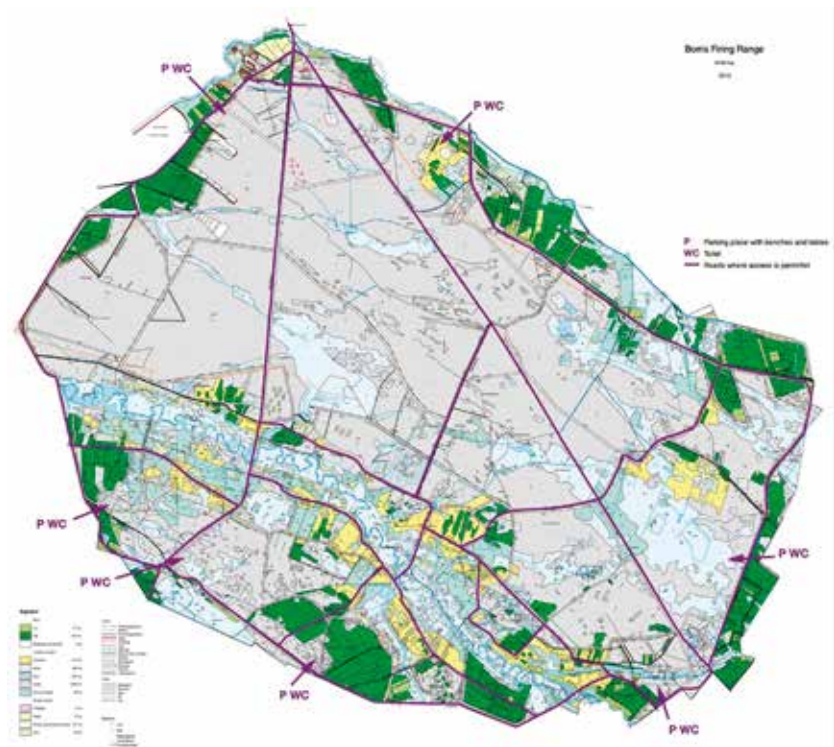
The Bulford phase of training comprised of route marching and shooting on the ranges as the initial team building block, tabbing to the ranges and back from Kiwi Barracks. Navigation, obstacle crossing and night patrol skills on SPTA were also extensively practised and honed. During a night shoot from the 300m firing point, a rabbit took its chances crossing quickly left to right at 200m. Firing switched suddenly and, in mid leap the rabbit disintegrated whilst the targets were mostly untouched.

‘Bluey’ Hedges, our main instructor, taught us AFV recognition, developed our shooting skills and used his contact network to obtain some Grade 1 SLRs and Green Spot ammunition from the Paras who were training for the Southern Flank shooting competition. They provided more accuracy giving us that extra edge. A version of the new combat helmet was also loaned by the Infantry Trials and Development Unit. We were representing UKMF, which meant requests up the chain of command had some punch.

We moved to Pirbright to use the Dart Target Range at Stony Castle and what seemed like daily 10-mile march and shoot competitions. The range at Stony Castle has firing points back to 600 metres which we also practised on with 300 metre iron sights, scoring hits. The permanent range staff told us that our shooting was better than the Paras. This comment was later validated in Denmark during the competition.

Our next training package was to Stanford Training Area (STANTA), near Thetford in Norfolk where we put together all our section level patrolling and navigation skills including water obstacle crossings by both day and night. Assault course obstacle competitions were added to further develop our teamwork and fitness; Cpl Ian Johnston’s team won the final competition by something like 3 seconds. After nearly seven relentless weeks, our fitness and Infantry skills could not have been higher: the teams were level pegging on a daily basis. Only seconds between us during the many testing exercises was typical. However, the training ended with the final team nomination being given by HQ NEC to Cpl Bob Clay and the C Company team. The inevitable sadness and deflation among those not being chosen was slightly minimised by the allowance of reserves to join our team for the onward travel to Denmark. Those chosen were Cpl Brian Allen as reserve section commander, and Pte Tim Sullivan and Ian Todd, fresh from basic training, who had joined us during the Bulford phase. We travelled back to Kiwi Barracks for final preparations prior to flying to Germany, which included a one-day package at Winterbourne Gunner for some lovely NBC work with Cpl Willy Wilson.

Next, we were flown by Herc out to RAF Gutersloh and onwards by truck to Normandy Barracks in Sennelager. The 2nd Battalion from Werl provided transport, food, accommodation and ammunition and helped to squeeze us onto the Sennelager ranges and training facilities, where the German Army had the priority bookings. The Grimke Night patrol range, that I am sure most of us remember, added that extra element of surprise and helped build on our skill sets. After 8 weeks of training, LCpl Tony Robinson (Robbo) tore his ankle ligaments on the assault course and spent a week in Sennelager MRS. Bill Broomfield was made local LCpl and stepped in as Section 2IC. A weekend break in Werl was followed by the final days of training at Sennelager. We returned to Werl to prep for our move to Denmark. During this period Cpl Ian



Borris West Jutland





Johnson assisted in our final training at Sennelager, then remained in Werl until we returned from Denmark.

Thirteen of us, packed into two landrovers with trailers, set off by road to Denmark. Webbing, rifles, army suitcase and No 2 dress hanging on coat hangers left little room, but we slept for most of the journey along the autobahns to the Danish border crossing. Drivers' hours had not been invented and after a 450-mile journey we arrived at Borris Training Area.

Borris Training Area West Jutland, established in 1902, provided a hutted camp to the northern edge of the area painted in Danish red ochre.

All those weeks of training were to be tested during a 3-day competition. Each skill set task was scored and penalty points given, split into five phases: night recce patrol, individual Infantry skills, a night shoot, a forced cross-country march and daylight field firing.

We had been drawn to start in 9th position, so our departure for the night patrol was late at night. Our hard work and good patrol skills did not reckon on the strategy that the Scandinavians employed of just accepting penalty points and walking straight into the enemy position to gain the intelligence information required, thereby gaining more points overall. We should have employed a more average skill set perhaps. Not the best of starts but our morale remained high!

The individual infantry skills test included judging distance, AFV recognition, first-aid and grenade throwing. Before each test there was also a demanding physical test. Being of small British stature rather than the taller Scandinavian put us at a slight disadvantage, but we more than held our own during the skill tests. Again, our high morale was noted by the testing staff.

The night shoot task with no illumination was absolutely smashed by our team scoring 27 out of an HPS of 40, 11 more than the next nearest team. We were rightfully pleased with this result.

The forced cross-country march had seven timed obstacle tasks added in along the route. For example, a high rope obstacle-crossing and crawling through a partly flooded concrete pipe with heavy ammunition crates to slow us down, Balancing tests carrying full jerrycans, and a river crossing using initiative to make up a raft on which to cross. Mistakes were made on three of the tests and our team score dropped back accordingly. After the river crossing, whilst nicely wet and cold, we moved straight onto the range for the day field firing which, due to our being drawn 9th, was late in the day and dusk was drawing in. The section shooting exposure included targets at 350 metres. Our GPMG, after being submerged in the river and mud, failed to fire. Keith Robinson, our superb GPMG gunner, was mortified. Despite this setback, our rifle



Rear - Ian Todd, Roy Pickering, Simon Friend, Bill Broomfield, Keith Robinson, Dave Bullard, Brian Allen
Front - Dennis Stickland, Tim Sullivan, Bob Clay, Mick Hurman.



River Crossing



Brian Allen, Danish girl, Mick Hurman, Tim Sullivan and Dave Bullard



Obstacle crossing

shooting scored only 15 points less than the winning team out of an HPS of 100. This remarkable result and our high morale were given more local press space than the host nation team.

After a long and tiring 3 days, it is only human to try to justify not being the winning team and of course we did and with good reason. It was a close competition where we ended up in 7th place. We could, however, hold our heads high where true Infantry skills count. We, without doubt, won the fire fight against some other top teams from NATO.

After catching up with some sleep, cleaning weapons and equipment and after a tour to the local Danish brewery, and a team photo, we attended the competition dinner in our No2 Dress. We had the opportunity to have a drink or two with the other teams late into the night. The next day we departed for Werl and onwards back to Bulford.

On return to Kiwi Barracks, our CO, Lt Col John Davidson, spoke to us all. Simon Friend, Bill Broomfield and Dennis Strickland were promoted to LCpl, some like me were recommended for the next NCOs' Cadre and I was also posted across to the Recce Platoon.

Our NECIC training was a formative experience during which we underwent some intensive Infantry training and the bonding friendships from across the Battalion still exist 49 years later. Denmark and the training that preceded it will always be something to remember with pride.

ROYAL STORIES



As the 2nd Battalion's two junior subalterns, Colin McEwan and I were sent from Germany to the Presentation of Colours which took place at Armoury House in London. On that day in May 1974, HM Queen Margrethe put the Queen's Colour into my hands. It was a great honour, an unforgettable moment and the only time have I have ever met royalty.

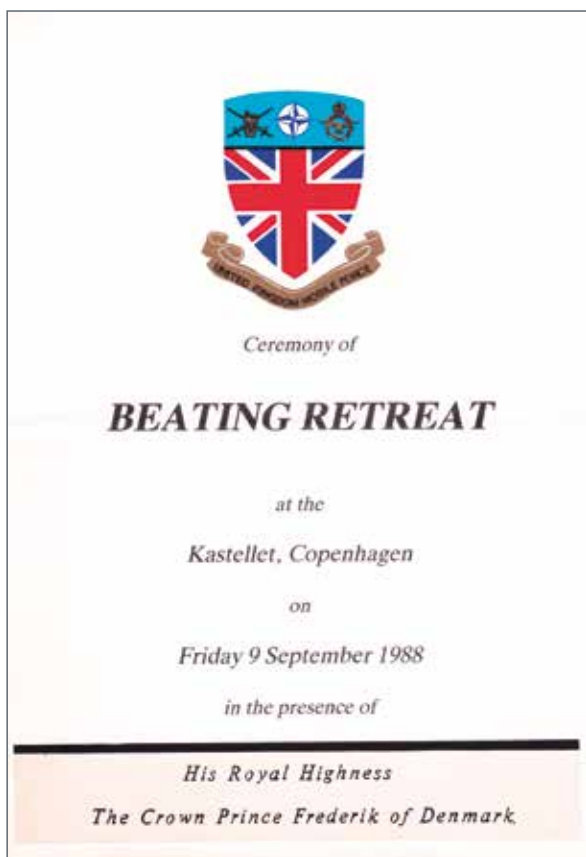


Bill Knight- Hughes



VISIT OF QUEEN MARGRETHE TO THE 1ST BATTALION ON EXERCISE BOLD GROUSE

By Chris Charter



In early September 1988, the Battalion deployed with the United Kingdom Mobile Force to the island of Zealand to take part in 'Ex BOLD GROUSE'. We were thrilled when we heard that Her Majesty Queen Margrethe had agreed to join us for lunch in the field. On the day of the visit the CO, the Field Officers and the RSM withdrew themselves from the exercise leaving Major Beattie, the second-in-command and the company 2ICs to carry on with the battle.

As you can imagine, a great deal of work went into the preparation for the visit and lunch. The lunch was held in a marquee in the grounds of a farm where Battalion Headquarters had set up in barns and buildings the day before. Tables, linen, silver and crystal were all brought from the Mess in Tidworth as were the Queen's and Regimental Colours and Colour stand.

On arrival, of Her Majesty, was introduced to the owners of the farm and then met members of Battalion Headquarters. The area was quite muddy, and it fell to the CO to help Her Majesty change into Wellington boots, as she did not bring her lady-in-waiting with her. The lunch went without a hitch and with the departure of Her Majesty everyone returned to the exercise, happy that once again we could reinforce our relationship with Her Majesty and Denmark.

The exercise culminated in a Beating Retreat and was reported on by Soldier Magazine.





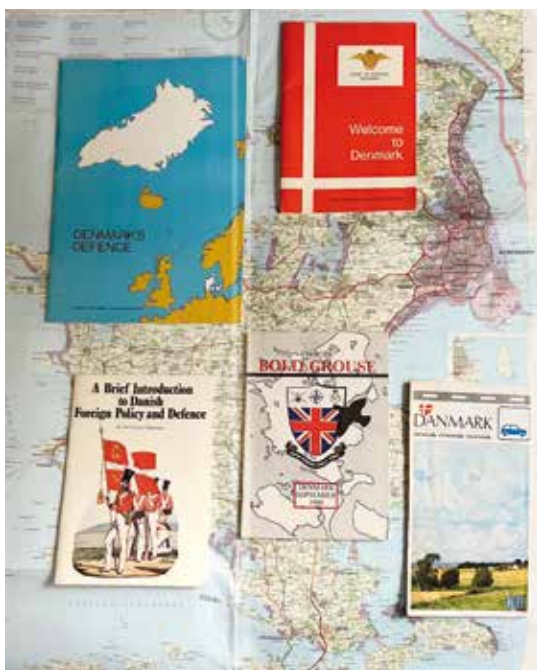


EXERCISE BOLD GROUSE FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

By Colin Hurd

As previously reported in the Journal, I did a stint with the All Arms Watchkeeper's Pool and was posted to 1 Inf Bde, which formed the core of the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF). Colloquially known as 'the dig and die brigade', the UKMF was a divisional sized brigade which served under rotating German and Danish generals to reinforce Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. The force depended on 15,000 reinforcements, largely TA, being shipped hazard-free over the North Sea by Fred Olsen RORO ferries. Our job was to dig in and allow a Panzer Grenadier Division to pivot around us. It was thought that we would not survive very long after radio silence was broken, hence the 'dig and die' either on the Kiel Canal or the Roskilde Gap.

1988 saw the UKMF HQ and me being deployed during Ex BOLD GROUSE using the Roskilde Gap scenario. There were some real troop movements and a Bundeswehr armoured artillery column on the move was very impressive indeed. Our HQ shared a shed of biblical proportions with an equally epic amount of EU intervention wheat. This is where I can claim to have been in the same grid square as Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II. I did see Her Majesty's mobile ablutions trailer but alas that's as close as I got. I was no closer on our fun trip into Copenhagen.



"WHY THE BLOODY HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU SPOKE DANISH?"

By Gordon Fotheringham

(Ed: During his career with the Army, Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Gordon Fotheringham had the privilege to meet with the Colonel-in-Chief on a number of occasions, not least of which were during his time as the British Army Liaison Officer to the Danish Army, whilst serving with the Danes in Afghanistan and during his time as the British Defence Attaché in Copenhagen. However, it was his first encounter that proved to be one of the most memorable.)

"Why the bloody hell didn't you tell me you spoke Danish?" The Brigade Commander (Brigadier David Thompson late A&SH) standing in front of me hissed in a suppressed voice, his face inches from mine, and becoming increasingly puce with rage by the second. Standing smartly to attention, still somewhat too surprised to fully absorb the situation, I blurted out, "I am sorry Brigadier, I thought that was why I was here!" With that, the Brigade Commander glowered at me, turned on his heels and moved swiftly on to catch up with our Allied Colonel-in-Chief, HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, who was continuing down the line inspecting the impromptu guard furnished by members of my platoon.

This episode happened during my first, but by no means my last, meeting with our former Allied Colonel-in-Chief and Patron. The year was 1988 and the 1st Battalion, as part of 1st Infantry Brigade and the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) was in Denmark, on Exercise BOLD GROUSE. As a half-Dane, on my mother's side, I had grown up bilingual and throughout my youth had invariably spent my summer and Christmas holidays on my grandparents' farm in Denmark. Prior to this exercise, my company commander, Major Jonathon Riley, had mentioned my linguistic ability to the Brigade chief of staff. This led to the concocting of a 'cunning plan' where, at a certain stage of the forthcoming exercise I and my platoon would be detached to the Brigade Headquarters where my certain 'talent' might be put to best use. One thought had been that I would be issued with a hire car and a radio and wearing mufti, be sent behind the Orange Opposing Forces (OPFOR) lines tasked with surreptitiously reporting on the 'enemy's' movement and activities. To a lowly lieutenant, this sounded like a very promising role and far more distracting than digging in again, and spending days in a trench in some company defensive position.

So, partway through the final FTX, I and my platoon, mounted in our Saxon APCs, detached ourselves from C (Kirke's) Company and reported to Brigade Headquarters which at the time was established inside an enormous barn complex belonging to a large Danish manor farm.



True to standard military procedure, when we arrived, we were of course totally unexpected and indeed no one knew anything about us or my particular tasking as a linguist. I and my platoon were then assigned to the Brigade's signals squadron, to bolster the headquarters' defence plan while the confusion was sorted out! My initial thoughts were that this was proving to be less exciting than I had originally expected but I still hoped that repeated pleas to Brigade Headquarters, through the signal squadron OC, would find my original tasking revitalised. At the time, I was relatively new to the Army; I was young, inexperienced and naïve and I was, of course, to remain utterly disappointed.

Towards the end of the FTX, it was planned that Her Majesty would spend a day visiting the exercise, first to Brigade Headquarters and then onto the 1st Battalion, in its deployed location, culminating with lunch in the field with the field officers. Again, due to my ability to speak Danish, I had been instructed at STARTEX that I would be afforded the particular privilege of being invited to attend the lunch and that Brigade Headquarters would be duly informed in order that I could be released. So, on that particular morning, I scrubbed up thoroughly ensuring to remove any last vestiges of cam-cream and took out a neatly pressed and folded uniform that I had sealed and bagged especially and had stowed away in my bergen.



Freshly spruced up, I was standing next to my Saxon APC, keenly awaiting a response to my formal request that, in line with what I understood had been previously arranged, I would

be released in order to rejoin my battalion so that I could attend the lunch, when a breathless brigade staff officer rushed up and explained that the Brigade Commander wanted a quarter guard, commanded by an officer, outside the large barn housing Brigade Headquarters and I needed to be there, lined up, in no more than ten minutes. My protests that I needed to be somewhere else were either unheeded, or unheard, as the very obviously harassed and stressed staff officer dashed off again. I made a very quick time appreciation and judging that I could possibly still make lunch, dragged on my exercise-stained combats and slapped on some fresh cam-cream. Having quickly selected one of my sections, I and Sgt Templeton, my platoon sergeant, dashed across a large farm complex to arrive outside Brigade Headquarters just as a throng of senior people were emerging from the barn door and where, in jovial tones, compliments, expressions of appreciation and the requisite salutes were obviously being exchanged.

I instantly recognised our Allied Colonel-in-Chief and also the Brigade Commander (I had seen him on stage at the Tidworth Garrison Theatre a month or so previously, when after Exercise WILTSHIRE PHEASANT, a major FTX on Salisbury Plain, all Brigade officers had been assembled in order to receive an absolute blistering rocket for what he judged to be our collective lacklustre performance). I saw the Brigade Commander extend a sweeping arm in our direction and audibly announce *"Your Majesty, over here we have a quarter guard, in your honour, furnished as it happens by your own Regiment"*. As Her Majesty and the Brigade Commander approached, I brought the 'guard' up to attention and saluted. I cannot now quite recall the opening pleasantries, but it was when the Brigade Commander, in an effort to facilitate further conversation, asked, *"and is this your first time in Denmark, Lieutenant?"* It was then that gentle alarm bells should have started to ring. Somewhat slightly taken aback by this question, I answered, *"No Brigadier, my mother is Danish, I used to come here all the time as a child"*! I observed the Brigadier's eyes widen noticeably as he stared at me, his jaw dropping slightly. Her Majesty, then possibly in order to test my credential, started a conversation with me in Danish, asking me about my mother and my times spent in Denmark. Even as an extremely junior and relatively inexperienced officer, I

was becoming conscious that, on a number of levels, this episode was not going entirely well. As I tried to focus on my conversation with Her Majesty, I could not help but notice the worsening countenance on the face of the Brigadier, who was standing just behind Her Majesty, but I also took in the gaggle of Brigade staff, some paces behind him, struggling to contain themselves and suppress their laughter, in what they were obviously finding was a hilarious situation.

Possibly sensing the developments, Her Majesty smiled at me and gracefully moved down the line, engaging a number of the platoon in conversation. It was then the Brigadier and I had our brief and somewhat terse exchange. As he smartly moved off to follow Her Majesty, I was still trying to work what I had got wrong and what in retrospect I should have anticipated in order to avert such an uncomfortable encounter? Should I have immediately sparked, assessed the situation, and given no hint of my Danish heritage or language ability? On subsequent reflection, while still trying to work out how I could possibly have circumvented the Brigade staff, in order to directly communicate to the Brigadier my Danish connections, I concluded that no one had ever promised me that life in the Army was always going to be fair. It proved a salutary lesson for similar events later in my career.

After Her Majesty departed the Brigade Headquarters, on her way to visit the Battalion and lunch, I decided that it might be politic to make myself, and the section of my platoon, scarce. In the end, I never was released by the Brigade Headquarters, and I subsequently never did make the Field Officers' lunch! Something for which I was later ticked off, by the Battalion Second-in-Command (*Ed: our very own Col AAAB*), for failing to attend a 'Royal' parade. I felt this was somewhat unfair as he had also missed the lunch as he had had to step up as temporary CO while the bean feast was going on and the Battalion's position came under attack!

It should be mentioned that throughout the Brigade it was widely held that, if not actually a martinet, the Brigadier at the time was known to be pretty tough and fairly challenging to work for!

However, I was fortunate to again meet and lunch with Her Majesty later that year during Her formal visit to the 1st Battalion in Tidworth on 5 December, when C (Kirke's) Company also furnished the Guard Company.

These were just a couple of my initial opportunities to meet Her Majesty which significantly increased during my time serving as the British Liaison Officer to the Danish

Army and on one of Her Majesty's visits to Afghanistan whilst I was serving as the Deputy Commander to the DANBAT. I was also fortunate to spend three years as the Defence Attaché in Copenhagen where I was privileged to have one-to-one conversations, on a number of occasions, with Her Majesty and other members of the Danish Royal Family, including the current King. Whilst in Copenhagen, the fact that I was by then a member of the Colonel-in-Chief's own Regiment (PWRR) stood, obviously, very much in my favour.

Of all the later memorable occasions, the one that particularly sticks out in my memory was in 2014 when, as the British Defence Attaché, I and my wife were invited to attend a dinner night celebrating the 400th anniversary of the formation of the standing Danish Army. Based on

their antecedence, the Guard Hussars' Regiment are the oldest Danish regiment still in existence and they hosted the dinner. Her Majesty was the principal honoured guest, but there were many other guests from across the Danish Army. As is the custom in the Danish Army, the end of the evening can become a little raucous with individuals standing up, giving a short, often impromptu speech and proposing various toasts. In offering, or responding to toasts, Guard Hussar officers, in line with their tradition and to mark their mounted heritage that distinguishes them from other regiments, stand on their chairs with one foot on the table. At the height of the evening, when there was much laughter and a good deal of frivolity, the Colonel-in-Chief could be clearly seen, standing on her chair, one foot on the table, glass in hand, joining in the toasts.



Crown Prince Frederick, HM
Queen Margrethe,
Lt Col Merrick Willis,
Prince Henrik, Col John Francis



Band and drums
performing for the Queen
at the Marselisborg Palace
in Aarhus



VISIT OF QUEEN MARGRETHE TO THE 1ST BATTALION ON 5 DECEMBER 1988

By Chris Charter

It was a rather overcast day, but thankfully dry, when Her Majesty visited the 1st Battalion in Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth. At 1100, a helicopter of the Queen's Flight containing the Royal party landed in front of the Officers' Mess. Her Majesty was greeted by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier HC Millman OBE, the Regimental Secretary, Colonel JW Francis, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel CGF Charter and the Adjutant, Captain SF Deakin.



Lt Col Charter, HM Queen Margrethe and Brig Charles Milman



The Royal Honour Guard provided by Kirke's Company commanded by Major JP Riley

The Royal party travelled by car to the dais on the square and was received with a Royal Salute. Kirke's Company, commanded by Major JP Riley, provided the Royal Honour Guard. The Ensign for the Queen's Colour was Lieutenant AR Bolton with WO2 Weaver, CSgt Easton and CSgt Perkins as Escorts. The Quebec Band (under WO1 Bandmaster B Cunningham) and the Corps of Drums were also on parade. After inspecting the Guard Company, Her Majesty watched a display by the Flying Dragons Free Fall Team led by Captain PD Beat, who on landing, presented a bouquet of flowers to Her Majesty. After a final Royal Salute, Her Majesty was introduced to the Deputy Colonels before walking through the ranks of the Battalion to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where she was entertained to drinks. There followed lunch in the Officers' Mess and a formal photograph with all the officers. The visit ended with Her Majesty meeting the families in the Corporals' Mess before departing at 1500 by helicopter.

As a postscript: on the floor of the dais was a bronze plaque stating 'Fred Mulley Slept Here'. This was reference to when the Defence Secretary fell asleep on the dais in 1977 when accompanying the Queen of England at the RAF Jubilee Review at RAF Finningley.



Meeting children from Tidworth Primary School



Lt Gordon Fotheringham, Brig Charles Millman, and HM Queen Margrethe

The Officers Mess with Her Majesty



Captain PD Beat and The Flying Dragons Free Fall Team



DEN KONGELIGE LIVGARDE FORENINGEN

By Andreas Kellberg

This small contribution to the journal aims to offer a glimpse into the Danish Royal Life Guards Association in the United Kingdom.

The official translation of our regiment, in Danish: *Den Kongelige Livgarde*, is The Royal Life Guards. It is a silly translation as it conjures up thoughts about Baywatch, rather than an army regiment, and incorrectly reflects the meaning of the word 'Livgarde'. Alas, it is the official translation. (*Ed: We, of course, also have The Life Guards as part of the Household Regiment.*)

While I suspect that if ever there was a journal whose readers would relish a historical account, it would be this one, I must confess that this is not my intention. Instead, I shall recount the tale of the present-day Royal Life Guards Association, its purpose, activities, and our cherished relationship with the UK and the close ties we have with the The Queen's Regiment and now have with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Our Association is for former serving members of the Danish Royal Life Guards Regiment who currently reside or have once resided in the UK. We welcome members from all ranks and from all levels of service. Most who serve in the regiment do so as conscripts as part of the national military service requirement. After a period of rigorous training, they don the iconic bearskin hats and stand guard at the royal palaces across Denmark and other places of national importance.

That's the background of most of our members. Some, however, continue their service as non-commissioned officers or line officers, transitioning into the Regiment's operational battalions. These battalions, divided between mechanised and armoured infantry, function much like any other infantry unit (save for their superior skills, naturally). A few of our members hail from this background. The primary purpose of our organisation is to rekindle the camaraderie that our members enjoyed while serving. By arranging a variety of events, we strive to create a home away from home for Danish ex-service members here in the British Isles.

While this is our Association's official purpose, I believe many of our members find a secondary, equally important mission: to build and maintain good relations with our UK counterpart, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Of course, there is an official, even royal connection between PWRR and Denmark, with our Regiments being linked and Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II having served as Colonel-in-Chief of the PWRR (we are at this time still awaiting confirmation as to whether King Frederik X will assume this role from his mother). But, on a day-to-day basis, we see ourselves as the custodians of this treasured relationship. It's something we hold dear and find deeply meaningful—not just within the Association at large, but especially among our board members.



Garder

Each year, we proudly march alongside the PWRR during the Remembrance Sunday parade, which begins at Horse Guards Parade in the heart of London. I had the great pleasure of participating for the first time last year, and it was an unforgettable experience. As a veteran (of service, not age), I was delighted to see so many people turning out to cheer us on as we did our best to recall the drill instructions we received years ago.

In another display of the strong bond between our two regiments, we're also invited to the PWRR Officers' Club Christmas Dinner, and

our chairman regularly represents the Regiment at official events.

Beyond participating in events like Remembrance Sunday with the PWRR, we also organise a variety of activities within our association, including clay pigeon shooting, social dinners, and, not least, our Christmas Lunch. This event is rich in tradition and features plenty of snaps (the Danish equivalent of gin, not to be confused with whatever the younger generation send via Snapchat) to evoke fond memories of ice-cold nights guarding Amalienborg Palace, where the depth of snow you had to wade through seems to increase in direct proportion to the amount of snaps consumed; or of rainy foxholes filled with water, the temperature of which seems to decrease in inverse proportion to that of the snow at Amalienborg.



Cenotaph

When you live abroad and find yourself adapting to the peculiar customs of your new home (Marmite and uncarbonated beer come to mind!), there's something wonderfully comforting about having a place where you can meet others who not only hail from the same tiny spot on the globe but have also served in the military under similar conditions. A place where you can tell and retell the evergreen stories from the days when you wore the bearskin hat, shifting between feeling brazenly bulletproof, terribly tired, or horrendously hungover, depending on the day of the week. That, in so many words, is the Danish Royal Life Guards Association in the UK.

PRO REGE ET GREGE

(For King and the People)

In 1966 or early 1967 the Vigilant Platoon drove from Munster to Haderslev in Denmark to do an exchange visit, so they could see our Vigilant anti-tank guided missile and try it and we could see their Cobra anti-tank missile and do likewise. The setup was they had an old tank (can't remember what it was now) but they used this to run up and down the range and fired the blank Cobra at it. What happened was they fired a Cobra at it and it just bounced off the tank as normal. We then fired the Vigilant at it. Well, when it hit, the tank nearly tipped over and the crew jumped out and started running. They wouldn't let us fire the Vigilant at it again. I have no idea why not! The camp was great, but I do remember that the cheese they put on all tables did have a rather strong smell. We moved it to other tables but kept the beer that was also supplied. (Ed: And we all know how good the Danish beer was!)

Mick Malam



HM QUEEN MARGRETHE'S VISIT TO 1 QUEENS 1980



Juhel and Baynham behaving badly!

COLOUR PARTY AND BEYOND

By Biff Byford

I was one of the Colour Party for the presentation of the new colours to 3 PWRR by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe at Ardingly in September 1999. My job was as part of the guard for the outgoing Colours of 6/7 PWRR, which had been our Queen's Regimental Colours prior to that. After the parade various officers and dignitaries including the Colour parties were introduced to Her Majesty. Prior to being introduced to me, Her Majesty was introduced to my father, who for the first time I can remember was absolutely speechless! Her Majesty was utterly charming and natural. I have a splendid photograph of that occasion on my wall. Her attitude to us all was so warm and genuine.



Biff meeting Her Majesty

Rolling on the years to 2015, I was called to do a furniture repair job at the British Embassy in Copenhagen. Due to being a rather busy time of year for the city most of the guest houses and hotels were booked. A room for me was found at the Hotel D'Angleterre, a most prestigious establishment. On arrival, I went to the counter to book in and above was a painting of the Queen, painted by Andy Warhol. On asking about the portrait, I let slip that Queen Margrethe was once my Colonel in Chief. The receptionist was most impressed that I knew of their Queen and the staff could not do enough for me after that!



Portrait of the Queen of Denmark
by Andy Warhol

One night there was a fire in the Sgts Mess. I couldn't see flames, but smoke was everywhere. I jumped out of bed, put on my shirt, trousers and boots, grabbed a fire extinguisher and felt my way up the corridor. I was suddenly confronted by a naked, hairy-chested RSM Rippon, emerging through the smoke. Surprised, I laughed out loud. He looked me in the face, said "5 Extras" and walked past me back into the smoke....

Martin Featherstone



LAYING UP OF THE 3RD AND 4TH BATTALION COLOURS OF QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

By Mark Weeks

On 16 November 1980, I took part in the laying up of Colours of the old 3rd and 4th Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment at Southwark Cathedral. As a Corporal serving with 2 Platoon (Kingston), A Company (Guildford), I stuck my hand up, as many did, to be part of the guard. One of the great excitements was that we got to fix bayonets, a rare occurrence for volunteers in those days.



At the Elephant and Castle



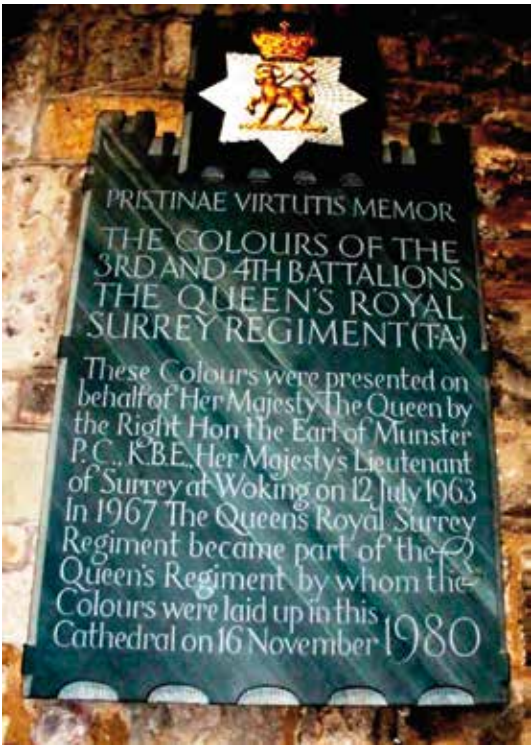
Presenting Arms

Under the first-class instruction of CSM Geoff Fairfax and well-motivated by the then Major Richard Holmes, A Company turned out an extremely smart guard. We were lucky enough to have in our number a former Guardsman who was serving as a TA soldier rehabilitating back into the Regular Army. He had been a naughty boy and so shall remain nameless. However, his foot and rifle drill were unsurprisingly immaculate and so he provided CSM Fairfax with the perfect instructional aid and showed the rest of us the standard to strive for.

Another guard was provided by 6/7 Queens (V). As a London-based battalion, it had a surplus of volunteers on parade and so when we mustered at their drill hall, several soldiers were transferred to the A Company guard. Much to CSM Fairfax's frustration, most of our newfound colleagues appeared to have two left feet and minimal drill instruction!

Nevertheless, we marched in open order with flags flying, band playing, and bayonets fixed through south London. The weather was kind and the sun shone. I forget the exact route but do recall the company adopted a very 'open order' as we circumnavigated the Elephant and Castle roundabout. We formed up at the entrance to Southwark Cathedral and presented arms as the Colours were marched inside. I don't recall going into the cathedral so we must have unfixed bayonets and marched back in close order to the drill hall to be embussed for home.

On a final note, a chum had come out to watch and took the photos. As we stood at ease waiting for the Colours to arrive, I pointed the photographer out to the ex-guardsman. He was, naturally enough, our right marker. I paraded to his immediate left. As we presented arms, this lovely lad clandestinely shuffled out of line, as only a well-practiced ceremonial soldier could, to afford my chum a better shot of me - as one of the pictures attests.



The Commemorative Plaque



The Colours Arrive



THE KAISER'S PETS – THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT) AND THE KING OF DENMARK IN WW1

By Mick Mills

In April 1929 George Meakin, a Buffs officer who had served on the staffs of the 67th Division and 12th Corps during the Great War, wrote a letter to the *Dragon*, the Buffs regimental magazine. He said that he'd been fishing with Colonel Hartigan who was a prisoner of war during the conflict. Hartigan told him that after the Armistice, he was at an evacuation camp in Holland. One day the King of Denmark came to inspect the camp and asked Hartigan if any Buffs were there. He replied that there were and that they were known as 'The Kaiser's Pets'. When the King asked why this was so, Hartigan said that The Buffs always received special treatment in Germany. The King told Hartigan that he had personally written a letter to the Kaiser asking him to look after the Buffs and that the Kaiser had agreed. The King then asked to see the Buffs in the camp. There was a subaltern and twenty other ranks, and they were paraded before him. The King asked them for a Buffs badge that had been worn throughout the war. The only badge amongst them was one that the officer had on his cap, and it was duly handed over to the King.

This episode originated on 9th March 1917 when the Foreign Office received a letter addressed to Arthur Balfour (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) from Henrik de Grevenkop-Castenkiold, the Danish envoy in London. Marked as 'urgent', the letter stated that the envoy was passing on the desire of his King to ameliorate the conditions of the prisoners of war who were officers of the Buffs. A degree of urgency was requested for the details of these officers and their places of detention. The King of Denmark was Christian X, grandfather of the current Queen Margrethe II. He was the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.



A reply was formulated the following day. The Prisoner of War Department under Robert Vansittart was of the opinion that the War Office was very likely to turn the scheme down. It came to the conclusion that it would do no harm in asking the War Office whether there were any officers of the Buffs who were prisoners of war in Germany. The draft of the reply to the Danish envoy was heavily amended as it made its way through the levels of approval before being typed up and sent on 12 March. It was signed by Thomas Legh, 2nd Baron Newton, the Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The reply diplomatically requested an explanation of the nature of the scheme which the King had in mind. This was probably an attempt to buy time while the opinion of the War Office was sought. Newton added that the British Government was very grateful for the interest taken in the officers of The Buffs.

On 13 April, the Danish envoy replied, stating that the King of Denmark had instructed the Danish Minister in Berlin to 'try to obtain all possible alleviations of the hardships incidental to the prison life of officers and others belonging to His Majesty's East Kent Regiment'. Only officers were mentioned in the original letter but now it appeared that their intention was to help all ranks. The envoy noted that he was following the lines adopted by the King of Spain in relation to the regiment of which he was Honorary Colonel.

Maurice de Bunsen, who had been the ambassador in Vienna until war broke out, replied to the envoy on 14 April. He thanked the King of Denmark for his desire to assist Buffs prisoners in Germany and assured the envoy that the Army Council had been instructed to furnish the list of officers and men in question. A copy of this letter was sent to the Army

Council with a request for the list and stating that Newton considered it desirable on political grounds to meet the wishes of the King of Denmark.

The Secretary of the Army Council replied on 17 April saying that his department was preparing the list, but he did not agree with Newton. He felt that officers and men should not be selected for better treatment than their brother prisoners simply because their Colonel was the King of Denmark. He added that the men themselves would not like being singled out for special treatment.

On 7 May, the Army Council supplied the list but stated that no special treatment had been given to the 16th Lancers of whom the King of Spain was Colonel-in-Chief. They suggested that this be brought to the attention of the Danish envoy and whilst the Foreign Office should thank the King of Denmark, they should tell him that they did not consider special treatment desirable. As the Foreign Office had told the envoy that the list would be forthcoming, they were aware that the King of Denmark would be offended if they backed out of it now. In regard to the Army Council's denial that the King of Spain had not helped the 16th Lancers, the Foreign Office disagreed and decided not to put this to the envoy. *"In any case"* Vansittart noted *"it is only a suggestion of the Army Council, and we are not obliged to comply with it."*

On 10 May, Maurice de Bunsen forwarded the list of 20 officers and 483 men to the Danish envoy and waited to see what would happen.

On 3 November, Henrik de Grevenkop-Castenkiold wrote to Balfour again requesting further information in assisting the King's endeavours to obtain better treatment for prisoners. He wanted to know whether 'certain classes of NCOs might, as applicants for commission, be considered for transfer to officer camps or to special camps where they might receive the treatment usually extended to officers.' This was possibly a gentle hint from the envoy that if they were to imply that certain NCOs had applied for commissions they would be able to move them into camps for officers. The request was sent to the Army Council, and they simply replied *"No!"*. They were also not pleased that their comments made on 7 May which disputed the envoy's statement on the King of Spain's help to the 16th Lancers were not taken up with him. The Foreign Office had done their homework however and told the Secretary of the Army Council that the King of Spain had taken a great interest in Captain Belleville of that regiment.

Aware of the Army Council's displeasure, the Foreign Office replied to the envoy that there were no such categories of men. Perhaps the Foreign Office was beginning to agree with the Army Council because a margin note says that further special treatment should not be extended to The Buffs as *'they are Belfield's old regiment, if I am not mistaken'*. Whoever wrote it was mistaken because Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Belfield, Director of Prisoners of War, was commissioned into the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1876 and never served in the Buffs. He was awarded the Africa Medal for service as a Major in the 4th Ashanti War of 1895 with the 1st Munsters. During the Boer War he was a Colonel on the staff of 1st Division.

The Danish envoy wrote to Balfour on 18 March 1918 furnishing a list of fourteen officers that due to the King's negotiations had been billeted together at Fürstenberg and three others who had been transferred to Switzerland. They also forwarded a note from Axel Ramm of the Danish Red Cross who stated that he would visit Fürstenberg to mediate with the Germans for their personal requests for comforts.

In the following month the Army Council gave their approval to a letter from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the King of Denmark conveying the British Government's appreciation of his efforts to ease the lives of Buffs prisoners.

It has to be assumed from Hartigan's comments in 1929 that the help given by the Danish was more widespread than that given to the twenty-one officers identified in March 1918. Perhaps this was via the Danish Red Cross. A list produced by Messrs Cox and Co of British officers taken prisoner between 1914 and 1918 shows that the majority of those officers transferred to Fürstenberg were interned in neutral Holland in March and April 1918. The roll of Buffs other ranks prisoners of war lists sixty-one men transferred to Holland in 1918 and a further five to Switzerland.

It is not known why the King of Denmark was in a position to negotiate with the Germans but his sister-in-law had married the Kaiser's son and heir in 1905. Trade arrangements and Denmark's control of access to the Baltic Sea could also have been factors. Whatever the reason, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs, King Christian X of Denmark used his influence to help the regiment in the only way he could, by making the lives of its prisoners of war more bearable.



Photograph from the *Dragon* in January 1938: King Christian X of Denmark is seated in the centre of the front row. Major GR Howe is seated in the front row, third from the right. Commissioned in 1912, he was captured at Berlin Wood on 3 May 1915 as a Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion and was one of those who ended up being interned in Holland as a result of King Christian's intervention. He retired in 1946 as a Lieutenant-Colonel and the barracks which have recently closed were named after him. (Ed: In 1956, *The New Infantry Barracks, Canterbury* was renamed *Howe Barracks* in response to a request by then Colonel of the Regiment,

Major General Val Boucher that the barracks should be named after Lieutenant Colonel G R Howe who had so ably commanded the Depot before and during the War and who had been so closely consulted on the layout of the new Depot. Sadly, Howe Barracks is no more. The area has become a housing estate, but its former role as the Depot for The Buffs, Queen's Own Buffs and The Queen's Regiment lives on as planners agreed that the roads and cul de sacs within the estate should be given names associated with its former role, which includes Howe Road.)



The Kaiser's Pets

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NAM 2001-03-81 List of Buffs Prisoners of War. The Buffs Collection, National Army Museum. The Farewell Years. The Final Historical Records of The Buffs 1948-1967 by Gregory Blaxland. Published in 1967.

After a Trafalgar Dinner in Gib, I was standing next to the Governor, Field Marshal Chapple, having a pee. I asked him, "At what rank does one stop peeing in the sink?" He said, "Well, when you reach half-colonel, you generally get an en-suite".

Nick Keyes

MARCHING THROUGH DUST AND TIME. A TALE OF TWO DANCONS

By Phil Finch

DANCON, short for Danish Contingent March, is a tradition that dates back to 1972 when Danish soldiers deployed with the United Nations Peacekeeping mission in Cyprus (UNFICYP). They initiated a march to foster camaraderie and maintain physical fitness. Since then, the DANCON March has become a prominent and cherished event among Danish military personnel and has expanded to include soldiers and civilians from various nations, reflecting its broad appeal and universal values of solidarity and endurance.

Over the decades, the march has been conducted in various international locations where Danish forces have been stationed, including Lebanon, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Mali, adapting to different terrains and climates, but still carrying around 10kg of military equipment covering 25km. The march is not a race but rather an endurance event, emphasising perseverance, discipline, and teamwork.

As a former Queensman, I had the opportunity to march the DANCON twice, once in 2009 in Kandahar and then Kabul in 2017. Each march, set in vastly different environments and operational contexts, offered unique challenges and rewards that left a lasting impact on me.

Kandahar DANCON 2009 - The setting for this march was at Camp Bastion, a sprawling coalition military base in Kandahar, Afghanistan. It was a place where intense operations against the Taliban were a daily reality, and the atmosphere was always thick with a sense of purpose and mission. When the opportunity came up, I knew this march would be a welcome distraction from the operational grind, but also a significant physical challenge as I decided to race a couple of SF operators (schoolboy error). The early start had us marching in thick dust as the camp's vehicles disturbed the ground ready to go out of the gates, but it did give us respite from the early morning heat before it hit the mandatory





40C for the rest of the day. The arid landscape within Bastion offered no reprieve, and the dust cloud made it hard to breathe, but that was part of the challenge - the very essence of the march was to endure, both mentally and physically. Under the blazing sun, I raced to a very respectable 11th position out of over 200 entrants, watching soldiers of all ranks and nationalities pushing through, cracking jokes despite the fatigue, and it reinforced the bond we shared as part of a coalition force.

Kabul DANCON 2017 - By 2017, I found myself in a vastly different environment, marching DANCON again at Camp Qasr-e-Quargha in Kabul; this time in one of the most dangerous and polluted cities in the world. The setting had changed, the nostrils burned with the burning tyres and the altitude made it difficult to breathe, but the purpose remained the same. The dry thin air of Kabul was less oppressive than Kandahar's heat, but it wore you down differently, making it easy to underestimate the challenge of the march. It was not lost on me that as a Warrant Officer, all but one of my peers remained in bed to avoid the discomfort that was to come.

The atmosphere in Kabul was subdued compared to the operational tempo of Kandahar in 2009. By 2017,

the mission had shifted from active combat operations to training and advising Afghan Forces. The DANCON March reflected this change as there was less tension in the air, but the stakes no less significant. Participating in the march this time, I felt a different kind of reflection settle in. It was more about enduring a longer tour of duty than facing the immediate threats of combat.

I also had a young Royal Marine captain in the march that needed to be beaten! Due to the small size of the camp, it required lap after lap of seeing the same buildings but also made it a community event with lots of cheering and support from spectators. Having let the Royal Marine race off, I slowly caught him up for a bit of banter, donned my beret and left him eating dust as I raced to the finish (not bad for someone 20 years his senior).

Marching the DANCON twice, eight years apart, in two different locations, gave me a deep appreciation for the tradition and its symbolism. Both marches were cheeky, but each carried its own unique set of challenges. Kandahar was raw, visceral, and marked by the immediate pressure of combat operations. The 2009 march was about heat, dust and pushing through the mental strain of being in an active war zone.



In contrast, the 2017 march was more introspective. By then, I had experienced years of deployments, and the march felt less like a test of physical endurance and more like a reminder of why we were there. In the end, both marches are milestones in my life, moments where I was

able to reflect on the journey, embrace the suck, and emerge stronger. The DANCON tradition is a reminder of the resilience required of us as soldiers, and the bond we now have as veterans especially with our Danish comrades.





'JOCK' PATTERSON, THE GUIDED WEAPONS PLATOON - 1 QUEENS

HAMALA CAMP, BAHRAIN, 1968 AND OUR IRAN TRIP

By Tony Ling

I was sad to hear of Jock Patterson's death. Looking back, I'm reminded not only of a bloody good soldier but of a member of the elite bunch of hoods serving in the so-called Guided Weapons Platoon. Our 'Vigilant' wire guided anti-tank missiles were invariably 'guided' into the ground, especially when the CO brought senior visitors to watch Britain's threat to the invading hordes. We were part of 1 QUEENS stationed at Hamala Camp, Bahrain. This was 1968.

Firing our missiles at £1000 a throw made live-firing expensive and rare, so 'they' gave us a giant computer to practise (play) on. However, we amused ourselves with other things – we won the Garrison cross-country vehicle rally and the Battalion patrolling competition despite the platoon commander's incompetent map reading. I (yes, it was me) led the platoon way off course, but in the clear desert night air we could see the lamps of the RV where we should have been. I picked Lance Corporal Paterson, who else, to come with me. The two of us ran several hundred yards to the lights and booked in – "Yes Sergeant-Major! The platoon are just behind those rocks" I assured the DS.

We had other fun and games, like when we were ordered to test the security of the Naval Base. We were all captured straight away and locked in one cell (stupid Navy) and we proceeded to dismantle it from the inside.

A reminder - 1968 was a historic year for the British Army: it was the only year that the British Army was not fighting. Since 1945, 1968 and 2016 were the only years where no UK armed forces personnel lost their lives – in the jargon 'as a result of a medal-earning operation'. 'Aden' ended in 1967, and 'Ireland' started in 1969.

But 1968 was not a peaceful year for the rest of the world. The Cold War was in full swing, the Vietnam War had started and, in the Middle East, the after-shocks from the 1967 Six-Day War were still being felt in Palestine and Israel and there was another coup in Iraq when a certain Saddam Hussein became *de facto* leader. I was reminded that our GW platoon



Guided Weapons Platoon - 1 QUEENS, Hamala Camp, Bahrain. 1968. Our Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Willmott is, fittingly, on my right with Jock right in front of me

was an 'asset' of British Forces in the Gulf, but after some brief chatter about an Iraqi threat to Kuwait, for whom we had protection responsibilities, any threat quickly disappeared, at least for Kuwait, for the next twenty years.

1 QUEENS was a happy unit; there was plenty of sport and varied and exciting training in the Gulf States but, unlike Hong Kong, there were few social distractions, so some of the 'Vigilant Platoon' decided to invade Iran. What the Army called 'Adventure Training'.



The 1 QUEENS GW Platoon Iran contingent - less the photographer!

Iran was our ally during World War Two and right up until their Islamist Revolution in 1979. Our Ministry of Defence even had a department dedicated to training the crews of the 707 Chieftain tanks and the 410 AFVs we had sold to Iran. However, by their 1979 revolution, we had only delivered 185 of the thousand or so military vehicles that the Shah had paid for. It was not until 2016 that we returned the half a billion pounds we owed them as part of a hostage return to us, a deal that included Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Britain had helped the Shah survive previously when Iran's Soviet-backed premier Mosaddegh's government was overthrown in 1953 in a coup 'facilitated' by HMG and our CIA friends.

Clearly a visit by 1 QUEENS GW platoon to Iran was another important diplomatic card that Britain could play! Some of our team were given a particularly grand welcome by 'Fatima' and her friends in 'the citadel'- Tehran's red-light district.

Actually, our trip was more 'adventure' than 'social'. I still have the 'Report on Adventure Training in Iran 9 August – 3 September 1968'. It is a sound military document - 'Introduction – Aim – Outline of events etc.': twenty pages of detail to guide any teams following us!

An RCT Ramp Powered Lighter (RPL) took our two vehicles to Dubai where we joined them courtesy of the RAF. Together we sailed to Bandar Abbas before setting off on our 3500-mile drive. Our route is marked in this map. Learning to deal with friendly but erratic officials was a challenge. Documents were frequently required by administrators or by us to move through jurisdictions. We had to be firm but friendly.





Since Bahrain was not recognised by Iran, we had a to be careful to avoid any mention of serving there or my carrying any incriminating papers.

We ate *chelo-kebab*, rice and greasy lamb, supplemented with eggs, potatoes and tomatoes.

There was plentiful fruit available. Not a bad life.



Jock does his washing.

Our trip was mostly over rough and pot-holed tracks, so we frequently shed exhaust pipes, holed radiators, got sand in the carburettor, and the bins on the tailboard and ammo box containers on the front rattled loose. We became efficient amateur mechanics and, for a few pence equivalent, were able to enlist local welders. The Rover assembly plant in Tehran repaired more serious damage all for just £17-16s-10p equivalent. Petrol was sold in 18 litre cans at village shops.

We got on well with the friendly and open local country people. They helped us; endless glasses of Iranian *chai* and bowls of *mast* (yogurt and cucumber), and we helped them with occasional lifts and with the medicines from our 'hearts and minds' pack.

At least for me, looking back nearly sixty years, the highlights were the great Persian city of Isfahan, the Emperor Darius's three-thousand-year-old palace at Persepolis where the graffiti included 'Byron was here' and swimming in the Caspian. Some of us also made an interesting detour up from Mashhat to the Afghanistan, Iran and Soviet border where suspicious-looking Russian men wearing trilbies and belted macs lurked about 'supervising' road building projects.

Finally getting our landrovers lifted onto a Trucial Oman dhow for our departure from Bandar Abbas meant Jock Paterson and I visiting the crane driver's home, drinking endless cups of *chai* and parting with US\$, and we sailed back to Bahrain.

A couple of points to end on; to me the late 'Lance Corporal Paterson' was a key player on our Iran trip. He only became Jock to me when we met again a few years ago at meetings of 'Friends of Surrey infantry Museums' (FOSIM) – sadly now closed down. It was great to chat about the good old days.

In the 1990s I returned briefly to Iran as an oil man; it was by then a completely crazy country, full of contradictions and hypocrisy but still a lot of fun.

Perhaps someone from our great Iranian gang will remember other tales; who was it we had to spring from the Tehran nick? Please write to our *Queen's journal* with answers and your memories:

*'Old men forget: yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day.'*
(Shakespeare 'King Henry V')

GALLIPOLI

By Brenda Bishop

My husband, Derek Bishop, was the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Ankara from 1977 to 1980. Each 25 April we visited Gallipoli, staying in one of the huts on the site. Other than the memorials at each cemetery, the whole area was undeveloped. I believe much more is there now. No one else visited in those days so Derek, on behalf of the British Embassy and for the Australians and New Zealanders lying there, marked the day in uniform by throwing a Poppy Wreath into the sea at Anzac Cove. The small nearby cemetery held, among others, Simpson known as 'Simpson and his donkey'. (Ed: John Simpson was a stretcher-bearer in the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance. He came ashore during the Anzac landing of 25 April 1915 and was killed less than three weeks later. Simpson used donkeys to transport wounded men from the fighting in Monash Valley down to the dressing station at Anzac Cove.)



Beach cemetery at Anzac Cove

We stayed on usually for a week enjoying a quiet holiday away from the busy life of the Embassy. The huts were originally built for the families of the Turkish gardeners who tended the graves, but their families did not like living there, preferring to be in Canakkale. The huts thus became available for staff from the Embassy in Ankara or Consulate in Istanbul to hire. A very peaceful spot among the beautiful pink blossom of the Cercis (Judas) trees. No electricity, no telephone and simple cooking

on a small, basic tin BBQ big enough for a few lamb chops which we could buy from the butcher in Canakkale.

One day we met two hikers, a New Zealander and an Australian, who had only just met each other. They both had fathers buried there, one having been born after his father was killed. They travelled light. If their clothes needed washing, they simply threw them away and bought cheap replacements from the local markets. They



Hellas Memorial. The slope comes straight up from the landing beach with no cover of any sort



nevertheless had quite heavy back-packs, so we suggested they leave their packs with us while they climbed up to Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair cemeteries and, on return, share our

BBQ. We told them that they would find a list to identify the graves in the arch entrance to each cemetery. The Australian decided to wander round Lone Pine before consulting the list. He found it quite uncanny that his first steps took him straight to his father's grave. We had a delightful evening with them with lamb chops and salad and, of course, plenty of Turkish wine.



The 'Sphinx' with the only approach being through these very thorny tall bog oak bushes



Lone Pine cemetery in the evening light

During our stay we used to walk throughout the area. Climbing up to the Sphinx through viciously prickly bog oak was fine for us being upright and able to step avoiding the bushes. What it must have been like for soldiers crawling through it we daren't imagine. Judging by the many rum jars still, even then, lying everywhere, Derek formed a theory that the Anzac soldiers had used them as ammunition! Our youngest son, on holiday from UK, was delighted to find he could still get a tiny explosion from some of the empty shell cases.

During this particular nasty riot in the estates of Londonderry in 1971, I was the radio man on the SR-A41 and my visor had to be raised to answer the green 'phone'. It was while sending a sitrep on behalf of our young officer Lt Salmon that Bernadette Devlin lobbed a brick which hit my nose, exclaiming: "So you're sending your kids now!" I'll forever recall NOT the pain but the amount of blood bursting from a rather small cut. Just another day in the ranks!

John Boston

ON THE RUN FROM THE NAVY

By John Langhorne

Way back in 1952, I left St Edmund's School in Canterbury with some School Certificate passes and as Drum Major of the CCF. At this time, National Service was in full swing and the nation's youth were being hauled off their mothers' apron strings to be turned into soldiers. Some enjoyed it, some just endured it and some built 'chuff charts' on which every day was carefully crossed off. There were two options, the first being 24 months service at £1.40 a week: option 2 being 36 months at £2.40 per week.

However, as I wanted to join the Navy, I had to actually join it rather than be conscripted and this I did at HMS King Alfred, a land-based hulk of Victorian engineering at Hove. On the appointed day, my father and I left home and drove to Hove. There I joined, accepting the King's shilling, signed all the forms, took the oath and, after a very good supper at English's Oyster Bar, returned home having been told to await instructions. Arriving home, I announced proudly *"I am in the Navy!"*

Sitting quietly at home one day wondering when I was going to get my sailing orders, a little brown envelope fell through the letterbox 'For Langhorne from MoD URGENT'. At last, here were my sailing orders to exotic places. *'You are to report to Depot The Royal Sussex Regiment, Roussillion Barracks, North Street, Chichester on 18 March 1953 at 12.00 Noon.'* Strange place to join a ship, I thought.

With a little anxiety, I thought 'Here we go'. So, this civilian public-school boy/sailor duly reported to the Guardroom as requested, only to be confronted by the largest sergeant in the world! *"WHAT DO YOU WANT LAD?"* So, I produced my little brown envelope, which he opened and read the instruction. *"That's funny,"* says he. *"You are the only one. The next call-up is in a week's time. They have put the wrong date on your letter!"* Langhorne's first MFU! *"Don't worry Lad. Go over to the building over there, report to the cook sergeant and tell him that I sent you."*

So off I went, straight across the grass – the quickest and shortest way. Halfway across, all hell breaks out behind me. Up to now I had only heard some of the words used but through the blast I did pick up *"COME BACK HERE!"* So, back I went to be bawled at again for abusing the cricket pitch. (It was never used all the time I was at the Depot and now it's a tarmacked car park!)

To cut a long story short, I got to the cookhouse, met the cook sergeant who introduced me to the spud peeler. *"Quite simple,"* said he. *"Spuds in here, turn this tap, turn the 'On' switch, stand back. But look in every now and then."* First half of the sack went in, 10 minutes later all peeled ready for the pot. Amazing! Next half of the sack went in, all going well until a corporal turns up and says *"Off to the NAAFI for tea and a bun."* So off I go. 20 mins later I return to find the machine still running with liquid pom in the tray that it stood in. There was obviously a shortage of potatoes for lunch that day. Langhorne's second MFU!

I was fallen out about 4pm that day but then what? No room! No bed! No friends!!! So, I crept past the guardroom and caught the bus back home. On arrival, the first words my brother said to me was *"I thought that you had gone to sea!"*

The first time I saw the sea was when I was put on a boat and sent to Aden! I never did hear back from the Navy, so I think I'm technically a deserter. I hope the Shore Patrol don't read this!

(Ed: John has had a chequered career having signed up with the Royal Navy, starting with the Queen's Own Royal West Kents, before going to the Paras, back to the Queen's Own Buffs, The Malaysian Rangers, 6/7th QUEENS, 4 QUEENS, 2 QUEENS, Depot Queen's Div, 1 QUEENS, finally ending up as the GLO with the RAF!)



CCF Drum Major Langhorne



“DON'T TELL HIM PIKE”

LIFE IN THE HOME SERVICE FORCE - THE LESSER KNOWN 'DADS ARMY'

By David Craggs

Back in 1988 and having recently got married, I started a new job and moved to Kent. I needed a new home for my Territorial Army service. Prior to this I had been a TA Platoon Commander with 6 RRF in Northumberland. The move to a new life in the sunny climes of Kent allowed me to transfer to 5 QUEENS and initially become the Intelligence Officer with HQ Company.

I enjoyed a couple of years in the role but promotion at work resulted in severe restrictions on my time - especially at weekends. This was not helpful when being a part of a busy Territorial Army battalion. I initially thought that I'd have little option but to leave the TA and discussed this with my CO. However, he helpfully pointed me in the direction of the newly formed HSF Company that was operating under the wing of 5 QUEENS.

The Home Service Force was a creation of the Thatcher Government during the early 80s. A pilot scheme of four companies was such a success that it soon expanded and grew to over 50 companies throughout the UK. Most of these were attached to existing TA Infantry Battalions. Both 5 QUEENS and 6/7 QUEENS each formed an HSF Company.

The Home Service Force was designed to be a 'Home Guard' type of force during the "Cold War" when the main threat to our country and to NATO was Warsaw Pact armoured columns racing through Germany and Northern Europe towards the Channel. Most TA Battalions would expect to be deployed to Germany to reinforce BAOR. Meanwhile, someone had to remain in the UK and protect the nation's infrastructure. HSF was established with the aim of protecting local Key Points and installations likely to be the target of enemy Special Forces and saboteurs (power stations, water supplies, fuel depots etc) and so that regular and TA units could be released from these tasks and deployed overseas.

Within 5 QUEENS, E (HSF) Company had been formed as a part of that expansion and the HQ was at Leros Barracks with its individual platoons scattered around Kent.

Unlike traditional TA units, HSF did not take new recruits without previous military experience. Each unit consisted of ex-regular or ex-territorial service personnel. Training commitments were much reduced from that of the TA with no requirement for an annual camp or for deployment overseas. Though administratively a part of 5 QUEENS, should the TA battalion deploy for war then E Company would remain here in the UK. One of the consequences of this 'lighter' training commitment was that the HSF was a popular choice for people whose civilian work made a traditional TA training commitment less viable.

Thus, I became Platoon Commander for 15 Platoon, based at Canterbury. It became a refreshing change to work with a very diverse collection of individuals and experience. Leading an HSF Platoon was very different from my experience of commanding rifle platoons in the past. There were no young, raw recruits to nurture. For a start everyone was older than I was; all had copious amounts of military service and needed very little input from a 20-something lieutenant who resembled 'Private Pike' to tell them how to do things properly! Indeed, when a couple of your corporals, your section commanders, are ex-WOIs, each with over 20 years' service, it makes for a very interesting regime.

I was certainly no Captain Mainwaring and my excellent platoon sergeant (who really kept the show on the road - don't they always?) was certainly no Sgt Wilson. That said, I'm sure there were a couple of platoon stalwarts who bore the occasional character resemblances to Private Walker or Warden Hodges.

So, off we went to war! Well training for Key Point deployments at least. While the modern infantry train to be mobile - HSF was different. We had to accept that we were staying in one place. There would be no attacking and gaining ground, or working with other arms, armour, engineers or artillery. This was about defending a piece of real estate often surrounded by civilians and civilian infrastructure.



The Winning team. David Craggs with the shield with Brig John Holman on his left

We did standard infantry training and tactics pretty much the same as everyone else though benefited from having some very experienced people who could lead the training. One thing about HSF was that you didn't have to rely on the training solely being delivered by officers or NCOs. It was just as likely that many members of the platoon had expertise or instructor experience on a wide variety of topics gained during their previous service.

Aside from our routine training weekends, one of the highlights for HSF was the annual Patrol Competition involving all of the HSF Platoons throughout South-east District. This involved the usual variety of tasks on the ranges: first aid, leadership, navigation skills, assault course, marksmanship, patrolling, etc. In November 1990, this took place at Cinque Ports Training Area and St Martins Plain Camp. After an exhausting couple of days and some excellent teamwork, the Canterbury Platoon went on to become worthy winners and District Champions.

The accompanying picture shows the team being presented with our trophy by the Brigade Commander. Sadly, the passage of time over the past 34 years means that I can no longer remember who each member of the squad was in the photo. So, if you can put a name to anyone in the picture or better still if you were there, please send an e-mail to the editor and he will hopefully reprint it in the next edition with some names attached?

The following year the competition was held on Longmoor ranges. We were doing well in our defence of the trophy until we got a bit too over enthusiastic in the use of Schermuli and thunderflashes during a night attack on the Ghurka section who were 'enemy' for the exercise; the result was part of Longmoor Heath catching fire and burning fiercely for several hours until Hampshire Fire Brigade rolled up to put it out, to much hilarity from our team. Having caused a bit of a fuss for Brigade staff during the middle of the night, it was clear that we'd probably spoiled our chances for that year and so we decided to lie low and not attract too much attention thereafter.

Sadly, in 1992 HSF was wound up due to Government cuts following the supposed 'Peace Dividend' and the collapse of the Soviet Union (look how well that is working out!) and so the platoon dispersed and that was the end of my TA career. Mind you - the way the world is going at present they might decide to reinvent the HSF once more. Next time, though, I'll probably resemble Corporal Jones rather than Private Pike!



QUEENSMAN Vs TREE

By Shane Potts

In the days of the Cold War and the Territorial Army, there was Robbie Dunn in his prime; six foot three, 20 stone and built like a brick outhouse with Para wings earned as a Royal Engineer regular. But Robbie, who died in July at the age of 87, was essentially a gentle soul with an infectious giggle. However, size matters. And so to the confidence course at Thetford PTA during annual camp.

As aficionados of assault and confidence courses will know, this manifestation starts with low obstacles leading towards trees and then a vertical climb to ropes and scramble nets going from tree to tree. At the highest point there is the death slide, a wire cable attached to the tree above head height, descending steeply to an oak tree down below. The slide goes over a quarry to increase the fright factor, coming to a stop six feet above the ground on the oak tree. To slow the slider down as they speed downwards on a collision course, there is the simple technology of two fellow soldiers with a large double-handed leather belt about six feet long. This they hold out to catch the slider around the waist to prevent a collision with the tree.

As I got to the slide platform, Robbie was in front of me and was just about to set off, as Mick Courtnage, next in line, will testify. In those days, Health and Safety was something for the future, so no safety ropes, just a pulley on the wire with a rope loop to hold onto. Grab the rope loop and off you go!

Looking down, Mick and I saw the panic in the faces of the brakemen; Robbie was a man of fuller stature! Off he set, picking up speed as those below braced themselves ready to slow and stop their large target. Robbie by now had reached full velocity. They did their best holding out the belt with hope, but the outcome was predictable. Robbie hit the belt pulling the two lads round behind him. They hit each other, letting go of the belt in their concussed state. With panic in his eyes, Robbie continued towards the oak tree with boots dragging the ground as emergency brakes. I can happily report that the oak suffered no damage. As for Robbie's boots, it seems that a request was made for new boots with steel toe caps!

Moments like this are special and reinforce the comradeship that I hope never fades.



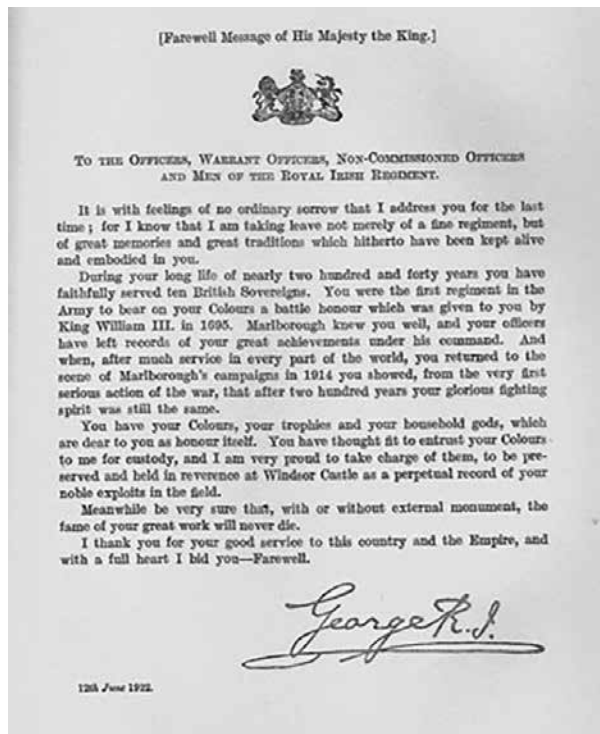
Shane Potts



Robbie Dunn

COMBINED IRISH REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PARADE AT THE CENOTAPH

By John White



For the last few years, the QRA has been invited to take part in this parade due to our long service on Op BANNER and our Irish history dating back to 1701 with the raising of the Earl of Donegall's Regiment which subsequently became The Royal Sussex Regiment. Originally, this parade was to honour the Irish regiments within the British Army who were forced to disband on the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922. But over the last 50 years it has become a general recognition of the service of all Irishmen in the British Army.

On 12 June 1922, the Colours of the disbanded regiments were laid up at St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, to be kept forever in the care of the King and his descendants. The images show George V's farewell message to the Royal Irish Regiment, George V accepting the Colours, and some of the Colours displayed on the Grand Staircase in the Castle.



The regular Irish regiments that disbanded were:

Royal Irish Regiment - [not to be confused with the regiment formed in 1992 by the amalgamation of the Royal Irish Rangers and the Royal Irish Regiment (Ulster Defence Regiment)]. It had been raised in 1684 as the 18th Regiment of Foot and under William III became The Royal Regiment of Foot of Ireland. It had never amalgamated and had its depot at Clonmel, County Tipperary. It served as the county regiment for Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny. Its first battle honour was Namur 1695 and last Palestine 1917-18.

Connaught Rangers - Originally raised in the province of Connaught (*Ed: There are four Provinces in Ireland, Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster*) in 1793 to counter the French revolutionary war threat as the 88th Regiment of Foot, and acquired the nickname 'Devil's Own', adopted the Celtic harp as its badge and the motto 'Quis Separabit' (who shall separate us - coming from the Bible's words 'who shall separate us from the love of Christ'). The harp and motto have been long associated with Ireland and its patron saint, St Patrick. At the Battle of Bussaco 1810, in the Peninsular War, Wellington told the CO: "I never saw a more gallant charge than that just now made by your regiment". Under the Childers reforms of 1881 it was amalgamated with the 94th Regiment of Foot which had been raised in 1794 from those who had served in the Scots Brigade in the Low Countries. Its depot was in Galway.

Leinster Regiment – Prince of Wales's (Royal Canadians). 100th Regiment of Foot had been raised in Canada in 1858 and was named after the future Edward VII (hence the Prince of Wales's feathers as its badge). In 1881 the 100th was amalgamated with the 109th Regiment of Foot (Bombay Infantry) which, until brought on to the British establishment after the Indian Mutiny 1857-58, had been the 3rd Bombay (European) Regiment of the East India Company. Its depot was at Birr, in central Ireland near the border between the provinces of Connaught and Leinster.



Royal Munster Fusiliers - This was an 1881 Childers amalgamation of the 101st Regiment of Foot (Royal Bengal Fusiliers), which had been raised as the first European (as opposed to native Indian) regiment of the East India Company in 1652, and the 104th Regiment of Foot, which had been raised in 1765 as the 2nd Bengal European Regiment. Its depot was Tralee in SW Ireland. The 1st Battalion suffered heavy losses in disembarking, together with 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and part of 2nd Bn Hampshires, from the SS River Clyde at Cape Helles, Gallipoli Peninsula, 25 April 1915. The image of the 3rd Battalion's Regimental Colour, presented in 1902 and laid up in St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London, clearly shows its battle honours when part of the East India Company.

Royal Dublin Fusiliers - Another 1881 amalgamation. This time of the 103rd Regiment of Foot (Royal Bombay Fusiliers), which had been originally raised in England in 1662 as independent companies to garrison Bombay and became the Bombay Regiment, and the 102nd Regiment of Foot (Royal Madras Fusiliers), which had been raised in 1742. The painting is of Munsters and Dubliners disembarking the SS Clyde under fire, Gallipoli.



Irish War of Independence (1919-22) - The situation in Ireland after the ending of the First World War was one of great friction. Many of those who had fought for Britain expected to be rewarded with Home Rule (independent of the Westminster government) for the whole of Ireland. Some former soldiers willingly joined the armed Republican groups who fought the Provisional Government of Ireland (which governed southern Ireland), objected to the division of Ireland and disagreed with the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which created the Irish Free State. There were some dreadful discriminatory acts carried out against those who had fought in the Irish regiments but refused to join the republican armed resistance. They were seen as traitors to the cause of a fully independent Ireland.

Mutiny - In June 1920, 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers was stationed in Jullundur, in the Indian Punjab. Eighty-Eight soldiers mutinied in protest at the behaviour of the 'Black and Tans' (unemployed soldiers recruited as temporary constables to support the Royal Irish Constabulary, wearing a mixture of dark green RIC uniform which appeared black and khaki British Army uniform). Seventy-seven were sentenced to imprisonment, with the ringleader, Private James Daly, 20 years old, being shot. He remains the last British Army soldier to be shot for mutiny. The pictures show Daly and a group of Black and Tans in Dublin.



Irish Establishment - The Army in Ireland was separate from that of England (and after the 1707 union with Scotland, from that of Great Britain), albeit under the control and command of the English monarch. It only came into the British Army in 1801 with the union of the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland into the United Kingdom. Its constituent parts had changed substantially after the defeat of James II at the Boyne in 1690, after which Catholics weren't allowed to serve until the Papists Act 1778 which allowed Catholics legally to join the Army and own land. A number of regiments raised in the late 17th century and in the 18th century were intended to be stationed in Ireland to act as an internal police force.

Royal Sussex - The tension on religious grounds is highlighted by the raising of the 35th Foot in Belfast in 1701 by the 3rd Earl of Donegall. It was recruited from Protestants loyal to William III from the Dutch Royal House of Orange, adopted orange facings and its officers were required to toast the monarch individually so that the Colonel could properly test their loyalty to the Protestant King – a tradition maintained in the Queen's and PWRR to this day. (The Royal Sussex was the 1881 amalgamation of the 35th Foot and 3rd Bengal European Regiment raised in 1765 by the East India Company.) The image is of a soldier in the 35th from the 1742 Clothing Regulations. (*Ed: See subsequent article regarding the 8th Marquess of Donegall, direct descendant of the 3rd Earl*).



Royal Northumberland Fusiliers - readers might be surprised to learn that the 5th Foot was raised in Ireland by Viscount Clare in 1674 on the Irish Establishment and had 'Irish' in its title. Northumberland was added to its title in 1782 and Fusilier in 1836.

Irish Soldiers in the Wider Army - The British Army was regularly short of recruits, and even before 1778, had secretly let Catholics join. So, one finds many Irishmen have served in British Regiments and Corps. In the American Revolutionary War, it is estimated 16% of soldiers and 31% of COs were Irish. By 1813, after the long period of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, it is thought the Irish made up a third of the British Army. Think of Sgt Harper in the Sharpe novels. Many senior officers were born in Ireland or from Irish families, such as Wellington, Wolseley, Roberts, French, Gort, Alanbrooke, Montgomery, Alexander and O'Connor. During World War 1, over 2,000,000 Irishmen served in the British Army, and it has been estimated that up to 1 in 4 may have been KIA or died of disease or wounds. Proportionately against population size, Irishmen





have won many more VCs than other nationalities. The image is the reverse of Billy McFadzean's VC won posthumously on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.



Remainder of Irish Regiments honoured (Besides the 1922 disbanded infantry) below are the other Irish linked regiments (together with their later amalgamated successors) honoured in the Combined Irish Regiments' Annual parade in Whitehall.

4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards

5th (Royal Irish) Lancers

6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons

8th King's Royal Irish Hussars

North Irish Horse

SOUTH IRISH HORSE (special reserve cavalry disbanded 1922)

Irish Guards (formed on 1 Apr 1900 by order of Queen Victoria to commemorate Irishmen who fought in the Second Boer War 1899 to 1902)

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (27th Foot)

Royal Irish Rifles (from 1 Jan 1920 **Royal Ulster Rifles**)

Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's)

London Irish Rifles

Liverpool Irish

Tyneside Irish

Ulster Defence Regiment

Plus, the various police forces:

Royal Irish Constabulary

Dublin Metropolitan Police

Ulster Special Constabulary

Royal Ulster Constabulary

Police Service of Northern Ireland

In Canterbury in 1981, fresh back from my Anti-Tank Platoon Commander's course, I ran a bit of Warsaw Pact equipment recognition training and to round it off, I composed a quiz, which included several 'What is a...?' questions. In came the answer sheets for marking. One question was 'What is a FROG missile?' to which a witty soldier had answered "A type of Toad Artillery".

Nick Keyes

THE MARQUESS OF DONEGALL

By Alasdair Goulden

Following the Combined Irish Regiment's march at the Cenotaph, I was talking with Sir Anthony Weldon, the inspecting officer who wanted to know what our regimental connection was to the Combined Irish Regiments' Association (CIRA). I explained about the Regiment's involvement in Op BANNER and the fact that the 35th Regiment of Foot, forebear regiment to the Royal Sussex and subsequently QUEENS and PWRR, was raised by the 3rd Earl of Donegall. I also told him of the requirement for officers to drink the Loyal Toast individually, as laid down by the 3rd Earl, following the suspected loyalty of some of the officers at that time, a tradition that continues to this day. Sir Anthony then put me in touch with the current and 8th Marquess of Donegall who was unaware of his ancestor's connection with the Regiment. As a result of making contact, the Marquess has very kindly sent fraternal greetings to all Queensmen and Tigers. The photos are of Dunbrody Abbey where the 3rd Earl raised the Regiment and spent some time.

DUNBRODY ABBEY CENTRE

Dunbrody, Campile,

New Ross,

Co. Wexford

Email: patrickbelfast@aol.com

TO ALL QUEENSMEN AND TIGERS

As a direct descendant of the 3rd Earl of Donegall, who founded the 35th Regiment of Foot, it gives me the greatest pleasure to wish you all fraternal greetings.

It is a great honour for me to be associated with your illustrious Regiment. I am sure my antecedent would be delighted that the family is still in touch with the Regiment he founded in 1701.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Donegall.

THE 8th MARQUESS OF DONEGALL

The Fraternal Greetings of the 8th Marquess of Donegall



Dunbrody Abbey in the Snow



Dunbrody Abbey



HOT, RED AND A PAIN IN THE ARRRRRGH.....

By Billy Bolton

Whilst the 1st Battalion was in Gibraltar (1985-87), we initially enjoyed the paternal governance of our old friend Brigadier Dick 'Jaws' Hume (late IG) in his guise as the Deputy Fortress Commander. He had been lucky enough to have had the Battalion under his command of 2 Brigade during the Canterbury tour.

Not long after our arrival, Admiral Sir David Williams retired as Governor and Fortress Commander and handed over to Air Chief Marshall Sir Peter Terry, a lovely man who probably didn't know that our nickname for him was, 'Tell the Crab'; that his ADC was known as 'Handbag' is another story...

Shortly after Sir Peter arrived on the Rock, the CO, Lt Col Mike Ball, invited him to an informal lunch in the Mess in order to meet the officers. In those days we still had regimental chefs, and one of them was the inestimable Cpl Norman Phillips. A dab hand at a decent curry, Norman had knocked up a fantastic buffet (not something normally seen in our Mess it must be said, but it was felt that the Light Blue fraternity would feel less intimidated or challenged in the 'Cutlery: Use of department) consisting of four different dishes of varying spiciness from a creamy dish to the '*pièce de résistance*', that being a particularly fiery Hot Chilli Fish job – the clue is in the name!

As the senior officers rallied to the call of 'Ladies to the Buffet', the new Governor, leading the way through the fawning throng of bowing and scraping majors and accompanied by Jaws, picked up their plates and laid into the spread with gusto. Noticing that the Brigadier seemed to be avoiding putting anything vaguely spicy on his plate, Sir Peter told him to, "*stop being a poof and try some of this*" whilst spooning a large dollop of Norman's nuclear-grade nosh onto his plate.

The lunch was enjoyed by all and eventually the VIP guests thinned out, whilst those of us whose Mess bills had paid for the session set about finishing off the leftover wine and Port before the Mess staff nabbed it!

One of the items on the list of daily tasks for the Battalion Orderly Officer was to visit the sick in the Royal Naval Hospital, a splendid building with wide echoing corridors, high ceilings and shiny stone floors. This day, due to the lunch, the visit was conducted later on in the afternoon. At the sound of a pair of highly polished and hob-nailed Shoes Brown Officers click-clacking past one of the wards, a voice from within croaked, "*Nurse, is that for me?*". The voice sounded suspiciously like the Brigadier's, so the Orderly Officer proceeded with caution just as a QARNNS Matron bellowed back, "*No it isn't, now just be quiet and stay where you are!*" The Orderly Officer stared at her with a mixture of fear and admiration before plucking up the courage to whisper, "*Is that the Brigadier?*". "*Yes*" came the reply, "*but I'm not supposed to tell you that he's in here nor why he is*". As both a future Recce Platoon Commander and Intelligence Officer in the making, the question, "*Why?*" naturally followed. Bursting into a huge grin and a fit of giggles, the Matron then inadvertently revealed the reason for the poor man's reluctance to try Norman's Hot Chilli Fish Curry a few hours before - apparently, he suffered from the most dreadful piles! Shortly after his visit to the Mess, nature had taken its course and this had led to him being hospitalised with what can best be described in the words of the late Johnny Cash, a 'ring of fire'.

History doesn't recount what effect this incident had on the CO's confidential report but it was noticeable that curry or anything else spicy for that matter, was never again served if Jaws was present.

I was on the Staff in Gibraltar where the Governor was Field Marshal Chapple. He asked me "Why are you leaving the Army, Nick?" to which I replied, "Same reason as you, Sir. Poor promotion prospects". Lovely man!

Nick Keyes

THE BATTLE OF LA ALBUERA 16 MAY 1811 1811 COMMEMORATIONS 2024

By Stew Streeting

Introduction. 213 years ago, three of our forbear regiments 1/3rd (1st Bn 3rd Regiment of Foot) 'The Buffs' - (The Royal East Kent Regiment), 2/31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment of Foot (later the East Surrey Regiment) and 1/57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot distinguished themselves at La Albuera. The La Albuera Battlefield is the site of the bloodiest battle of the Peninsula War between France's Army of the South (Armée du Midi) led by Marshal Soult against the British, Spanish and Portuguese forces under the command of General Sir William Beresford on 16 May 1811. Marshal Soult had been ordered to protect the Spanish fortress city of Badajoz. Beresford received notice that Soult was approaching from Andalusia, so he lifted the Siege of Badajoz and posted his army at La Albuera in a defensive position. Here, he defeated Soult on 16 May 1811 which forced the French to retreat. The battle resulted in terrible losses of 7,000+ on both sides and today there is a memorial to the battle in the town of La Albuera in Southwest Spain, just 12 miles south of Badajoz very close to the Portuguese border.

Background. For the past 10 years on 14 May, I have performed the privileged duties as Master of Ceremonies for an international commemoration of remembrance for those that fell at the battle of La Albuera and the sieges of Badajoz, at the British Military Cemetery in Elvas Portugal and then laid a wreath at the PWRR Obelisk at La Albuera on 16 May. This year, for the first time, a new commemorative parade was introduced at Vila Viçosa, Portugal, on 15 May, which is home to the House of Braganza.

Why Elvas? Not only is Elvas Cemetery the oldest British Military cemetery in the world, but more importantly for us, it is the only cemetery in the Iberian Peninsula to hold the bodies of men killed in battle during the Peninsula War. Of the



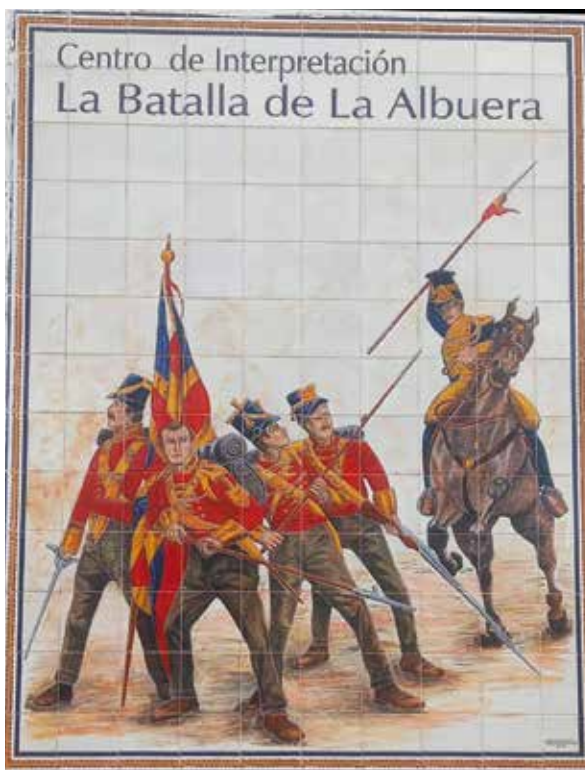


thousands of British soldiers that fell at the Battle of Albuhera, only two are held in marked graves in the cemetery. The cemetery has a further three marked graves of those who fell at the sieges of Badajoz. However, along the Badajoz and La Albuera walls of the cemetery are plaques and stones representing all the regiments which took part.

The Service of Remembrance at Elvas. The service is well attended each May by senior military officers from Portugal, Spain and the UK (Defence Attaché Lisbon), and representatives from our forbear regiments organised by both the PWRR RHQ and the Albuhera Branch of the Queen's Regimental Association. They are joined by the Irish Ambassador to Portugal, direct descendants of General Viscount Beresford's family (he was also a Field Marshal in the Portugese Army), Friends of the British Cemetery Elvas, military historians, military veterans and families. Each year, I design and produce a colour programme, liaise with the bugler and arrange the wreath laying with the Friends of British Cemetery Elvas. There are several interesting, topical and informative speeches by Portuguese Generals, the senior Spanish officer, the Irish Ambassador and the UK Defence Attaché. A padre from Lisbon leads the spiritual aspect of the Service in both Portuguese and English. This year, he was accompanied by a Spanish Army padre. Despite the seriousness of the Service, my attempts to learn the names of so many foreign dignitaries to announce their invitation to lay a wreath becomes a source of sadistic amusement to many. I can't speak Spanish or Portuguese; yet each year the names I have to announce gets longer and harder to pronounce. My daughter helps me learn them so that those laying the wreaths can just about recognise their own name! However, every year without fail, some of those nominated to lay wreaths are replaced and I learn of the name changes minutes before the ceremony begins. The British contingent enjoy watching me sweat, as I make the difficult and almost unrecognisable announcements! During the service, a special presentation is made to the best English language student from the local school. This year, the winner put me straight to the test as her name was six words long.

Representing the Regiment once again this year was Lt Col (Retd) Steve Wall MBE who laid a PWRR wreath, with ex-WO1 (RSM) Jim Spicer representing The Queen's Regiment. They were joined by veterans from the RRF and R ANGLIAN to make it a Queen's Divisional activity. I brought a few old friends, two from Gibraltar (one ex-RN Submariner) and two (one ex-RAF) from the UK who I grew up with on the estate directly across from Howe Barracks, which made it very special for me. Usually, after the Service there is an opportunity to visit the excellent museum at Elvas, followed by a meal of local cuisine, wine and port.

A new commemorative service in 2024. During the sieges of Badajoz and the battle of La Albuera, the Royal Palace, the House of Braganza, at Vila Viçosa (just West of Elvas) became the military hospital on the rearward passage of line. We were treated to a guided tour of the House of Braganza, the birthplace of Catherine of Braganza, significant for us given



that our regiment was raised in 1661 as part of her wedding dowry when Catherine of Braganza married King Charles II. Portugal gave the largest known dowry to King Charles II, including 300,000 pounds of cash, Tangier in the Mediterranean and Bombay in India. We were raised and sent to defend the Port of Tangier. The Battle Honour 'Tangier 1662-1680' is recognised as the British Army's oldest Battle Honour, which we proudly display on our Regimental Colour today. A new book called *'The Three Cemeteries of the English in Viçosa' (Os Três Cemitérios Dos Ingleses em Vila Viçosa)* written by Tiago Salgueiro and Manuel Pinheiro.) was launched following a presentation by the authors at the Town Hall.

We then moved up to a new memorial which was unveiled during the inaugural ceremony and was accompanied by a Portuguese military marching band, some speeches and a religious service; this included laying the wreaths to represent the many Portuguese, Spanish and British units that fought in the Peninsula War. This service will be included in the annual programme on 15 May each year from 2025.

La Albuera Celebrations - new format.

Following on from achieving the right balance of military remembrance and community celebrations, the Spanish Army has taken the lead for the La Albuera programme from the local authority. It starts with a packed community parade in the town square with speeches from mayors, politicians, senior military officials and local descendants from the battle. Twelve flags are then raised to national anthems around the village centrepiece. Lt Col (Retd) Steve Wall MBE took the salute for the Union Flag. A series of displays take centre stage including one from the Spanish Army, and a military band, but the main event is a re-enactment of the battle by local actors, singers and school children dressed in French, Spanish and British period



uniforms, and armed with cannons and muskets. The children finish the display as KIA or WIA to the sound of cannon fire as a female singer moves around the battlefield singing the most harrowing song depicting the atrocities of war. There are very few dry eyes amongst the hundreds that watch.

The parade then marches onto the battlefield to form square around the PWRR Obelisk. Colonel Steve presented the prize to the best school student in an art competition to depict the battle. The winning painting was spectacular. Wreaths are then laid to represent all those who fell at La Albuera, finishing with our three forebear regiments that fought so gallantly. After a VIP dinner, all the British contingents celebrated the *Silent Toast* after the Special Order of the Day was read by Colonel Steve. Having served over 20 years and performed the *Silent Toast* in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on many occasions, there is nothing more special for a Queen's and PWRR veteran, than making the toast at La Albuera. It is the perfect end to three days of ceremonial duties.

THE ALBUHERA LOVING CUPS

By Roger Gancz

The purpose of this article is to debunk the myth, built up over many years in the Middlesex Regiment, and subsequently the QUEENS and PWRR, that the original Albuhera Loving Cup used annually at the Silent Toast '*To The Immortal Memory*' on 16 May was made from the shoulder-belt plates/breastplates of the five officers who died at the Battle of Albuhera or from the silver accoutrements of the officers who fought at the battle. It wasn't!

'Albuhera Loving Cup: The cup was made in 1809 but was not then in its present form. It is probable that the double stem and handles were added when the Colours were chased. The medal is that of Pte Henry Holloway, 57th Foot, who was the last survivor of the battle of Albuhera, May 16, 1811.'

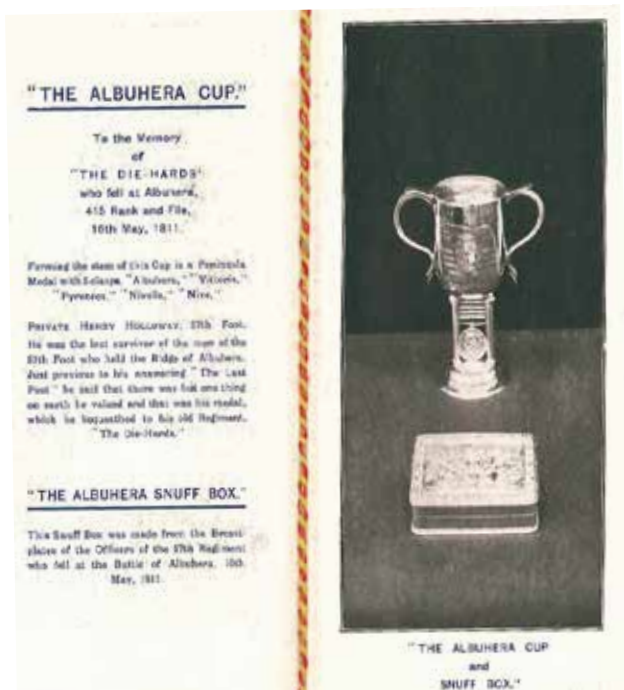
(Taken from <http://queensregimentalassociation.org/journals-and-newsletters>)



The Original Albuhera Loving Cup Dated 1809

The Albuhera Cup is engraved, "To the Memory of the Diehards May 16th 1811- 415 Rank & File Who Fell at Albuhera" and carries a London hallmark dated 1809 (by John Linnit?), which predates the battle. Unlike the Albuhera Snuff Box made in 1817 (by John Linnit?), no mention is made of its origins. During WW2, the Cup, with most of the regimental silver, was deposited in the vaults of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in Singapore for safe keeping. Fortunately, it was recovered after the Japanese surrender in 1945.

The earliest photograph of the Cup that can be seen is in the possession of Colonel Patrick Crowley. It shows the centenary card of 1911, which was exactly repeated in Die-Hards Journal Vol 1 No 8 in 1924. The caption to the photograph is quite specific. The Cup is only to the memory of those who fell; its provenance is unexplained.



There is evidence that the first medal, bequeathed to the Regiment by Pte Hammond who was thought to be the last survivor of the battle, was incorporated in 1873. Subsequently, in 1885, Pte Holloway was discovered as the last survivor of Albuhera and he also bequeathed his medal to the Regiment, which replaced Hammond's sometime after Holloway's death in 1886.

The engraved Colours are a representation, not based on any particular set of colours, and the battle honours are those awarded up to and including New Zealand, which was awarded in June 1870. In 1879, the 57th fought in the Zulu War, but were not awarded the battle honour, 'South Africa 1879', until August 1881. By this time (June 1881) it had been grouped with the 77th to become the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) following the reforms of the Army by Cardwell and Childers. This exclusion supports the evidence for the 1873 modifications and engraving to the cup and the exclusion of the final

battle honour. The 1818 and 1867 Colours (below) illustrate that the engraved Colours are only representations. Also, the spelling of the battle honours *Vittoria* (Victoria), English spelling for Spanish *Vitoria*, and *Sevastopol* (Sevastopool) are mistakes, although it is interesting to note that the name of *Vitoria* was taken from the name of the original settlement of *Nova Victoria*. These 'mistakes' were deliberately carried over to the replica cups.

Original Albuhera Loving Cup dated 1809, incorporating Pte Holloway's original medal, inherited by 1 QUEENS and subsequently 1 PWRR

Note: on left maker's mark (John Linnit?) followed by London silver marks for 1809

(source: Lt Col R Gancz)





Two Replica Albuhera Loving Cups dated 1969 and 1970 with replica Pte Holloway medals presented to 2 & 3 QUEENS on disbandment of 4 QUEENS (Middlesex)

The Original 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot 1818 - 1838 Regimental Colour

Auctioneer’s Description

Middlesex Regiment. 57th (West Middlesex) Foot Colours, circa 1830s, embroidered with regimental insignia and battle honours for Peninsular, Albuhera, Pyrenees, Vittoria and Nivelle, with Union Flag to the upper left corner on a pale silk ground, a fragile piece with several areas of damage and general perishing, presented in a large frame, glazed, 175 x 175cm.



Provenance: Collection of Jack Webb (1923-2019), London. The 57th (West Middlesex) Foot was raised in 1755 and was amalgamated under the Childers Reforms with the 77th (East Middlesex) Foot to form the Middlesex Regiment in 1881.

Auction Date: 20 May 2021 for £1150 to Waterloo Antiques who wanted £3000; declined.

THE MAN OF KENT MARCH

By Stephen Duggan

“You must be mad!” boomed the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells at the Pantiles in the freezing cold prior to the start of our march from Tunbridge Wells to Canterbury for charity on 15-16 February 1985.

The Drums struck up and we were off, looking more like an ice dance team on its first lap than a platoon of volunteers about to march 60 miles by 9am the next morning to raise money for Save the Children and Cancer Research. The street collectors quickly got into the swing of things and people donated generously.

Tonbridge, just over an hour’s march later, was a great success with hundreds turning out and a tailback of cars which stretched for miles! Then came the 15 miles to Maidstone, broken by a pub lunch on the way. By the time we reached Maidstone in the late afternoon, muscles were starting to ache. We formed up with the Drums and marched through the town centre, doing a slow slalom course between concrete bollards and parked cars. Dinner with 36 Engineer Regiment, RE, then a shower and a clean pair of socks put a spring back in our legs. Because of the prevailing weather conditions, snowdrifts, driving wind and a temperature of minus 10, we put on all the warm clothes we possessed. Cpl Thompson looked like a Rastafarian on a day trip to Alaska.



Just before we set out, the RSM of 36 Engineer Regiment caught sight of us and nearly had an epileptic fit, only partially recovering when we told him that we were Queensmen on a sponsored march, not Engineers preparing for a drill competition.

When we got to the hills to the east of Maidstone, the real fun began. Every hundred yards or so, the path was blocked by snow drifts up to 2 feet deep, forcing us into the road. Massive juggernauts driven by speed freaks who did their best to flatten us, taking no notice of the warning lamps, torches or luminous panels, kept us on our toes. Furthermore, the driving wind made communication difficult and suffering muscles slowed our pace down to a crawl. By the time we reached Charing, I was beginning to believe we were indeed all mad! Fortunately, Sgt Crossan with the support team were waiting with hot soup, sandwiches and a warm minibus. We looked like Scott's expedition to the Antarctic, with no-one very keen to play the part of Captain Oates! Still, we did eventually get moving and the arrival of Pte Lowe, who missed the start of the march and spent most of the day searching for us, was a morale boost.



Mayor of Canterbury talking to Lt Duggan and C Brewer on completion of the Man of Kent march.

At 3am when the lights of Canterbury finally came into sight, we would have won parts in the film, *'The Night of the Living Dead'*! Pte Bryan had only been able to put one leg fully on the ground for the previous ten miles.

After two hours sleep on the coach, breakfast, a shave and a clean-up, we felt almost human again and in the bright sunshine marched through the gates of Canterbury, scarcely aware of our blistered feet and tense muscles. On the way, Cpl Brewer gave a much-needed last minute drill course.

The Mayor of Canterbury inspected the parade at Westgate Tower and invited the whole parade back into his parlour where drinks were provided by RHQ in the company of the delicious Miss Canterbury. And someone said, *"What are you doing next weekend ...?"*

Our thanks go to the Mayors of Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury, the staff of RHQ, Sgt Crossan and the support team, the Drums Platoon, all those who sponsored us and the generosity of the people of Kent who gave £420 in contributions towards the final total of £1,500, (over £4,500 today).

MEETING SACEUR

From IJLB, our company paid a visit to SHAPE HQ in Belgium in August 1976, and we met Alexander Haig, then SACEUR and later Secretary of State.



Bill Knight Hughes

L to R Maj Raymond Low, Queen's Regt, General Alexander Haig, SACEUR, Lt Kevin Hodgson, Royal Anglian Regt, Lt Bill Knight-Hughes, Queen's Regt, CSgt Kaye-Lesser, Queen's Regt, Sgt Warren, Royal Fusiliers.

COs AT THE END OF THEIR TOURS

By Amédée Miéville

The end of a commanding officer's command is normally met with a farewell parade or event to enable the outgoing CO to address his Battalion for the final time. Some were given an extra send-off reflecting significant events during his time in command or the current or future role of the battalion. Here are three examples where the commanding officers were escorted out.

LT COL J G W DAVIDSON CO 1 QUEENS

At the end of Lieutenant-Colonel John Davidson's time in command, 1 QUEENS were stationed in Werl in West Germany. The Battalion had completed several Northern Ireland tours during his time in command during which he had been injured on a squash court by one of his officers! He had also regularly used the Army Air Squadron from Soest in Germany and Northern Ireland, establishing excellent relations with pilots.



When he arrived on the Square to inspect the Battalion for the last time, he was invited to do so in a wheelchair to reflect the injuries he had received on the sports field during his tour. As he returned to the front of the parade, a Gazelle helicopter came over the trees and landed on the square. The CO was then strapped into the casualty pod in the back of the helicopter and, with the Adjutant, took off for the flight back to his married quarter in Unna. The plan was to take long enough for the Company Commanders and their CSMs to meet him there for a final drink before he left for England. As the flight would only take 15 minutes, a diversion needed to be taken to buy time for those going by road to Unna.

As Werl is not far from the Mohnesee, it was felt that a re-enactment of the Dambusters raid would be appropriate! This was carried out without the lights to judge the height over the water but certainly at only 50 feet! This was followed by the drop over the dam wall by which time the CO had changed colour considerably! A gentler flight, well above the ground, was completed on the final leg to Unna where refreshments were much appreciated by everyone in the helicopter! The tale did not end there as Jennifer Davidson gave the Adjutant another interview without coffee for not briefing her on what was going to happen!

LT COL D A BEVERIDGE CO 3 QUEENS

After a highly successful tour in Fallingbostal in West Germany including 4 months in Northern Ireland, Lt Col David Beveridge moved 3 QUEENS to Canterbury to prepare for their 6-month tour in Belize. Not long after the Battalion's arrival in Howe Barracks, his time in command came to an end and preparations were put in place for a final parade before he left. By then, the Battalion Second-in-Command had





liaised with the RAF Puma Squadron who would be supporting the Battalion in Belize to plan helicopter training before the tour.

On the day of his departure, the Battalion was formed up on the square ready for the Commanding Officer's final address. Unbeknown to him (or his wife!) on completion of his speech, the plan was for a Puma carrying members of the Recce Platoon dressed in black coveralls and wearing balaclavas, to land close to the square and take him away! RSM Barry

Moss was to give the signal that would lead to the Puma being called in. Unfortunately, he gave the signal too soon and the Puma arrived just as the Commanding Officer was starting his speech!

The Second-in-Command jumped in, and the Puma was sent away to wait in dead ground until called forward at the right time! The plan was then enacted correctly, and the Puma returned and collected the Commanding Officer. It took him on a short flight to give time for the Company Commanders and their CSMs to get down to Leros Barracks for a final drink with him before he and his wife left Canterbury. There was a familiar ending. Janet Beveridge gave the Second-in-Command an interview again without coffee.

LT COL A C MIÉVILLE CO 1 QUEENS

Lt Col Amédée Miéville took over command of 1 QUEENS in Tidworth before, nine months later, moving them to Clifton Barracks in Minden, West Germany. The Battalion completed 18 months in the mechanised role equipped with probably the oldest Mark 1 AFV 432s in the Army while training for the first Gulf War. The tour was cut short following the decision to amalgamate the Regiment with the Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The focus quickly moved to disbanding the Battalion and redeploying everyone to their new homes. This meant that the CO's 'departure' had to be held three months before he finished while there was still someone in the Barracks for him to be towed past! The last two to actually leave were the QM, Major Mick Bernier, and the Commanding Officer. Ironically, the first vehicles that came through the gate after the keys to the Barracks were handed over to the West Germans were carrying the spares for the vehicles which had left months before! The Quartermaster was not amused!!

SHOCK ON EXERCISE

By Simon Mayo

In 1978, when I was a very newly minted private soldier in A Company, 6/7th Queens on exercise on Salisbury Plain, it was a dark, cold, winter's night.

We had set out on a night navigation exercise, on which we might or might not get bumped (just to keep us awake and focused, I suppose), and came upon a river which was in the way. Maybe 'river' is a little strong - it was certainly a brook, about 8' wide and thigh deep, with quite a fast-flowing current.

We crossed it in single file. In front was 1 Platoon, behind me was the Company Commander. When we reached the far bank, it turned out to be vertical, rising a foot above the water level, and topped with a sheep fence about 3' high, itself topped with an electric fence wire, which was live.

Trying to get out was not easy. The current was brisk and destabilised you as you tried to get your leg up. The bank was high and lacked footholds. With the help of the guy in front, I managed to heave myself out and just about balance on the narrow strip of grass this side of the fence, water pouring off my lower half.

It was rather precarious. I used my SLR to depress the wire while the other guy climbed over the fence, then turned to pull the OC up. This was very tricky, the 'bank' was getting more and more slippery, and the fence was no longer as rigid as it once was.

Once he was out, water dripping off his trousers, he decided to cross the fence first and ordered me to hold the wire down, which I did. The Major wasn't a particularly tall guy, and he was a bit nervous about getting astride the fence unless I was well and truly pressing down on the wire. He checked several times.

I carefully positioned the wooden stock of my SLR over the electric wire and pushed it down. He got his leg over and just as he was fully astride, my frozen left hand lost its grip on the rifle stock; it lifted, and the wire pinged back up straight and taut.

I have this image of the look in the Major's eyes as he somehow seemed to get a rocket-boosted lift over the fence, to collapse in a heap on the other side, clutching his jewels.

I nearly cacked myself. I was almost certainly the newest, most junior soldier in the company and had just dropped an enormous b*****k. But the OC was very good about it considering. When he could speak again, I remember hearing something about seeing me next Tuesday!

The 1st Battalion was bound yet again for Northern Ireland from Bulford in the early 1970s (NB, I think it was the Ulster Workers Council Strike in 1974). The deployment was to be by ferry from Holyhead but before that, there was to be a military train from the sidings at Ludgershall. The Battalion was therefore paraded at the station, the officers as usual standing around, kicking stones and saying "Oh, it's so boring" while the NCOs got on with the job. The formidable RSM Bill Rippon, Army Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion, and the almost equally fearsome Provost Sergeant, Ali Ibrahim (six foot six of blanched malevolence towards wrongdoers) formed the Battalion by companies on the large platform. Bill then, using his pace stick, carefully marked out where the train carriage doors would be and dressed the files accordingly, so that an orderly embarkation could proceed with a single word of command. Of course, when the train came in, the doors were not aligned with the files and so an irritated Rippon had to give the command "Battalion! Three paces left close - march!" Then, with the files nicely aligned it was: "Board the... (wait for it)...train!" Once all were aboard and the officers had shambled on, Rippon turned to the Drum Major, none other than the smartest man in the Army, Max Maloney. "Drum Major, sound the advance!" "Sir!" replied Max and then, "Duty Drummer, sound off!" The Duty Drummer (Sammy Trent possibly) did just that. No result. Looking on sardonically and shaking his head was the train guard. "Ere", says the guard, "you can blow that trumpet till you're blue in the face, but this 'ere f'ing train ain't going nowhere till I blows this 'ere f'ing whistle, see?" This he duly did, and a startled Rippon, Maloney and Duty Drummer jumped aboard - seething.

Jonathon Riley



THE NECK OF CHARLES BROOMFIELD

By Leslie Edwards

My tale is an unusual story involving bad luck, good luck, and perhaps the supernatural. Or perhaps not. I shall let you the reader decide.

THE BACKGROUND

In the late summer of 1976, I was deployed with 1 QUEENS from Germany on an emergency tour to Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

B Company was based at Fort George on the banks of the River Foyle and was responsible for a Republican area called the Shantallow. The Army was still the lead agency in 1976 and the Royal Ulster Constabulary and other emergency services would not deploy into Republican areas without an Army escort as the threat of attack by the Provisional IRA was too great.



Charles 2nd from the right

The Company Commander was Major David Dickins, and the Company Sergeant-Major was WO2 Charles Bromfield, both excellent fellows. The equally excellent Corporal Ray Greengrass was the Company Medic. 2Lt Edwards was a brand-new officer without any real experience and who knew very little; but he did command 5 Platoon with the guidance of the very patient Sergeant Jeff Brown.

TERRORIST ATTACKS

Prior to our tour, there had been a number of lethal sniper attacks against patrols on the Racecourse Road, which was the main through route in the Shantallow; a young officer from the Staffordshire Regiment had been hit in the back by a sniper's bullet and died in hospital three weeks after being hit.

A number of B Company soldiers had been hit by bullet fragments fired by snipers during our tour. The bullets had passed through the light 'Macralon' armour fitted to the landrovers that we used on mobile patrols. Fortunately, the bullets disintegrated and the fragments lodged in the 'flak jackets' used at the time. This was much to the surprise of the soldiers concerned who initially thought they had been shot and then realised, with huge relief, they had only minor bruising. There were also a number of assassinations of civilians and off-duty prison officers and policemen, as well as bombings and petrol bombings during the tour.

THE OPERATIONAL CYCLE

Each of the three platoons in B Coy worked a six-day cycle of two days on mobile patrols in landrovers, two days on foot patrols and two days on guard duties at Fort George. During the guard duties, the platoon commander and platoon sergeant took shifts in the Company Operations Room as watchkeepers as well as their other duties.

The Company Commander had his own mobile, a lightweight landrover fitted with Macralon protection. He generally sat in the front with the driver and Charles Bromfield and Ray Greengrass stood at the rear as 'top cover'.

THE PREMONITION

On the evening of Friday 27 August 1976, 2Lt Edwards was the B Company duty watchkeeper at Fort George. At about 6pm, he answered a phone call from the Families Officer in Germany. He was concerned that there was a rumour doing the rounds of the married quarters that someone in B Company had been hurt and that it was CSM Charles Bromfield. The rumour had been going for a week or so. Despite his youth and lack of experience, Edwards had sufficient grasp of reality to quash that rumour immediately which he did, stating that no one

in B Coy had been hurt and particularly not Charles Bromfield. The young officer was prudent enough to record the call in writing in the B Company Operations log.

The Families Officer in Werl was relieved to hear the news and went off to enjoy German beer and sausages. The young officer went off at the end of his shift to enjoy two glasses of wine (being the ration) in the tiny Officers' Mess. All seemed well.

THE DRAMA

The following morning was a sunny, end of summer day. The Company Commander's mobile was travelling down Racecourse Road at about 11am when it was engaged by sniper fire. Charles Bromfield, who was standing at the rear with Ray Greengrass, was shot through the neck by a 5.56mm Armalite bullet. He did not lose consciousness and called out "Yes! Yes!" Ray gave immediate First Aid pushing Charles' head down which closed the wound allowing Charles to breath; David Dickins told the driver to put his foot down and head back to the safety of Fort George. Meantime, a medevac helicopter was summoned, and Charles was airlifted to Musgrave Park Hospital.

THE AFTERMATH

To everyone's surprise, amazement and relief, the bullet had passed through his neck without doing any serious damage. A millimetre or two in either direction, the injury would have been fatal. Having the company medic standing right next to him when he was shot was also fortuitous; the Families Officer in Germany, I imagine, had his weekend ruined. Meanwhile the remainder of the company carried out immediate follow-ups and



Macralon landrover

searches in the Shantallow looking for the shooter and evidence. David Dickins took all mobile patrols off the streets

for several weeks and foot patrols had to be in multiples of at least three bricks.

RECOVERY

Charles spent three weeks in hospital and then returned to duty. While in hospital, he received a joke card from his wife Gillian that was sent before the shooting. She

had heard the rumours and sent him a card with the words 'The End of the World is Nigh'. Some months after the shooting, Charles' attempted murderer was arrested and convicted and received a 15-year sentence.



Charles on the left

In 1977 Charles Bromfield was mentioned in despatches for his work on the Londonderry tour. The Company had a very successful tour with a number of arrests of wanted terrorists achieved, including Helen Pauline McLoughlin who was convicted on a murder charge. *(Ed: In fact it was Leslie who spotted her and arrested her, earning him a commendation from the CO, Lt Col John Davidson, for 'a great personal capture!')*

SOME NOTES ABOUT CHARLES BROMFIELD

Charles had a very honourable and distinguished career. As a Junior Leader he attained the highest achievable rank of Junior RSM. He served on six tours in Northern Ireland and one operational tour in Borneo during the low intensity conflict with Indonesia. He also served with distinction in Malta, Libya, South Korea, Hong Kong and Germany. He also served a tour as an instructor at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He was commissioned in 1988 and left the Army as a captain in 1993. Charles was a very keen golfer, winning Infantry colours for being in the Queens/PWRR winning team for Infantry regiments five times. Ironically, and very sadly, he died of a heart attack on the golf course at Canterbury during the afternoon round of the PWRR golf meeting. Ray Greengrass, the Company Medic, was promoted to Sergeant and the writer has very fond memories of him as the Officers' Mess Sergeant. He was one of the most loyal, helpful and friendly people.

COINCIDENCE OR SUPERNATURAL?

So, was the premonition prior to the shooting a supernatural event or just coincidence?

Afternote. I compiled this short article from my own and other's recollections and also from Charles Bromfield's Service Record. If there are any errors of fact or omissions then I apologise in advance.



ROY CADMAN - OUR OLDEST MEMBER

By Alasdair Goulden



WOII Roy Cadman

carried out sea assault training around Portland before deploying to North Africa with a brief stop via Gibraltar. Further training took place in North Africa in Suez and Alexandria in preparation for an assault on Sicily on 11th July 1943.

They later returned to UK for a short time and then deployed to NW Europe on D-Day, landing at SWORD Beach as part of 1 Commando Brigade. After the war he had a brief spell with the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment and was discharged on 1st July 1946. He then joined 11 Para Bn (Middlesex) a local TA unit and remained with them for nine years and was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2. He is the only surviving D Day veteran at the Royal Hospital.

He was awarded the following medals:

39/45 STAR, AFRICA STAR, ITALY STAR, FRANCE & GERMANY STAR, DEFENCE MEDAL, 39/45 WAR MEDAL, TA EFFICIENCY MEDAL and the LÉGION D'HONNEUR.

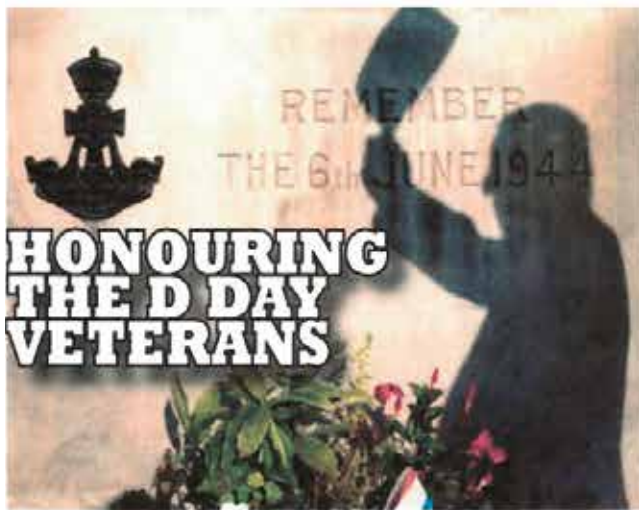
Roy has been a stalwart member of first the Queen's Own Buff's Association and then The Queen's Regimental Association. A few years ago Roy, accompanied by IP Alan Rutter (MX, QUEENS and UDR) and a number of In-Pensioners, went to Normandy on a pilgrimage with one other D Day veteran, IP Frank Mouque. The following is an account of that trip taken from the Royal Hospital Journal.

I first had the pleasure of meeting In-Pensioner Roy Cadman when I visited the Chelsea Pensioners a number of years ago. When we first met, he was a mere 90 years old. He's now 101 and is now being looked after by the wonderful staff in the Royal Hospital Chelsea infirmary.

He joined The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) on 24th June 1940 and was sent to Canterbury to carry out his basic training and was later sent on an NCOs course where he came third. After 2 years in The Buffs, he volunteered for Commando training, completed the 12-week course successfully and joined 3 Commando in Weymouth. Here they



The Secretary with Roy



On our pilgrimage this year (I think of it more as a pilgrimage than a tour), we were privileged to have two D-Day veterans with us, Roy Cadman and Frank Mouque. It would have been three but sadly Fred Walker, like Roy Cadman a member of 3 Commando who landed on Sword Beach with the first wave, passed away in the Infirmary on 6th October, aged 91.

POIGNANCY

It is not my intention in to give a dry, boring day by day account of our pilgrimage, rather, I intend, by sharing some of my personal observations, feelings and thoughts, to capture a little of the poignancy and typical military humour experienced by everyone on the visit. I hope to do this using a series of personal mental snapshots accompanied by just a very few

the many photographs.

Dark clouds threatening rain, blustery winds, shivering limbs, making me wish I had packed and worn my long-johns and thermal vest.

JUNO BEACH

We were standing on the sands of Juno Beach listening to retired Lt Col John Ross, our tour guide, explaining the salient points of the landing by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and commandos of the Royal Marines. After a reasonably brief explanation, he asked, "are there any questions", for a few moments, nobody spoke, then someone asked, "are there any souvenir shops here", John, looking a little bemused and lost for words, (this was obviously not a question he had envisaged being asked at this particular point) eventually

have been given the opportunity to visit the D-Day Beaches in Normandy. In the past, for many, it was to return to a place where they and their, 'comrades in arms', fought to regain the freedom of Europe and to re-establish democracy for all freedom loving people throughout the world. Thousands of those young brave men gave their very lives for that freedom. Those that landed on the beaches on the 6th June 1944 and lived, return to remember and pay homage to their friends that perished. Sadly, but inevitably, their numbers have dwindled.

answered amid the laughter of all present, "no, but I am sure there will be at the Battle of Normandy Museum that we will be visiting later today".

"Is there a souvenir shop here", became the standard question to ask wherever we went thereafter. Just before getting back on the bus, we met a grateful local elderly Frenchman on his proverbial French bike, who explained that he was just 19 years old on the day of the invasion.

A little later the same day, still shivering in a force 9 gale, we were standing by the statue of Bill Millin, personal piper to Lord Lovat and his 1st Commando Brigade.

LONE PIPER

Bill played Highland Laddie and the Road to the Isles as fellow soldiers fell all around him. Some injured troops are said to have cheered as Millin walked by, while others called him a mad b*****. Apparently, the German soldiers did not



fire at him as they thought he must be insane.

Frank and Roy stood by the statue holding hands, it really was very touching watching these two warrior veterans with hands clasped together raised above their heads. I could be wrong, but I did not see it being a gesture of victory but more a gesture of "Well done mate, we made it"???

I watched Yorky Layton standing by the statue of Field Marshal Montgomery proudly holding to his chest the row of medals won by his father, a veteran of D-Day. It made me feel





good to see Yorky remembering and honouring his father in this way.

We arrived at Gold Beach got off the coach and stood shivering, listening to John Ross telling us about the beach assault by D Coy Green Howards and the story of CSM Hollis VC.

THE PHENOMENA

Back on the coach, it was suggested the story could have been told sitting comfortably on the coach instead of freezing our b**** off on the beach.

Yorky, ever ready with a quip, said "if we had stayed on the coach, we would not have experienced the atmosphere or been given the opportunity to catch phenomena"



The Latin epitaph along the frieze of the Bayeux Memorial is reference to

those who died during the Normandy Invasion were between 22 or 23 years old.



William the Conqueror and the invasion of England in 1066. The translation reads: "We, once conquered by William, have now set free the conqueror's land". At the cemetery, Doug Patterson was given time and privacy to lay a wreath on his brother's grave.

Looking around at the immaculately kept cemetery, I was struck by the fact that the average age of

Left. Doug Patterson by his brother's grave. Right. Stan Pepper looking at photographs of his comrades. He had an accident just prior so did not go - Both very personal memories.

Lunching at the world renowned Café Gondree next to Pegasus Bridge was really very special as were the Chelsea buns served at the morning coffee break. John related the story of



the glider landing by D Company of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry who took the bridge literally within minutes of landing. Lieutenant Den Broderidge was shot whilst leading the attack across the bridge, the first of many very young men to die on D-Day.

ONLY 150 OUT OF 750

Of the 750 parachutist of the 3rd Parachute Brigade dropped to take out the German Merville Battery, due to bad weather and poor visibility, only 150 could be assembled at the approaches to Merville Battery.

None the less, the attack went ahead and the German 150mm guns were spiked and put out of action.

Standing in one of the bunkers, now a mini memorial to 3rd Parachute Brigade, I discovered, talking to Stan Pepper, that he was a member of that brigade and but for an accident during training, he would have jumped in that night and taken part in the attack.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

Watching Stan looking at photographs of friends and comrades he knew well and trained with, was for me very thought provoking. What on earth was Stan thinking and feeling? The Drumhead Service that held at Ranville Cemetery that was for me, one of the



most poignant moments of the pilgrimage. Watching Frank and Stan laying wreaths and listening to Mike playing The Last Post on the bagpipes was really very special. The sing-song standing by the coach and accompanied by Mike on the bagpipes was pretty special too.

AMERICAN GUESTS

The formal dinner at the hotel on the Wednesday evening was very enjoyable and much to our surprise, "Hot". The Adjutant, Colonel Bate MBE, made a short speech to thank everyone for their contributions to the pilgrimage with a very special "Thank You" to John Ross our very able guide.

After the dinner, we all retired to the bar (as you

do Sam), for a final medley of Vera Lynn favourites, accompanied of course by Mike the Pipe. Some of the American guests at the hotel joined us for the sing along. Dave Grant introduced Yorky to an American couple from Salt Lake City; Yorky turned to the lady and with a straight face said, "isn't that where the Morons come from?" The look on her and her husband's faces was a picture to behold. You really are a funny man Yorky

PERSONAL THANKS

Finally, I would like to say, thank you Roy, Frank and Stan for making the pilgrimage "Special". Thank you too to my fellow pensioners for your good company. Thank you

The Adjutant, John, Anita, Bridget, Jasper, Nick and Ian for your support and finally thank you Les for driving us safely through-

out the pilgrimage.

Alan Rutter

Photography by Jasper Dalglish

BENEFITING FROM A CHANGE OF AIR

IP Alan Thubron of 1 Company won the star prize in the raffle at the January Light Horse Court Happy Hour. This was a two night stay for two people at the Bay Lodge Hotel, Eastbourne. This prize was arranged by our Media and Communications Manager, Katie Kennedy, whose parents, Angela and Mark Kennedy, own the hotel. During our stay the weather was sunny but tempered by a strong 'breeze'. On the first day we visited the Redoubt, Wetherspoons in the Town and also went to see "Three Men in a Boat" at the Devonshire Park Theatre.

On the next day we went off to Hastings for the day and in the evening had a superb meal at the Marine Restaurant. The breakfasts provided were huge and we could not have been made more comfortable. Nothing was too much trouble for our hosts and we could not thank them enough. The change of air did us both good and we came back rejuvenated. We would have no hesitation in recommending the Bay Lodge Hotel to anyone else who would like to stay there.





SOLDIERS' GRAFFITI

By Ravenmaster Tower of London

I've always been interested in social history, and living inside the Tower you can find all sorts of oddities.

Here's one...

This lead flashing is on the Eastern side of the Chapel of St Peter Ad Vincula. But look closely at it and you can see it's marked. The markings were done by bored soldiers tapping it with the barrels of their rifles! In one of the photos you can also make out that they had played a game of noughts and crosses with bayonet points.

I have definitely spent way too many years here staring at the walls!



THE NEARLY DIRTY DOZEN

ITALIAN JOB 15-23 JUNE 2024

By Joe Dormer

This was our second year in the Northern Italian Alps and the idea was that we would climb local mountains, eat local food and drink local beer, war stories and banter being the main ingredient of the trip.

The group consisted of:

Kenneth Hames (OC)

Paul (Joe) Dormer

Michael (Mick) Saunders

Dave Perkins (Honorary Sgt)

Lee (Ding Dong) Bradley

Derek (Padlock) Locke

Barry (Stitch) Azzopardi

Steve (Gadget) Gaskell

Geordie (Frosty, Snowy) Kirkcaldy REME Attached

Day 1 All participants met at Milan airport where we hired two cars and set off to Scuderia Castello near Lake Garda. *En route*, we spoke of our concerns about being fit enough and the fact that many had not much hair left.



L to R :Barry Azzopardi, Steve Gaskell, Geordie Kirkcaldy, Derek Locke, Ken Hames, Dave Perkins, Mick Saunders rear Joe Dormer on Summit of Monte Tombea



Day 2 This was our first 'Mountain Day' and we climbed Monte Castello Di Gaiolo, which was steep, unrelenting, sweaty and hard. That was the wake-up call, and I heard Mick Saunders on a particularly hard part where ropes were used say *"You are taking the F*****g Piss!"*

Day 3 This was a climbing day on Monte Coldri on a *Via Ferrata* which consisted of fixed cables into the rock onto which you clip for safety. This was a 1000ft cliff and was a real test. I heard Steve Gaskell say *"I'd rather hit my balls with a garlic hammer than go up that!"*

Day 4 We rode on horseback from the hotel. To some this was a first and I was personally worried about the combined mass that the horses had to carry. A brilliant day and I heard Barry Azzopardi say, *"My nuts feel like they have been put through a pasta press twice!"*



L to R Ken Hames, Mick Saunders, Derek Locke, Lee Bradley, Joe Dormer, Steve Gaskell Barry Azzopardi, Geordie Kirkcaldy at Cima Rest.



L to R Dave Perkins, Geordie Kirkcaldy, Mick Saunders, Lee Bradley, Derek Locke, Steve Gaskell, Joe Dormer.

Saunders and Dormer on border with Austria
at Rocco Da Anfo



Dormer Bradley and
Gaskell on summit
of Monte CapaLone



L to R Dave Perkins, Barry Azzopardi
and Lee Bradley



Joe Dormer and
Dave Perkins below
hanging on for dear
life on Monte Coldri
Via Ferrata



At Costa with
Francesca



At Costa





At Costa

Day 5 A mountain day where we journeyed from Costa back to our hotel, spending the night at a Harry Potter style mountain retreat where we were fed by Francesca to the point that we were bursting. A very sweaty day. This place had double beds, so edge sleeping and top and tailing was the order of the night. Luckily, I located a sun lounge mattress and did not have to sleep with Saunders. Result!

Day 6 This was a big mountain day, from Riugo Cima Rest reaching the top of Monte Tombea and Monte Capalone. This was a very hard and very hot day, and we were really tested. Many of us achieved dreams and pushed the boundaries of what we thought we could achieve. Of particular note was that our oldest members, Padlock and Saunders reached the summit first on Tombea. Dormer, Gaskill, Perkins and Bradley took on Capalone which hurt a great deal.



Lake Garda



Lake Garda



Joe Dormer on Monte Capalone

Day 7 We made a trip to Rocco Da Anfo Museum with perhaps the longest walk in history. It was uphill; we were dressed to go out for the day and soon ended up sweaty and in rag order.

Day 8 We were spoilt by trying out electrically assisted mountain bikes. This was an amazing day. Our guide took us to many restaurants and showed us small village back streets where we lost Saunders and Perkins. On the route back to the hotel there was a man riding a racing bike decked out in full Lycra giving it his all up a steep hill. Saunders passed him on his highest assisted battery level and encouragingly said *“Come on mate put some effort in!”* Luckily, we didn’t meet him later.

Day 9 This was party time in a Hawaiian themed meet-up with Barry ‘Chopper’ Harris, his lovely wife Eli and of course Argus the dog, on the edge of Lake Garda. Entertainment at the hotel was hosted by Giovanni, with some awesome jazz - I think!

This was a brilliant holiday with old muckers and a special thanks to Ken Hames for organising and leading it for his old friends.



On Via Ferrata



On Summit of Monte Castello



QUEENSMEN IN UKRAINE 2023/2024

By Russ Feakins

I'd like to start this update with a huge thank you to all those who have donated, either in cash (especially the boys of Company C!) or via my 'gofundme' page 'Queensmen in Ukraine' as it is these donations that make it possible to continue helping refugees, elderly people, families and children affected by the war.

My first trip, after those mentioned in last year's journal, was in September 2023, where the first stop was a purpose built refugee centre in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, which now housed the original Chernivtsi soup kitchen. This is run by the charity 'In God's Hands'. We bought food for the kitchen, and then helped out providing hot meals to the refugees. The next day, was a trip to Kharkiv. We went via Kyiv, and as we drove into the outskirts of Kyiv, we were stopped at a checkpoint and told to turn around as, due to a heavy air alert, all traffic was stopped. Luckily our driver came from Kyiv and knew a back route. But we were stopped again. However, after a bit of arguing,

we were finally allowed to continue at our own risk. Driving through a major capital city, absolutely devoid of traffic, was an eerie experience, although, unfortunately, the traffic lights were still working, and we had to keep stopping for them. In Kharkiv, we unloaded our van at a centre for displaced refugees, which was gearing up for a major influx from the East. We were shown around, and saw the severely damaged apartment blocks where they were still searching for buried bodies.

My next trip was in February this year when I met up with the guys from the Bethlehem Church in Dunaivtsi. There, we loaded up a van with food and medical supplies, and went to Kherson Oblast, and visited a number of small hamlets along with church people from Zaporizhzhia, holding services, and distributing food parcels. Virtually all the people we assisted were elderly, apart from a few mothers and children. Everywhere there were signs of the war, including a few destroyed tanks! We



What you did for Ukraine in 2024!!



You gave four van loads, about 6 tonnes, of food parcels, each containing enough essential supplies for two weeks to elderly people in the frontline villages of Selydove, Hirnyk, Toretsk and Kramatorsk... and you paid for the fuel too!



You helped provided sleeping accommodation for more than 30 mothers with children at the refugee



At each of the three soup kitchens you fed at least 70 people at each



went to Donetsk, stopping in Hirnyk, from where we could see the heavy shelling in Avdiivka, and Ukrainsk. Again, we held services and gave out food parcels. We were supposed

to stay overnight, but the building had been badly damaged by a missile, so it was straight back West!

My last trip was in March, again with the crew from 'In God's Hands', and a return to Toretsk. The difference was staggering. On my trip last year, the city had been run down, but intact. Now, however, the Russians have systematically destroyed schools, churches, banks and similar infrastructure. While we there a 500lb glide bomb went off about 800 meters away, which certainly made the building jump! There was no gas or water, so we had to set up three soup kitchens, using wood fired stoves, so that the few hundred elderly people who were still there could at least get one hot meal a day. Many had taken to sheltering in the basements of the apartment blocks. After staying overnight, we had a bit of a tour round, and then left for home.

But it is thanks to you who have made generous donations and given support, that I can help the people in Ukraine in this way, so that they can stay in their homes. Sadly, since the Russian summer offensive, all of the places I went to in Donetsk - Selydove, Hirnyk, Toretsk etc. are now on the front line. Two of the soup kitchens we set up in Toretsk have been destroyed, and the people have been evacuated by my friends. We have set up a centre and soup kitchen near Kramatorsk for the evacuees, and my old mate Bob Fraser, my daughter Anna and myself, are going out in October again to help out.



MEDAL PRESENTATION TO AN OLD SOLDIER

By Capt Clive Phillimore MBE

24519443 Private Phillip Robinson joined 3rd Bn The Queens Regiment on 27th February 1978.

After training, he joined the Battalion and noticed a poster on the Company notice board asking for volunteers; certainly, a dangerous thing to do. However, after setting himself up in his Number 2s Phillip went on CO's Orders to volunteer as a dog handler. Although he didn't get as far as seeing the CO, he did get accepted and went off for two weeks' training at Melton Mowbray. After passing with flying colours, he was promptly posted to Northern Ireland where the dog handlers were needed most.

Phillip saw service in the Maze, Ballykelly and Armagh and on patrol with the police and UDR, totalling 2 ½ years in Northern Ireland.

Interestingly Phillip's Grandfather served in the Queen's Royal West Kent Regiment (QORWK) in the Great War and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal. His medals are in the QORWK Museum in Maidstone and Phillip's father also saw service in World War II in the Royal Marines. So Phillip followed a long and distinguished family military service.

Phillip left the army in February 1983 after 4 years' service with an exemplary record and completed 3 years reserve service. He is the Standard Bearer representing the service of the Army Dog Unit as well as being the Royal Navy Association Chatham Standard Bearer

Private Phillip Robinson earned the General Service medal in 1981 and was never formally presented with it until this year, just 31 years late.

The GSM was presented in the C Company, 3 PWRR bar with a selected audience of C Company officers and soldiers and the 'new batch' of Army reservist candidates. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Nathan Horseman, presented the medal.

Also in attendance were the Executive Officer, the Second-in-Command, the Training Major, Adjutant and the RSM. Phillip attended with his wife and some friends from the Royal Navy Association. They were looked after well and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



Lt-Col Nathan Horsemann, CO 3 PWRR presenting Phillip Robinson with his medal



IT'S FUNNY HOW LIFE TURNS OUT

By Vicky Newsome-Hogan

My name is Vicky Newsome-Hogan. Those with whom I served may remember me as Pte Ron Hogan, C Coy 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment. I am now a transsexual woman having completed my social, occupational and medical transition in 2019, but more on that later.



Ron Hogan

Before taking the Queen's shilling, I had been a London Fireman in Tooting, South London for the previous four years. After passing out of infantry training at Basingstoke, I was lucky enough to join my battalion in Fallingb., West Germany. This was the scene of many adventures aside from the serious stuff of soldiering. They included gatecrashing a German officer's party (of course after giving ourselves field promotions), wild weekends in Hannover, days at the local lido in the summer sightseeing, being chased by a wild boar whilst in full No 2 dress and ammo boots and skirmishes with our arch enemy, 16 Tank Tpr Regt RCT. There are so many good memories of my time in Fallingb. with my fellow Queensmen; most involved a beer or two but when it was time to work, the party hats came off and the soldiering hats went on. It was then I learned what an infantryman is capable of, a job that most definitely cannot be done by everyone.

After leaving Fallingb., the Battalion was posted to Canterbury, followed quickly by a posting to Northern Ireland, C Coy going to Strabane in Co Tyrone. This tour really showed the professionalism and dedication of a Queensman to his craft, in often quite difficult and I might add scary situations. It was all done with a sense of humour, a very necessary part of life.

A few months after returning from NI, I decided to transfer to the Royal Military Police. After an attachment to RMP Aldershot, I left the Battalion and reported to Chichester RMP Depot for training. Needless to say, my infantry training and experience helped me to pass out of RMP training. My first posting as a newly minted L/Cpl RMP was to Berlin. I was fortunate enough to be serving in Berlin from the fall of the Berlin Wall to reunification. After several attachments and postings, I eventually PVR'd and joined the West Mercia Police.

After a few years, I resigned from the police and undertook a DipHE in Addiction Studies with Leeds University whilst working in a Drug & Alcohol Rehab and as a keyworker



Ron with members of C Coy 3 QUEENS

with young offenders in a residential setting. Eventually and after much nagging from my then Canadian wife we emigrated to Calgary, Canada.

Initially, I worked as a senior investigator with a private investigation firm before going back into social care work. I also became single again as my then wife and I divorced. By this time, I had five kids (should have bought a TV). I also became a single parent to my son Charlie.

I did several jobs such as working in the Intoxication Unit of a large homeless shelter, a youth homeless shelter and outreach on the street to children in prostitution. Unfortunately, after about 16 years in Canada, I became quite ill following spinal surgery and other issues and could no longer work. Thankfully, I was awarded a pension and received my police pension early.

It was around this time that I decided to come out as trans. This was a complete shock to everyone as not a single person had any idea. It was something that had been a part of me most of my life, even though, until I was 50, I couldn't even name it. I kept it hidden from shame, confusion and absolute terror at being found out. What followed was an extremely difficult period to such extent that I eventually decided to return to the UK, walking away from 18 years of my life. I decided to return to the UK as 'Vicky' as I thought it would be easier as Vicky was all anybody would know.

I returned to the UK in 2016, ready to start again. At first, it was extremely difficult, I couldn't find anywhere to live. I had basically been abandoned by nearly my whole family since making the decision to finally be me. Completely by fluke after a few months, I was offered a flat on the Isle of Wight. I couldn't believe my luck, so off I went. I had never been to the island and literally didn't know anyone, but I was determined to make a life there. I had always wanted to retire to the seaside and soon settled into my little flat. I started out meeting people by doing various voluntary activities such as the Samaritans and local community projects. I did a couple of local radio interviews and I even appeared in *Soldier Magazine*.

One day a few months later, I gave a lift to a friend with an injured pigeon to a wildlife rescue here on the island called Skipper's Sanctuary. I got talking to the founder and eventually married her – and that is how I met my wife, Claire!

I was eventually diagnosed with PTSD and, together with Claire, underwent three years of extremely difficult and exhausting therapy with an ex-Royal Marine (SBS) turned psychologist, Simon Maryan, who founded the Uniformed Services PTSD charity ICARUS. Thankfully with Simon's help and the support of my wife, I came out the other end a better person and able to live life appreciating where I am at. If anyone is struggling with PTSD, I would say go and get help. It's not easy but you can live a better more peaceful life and PTSD can be beaten.

One thing I did a lot of during therapy and even now is reflection; looking back and coming to understand certain things, including being transsexual. One thing I realised is that all the uniformed jobs that I did all came with a ready-made male identity, at least back in those days. I understand now that I really didn't have any idea how to be a man. Looking back, I can remember things from my earliest memory which were clues. For most of my life, I had no idea what was 'wrong' with me. Was I gay? – No. Was I hiding from something? – No. I kept the whole thing of how I was feeling a total and complete secret, in abject terror and embarrassment at ever being found out.

An important thing to understand and accept is that I am biologically male – that is impossible to change. That isn't to say that I believe there is no biological explanation such as differences in the brain or hormone exposure in the womb. You may have noticed that I use the term transsexual in place of the popular term transgender. In my opinion transgender has really lost its meaning with what is currently being espoused by the



Vicky Newsome-Hogan



'trans activists' we all hear about. Transsexual also separates people such as me from all the madness that's out there - common sense and reality seems to have taken a back seat in that debate. I also oppose transwomen in female sports and indeed co-signed a letter to the World Rugby Federation stating that transwomen should not be allowed to play in female sports. Thankfully, that was the decision the WRF made. That's not to say I am still a man. To me, a man is a way of being in this world - I live as a transwoman - and I can say hand on heart that I am completely happy living my life this way. I can also say that had I been born female then I would not be who I am today. Being a transwoman is only incidental to the person I am, it's not all I am. I've also managed to keep my sense of humour – thankfully.

So, what now? After completing PTSD therapy, I was ready to get back out there. Even though I am medically retired and disabled, I'm not done yet and I feel I still have something to offer. I began volunteering with the Youth Offending Team, until October 2023 when I was appointed to the Independent Monitoring Board here at the two Isle of Wight Prisons, HMP Albany and HMP Parkhurst, which are Category C and B prisons respectively; both are high-risk long-term sex offender establishments. I thoroughly enjoy this role which is a public appointment. My ambition now is to be appointed a magistrate in the Adult Criminal Court which I hope will happen in the next year or so.

I have always been extremely proud of being a Queensman and an infantry soldier - the sharp end of any army and something not everyone can do. The discipline and determination that I gained in The Queen's Regiment is still with me today and has served me well over the years and I'm sure will continue to do so. We all know the saying 'Once a Queensman, Always a Queensman' - even after surgery, hormones and all the palaver that goes along with transitioning, I am proud of who I was and proud that that has made me the person I am today. The same person but with longer hair, and not too shabby in a frock - but throughout my life today and always 'Unconquered I Serve'.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT MEDAL OF MERIT

Last year, the Journal contained an article about the Queen's Regiment Medal of Merit. Unfortunately, the list of names was incomplete. To rectify this, please note that this is the definitive list of those honoured:

<i>Lieutenant IMR Wright (1st)</i>	<i>Major JF Burke (3rd)</i>
<i>Lance Corporal RB Gallett (1st)</i>	<i>Corporal R Brill (1st)</i>
<i>Cpl RS Phillips (1st)</i>	<i>WO1 (BM) B Cunningham (5th(V))</i>
<i>Captain J Day TD (6th/7th)</i>	<i>Major-General MF Reynolds CBE</i>
<i>Lieutenant-Colonel LMB Wilson MBE (1st and RHQ)</i>	<i>Mrs Margaret Smithers</i>
<i>WO2 Reader (Flying Dragons)</i>	<i>WO2 JG Murphy (1st and 3rd)</i>
<i>SSgt TH Reynolds ACC (6th/7th(V))</i>	<i>Major Derrick Harwood (Queen's Fusiliers)</i>
<i>WOI(RSM) DL (Bob) Fisher (1st and Southampton UOTC)</i>	<i>Brigadier MRI Constantine (2nd and 3rd)</i>

THE VETERANS' HORTICULTURAL, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECT

By Anthony Beattie

Over the last 10 years or so, our welfare team were seeing an increased incidence of PTSD and other mental problems, some of which sadly resulted in suicide - there have been eight since 2018. Discussions were had with a number of mental health charities; the upshot of which was that it was felt that a combination of horticulture (working in a team while getting your hands dirty), social (soldiers like nothing more than pulling up a sandbag and swinging the lead while having a beer) and engaging with community (both with other veterans and the local community), could have a positive effect.

At the same time, the Queen's Regiment Riders Association (QRRRA) had been told that they would have to move their clubhouse in Wingham, where their successful One Aim Rally had been held, because the owner of the land they were on had received planning permission to build a house.

The Trustees meantime were being advised that the Benevolent Fund (BF) portfolio should be diversified and perhaps a capital project should be undertaken.

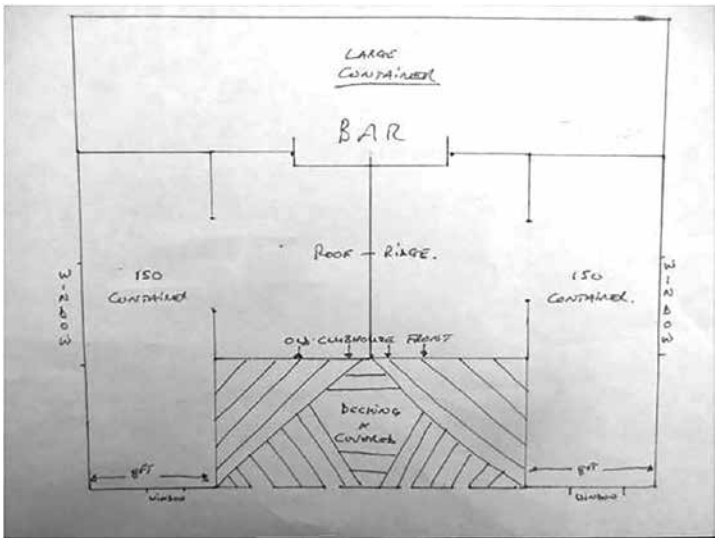
It seemed that these disparate requirements might be combined to provide something of great value which would satisfy the needs of each. Discussions took place and a business plan emerged, the basis of which was as follows – the Benevolent Fund would purchase some land, while the QRRRA would raise the money and with expertise within their ranks actually build the centre which would also be their new clubhouse; once the building was useable, they would pay rent to the BF which would offset the income the BF lost through the purchase of the land. They would also run the Project from the clubhouse on behalf of the wider regimental family.

Once this was agreed in principle and an MOU between the BF and the QRRRA signed, the work began.

Over thirty-two pieces of land were inspected before Kennels Field, near Faversham, was chosen and negotiations with the local community about the plans was undertaken to get them on side. An offer was put in place and accepted, and the planning process started. From the initial



Kennels Field



The Original design



Planning approved Plan



discussions with Swale Planning Department to final acceptance of the plans, this took over a year. What started as a drawing on the back of a fag packet turned into a properly designed planning application. Ground surveys, soil samples, ecological and biodiversity surveys (bats, crested newts

etc), bore samples, ancient woodland tree survey, flood risk assessment, police and fire brigade consultations, Highways Agency inspections, and light plans had to be produced all at considerable expense with resultant 12 conditions attached to the build. Eventually on 20 June 2020, Planning Consent was given, delayed needless to say by the first Coronavirus lockdown.



Base for the floor



The weather!

Everyone had got stuck in clearing the land ready for when consent to start building was given and once this was achieved, under the guidance of Terry Price, one of the few fully qualified builders in the QRRA, foundations were dug and concrete poured. Then we got locked in again in November by the virus and only a minimal amount of work could be done. By the time the second lockdown was lifted the weather had turned for the worst and then we had Lockdown No 3 in January 2021!

Eventually, we were able to progress the build, and it was heartening to actually see progress at long last although no one, apart from perhaps Terry , had any idea of the scale of the job that had been undertaken. A short video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQuI6CHxTDA>. Added to the requirements of the build was the need to provide 24/7 security cover for the site, 365 days of the year conducted from an old caravan which provided some but not all protection from the appalling weather that whistled down the valley. This was done for two full years by a select few.



Some of the wiring



Cess pit goes in



Back rooms shell



Foundations dug



Part of the tree planting programme



Footings



Concrete for the foundations



On goes the roof



Tiling complete



Some of the workforce

Throughout all this, money had to be raised, and begging letters had to be sent to raise the funds for the materials. The following organisations who provided grants and large donations are recorded with enormous thanks because, without their generosity, this project would not have got off the ground:

Veterans Foundation X 2	Armed Forces Covenant Fund	National Lottery
Veterans Lottery	HE Services Plant Hire Ltd	Briggs Equipment
Explore Plant and Transport	Harvey's Contracting Ltd	GSE Group
Purus	Travis Perkins Managed Services	Keltbray
Taylor Maxwell	Stilebridge Groundwork	Ideal Standard
Grass Seed Online	Matt Kerwin	Banzai Brett Family
Pimlico Plumbers	Nineveh Trust Fund	Goldman Sachs
Paul Gray	Kent Community Fund	Bluey Hedges
Nick Carter	Kenon Plumbers Merchants Ltd	Order of St Joachim
PWRR Benevolent Fund	Pamela Champion Foundation	Bernard Sunley
CoCo Builders	Queen's Royal Surreys Combined Charities	Nicky Blanchette
Axis	The Grand Order of St Stanilas	The Cook Foundation

A huge debt of thanks is owed to the Secretary for herculean and successful efforts to fundraise in support of this project; also, Steve and Lindsay Parsons, Glen Swallow and Terry Price for exploiting their contacts in getting supplies either free or at a large discount. More than £415,000 has been raised through the grants and donations and this has been supplemented by the generous donations by some of the building firms listed above who have provided discounted materials or the materials themselves. Labour has mostly been provided free by the volunteers of the QRRR with limited labour brought in for additional expertise when required – always at ‘mate’s rates’! In addition, the support of the Benevolent Fund Trustees must be acknowledged for stepping in and covering costs until grants came through, maintaining the momentum of the build, as well as paying for the installation of electric power.

The whole project, of course, now being run in its entirety by the QRRRA, is not just the build although we have taken the process of the build to be part of the rehabilitation process for some. While the build has been going on, the horticultural side under the expertise of Glyn 'Stix' Clarke, before he was tragically killed in an RTA, has progressed also with over 1700 trees and shrubs being planted. It was through Stix's contacts with local nurseries and garden centres that this was possible. Plans have been drawn for the Memorial Garden and Woodland which will be located at the rear of the building which will honour the Fallen and this work will be started in the New Year. This element has been taken over by ex-RSM Steve Scully following Stix's death.

For the Social and Community aspect, events have already taken place both with veterans and as part of the project integrating with the local villages; the QRRRA relationship with them is getting stronger all the time. There will be regular Breakfast Clubs, and it is hoped a Park Run. There will also be assistance from professional bodies for veterans.



Rest room



Social



The next phase of the project is to run a number of different classes using both QUEENS and PWRR qualified volunteers in disciplines such as, but not limited to:

Art, Field Craft, Sculpture, Woodland Management, Cooking, Wildlife Conservation, First Aid Training, Potting and Planting, Defibrillator Training and Vegetable Growing.

Recognition must be made of all the members of the QRRR who have worked so tirelessly on this project. However, special mention must be made, first, of the Presidents of the QRRR, Jeff Lazlett, Steve Barden,



Meeting with local community

Tony Willson and Steve Parsons who have maintained throughout the QRRR's enthusiasm for the project; in addition mention should also be made of those who have remained working throughout the entire build without a break – Barry Smith, Howard Copsey, Glen Swallow, Dan Williams, Nigel Bradbury, Alasdair Goulden, Shane Smith, Rob (Pete 'Tank' Clemence's nephew), not forgetting Lindsey Parsons, and the two Hobbits Sue Clarke and Lou Coleman who from the very start ensured that we were fed and watered!

It is important to understand that while use of the centre is there for all members of the wider Regimental family who can apply to use the clubhouse or take part in the courses, it does depend on there not being any other activity taking place, availability of QRRR members to open and man the centre and of course a



Looking towards the bar showing two of the three heritage murals covering Sergeant McCabe at Sobraon and Northern Ireland

donation to the Benevolent Fund! If you would like to use the centre (weddings, anniversary and birthday parties etc – there is a fully functioning bar) please contact Steve Parsons at president@QRRRA.co.uk , remembering that it under the control of the QRRRA who pay rent to the Benevolent Fund and pay the entire running costs.



Looking towards the stage with the third heritage mural depicting the PWRR Battle of Cimic House



What we ended up with!



FIVE STAR TREATMENT ALL THE WAY

By Rosie Potts



Rosie Potts without her knees

As a former WRAC TA who served with 6/7 QUEENS for 12 years, I little realised what a difference registering as a veteran with my GP would make. Until May this year that is, when I went to the doctors about my painful knees that have been giving me gyp since hanging-up my shoes WRAC.

My doctor immediately referred me to the Chavasse Clinic for military veterans, which is held once a month at the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton. At the doctor's request I had both knees x-rayed. Surprise, surprise, I received an appointment on 6 June to attend clinic on 1 August. The clinic was a total eye-opener. After an initial consultation with a doctor, I was asked to wait while he went to discuss my case with the consultant. This was Lt Col Ben Caesar, a very friendly and likeable person who really listened to my issues with my knees and what I could and couldn't do. He immediately said he would like to see me back at the clinic in two months' time and that he wanted me to have an MRI scan beforehand. Lo and behold, not only did I receive a clinic appointment for September but also an MRI appointment for 24 August.

Luckily, I have plenty of maneuverability in both knees, so I might be suitable for a new kind of treatment whereby they take some of your blood and spin it about in a whizzy thing (Colonel Ben's words) and then inject it back; the idea being that the platelets will start a healing process going in the knee joint.

It's very early days for me. But my message to any of you who are suffering from injuries or complaints caused by your military service is to make sure you sign up as a veteran with your doctors. I'm glad I did.

After gaining my Civil Engineering Degree at RMCS Shrivenham in June 1974, I rejoined Kirke's Company 1 QUEENS at RAF Brize Norton en route to Wainwright in Canada on Ex POND JUMP WEST. Companies worked on a 5-day cycle, each having the opportunity to undertake arduous patrolling, adventure training in the Rockies, live firing and block leave. My OC, Major Tim Trotman, decided that our period of leave would be spent travelling round the Rocky Mountains. So, the five officers in the Company hired a large American car in Edmonton and set off on our expedition. While travelling down the Banff-Jasper highway, Tim said "I wonder why that glacier doesn't fall off the mountain?" Full of useful knowledge from my degree course, I replied "It is simple. The coefficient of friction is greater than the overturning moment!" The silence was deafening. It was the only time I ever saw Tim lost for words!

Amédée Miéville

REGIMENTAL SPORTING AND SHOOTING ACHIEVEMENTS AT DIVISION AND ARMY LEVEL

1 QUEENS

Middle East Land Forces Men's Tennis Doubles 1968
Berlin Sailing Cup 1970
4 Div Football Champions 1970 and 71
BAOR Football Runners-Up 1971
Berlin Football League, the Berlin Cup, the 2 Div Cup, and Runners-Up in the BAOR Cup in 1970 -72
Army Boxing Champions 1977, 78 and 79
3 Div Cross Country Skiing Infantry Cup Winners and Runners up in the German 4th Jäger Div Biathlon 1979
3 Div Cross Country Skiing Patrol Race Winners 1980
NI Basketball Runners-Up 1983
NI Rugby Runners up 1983/4
North European Command March and Shoot Winners 1988
Army, Infantry, Infantry/BAOR Cricket Champions 1989
Infantry Cricket Cup 1990
BAOR and Army Novices Boxing Champions 1991

2 QUEENS

NI Squash Champions 1974
BAOR Cricket Runners-Up 1974
BAOR Cricket Champions 1975
BAOR Golf Champions 1975
BAOR Long Range Sniper Shoot 1982 -3rd
BAOR Short Range Sniper Winners of the Queens Cup 1983
1 Div Rugby 7s Champions 1987
4 Div Cross Country Skiing - Winners of the Daily Telegraph Trophy 1987 and 1990
Cross Country Skiing – Winners of the HQ BAOR Infantry Championships 1988
BAOR Dinghy Champions 1988/9
4 Div Novices Boxing Champions 1989
Infantry Biathlon Champions 1989
BAOR Rugby 7s Runners-Up 1989 and Champions 1990
Army Fencing Champions 1972

3 QUEENS

North-East District March and Shoot Winners 1978
Army Football Runners-Up 1969
3 Div Cross Country Skiing – Winners of the Daley Shield 1983
Combined Services 30Km Road Race Runners-Up 1985
1 Div Judo Champions 1986



4 QUEENS

Swam the English Channel

6th (V) QUEENS

Champion Young Soldier London & SE District Skill at Arms Meeting (SAAM) 1974

1st and 2nd in Young Soldier SLR, London & Mx SAAM Meeting: 4th in LMG pairs 1974

6th/7th (V) QUEENS

Major Units Runners-Up London & SE District SAAM 1975

Team Champions London & SE District SAAM 1979

1st in Roupell Cup, 1st in LMG pairs, 2nd in SMG, 2nd in section match, 2nd in falling plates,

Best Young Soldier SE District SAAM 1980

1st in Major Units SE District SAAM 1981

1st in LMG pairs Bisley SAAM 1981

Runner-Up China Cup Bisley SAAM 1982

Champions in all matches London & Mx SAAM 1982

1st in LMG Pairs Bisley 1984

TA Major Unit Champions SE District SAAM: 1986

Champions SE District Orienteering 1986, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91

Burberry Trophy - Best Soldier

Depot the Queen's Division

Army Minor Units Squash Champions 1973

Army Minor Units Swimming Champions 1977/8

Army Basketball Champions 1979

(Ed: The accuracy of this list is in direct proportion to the accuracy of members' memories!)

Area cleaning outside the Hilton block in Battlesbury Barracks, a certain Pte P H took exception that as a 'pad' he didn't contribute to the mess, so wouldn't clear it up. LCpl K Y, after trying to get him to co-operate and being told to disappear in short sharp jerky movements, enlisted a 'full screw' to assist in putting him under close arrest. In a rapid turnaround, he was doubled to the camp barbers where he was treated to a skinhead cut all over. Back to the guardroom and almost immediately boots in front of the OC, fined and sent back to the platoon. On returning to the patch later, his wife was most unimpressed with his new hairstyle. This of course was in the late 60s when the rule was 'what's under the beret is yours' and hairstyles were much longer. Moral is - don't get in the clutches of the Provost staff, even for less than 5 minutes.

Dave Langdon

PWRR AND QUEEN'S REGIMENT MUSEUM

By Assistant Curator Cory Clover

It's been a busy year at the PWRR and Queen's Regiment Museum. We welcomed over 125,000 people through the door in 2023, so we've nearly returned to our 2019 visitor numbers. Over 5,000 people learnt about Matthew Latham's bravery and his life-changing surgery during our Albuhera fortnight, and we trialled a series of different children's activities throughout the year, which have boosted our engagement with the public and helped with our donations too. These included dressing Frank Sullivan, his photo being one of the children's favourites!



corner of our PWRR Gallery. The Curator and Museum Assistant painted the walls (but not the structure of the range, which our maintenance volunteers handled this winter).

At time of writing, over 10,000 people have used the range since it was installed in June 2023. We regularly hear visitors competing against one another, trying to get the best score, or go again to try and get onto our high scores list. Why not try your hand at it when you're next at the museum?

Our biggest addition to the museum this year has been our interactive shooting range. Designed by InfoAktiv, the range allows our visitors a taste of what it's like to use a British Army range, complete with Figure 11 targets in a variety of exercises to learn to hold a weapon safely and fire accurately – or at least try their best.

Installing the range was a large operation which closed the museum for a week in June. The museum's brilliant maintenance volunteers, Ken and Eric, built the structure of the firing range, which fitted perfectly into the





MY WEDDING AND THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

By Anthony Young



The Church

As part of the exhibition 'Foe to Friend', currently in the National Army Museum, our wedding outfits were chosen to be displayed. This all started in Germany with a project to research the period after the Second World War and relationships between the two nations.

What has this got to do with the Regiment, you may well ask! Well, at the time of our marriage, I was serving in Minden with The Queen's Regiment Albuhera Band, and married my German wife whilst wearing my uniform in 1990.

Interestingly, the chapel where we were married has connections with the Battle of Minden in 1759.

I have attached a photo of the display. I wish I could still fit into the uniform!



The display



On the day

REUNIONS

On 18 May 2024, I was going to the last game of the season at the Etihad stadium, Manchester. I contacted a fellow Drummer (John McHugh) who I had not seen for 40 years but had been in contact with via Facebook/WhatsApp to see if he was up for a meeting. Well it turned out he was and when we met in Oldham it was just like being back in, the hug was so big it was great. He picked me and my 19 yr old daughter up and I think she was shocked to see two old farts hugging on the station. When we got to John's house, we met his wife daughter and grand kids. We swapped our life histories then we moved to his back garden for the drinking to begin. His daughter could not get over the fact that we had not seen each other for 40 yrs because we chatted like it was yesterday. I can honestly say that was a fantastic weekend up North and we won the League.



Dennis Oliver and John McHugh

5 Platoon, B Coy and Recce Platoon of the 3rd Battalion. Reunions of 2023 and 2024

By Mike Hurman

DICKIE PINDER'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY OCTOBER 2023

Sat 21 October 2023: a surprise 60th birthday party was held for Adam (Dickie Pinder) who has generously hosted annual BBQs for some years now. Dickie's wife, Cathy, enrolled help from John (Eddie) Edwards, Mark Williams and Tony Westmoreland with his wife Jenny some months previously. And what a superb evening it was.

Over 70 members of the Regiment including their wives, partners and families attended. The venue was Highwoods Golf Club, Bexhill on Sea. We all arrived about an hour earlier than Dickie and his family. Final adjustments and organisation by Tony Westmoreland and Eddie Edwards, such as signing the huge birthday card and final contributions to the birthday gift fund were made. One could almost cut the atmosphere of warmth and affection towards Dickie by his regimental colleagues.

As Dickie walked through the door a huge cheer erupted from us all. The surprise on his face was priceless, yes he knew something was being organised but the numbers who had travelled from far and wide clearly had an emotional effect. The birthday gifts were read out by Tony Westmoreland assisted by Mark Williams and handed over by Eddie Edwards.

Steve Hinton gave a speech extolling the virtues of Dickie as a soldier selected from 5 Platoon to join the Recce Platoon, his life after the army and his support to his fellow soldiers over the years.

The drinks flowed, some lovely buffet food provided, dancing to a live band and much camaraderie and catch up chat ensued. Dickie's daughter, Zoe, came over to where I was sitting chatting with Dave North (Mouse) and Dave Barnes, to collect a photo display board to show her friends and she asked "how do you all know my dad?" She said "There is such warmth and affection from so many people here that you just don't see anywhere else in life". A perfect observation of regimental spirit and friendship stretching back over forty years.



ARBORETUM

By Den Gallagher

On 21 September we gathered once again at the National Memorial Arboretum at our Memorial to pay our respects to our fallen comrades who have sadly died over the last year. Den Gallagher who started this initiative five years ago led the short Service. Den was ably assisted by Eddie Dale dressed as a Welshman and Phil Dobson. As is now tradition, a special dedication was made for one of our Fallen from Op BANNER. This year we remembered Robert Benner, and it was with great pleasure that we could have with us Robert's brother and a few of his family to join us. John Edwards gave the eulogy.

After a prayer read by Eddie Dale a roll call of lost comrades over the past year was read out by:

- 1st Battalion - Phil Dobson
- 2nd Battalion - Mike Rowney
- 3rd Battalion - James McKeown
- TA and forebear Regiments - Chris Thornton-Dunning

After the Exhortation and playing of the Last Post the Regimental Collect of The Queen's Regiment was read by the Association Secretary and the service concluded.



Ann and Eddie Dale, dressed as a Welshman



The Collective WAGS



The Arboretum Reunion



3 QUEENS Officers
Guy Wood, Jeremy Maltman, Ian Raynes, Charles Lambert,
Alan Weston, Stephen Kilpatrick, Mark Smallwood,
David Greenfield, Paul Edwards, Mark Rayner



A more relaxed 3 QUEENS reunion in Nando's



Robert Knight, Joe Dormer and Steve Coker at the AGM



Howard Copsey, Tony Meacham, Simon Harrison
and Paul Johnson



Gary Bye, Graham Bigwood and Julian Stokes at the AGM



Regimental Lunch at the Star and Garter
L-R Christopher Reeves, visiting from Australia,
Brigadier Anthony Ling, Colonel Tony Ward; at the table
(L to R) Patricia Reeves, Paul Gray and Julia Ling



Relaxing at the AGM Reunion



THE BEXHILL BBQ MAY 2024

Another superb BBQ hosted by Adam (Dickie) and Cathy Pinder blessed with dry weather and sunshine. This year there were a few new faces such as Kev Rix, a Recce PI veteran, Tom Reddick from A Company and a few others. As ever the chef of the day was Tony Westmoreland who produced some delicious food on the BBQ. The good weather held, though cooled sufficiently that Eddie Edwards needed to put his shirt on, a rare sight indeed. A good time was had by all and much talk about the old days (TATOD). Group photos were taken of most of us attending.



The Bexhill BBQ group



The Bexhill BBQ wives

KOHIMA REUNION - 4 QORWK REGIMENT, 80TH ANNIVERSARY - 13 APRIL 2024 BOXLEY ROAD ARC, MAIDSTONE



Left to right: Bob Thomas (ex 5 Queens), Paul Banyard (ex RLC), Chris Jupp, Andy Church (ex 5 Queens), Neville Dann (ex 5 Queens), Ron Gainsford (ex 5 Queens), Mick Chandler (ex 5 Queens), Mrs D Robinson, James Turner (ex RLC), Dave Robinson (ex 5 Queens), Ken Cole (ex 5 Queens), Bob Howard (ex 5 Queens), Keith Phillips (ex 5 Queens), Kim McCarthy (ex 5 Queens), Richard Bromley (ex 5 Queens), Edna Crouch (widow of Les Crouch 4 QORWK), Charles Oliver (ex 5 Queens), Keith Chambers (ex 5 Queens), Alastair Cooper (ex 5 Queens).

The 2 QUEENS camping event was held during 24-28 July at Dunn's Farm Westwell, Ashford Kent.

During the 5 day and 4 night event organised by Pete (Smudge) Smith, Stephen (Alf) Hitchcock and Chris (Memet) Mederios, over a hundred veterans and their families attended and was again a resounding success enjoyed by all. Despite the mixed weather, daily sporting activities kept everyone busy and this year the youngsters were treated to archery and an introductory bushcraft session.

Evening entertainment included quizzes, a disco and karaoke, a Ska/Reggae singer and displays by the Queen's Regimental Association Corp of Drums. Our thanks to everyone who came, making it another memorable reunion, and here's to many more in the future.

The following are a few of the memories:

Kev Keegan

I attended the event after careful consideration. Not being a fan of formal organised events, I arrived with lukewarm expectations! Damn, was I surprised! Not only at how everyone, apart from myself, had aged horribly, their waist sizes seemingly having grown in direct proportion to ages. However, I saw guys I hadn't seen for over twenty-five years and much to my embarrassment I talked to a few and only after twenty minutes realised who they were! Yeah, keep laughing Del! Unless you have served with a County Regiment, the concept of family is difficult to explain. The event typified this in every way, the company was excellent, the conversation and reminiscences worthy of the great philosophers, at least until the beers were flowing, and then just witty. The organisation was excellent, well planned and executed - not what I remember from these guys on a Monday morning muster parade. It would have brought tears to the eyes of my previous self. Good drills, guys.



NOW (2024) Kev Keegan, Alf Hitchcock, Neil Lancashire, Taff Cowling



THEN (1991) Kev Keegan,
Alf Hitchcock, Neil Lancashire,
Taff Cowling



Rounders with Del Kennedy



2 QUEENS Family Camping (2024)



Raffle & Auction

Gary Carnage

This year's 2 QUEENS camping event was planned well in advance, and from what I could see, that planning paid dividends. I hadn't reckoned on staying overnight, but it was clear to see that the location boasted ample space, and shower/toilet facilities for those unaccustomed to 'roughing it'. The resident 'chef' and communal dining made things more sociable and inclusive, rather than everyone fixing their own meals. This afforded the opportunity for all to sit and catch up over a meal.

Youngsters were engaged with field games and apart from the years of catching up and ribbing each other over how much body mass we've gained, a particular highlight was the display by the Association's Corps of Drums. This was a fantastic informal event that catered for lamp-swinging, laughter, historical storytelling and re-connection. It was refreshing to see that the event has grown from half a dozen old mates catching up once a year, to a camping event that allows the 'Old Guard' to maintain the honour and history of the 2nd Battalion. Top effort for those involved in organising the event.

Tom Major

Returning to the UK in 2019 after sixteen years of living abroad, much had changed. The upside was the discovery that a veteran was now a celebrated thing in the UK. When I left these shores in 2003, we barely spoke about our service, in fact, it was discouraged. Now it was fully recognized and embraced and Facebook then started to deliver a steady stream of reconnections to old comrades and friends of all ranks, many of them from the 2nd Battalion.

So, 2024 has marked my third year of camping and bantering with former Queensmen and PWRR veterans. Brilliantly and expertly organized by Smudge, Alf and Mehmet, a well-chosen site with facilities near Ashford provided the venue for a truly important event '*Carry On 2 QUEENS Camping*', where old comrades can wind back the years as if no time has passed,

Photographs courtesy of Malcolm Kirkaldie



Archery with Jamie (Loz) Laurence

while simultaneously offering each other's families the truth behind their old war stories and escapades! This has now become and will remain a not-to-miss annual fixture for me, even though I will have to put up a tent all by myself and navigate there unassisted - I know, right! This is a very special group of people, where the love and respect for each other has no peer in civvy street and has grown even stronger over the years. My job is now to persuade a few other 'Ruperts' to join in and take this trip down memory lane as it's good for the soul and extremely humbling. Thanks to everyone for the massive effort to put this together as it really does mean a lot.

'Once a Queensman always a Queensman'



Grub's up



REMEMBRANCE



Chichester Branch celebrate D Day 80



Palace Barracks 2024



John Boston receiving the Stars and Stripes on Memorial Day in America



Brian 'Kitch with Grandaughter maisie at Paddock Wood



The Drums at Woodchurch



Jim Wilson being told that he had a ticket for the Cenotaph



A POEM FOR THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

*Of honour and valour, they stand proud,
The Queen's Regiment, a gallant crowd.
Through fields of green and skies of blue,
Their legacy is timeless, their hearts are true.*

*With banners flying in the morning light,
They march with purpose, ready to fight.
From ancient wars to battles new,
Their courage unwavering, their numbers few.*

*For Queen and Country, they give their all,
In peace and conflict, they heed the call.
Their spirit unbroken, their resolve like steel,
In the face of danger, they never kneel.*

*Brothers and sisters, side by side,
Bound by duty, in them we confide.
Their tales of bravery, whispered through the years,
Bring pride and honour, and often tears.*

*So, here's to the Regiment, steadfast and strong,
May their legacy live on in story and song.
The Queen's Regiment, forever esteemed,
A beacon of loyalty, as bright as it gleamed.*

By Dave Golden



BRANCH REPORTS

1 QUEENS BRANCH

By Joe Dormer

The 1 QUEENS Branch meets but once a year and a great evening was had by all I met up with a great old friend Gary Aylott with whom I served in Germany and Belize. The turnout was 103 and beer and war stories were numerous. We had the pleasure of The Queen's Regimental Association Corps of Drums who performed for us and as always were a great success, bringing a few to tears, I saw.



L to R Martin Wheeler, Martin O'Dell, Steve Parsons, Mark Richmond (RIP), Kev Milson, Joe Dormer, Jon Alison and Front Michael Saunders



L to R Joe Dormer, Barry Azzopardi, Derek Locke and Steve Scully



Mark Richmond, Les McCartney, Peter Klucznik



Two rogues - Paul (Jimmy) Juhel, Tony Farrow



Tich Myers and Gary Aylott and partners and Dawn Dormer

The event has continued for 22 years now, and the wives, girlfriends, partners, sons and daughters are great supporters of the event. Special mention must be made to Kev Milson and June Booker who as always host a pre-event party, and to the many members who live nearby who host old, old (!) friends at their homes.

The extremely sad death of Mark Richmond, a short while after the Reunion, made me realise that this event is very important and will continue as long as I have the support (which I have).

The reunion date for next year is now confirmed and will be on Saturday 24 May 2025.

ALBUHERA BRANCH

By Steve Wall

ALBUHERA (IBERIAN PENINSULA)

Membership: Our Membership remains stable at 33 (17 in mainland Spain, 12 in Gibraltar and 4 in Portugal). Sadly, we lost one of our founder members, with the very sad passing of ex-WO2 Jon Newman (2 QUEENS). Captain Will Morris (2 QUEENS 1976-1986) attended a service at Elvas British Military Cemetery in May 2024, and has subsequently joined our Branch. It was a chance meeting for Will and me. Captain Morris was OIC of Ex ROCKY TRAIL, a 2 QUEENS mountaineering expedition, climbing many of Canada's highest peaks over the summer of 1983, on which I was selected to represent 1 QUEENS, after some advanced rock-climbing training in Londonderry. I had not seen Will since, so it was fantastic to reconnect after 41 years! We also welcome LCpl Jez Stevens (2 QUEENS and 2 PWRR) who also joined the Branch this year.

WO2 Jon Newman: The death of Jon Newman, who died peacefully in hospital, was particularly difficult, given the circumstances of how and when we were informed. Jon had been receiving support from our Branch and we had referred him to an RBL caseworker. Sadly, we learned of his death some months later so we could not attend his funeral service. However, the newly formed RBL Madrid Branch arranged a Memorial Service for Jon in his home town of Madrid, which was their first official use of their RBL Standard and bugler. A good friend of Jon, Taddy McAuley (2 QUEENS and PWRR), flew over to represent the Regiment and to read a memorable and fitting tribute to Jon. A further service was held in Andalucia to scatter Jon's ashes at sea. With RBL support (licence to scatter the ashes, bugler, piper and a padre), and Ex-WO2 Stew Streeting representing the Regiment, a moving service was held on the beach before facilitating Jon's final journey at sea.

Branch Activity: The branch activity focuses on 'virtual support', localised social meetings, and supporting activities on our old battlegrounds. Given our huge geographical spread, it is difficult to offer much more. We centre our main branch activity on la Albuera twice a year; the main commemoration in May and the November Remembrance service in Elvas British Military Cemetery just across the border in Portugal.



Branch Key Activity: Ex-WO2 Streeting (1 QUEENS) remains the key personality and committee member organising the May and November Services at Elvas (near La Albuera) British Military Cemetery (the oldest in the World). See his report earlier in the Journal. He has just delivered his 16th consecutive service, having organised the military aspects of the services, designed, researched and written the programmes and delivered a speech, on top of immaculately performing the role of Master of Ceremonies. The services at Elvas are always well attended by mayors, ambassadors, defence attachés, Portuguese and Spanish generals,

dignitaries and representatives from Portugal, Spain, Ireland, UK, Germany and the US, as well as a packed multinational congregation. Branch Members represent the regiment and our forebear regiments by laying the official wreaths during the service. This year, Colonels Philip Critchley (formerly 2 QUEENS and representing the Buffs), and John White (County Chairman Middx and London representing the PWRR Association) visited us during the Albuera commemoration on 16 May as part of a 10-day Peninsular War tour. Branch members from Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar attended both Elvas and la Albuera in May and November of each year, and we strongly recommend other veterans to make the trip.

Welfare: The Branch has assisted four members with welfare support this year, and offered remote emotional and welfare support to another member. We have good links and welfare support with various RBL Branch Community Support officers, RBL caseworkers, the Queen's Regimental Association and PWRR Association.

Finally, if anyone is living, or has a holiday home on the Iberian Peninsula, and is not yet a member, they can reach out to Steve Wall or Mark Truman-Davies, who will gladly sign them up.

CHICHESTER BRANCH

By Dave Tilley

We ended the year off with our Christmas dinner on 5 December at the Masonic Hall in Chichester for the first time. In all, 63 attended and had a great time.

Sadly, we lost Eric Hensby our oldest member and Barry Cobbold this year. The good news is that we managed to press gang some new members, Gary Hook and Phillip Nash. On 23 April, St George's Day, some members took part in the Chichester Cathedral cremation and burial of the Royal Sussex Regiment's 1st Battalion Colours which had deteriorated over time.



Trevor Shield laying up a wreath with his Grandson Thomas on the 80th commemoration of D-Day

This year, we had a change of venue for our Albuera Dinner. It was held in the Masonic Hall in Chichester on 18 May. As usual, Mr Graham Booker gave a brief on the battle of Albuera, and as he did such a good job the Chairman has volunteered him for the foreseeable future.

Mike Stenning, Jim Cooper BEM and I enjoyed a trip to the Tower of London courtesy of the Mid-Sussex Branch of the Royal Sussex Association. A small group of members together with the Standard bearer attended a service to remember Eric Hensby. This was organised by Allan Drew who accompanied Eric's family.

On 6 June, we commemorated the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and laid a wreath at the Memorial in Littern Gardens.

On 22 June, the Branch took part in the Veterans' Day Parade in Bognor Regis and later assembled in the RAFA Club for refreshments. On the 29 June our members enjoyed a day in Littlehampton taking part in their Armed Forces Day celebrations.

On 3 September, six lucky members enjoyed a day at the Goodwood Races.

This year, we are holding our usual veterans gathering at the Masonic Hall on 14 September to celebrate Quebec Day, with hopefully great company and good food supplied by Chris Blundell. No doubt we will finish off by singing 'Soldiers of the Queen' and 'Sussex by the Sea'.

In November, we will hold the usual Remembrance Services and parades, attending various wreath laying ceremonies. We hope to finish 2024 on a high with our Christmas Lunch on 16 December, again at the Masonic Hall.



From the Chairman and Members of the Chichester Branch we wish all Queensmen and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2025.





FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS

By Nigel Ferris

The last 12 months have been a period of containment, whilst introducing new adventures for our cadets, and searching for a Regimental Sergeant Major and Commandant.

Cadet numbers have waivered around the 70 mark which is above our breakeven level, so at this stage a cadet pays approximately £5 per evening for a minimum of one and a half hours of training. This will have to be discussed at the start of 2025 as we have just ended our fixed 3-yearperiod of electric and gas.

Our new adventures for cadets are skiing (but they seem to have more fun 'donutting'), rock wall climbing, sailing, orienteering and drill competitions. Sailing due to the weather has been postponed for this year but the remaining events have been well received and attended.

This year we once again gratefully accepted the offer to participate in the London Cenotaph parade plus another at Brookwood Cemetery, both considered prestigious events.

Annual Camp this year is at Walton Furzes commencing 24th August.

We are having little response to finding a suitable RSM. Although some have applied, but their opinions of their own ability have proved very disappointing. We keep trying.

A former officer to take up the post as Commandant would be welcome, and is needed. After a familiarisation



Certificate awarded to F&CCC for Community Service by Rushmoor Council

F&CCC Cadets in Downing Street again with Assoc Sec and Col John White





Cadet Russell checking a night sight



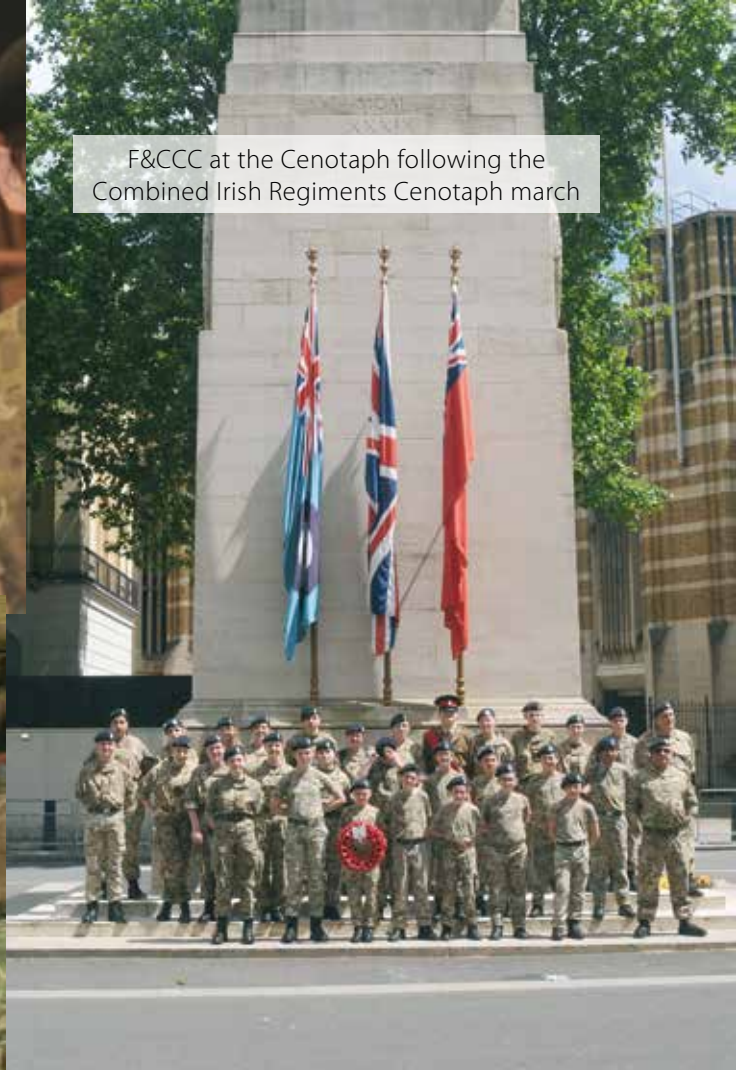
Senior cadets helping to instruct the youngsters on shooting



Cadets on their raft they'd just built at camp



Queen's flag on show at RAF Odiham Aug 24



F&CCC at the Cenotaph following the Combined Irish Regiments Cenotaph march



Inspection of F&CCC Troops by Assoc Secretary



period with the Cadets and Instructors, he or she need only attend once a month. However, we are finding this difficult to acquire.

Our current Adjutant, acting as Deputy Commandant is doing an excellent job as well as his myriad of other tasks. He and the Corps need a guiding figurehead.

IF ANYONE, OR ANYONE KNOWS OF INDIVIDUALS (Male or Female) **WHO COULD FULFILL THESE POSITIONS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.**

One of our new Trustees, who joined us specifically to find a new owner for the land we are leasing, (our 99-year lease expires in 18 months) has had to mark time as the recent political change has



'Olly' from the PWRR showing his rifle to Cadet Russell



Lto R Jnr LCpl Miles, Snr LCpl Miles and LCpl Clark with the Colour at the Czech Memorial, Brookwood



Certificate awarded to F&CCC for best Volunteer Team by Surrey Heath Council

changed the situation. If anyone knows of someone who has £300,000 to invest please get in touch for more details.



Major (Retd) Mani Rai MBE DL meeting the staff at F&CCC before his talk on life in a Gurkha Regiment

The year started with a pre-season golfing holiday to Portugal which is now a regular event (organised by the society captain Dave Body). No sooner had those who had enjoyed the sun and polished up their golf swing landed back in the UK, it was the start of the Society season where members gathered for their first of many get togethers. The Society has members ranging from low to high handicappers, which shows with golf it doesn't matter what level you play at. You can enjoy it with anyone.

The Society season consists of various formats; Society meets where it is the Society members



AGM trophies



Captain's Fun Day



who play a friendly game together, team meets where matches are played against other societies such as Kent Police, Sussex Police, Army Catering Corps and more; Society competitive games where there are trophies to be won. There is an Inter-Battalion Match where teams are formed from the battalions of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions and one of PWRR. They battle it out to win points and the battalion that accumulates most points wins the bragging rights. 1 QUEENS won it this year.

Members choose which matches they wish to play and with the matches against other societies where it is a limited team size, they show their availability, from which teams are picked as evenly as possible to ensure everyone gets some games in (these are normally subsidised by the Society). The Society get together are normally as many as we can fit in, golf venue bookings permitting. Most games, be they friendly or competitive, normally have a meal before or after.

Our results so far this year are:

Date	SOCIETY v	Venue	SOCIETY result
05/04/24	Barkway GC	Barkway GC	Lost
26/04/24	Barkway GC	Barkway GC	Won
05/06/24	Sussex Police	Lewes GC	Won
07/06/24	Kent Police	Faverham GC	Lost
13/06/24	Triangular Match	Burghley GC	Won*
26/06/24	Army Catering Corps	Warley Park GC	Won
09/08/24	Kingsnorth GS	Hythe GC	Lost
21/08/24	Lewes Prison GS	Lingfield Park	Draw

* This is a match of PWRR v R Anglians v RRF. PWRR won for the third year in a row

Society Matches

Date	Game	Venue	Winner
23/03/24	First Knock	Top Meadow GC	Sanjay Ghale
08/05/24	Spring Swing	Pedham Place GC	Martin Brady
24/05/24	AGM	Upchurch GC	Mark Thorne
12/07/24	Captain's Fun Day	Chestfield GC	Dave Body
20/07/24	Inter Bn	Warley Park GC	1 QUEENS

We still have games left in the season with matches against Canterbury GC and Kent Police (Home game). We have also the End of Season Dinner organised by the Captain which is a game of golf followed by a dinner and disco and stay overnight if members wish to, bringing partners/spouses along. Then the last match is for the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (QRSR) Trophy which was kindly donated by the QRSR.

Whilst enjoying golf, we also raised £580 for The Heart of Kent Hospice and £300 towards Peter Swanson's charity bike ride for the Royal British Legion. £2,000 was raised for the PWRR Benevolent Fund and presented to the Regimental Secretary at the end of 2023.

If you would like to become a member of the society, then please contact the Captain, Dave Body, via email at d-body@sky.com.

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing the previous set of notes. A worrying case of *tempus fugit* and a reminder to get on with things whilst you can! As ever, the Horsham Branch remains a fully operational part of the QRA ORBAT. We held our 24th AGM in March with much beer, banter and batter (on the fish and chips). And we were well represented at the QRA's AGM and reunion at the Union Jack Club, where we were entertained by the impressive QRA Corps of Drums.

We have introduced Part 1 Orders, which carry the more time sensitive and routine information for members. This allows our Newsletter Editor, Andrew Byford more leeway to produce fewer but more refined editions.

Rosie Potts has been tasked with arranging informal lunches at affordable (cheap) eateries throughout the year. The first attempt in February resulted in SNAFU and the realisation that there are two Toby Carverys in the Worthing area! Rosie and Shane were at the Lyon's Farm branch Upper Brighton Road, whilst the Courtnages and Hurds were at the Goring Road establishment. Remember the old story about the message that started as '*Send reinforcements we're going to advance.*' which ended up as '*Send three and fourpence, we're going to a dance.*'? Well you get the idea, and luckily this wasn't a fire mission! Also a reminder that time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted, thus I can report that the Toby Carvery, Goring Road, Worthing was then rather dilapidated and much in need of refurbishment, which our friendly Lyon's Farm hostess suggested had been delayed but was imminent. Having located the right RV, Rosie did comment of course that I did well - an officer with a map etc!

Our members continue to support the various Armed Forces & Veteran's Breakfast Clubs. It was through the Crawley & Horsham Club that yours truly, my son and Mike Cattell, our Branch Treasurer attended a memorable dinner in the wardroom (now the senior rates' mess) on HMS Victory in March

'England expects that every man will do his duty' and our duty that evening started with a few warmers into the bank at the Ship & Castle pub, strategically adjacent to the Premier Inn and Naval Dockyard. Prior to dinner, we toured the ship, which is undergoing major refurbishment. Time was cut short though because of the enthusiastic efforts of the guard service at the main gate when our group arrived. This said, my Veteran's ID card (MOD Form 100) was sufficient to prove who I was. It was a special to dine where Nelson's officers would have eaten and socialised at the time of Trafalgar and to know that we were in the same space as historic figures who lived and died on board; feeling the presence of the well-practised gun crews who despatched ordnance in the direction of the French and Spanish.



L-R Marc Harrold, Jim Nolan & Dave Holman prepare for the QRA AGM with warmers into the bank!

I had already decided that I would not be standing for the Loyal Toast come what may, but seated it was in accordance with tradition (and practicality). My veteran naval neighbours were explaining this, so I took the opportunity to educate them in the ways of The Queen's Regiment - Villiers' Marines, Glorious First of June, Earl of Donegal etc. They clearly didn't know that some Pongos did such things. (*Ed: Irrespective of our traditions, may I remind all members that when we are guests of a different organisation we follow their traditions not ours while taking advantage of the situation to inform our hosts of the way we conduct the Loyal Toast*). Luckily, we were able to spend a further half-hour touring the ship after dinner. The subsequent withdrawal to the dockyard gate was less orderly and certainly unsupervised. Maybe the guard



service had finally got round to the risk assessment! The following morning started with an all-you-can-eat breakfast with continental and full-English options. There was evidence of a Royal Hampshire Regiment reunion, which had been held just up the road at the Royal Maritime Hotel. No contact was made! Thence to the Historic Dockyard for a harbour tour and The Mary Rose Exhibition (fantastic). Later in March, a private visit to the Gatwick Aviation Museum took place.

In March, Dave Holman and Jonathan Purdy joined an evening tour of Horse Guards (thanks to the kind invitation of Horsham Branch member Karen Calloway at London District). This was a truly memorable, once in a lifetime experience and included the GOC's Office, the Duke of Wellington's Desk, the (alas disused) bar and cock fighting pit in the basement that provided the off duty 'entertainment' for the troops stationed there when it was a barracks. Dave Holman took the opportunity to swell his ego by posing for a photograph at Wellington's Desk!

As usual, The Royal Sussex Regimental Association celebrated St George's Day at Chichester Cathedral. This included a rare event, the burning and burial of the 1859 Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, which had hitherto hung in St George's Chapel until they rotted. If that's the timescale, then our 6/7 Queen's Colours will be ready for similar treatment in the year 2146. By then of course, we shall all be a distant memory and truly historic, plus innocent bystanders will be spared the singing voices of Steve 'Dolly' Gray and Gerald 'Ginge' Sayers!

For the history buffs amongst us, here is an extract from the 2024 order of service:

'In the old days, worn-out Colours were sometimes burnt by the Regiment; now they are almost invariably deposited for safe keeping in a cathedral or church, usually one with which the Regiment has had a close association. Colours always remain the property of the state.

When Colours are no longer deemed viable by the Ministry of Defence, the remains are to be cremated along with the pike; the finials may be retained. The ashes have to be interred in consecrated ground.'

Some 30 people, members and guests, commemorated Albuhera with a Silent Toast and curry supper.

D-Day 80 commemorations in Horsham were held at the new Fire Station and Training Centre. We displayed our Standard, regimental flag and badges. Mick Courtnage and colleagues provided armoured vehicles for the outdoor display. Festivities continued later in the Carfax (town square). Mike Cattell and fellow members of the St Mary's bell-ringers band let the bells of ring out over the town.

Continuing the D-Day theme, planning is well underway for a weekend battlefield tour to Normandy over Friday 16 to Sunday 18 May 2025. The BFT aims to visit locations we haven't been to before, in particular the Western end of the landings around Utah Beach, Sainte-Mère-Église, Brécourt Manor (of Band of Brothers fame), etc.

On 30 June a deputation led by CSgt (and Parade Marshal) Andrew Byford accompanied by the Branch Standard paraded at Beach House Park, Worthing for the annual commemoration of the Battle of the Boars Head (aka Richebourg) on 30 June 1916. As usual the Mayor had them all dozing off with his speech, but Andrew brought them round with a sharp word of command just in time to dip the Standard for the two minutes silence. The sunshine and children's voices down by the sea made the sacrifices of the volunteers of the 11th, 12th and 13th Royal Sussex on the Western Front seem even more poignant.

Our reunions continue at the Horsham Sports (Cricket) Club. We meet four times a year.

Our 2025 dates are Mondays:

3 March, 19 May (for Albuhera), 6 October and 6 December (Ladies Night).

Unconquered we serve

Since our last report the branch has been busy. Our Branch meets at the Royal Navy Association (RNA) Club, in Ramsgate. Our shipmates from the RNA have made us very welcome and our links with other associations, Royal Engineers (REA), Royal Artillery (RAA) and Royal Air Force (RAFA) enrich our Association. This has meant that we have supported each other on parades and events. Working together makes all veterans stronger, in Thanet.

In October 2023, we held the blessing of our new Branch Standard at St Georges Church Ramsgate, with pre-service drinks and post-blessing reception at the RNA Club. The Branch would like to thank Colonel Anthony Beattie for attending and for his reading at the service, and all fellow Queensmen, RNA, RAA, REA and RAFA who supported us at the blessing.

The first outing for the Branch Standard after its blessing was on Remembrance Day 2023, in Ramsgate. Many of the Branch members attended the parade, with Queensmen making up the largest contingent of veterans on parade. The parade was supported by the Association's Corps of Drums, leading the parade. As usual they were a credit to the Association. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Corps of Drums for their support of the Branch and fellow associations in Thanet. Members also attended Remembrance parades in Broadstairs, Margate and Birchington.

The next outing was for the Channel Dash parade, 12 February 2024, at Ramsgate Royal Harbour (the only Royal Harbour by name in the country). This commemorates 12 February 1942, when the German Fleet broke out from France and ran out down the English Channel into the Atlantic. Operation FULLER was the name of the attack on the German Fleet. Motor torpedo boats from Ramsgate were deployed to attack and six Swordfish torpedo planes were also sent from Manston; no Swordfish returned. The parade was also supported by the Association Corps of Drums. We joined the RNA to commemorate this very local action of World War II.

June saw our Standard on parade three times. Twice for the celebration of Watermen in the First and Second World Wars in France, over the weekend 14-16 June 24, in Conflans St Honorine, which is the town that Ramsgate is twinned with. This was with the RNA and RAFA, the first time Veteran Standards from Ramsgate have ever attended. On the Friday we were blue-lighted on coaches to the *Arc de Triomphe*.



Glorious First of June Dinner





Pre-parade drinks at the *Café de Paris* then on to the parade with fellow French and Belgian Veteran Standards. Unfortunately, we were not blue-lighted back to Conflans. The Saturday, we were all afloat on the River Seine, parading up then down to Conflans for a parade then a march to the confluence of the Seine and the Oise. All veterans attending were made welcome, and it was a great weekend. We will be attending this in the coming years. On 29 June, Armed Forces Day, we paraded in Ramsgate, again led by the Association's Corps of Drums. Finally, our Standard was on parade for several final journeys to the FRV for Queensmen in the area. Our Branch Standard is now on permanent display in the RNA Club.

Latham's Memorial

Within the Regiment, Lt Matthew Latham, 3rd Foot, The Buffs, is held as an example of courage and selfless commitment in defending the Colours from capture. After his Army service he retired to France and married a French lady and had 9 children with her. Not much is known of his life in France but on his death at the age of 79 he was buried in the cemetery at Blingel, where he lived. Matthew Latham died 27 April 1865, he had fought the French at Albuhera and other battles. His brother officers paid for a memorial honouring his memory. The memorial reads:

Capitaine LATHAM 3 Foot for the Buffs

As a testimonial from his brother officers
of their high opinion of his distinguished conduct
in defending the colours of the regiment
in the Battle of Albuhera
in which he lost an arm and part of his face
a la memoire de ce brave militaire
décédé dans sa 79- année le 27 Avril 1865

Priez Dieu pour Lui



Two of our branch members, Ron Brown and Bryan Hazard have regularly visited his memorial. They have both been disheartened by the state of the memorial, considering how special we hold the memory of the actions of Lt Latham at Albuhera. Ron asked in branch meetings if anything could be done to refurbish the memorial. We decided that we should do something ourselves, so in January this year our president Martin Neame and chairman Kev Minnis went on a recce to Blingel.



On a snowy January morning they meet the Mayor of Blingel and two local historians. The meeting and recce went very well. On return, RHQ PWRR and the Association were contacted and Martin has received support for the refurbishment and a re-dedication parade, in April 2025. The finer details are being worked on but should be out soon. We hope that branches can support the rededication in April next year.

We have been quite social as a branch holding a few events. Meeting once a month (first Saturday of the month, RNA Club, Ramsgate), branch RV's and dinners. We have held several Branch Breakfast RVs on a Saturday, including for Remembrance, Armed Forces Day and a D-Day Lunch RV. These are generally well supported and are open to all Veterans, family and friends. RVs are held at the Royal Victoria Pavilion, which is on Ramsgate beach, the largest pub in the country, and second largest pub in Europe.

Christmas was celebrated after our December meeting with a Christmas party with a Christmas jumper theme on 2 December. On 31 December, we held the Forming of the Regiment Lunch RV. It is of note that two of our members were at the parade in the gym at Howe Barracks on 31 December 1966.



We have also been at events in the RNA Club, RAFA Club and members attended the REA, All Arms Summer Ball, in Westgate in 2023 and 2024, supporting our fellow veterans. One of the most memorable events of this years was when Veterans and serving personal attended the RNA Club for the Army vs Navy game. What a game and what a day! We were very warmly hosted by the Navy. Brunch was served and with the cheapest drinks in Ramsgate, we were all onto a winner as was the Army team in the last twenty adrenaline-fuelled seconds of the game. Great banter, great camaraderie and a great day that ended with a few games of spoof between the Chairmen of the QRA, RNA, RAFA and several shipmates.

Our Albuhera Dinner was held on Albuhera Day as usual. This year it was at the Royal Oak Hotel at Ramsgate Harbour, owned by a serving \member of 3 PWRR, so supporting one of our own, and probably one of the best dinners we have held. We received a grant from the Association for the dinner and the CO 3 PWRR allowed the Branch to borrow several pieces of Regimental Silver for the Dinner. There were 36 attending, including serving PWRR personnel, all arms veterans and Col Jane Carey-Harris, QARANC, a Deputy Lord Lt of Kent and a veteran from the WRAC, who were the first female veterans to attend the dinner. The Corps of Drums did a drums display and on the night we raised £211 and on Armed Forces Day, we presented the Drums with a cheque for £250 as a result of our Albuhera Dinner.

This year we held a joint event to celebrate The Glorious First of June 1794 with the RNA, to celebrate a joint heritage. This was very successful, and it was decided that as the Glorious First of June 2024 fell on a Saturday, we would hold a joint dinner. This was a great night held at the





RNA. The Association Secretary attended the dinner and I asked him to present a picture of Lord Howe on the deck of HMS Queen Charlotte 1 June 1794 to the RNA. All those who attended received an engraved tumbler to mark the dinner. Once again, the Corps of Drums entertained us with a drums display. This will now be a Branch tradition that we will carry forward with the RNA.

For the remainder of the year, we will be focusing again on recruiting, parades, Remembrance, the Channel Dash, social events, Albuhera and Glorious First of June Dinner. If you live in or around Thanet then please contact us if you would like to join the Branch. Former members



of the Queen's, PWRR, forbear regiments and serving personnel are welcome to join. We hope to hold and take part in other events and parades throughout 2024 and 2025.

LONDON BRANCH

By Kevin Hibbert

The Branch has continued to grow this year with new members being snapped up at every opportunity. The intent has remained the same as when we formed up, to create a place for the veterans and associated members of our Regiments to get together socially and maintain their links with the PWRR and forbear Regiments.

Events continue to be very well supported with the jewel in our crown being the Cenotaph Remembrance events. This year saw over 100 marchers with many more supporters lining the route before repairing to an after-parade event.



Cenotaph



At Trafalgar Square

We have listened carefully to feedback from this and previous years and have booked Walkers of Whitehall for this year's reception after the parade. Anyone with links to the Regiment is very welcome to come and join us and can be assured of a warm welcome from all in doing so. You do not need an invite, so if you are in the area, please do take the opportunity to pop in.

Our other main event is the Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham which unfortunately clashed with a couple of poorly placed regimental weddings, meaning the committee members were not available to run the usual Tigers and veterans' RV this year. The stadium's move to e-ticketing has caused us a challenge as we no longer have the ability to book large numbers of tickets together, as we have done previously. Please keep your eyes out for our social media post on Facebook (facebook.com/pwrrlondon) and we will give you updates on which area of the stadium to get your tickets next year. It would be great to turn a section yellow and blue!



Ambush

Keep your eyes on our social media for our regular central London 'ambushes', generally on a weeknight after work where we grab a couple of beers in a pub and enjoy a chat. We are always happy to take suggestions for venues or events that members may enjoy. The photo is of a snap ambush in August when an ex-Corporal of the Recce PI who now lives in San Francisco was unexpectedly in town for the weekend.

It would be remiss to not acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our outgoing Branch Secretary Dennis Sharrocks. Dennis has performed the role for several years with great energy and patience and I extend my heartfelt thanks for his efforts. In the best military tradition, Dennis has left the role in a far better condition than he found it and will be enormously missed.

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

By Trevor Canton

We started the year with our New Year Luncheon at the B Coy 4 PWRR Army Reserve Centre Edgware. The event was well attended with some members travelling many miles to be there.

After the luncheon, we held a small raffle and raised £140 for the QRA Benevolent Fund.

This year we commemorated the 213th year of the Battle of Albuhera by attending the B Coy, 4 PWRR with the Silent Toast at Edgware on 15th May. The event was well supported by a fair number of the serving soldiers and members of the Middlesex Branch. Major Andy Keen, OC B Coy, read out the account of the battle and commenced the Silent Toast ceremony.

On Saturday, 25th May, we held our annual Albuhera Dinner at Edgware. As usual it was well supported by branch members. Maj Keen and WO2 (CSM) Paul Warner, accompanied by their ladies, attended. It was an excellent dinner and everyone who attended enjoyed the menu of melon with Parma ham, braised feather blade steak and American cheesecake followed by cheese and biscuits and copious amounts of port. We were delighted to see Branch member John Cavanagh, our own Chelsea Pensioner, resplendently dressed in his scarlet uniform, who attended as a guest of the branch.





In June, we had what would normally be a battlefield tour, but it was decided at last year's tour to organise something different for 2024 and preferably to hold it in the UK. To that end, it was agreed to have a UK Museum Tour covering an area in southern England. The central location was Dorchester and so our chairman reserved rooms at the Dorchester Premier Inn. The tour dates for the tour were set for 10-14 June. We visited three major museums – and a couple of smaller ones – rather than battlefields and cemeteries. In Dorchester, 'The Keep' museum tells the story of the Devon and Dorset Regiments. The usual mess silver, uniforms and other memorabilia are on show. A whole day was spent at the Tank Museum in Bovington. Tanks, of course, were far too numerous to list – but several of us were struck by an assertion by the guides that 'female' ones in the First World War were much more deadly than their 'male' equivalent. Another full day was centred on RNAS Yeovilton: plenty of aircraft to inspect plus a great surprise to find ourselves on a reconstructed 1970s aircraft carrier – definitely the highlight. Our Signals Section c1980 was particularly well represented by former signallers Mick McDonagh, Mick Springall, Barry George and John Rogers. Only our Kiwi signaller, Danny Boyle, was missing. His excuse – we had not sent a helicopter



to pick him up (from New Zealand!). We spent several hours at the Royal Signals Museum, not least looking over our old kit! The 3-ton Austin signals wagon - a museum piece even when we had it – brought back some frightening memories of brake failures. Meanwhile, Mick McDonagh and I wondered how the devil we had fitted into the air portable FFR Land Rover – especially when joined by Mick Springall.

Our next function will be our Summer Luncheon to be held at the Edgware ARC.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL RIDERS ASSOCIATION By President Steve 'Donk' Parsons

This has been an incredibly busy but very successful year. Apart from the usual sad but poignant task of escorting Queensmen to the Final RV at the request of families, we have managed to get back to our core activity of riding out and, of course, raising money for the Benevolent Fund.

We have had some members come and go and return (me included) to return to help with finishing the build of the Veteran's Horticultural Rehabilitation, Social and Community Project and QRRA Clubhouse. Except for the installation of some disability aids, the build is now almost complete. However, it has taken its toll and some of our members have been suffering from mental health problems which we have tried to help with. Frosty, our President has stood down because of on-going health problems and I have now taken up the reins to get us back to our core activities and push the build along as it had become a bit stagnant with a bit more drive, determination and focus required!

We now want to use our building for its full purpose, reaching out to the veteran community on a monthly basis, with breakfast clubs, courses such as cooking, art classes, yoga, self-defence and fishing, not forgetting the horticulture. We will do this by working closely with other charities. In addition to this, we will be storing clothing, tents, sleeping bags,



Mark Richmond's Funeral



The President discussing the Secretary's future!



Sham 69

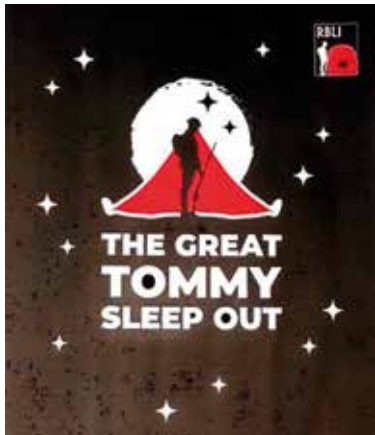


The Grand Prior of St Stanislas presents a cheque for the Centre



footwear, etc for veterans in need. We want this to be a veterans' hub, and we want you to get involved. Please contact me at president@qrra.co.uk. Do come and visit and see what has been achieved.

In March, we hosted Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) Great Tommy Sleepout when a number slept out in tents in support of the annual fundraiser raising over £1M nationwide. It was a very cold night but thankfully this year it didn't chuck it down as he had last year. It



2024 Great Tommy Sleepout

was great fun and gave us the opportunity to show off the work in progress on the building. The RBLI are keen that next year we try and gather as many people in Kent as possible to take part and so the QRRRA are going to host the event on 15 March 2025. It would be great if we can get a large number of Queensmen to help support this great project that assists so many homeless veterans.



One Aim Rally

The 'One Aim Rally' held over the weekend of 5-7 July was a great if damp success! Sadly, numbers were down on previous years. However, many friends and supporters and regimental members and their families attended in spite of the horrendous weather. This included the QRA President and the Grand Prior of the Order of St Stanislas who made a presentation to the QRRR of £1500. We enjoyed a range of excellent bands including the fantastic Sham 69 who with their lead singer Tim V, have lost none of their punk genre! The Rally was the QRRR's annual fundraiser for the Queen's Regiment Benevolent Fund and raised £4,000, taking the total raised by the QRRR over the years for the BF to, in excess of, £67,000.

As mentioned at the beginning, the QRRR have escorted a number of our members to the Final RV. This is a final service that we can do. If you hear of a member who has sadly died and think that it would be appropriate and the family would like it, please contact me.

Queen's Forever, Forever Queen's



One Aim Rally



Listening to the bands while the rain was on



It takes all sorts!



Why the takings were down - Wimbledon and the Euro's



Healthy scoff



The Drums have had a very busy year both in terms of performances and also helping our local cadet forces. We now stand at eight full-time drummers and at the time of writing we are training four fife players in the hope of having them on parade at some point next year.

We started the year leading the parade for Ramsgate Royal Naval Association Channel Dash 'Operation FULLER' service. Op FULLER took place on 12th February 1942 when six Swordfish aircraft took off from RAF Manston at 12:25 on an attack mission against German battleships. Unfortunately, by 12:45 all six Swordfish had been destroyed with only five out of the eighteen crew surviving.



Channel Dash Memorial Service



Ramsgate Armed Forces Day

We then had a full Corps out for the Queen's Regimental Association AGM in March which seemed to be well received. (*Ed: It was!*).

May saw us performing for the Thanet Branch's annual Albuhera dinner, the Queensman's Lodge Ladies Dinner and a return to the 1 QUEENS Reunion after four years away. This led to an impromptu performance at Herne Bay clock tower for members of the public.

In June, we celebrated the Glorious 1st of June with the Thanet Branch and the Royal Naval Association at their dinner as well as leading the Woodchurch Carnival and also Ramsgate Armed Forces Day Parade.

In July, we had the honour of leading the Mayor of Ramsgate's Civic Parade, a performance at the family military festival at Bettshanger Country Park and joining in the fun at the 2 QUEENS family camping weekend.



Queensman's Lodge Ladies Dinner



Impromptu performance at Herne Bay Clock Tower



Family Military festival at
Bettshanger Country Park



Family Military festival at
Bettshanger Country Park



Performing inside the
Grand Shaft in Dover



Meeting Queen
Margrethe before our
performance



Performing at the Anglo-
Danish banquet



Performing alongside the
Danish Life Guards



Ramsgate Armed Forces Day



Woodchurch Carnival



We took a well-earned break in August while looking forward to the rest of the year.

Appearances are planned at Archcliffe Fort in Dover for a memorial service and plaque presentation for four Royal Engineers killed on Shakespeare Beach in 1944 and 1945 who were clearing landmines. We will also be performing for the Royal Air Force Association Battle of Britain dinner.

We are looking forward to a 'drum off' with some Japanese Taiko drummers in October as well as appearing at the Eton Wick Bonfire and Firework celebration in Windsor. We also have the honour of leading the Ramsgate Remembrance Sunday parade and the Westgate Christmas lights switch on.

Our buglers will be performing at various Acts of Remembrance at local football clubs, local town events along with a Battle of Britain memorial service.

We have been working closely with local cadet forces, helping to train their band for their own performances and parades, with the hope that in the future, when the cadets are old enough, they will join us.

Finally, we have a close relationship with the Dover Western Heights Preservation Society and were the first drum corps to play at the Grand Shaft in Dover in over 100 years. We are looking to repeat this with a performance at the Dover Western Heights Drop Redoubt Fort, a casemated barracks dating back to Napoleonic times.



Woodchurch Carnival

We do have some exciting projects that we are working hard on for the coming year with some performances that will be completely different from anything we have ever done before! If anyone would like to join us, we practice on Monday and Friday evenings in Margate. We are looking for a bass drummer, tenor drummers and fife players to join our team.

Looking back to 2019, we fondly remember a performance we were privileged to do alongside some Danish Life Guards for Queen Margrethe at the Anglo-Danish banquet in London. Although it was a long day, we had an amazing time, even though one of



Christmas at Quex Park



Managing to have a quick break while waiting for HM to arrive



Light display for the Albuhera dinner

our drummers was injured and bleeding due to being stabbed in the back by fittings in his tunic! The memories will stay with us forever and hope that maybe one day we will get to do it again!

We would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the Thanet Branch. They have been a fantastic support to us and we always enjoy working with them.

We would also like to thank the President and Secretary for their

unwavering support of the Drums over the last 10 years. Here's to the next ten where hopefully we will be bigger and stronger than ever!

QUEENSMAN LODGE

By Worshipful Master Chelsea Hall

On the Glorious First of June, I had the singular honour of being installed as the eleventh Worshipful Master of the Queensman Lodge but the first Master from 1 QUEENS. The significance of the date was not wasted on me! "So what?" I hear you say. Well, to me it was a big deal, but I shall try not to make this all about me.

The reason for this article is to give a broader awareness to the fact we as Queensmen have our own lodge and are well established in freemasonry circles, due to the efforts



A Gaggles of 3rd Battalion freemasons at Xmas



Chelsea Hall The New Master

of those who have gone before me. We are also an established part of the Queen's Regimental Association but are not exclusively restricted to just ex-Queensmen, as we welcome members of the PWRR with open arms, especially as so many of us served in both Regiments.



I fully appreciate that the thought of Freemasonry isn't for everyone. Indeed, I had never given it a thought, associating it with funny handshakes and rolled-up trouser legs, something akin to Morris Dancing! However, after serving 40 years man and boy, I jumped at the chance to do another 5 as a reservist to help ween me off 'the green'. With 18 months still to go, I saw an article on Facebook from John Edwards ('Mr Angry' himself), a man I had admired for many years, about the Queensman Lodge. It was this regimental association that gained my interest. I sent John a PM asking for detail, and was soon invited to an interview in London, during which I was asked "What are you looking for?" In a moment of honesty, I stated that my time in the Army was coming to an end and that I was looking for something worthwhile to be involved in with like-minded people. This answer must have proved satisfactory as on 23 March 2017 I, along with two others from 3 QUEENS, became an Entered Apprentice Freemason.



Festive Board

Freemasonry isn't a secret society, but it is a society with secrets. It requires a level of commitment to attend the meetings, or as many as you can anyway. We meet four times a year and the dates are set in stone so you can plan well ahead. We are collectively the biggest charity after the National Lottery, but I warn you - it's not free, despite the name! Nor is it something that will make you rich and prosperous, but it will make you a better person.

Let me also say what else it isn't. It's not a regimental piss-up weekend, although we do spend a fair amount of time at the bar, and every meeting is followed by a meal that many will recognize from time in various messes,

from the structure and the conduct of the evening. If you have stayed with me this far and I have piqued your interest, why not do as I did and touch base with Capt John Edwards on secretary2694@outlook.com and hopefully we will see you in the bar?

WEALD BRANCH

By John Grinham



The Weald Branch has had a difficult year with many of our older members who are struggling with health and financial constraints unable to attend branch meetings or functions. As a result, we had to cancel our Kohima Dinner which is held every year to honour our forebear regiments. We will continue to hold our BBQ and

camping weekend which has proved very popular in the past and of course the branch Christmas Dinner.



We have paraded our Branch Standards to honour our Fallen and continue to support our members that are in need.

We will be holding an open evening at the New Telegraph Club in Tonbridge if we get enough interest, and the date will be announced in due course. We cannot arrange any of these events without the support of Queensmen, Tigers and members of our forebear regiments, so do get in touch and join us.

Recruiting younger members will be a priority for us over the next year. Meetings are held at The New Telegraph Club in Priory Road Tonbridge Kent TN9 2AS and all are welcome.



WESSEX BRANCH

By Billy Bolton

The Branch has had a quiet year this year largely due to a job move and a few personnel changes. Regardless, it continues to serve as a regimental touchpoint in the Southwest and has a busy network keeping in touch with those who require it.

Members have been busy supporting other QUEEN'S endeavours, at the annual gatherings at the National Memorial Arboretum and in Herne Bay and London, for example. The Branch was particularly well represented on the Ken Hames-led arduous trip to the Italian hills in June.

THE LISANELLY BARRACKS MARATHON 6 OCTOBER 1984 A REGIMENTAL SPORTING FEAT

A full marathon of 26 miles 385 yards was run as a charity fundraiser and consisted of just over 11 laps of the camp. The route was partly on grass and included a total of 79 hills!

Of the 53 runners starting, 44 completed; the fastest time was a SSgt Cooper from HQ No 9 Dental Group who was one of the 23 guest runners in a time of 3 hours 7 minutes and 18 seconds. The slowest was LCpl Sammy Trent, 1 QUEENS, who completed the course in 5 hours 24 minutes and had the added distinction of being lapped by every other runner in the race, although stopping for a pint or two in the Plastic Pub probably didn't help! The team prize was won by 1 QUEENS consisting of LCpl Phillips, Lt Ramsey and Sgt Robinson who beat the 2nd Battalion by a mere 1 point.

Tony Robinson



The Branch has had a very quiet year other than our regular monthly meetings. There were the usual events; Farnham Town Council Armed Forces Week flag-raising ceremony, a branch picnic at Frimley Lodge Park and our Christmas function held again at Brewers Fayre, Aldershot.

We struggle to sign up new members; our President in conjunction with OC A Coy 4 PWRR and the PSAO at Farnham are in discussions as to how we raise the Association's profile within the Company. We are considering an annual prize to be awarded on a Company Drill Night.



Farnham flag-raising



A thoroughly enjoyable occasion for the West Surrey members who attended. Full marks to our hosts, the Middlesex Branch

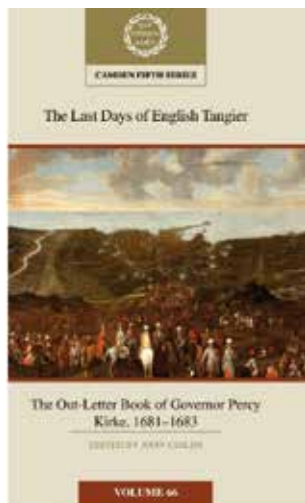
Members of the branch also attended the St George's Day Service and Reunion at Chichester Cathedral.

There was a strong turnout for the Remembrance Sunday Parade followed by the usual Curry Lunch provided by A Coy 4 PWRR.

In his Advice to the Officers of the British Army, the 18th-century satirist Francis Grose wrote that for a quartermaster, "The standing maxim of your office is to receive whatever is offered you, or you can get hold of, but not to part with anything you can keep. Your storeroom must resemble the lion's den."

BOOK REVIEWS

The Last Days of English Tangier. The Out-Letter Book of Governor Percy Kirke, 1681 – 1683, edited by John Childs (Royal Historical Society Camden Fifth Series, Volume 66, Cambridge University Press, 2023).



Professor John Childs is without doubt the leading expert on matters concerned with the military history of the later Stuart period in Britain. This volume reviews the despatches of Governor Kirke to Sir Leoline Jenkins, the King's Secretary of State – since Tangier was a Crown possession paid for by the King's purse, not the Exchequer. Kirke arrived in command of the 2nd Tangier Regiment in December 1680, part of Charles II's great reinforcement, charged with repairing the defences of Tangier, which had been under siege for years by the aggressive Moors, as well as having been starved of troops, weapons and supplies. Kirke repaired the fortifications, gathered troops into barracks, cleared out incompetent officers and did much to improve the rations, pay and health of the garrison. Samuel Pepys, who was also in Tangier at this time, said that Kirke's predecessors had 'minded nothing but to make themselves rich'. True in some cases, but certainly not true of the likes of Andrew Rutherford, killed in 1664; or John Fitzgerald, Tobias Bridge or Palmes Fairborne. Pepys also said that Kirke 'had done more in his time than all of them (ie his predecessors) put together.'

Of particular interest is Kirke's role as ambassador to the Muslim Alcaid of Alcazar, Moulay Ismay. Kirke and Ismay shared many interests – chiefly sex, drink, hunting and hawking - Kirke was nothing if not colourful. He also established a relationship with the Ottoman Sultan's envoy to England, Attar Ben Haddu. Through his relationship with these eminent Muslims, and in spite of the unhelpful influence of the official ambassador, Sir James Leslie, Kirke was able to negotiate truces, arrange supplies and to ransom soldiers taken prisoner in the fighting around the outer works, men who would otherwise have ended their lives in slavery.

What Kirke was able to achieve in Tangier in the end came to nothing: the maintenance of Tangier was unaffordable and all the early hopes of it being the beginnings of an African trading empire collapsed. In September 1683, Lord Dartmouth, Master General of the Ordnance, was sent with a fleet and a contingent of engineers to destroy the fortifications and the great harbour mole, after which the city was to be evacuated and left to the Moors. Kirke's commission as Governor was rudely curtailed and he ended his service in Tangier as Dartmouth's deputy.

The Letter Book chronicles most of Kirke's official life, but not his private doings. It is a masterly edition, fully annotated and indexed. It is a must for any serious student of the period, or for anyone with more than a passing interest in the early days of our Regiment.

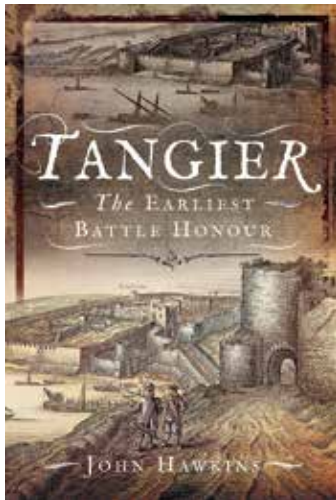
Jonathon Riley





*Tangier – The Earliest Battle Honour,
by John Hawkins (Pen and Sword, Barnsley, 2023)*

A complete contrast to John Child's focused academic study is provided by John Hawkins' survey of the colony from first to last. The book describes the arrival of the English and Irish garrison to take over the colony from the Portuguese, the life of the colony including its Mayor and Corporation, and the vicious fighting to maintain its integrity in the face of the assaults of the Moors. It describes the construction of the great harbour mole, designed to shelter ships from the Atlantic weather – a project that costs as much in comparative terms as the Channel Tunnel or HS2. In its later chapters, it chronicles the inability of the Crown to afford its upkeep and the destruction of much of the fortifications and the mole before the evacuation in 1684. Destruction there had to be, for else either the Barbary pirates or the Dutch would hold the place and dominate the straits of Gibraltar. Queen Catherine, whose marriage to Charles II had brought Tangier to the English Crown in the first place, was said to have been heartbroken.



What makes the book most engaging is that events are described through the voices of individuals – English, Irish, Spanish, Portuguese and Moors; soldiers, sailors, politicians, diplomats, contractors, wives and children. It is thus a very personal narrative and all the better for that as a jolly good read.

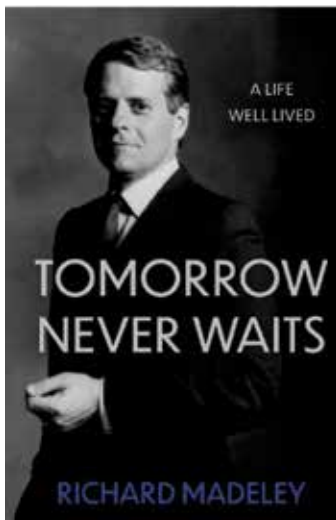
This book is strongly recommended to the general reader as well as to students of the period and the history of our Regiment. Put it on your Christmas present list.

Jonathon Riley

The story of Tangier, part of Queen Catherine's 1662 dowry, was of failed policies of successive rulers and governors. Only Samuel Pepys made money from it. The King had other priorities and there were never enough troops to resist the Moors. John Harkins has written an impressive book securely based on first-hand evidence and it will stand as an authoritative work for many years to come.

John Montagu, 11th Earl of Sandwich

*Tomorrow never waits - a life well lived. By Richard Madeley.
Troubadour Publishing*



Before his untimely death this summer, our comrade Richard penned his autobiography for his family and perhaps, in passing, for us his friends.

Richard was a posh boy, a Rupert, an Old Etonian with suave good looks and connections. He was also a loyal friend, an adventurer, and a committed family man. He was a member of the longstanding and close Werl group of retired officers originating from 1st Bn The Queens Regiment and their tours in Germany & Northern Ireland.

The story begins with Richard's idyllic but somewhat closeted Surrey childhood.

Immediately we are transported back to the 60s & 70s and a more innocent time pre internet and smartphone. The descriptions of holidays in the family's homemade camper echo with many of us. We made our own adventures out of what was available and imagined the rest. An age that has sadly gone.

Richard progressed from his prep school Marlborough House to Eton. A huge transition as many of us stale white males remember! Suddenly, he went from being a senior boy at a small preparatory to the bigger and more brutal world of Public School. I still don't understand the Wall Game although Richard did attempt to explain it after half a bottle of Apfelkorn and a demonstration at the back of the Officers' Mess in Werl. I am still none the wiser.

Having joined the CCF at Eton and being exceptional at gymnastics, Richard had decided that the traditional routes of the City or Law were not for him and joined the Royal Marines. His love of adventure came to the fore.

Richard's Commando toughening up plan of walking from Lands' End to John O'Groats ended ignominiously at Truro and the infected blisters caused issues on his Lymptone Commando course. It was a typically hare-brained scheme of the sort we all subscribed to back in the 70s, and as this Journal testifies some of us still do!

Passing out from Lymptone, Richard joined 42 Commando and served his first Northern Ireland tour in West Belfast. For those of us who were there, his descriptions of a run-down and violent city ring true. Thankfully behind us.

Returning from NI, Richard applied for and took the SBS selection. Unfortunately judged as lacking experience, he was not selected for further training. Swallowing his disappointment, his next move was to us!

This was where Richard fell into our world of Albuhera Barracks, Werl.

He soon revealed himself to be a top man, not to be beaten on the alcohol stakes or in fact any lunatic escapade anyone had planned. Including forward roll demonstrations off the roof of the Officers Mess. A painful experience for everyone who took part...

Richard was a world class skier. He participated in several Combined Services ski championships and won plenty of silverware. I now appreciate how his compact physique and gymnastic background helped him be so good. He made Giant Slalom turns look effortless and, in the book, there is a fantastic shot of him still doing it in 2023. Remarkable.

Like many of us, Richard's private life was a slightly wobblier ride. Attractive to women, his first marriage didn't survive, but he hit firm ground on his second to Carol and raised a beautiful family.

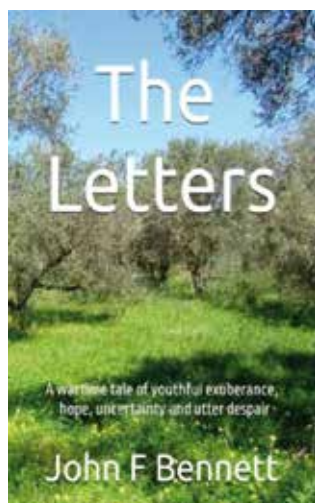
Richard left the Marines after 12 years and joined the City. As one who also has the scars on his back from 30 years in the square mile, I can confirm, he tells it like it is and was. Ocean-going egos, people who would sell your children into slavery and ruthless competition. That he attempted to set up his own business and endured the brutal investment bank environment for many years is a testament to his staying power.

Latterly leaving Edmond de Rothschild, Richard re engaged with The Goldsmiths Livery Company through his family connection with Sharps Pixley bullion dealers, whilst retaining his love of the military as a trustee of the Clocktower Foundation for 22nd SAS. He wasn't a man for sitting around pondering on what might have been.

Thank you, Richard, for a good read and for being a pal. As you say in the book, you didn't get an MC or become a famous politician but who cares? It was a life well lived. We carry your memories with us, especially that terrible convertible Merc you arrived in at one of our reunions.

Your Friend, Alex Cooper

The Letters
by John Bennett



The Letters tell the story of the correspondence between a father and his firstborn during one of the most difficult times of our history. A 16-year-old Aubrey Garrett joined the Royal Artillery in 1936 as the clouds of war spread across Europe for the second time in just over a generation. Aubrey's father Fred, who was a sufferer of PTSD (then known as shell-shock) from the Great War and fearful of what was coming, kept his own counsel in public but spent his private time in despair. The story behind each letter explains what was happening with the war and the upheaval on the home front while he was away. Aubrey's journey took him from the cliffs above Dover during the Battle of Britain to Egypt and finally the Greek island of Crete where he was killed on the first day of the German invasion on 20 May 1941. The author follows his uncle's journey almost 80 years later and presents his story in this book for posterity.



John Bennett was born in Canterbury and served in 5 QUEENS and 3 PWRR, attaining the rank of Major.

I found the 'Letters' very informative, and to be honest, it was like sitting with my dad whilst he was relating the stories and places you have researched in detail (he was also in 234 but was captured). The 'Letters' reminded me of the importance of receiving letters from loved ones at home whilst on tour abroad, so important for morale during difficult times.

Bob Hey ex-WO2 PWO.

The Letters was such a moving story, not one you find every day. You have captured the essence of the family spread so far apart at one of the most difficult times in our lives, I was a small child then and felt some of the emotions and ups and downs of life back in 1940.

Mrs C Hill, Cheshunt

This is a family's personal encounter with the heartbreaking reality of war! A far cry from the intoxicating heroics of film. This shows the reader the brutal reality of the lottery of life!

Nigel Sutton PWRR.

BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS DECEMBER TO SEPTEMBER

The following members are thanked for their very generous donations:

Edward Cobb	Mark Gibson	Keith Holden
Annette Glazier	Theresa Reynolds	Theresa Reynolds
Nickie Blanchette	Gordon Difford	Peter Lantham
Mac McIvor	Pete Archer	Ian Ratcliffe
Alan Foster	John Farrell	Punch Greathurst
David Langworthy	Steve Yeomans	Steve Dowse
Roger Bird	Adrian Smith	Graham Shepherdley
Martin Ede	Robert Holden	Gary Bye
Mick Harper	David Bithray	Robert Holden
Mike Hurman	George Amos	Robert Jaycock
Woody	Derek Morley	Anthony Beattie
C Dawson	Graham Morrison	Ken Bowden
Mike Cattell	Annalisa Marshall/Catchpole	The Grand Order of St Stanilas
Shane Potts	Richard Taylor	Wayne Roberts
Kevin Biggs	Ian Barnacle	The Girrelli Family
Phil Turner	Roger Bourne	Roger Parsons
Barry Lane	QRA Corps of Drums	Dave (Woody) Woodroof
Alex Jeffrey	Jeffrey Manuel	MP Lyden
Eddie Dale	Steve Richards	John Collingridge
Mike Dudding	Ricky Mattioli	John Stirling
Amédée Miéville	David Myers	Wayne Roberts
Adrian Birtle	John Lewis	Gary Laine
Anon	Nicholas Fields	Dawn Owens
Patrick Crowley	Bill Opie	Bill Marshall
Michael Prime	Neil Wright	Steve Howard

If anyone has been left off, please accept my abject and sincere apologies

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (QUEEN'S & ROYAL HAMPSHIRE'S) BENEVOLENT FUND



Registered Charity No1024418

Colonel (Retd) John Powell OBE– Regimental Secretary The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (ex-1st Battalion and 5th (V) Battalion The Queen's Regiment)

The Object of the Charity is: to relieve hardship or distress of former and serving members of the Regiment or former members of the former Regiments and their dependants; to promote the efficiency of the Regiment in such ways as the Managing Trustees from time to time see fit.

When I was still serving, I knew that we had a Regimental Charity, I contributed my annual Day's Pay to it, knew that it helped those in distress and that it supported adventurous training, battlefield tours and sports (as a member of the Army Fencing Team, I would occasionally apply for a grant for kit).

That was about it – I did not know who the trustees were (though I guessed that the Colonel of the Regiment (General Rowley Mans) would be one), did not know how much the charity was worth and had not got a clue regarding how money was spent or who was being helped. I do not think any of this was deliberate, it was just 'how things were'.

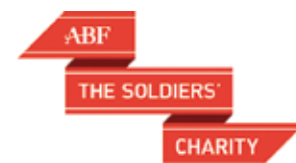
Today the name of the charity reflects the name of the Regiment when it was formed. The trustees consist of six 'ex-officio' trustees drawn from the Regimental Council (Colonel of the Regiment, four Deputy Colonels and an LE Officer). There is a requirement for serving officers to be trustees since that is a condition of administration of the Day's Pay scheme which is laid down in King's Regulations.

The other trustees consist of the President of the Queen's Regiment Association, the Chair of the PWRR Association, an ex-President of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Association (who has worked in the City) and a retired businessman who was also a CO of 6/7th (V) QUEENS and an accountant. The Charity is also advised by Sir Lloyd Dorfman CVO CBE, Honorary Colonel of 3 PWRR, a successful businessman and Chair of the Prince's Trust. The fund is professionally audited each year by a firm based in Ashford, Kent.

There are two sub-committees: the Finance Committee which is chaired by a Deputy Colonel of the Regiment and an Investment Committee (which includes the museum charity who invest alongside us). The Regimental Secretary is a museum trustee and chairs the Investment Committee who meet with our financial advisors two to four times a year. Charity Law stipulates that only trustees may chair sub-committees.

I was fortunate that on retiring from the Army, I landed a job with a national charity which exposed me to the workings of the Charity Commission and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, which gave me an insight into how modern charities should go about their business. In recent years, scandals such as 'Kids Company' have caused the

Working with the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF), The Royal British Legion (TRBL), Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), the NHS the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Military Aid Fund and the Fundraising Regulator to support our soldiers, veterans, and families.



Case Study 1 *(note for all cases that initial interaction is carried out by SSAFA – in some cases, they/them is used to further redact the identity of the individual).*

Status: Veteran

Background: Case was referred to us via Op COURAGE(an NHS Mental Health support initiative) and SSAFA.

This veteran has health conditions, some which makes walking difficult and they are attending regular medical appointments. They have a history of debts but are managing to pay these off and live within their current means.

It was recommended that this veteran get an electric bike for both their physical and mental health needs.

Grant: £500

Government and Charity Commission to bring in ever tighter rules and regulations; you simply cannot run a charity without due regard for them.

Since being in post, the Confederation of Service Charities (COBSEO) has been a good source of advice in bringing the governance of the Charity into the 21st Century; every two years the Charity submits a return to COBSEO answering questions about governance; part of that includes confirmation of trustee skill set and training. Each year we have been graded green.

Readers of the weekly RHQ sitrep will be aware of many of the governance changes made in recent years but to recap, they are:

- The Regimental Secretary and Commanding Officers are no longer trustees (conflict of interest, but COs, Adjts and RSMs still attend the trustee meetings which the Regimental Secretary runs).
- The appointment of a Late Entry Officer as an Ex-Officio Trustee.
- The de-restriction of a Royal Sussex Regiment Fund (which is now part of the Queen’s Regiment Fund).
- The Queen’s Own Buffs Association Designated Fund subsumed into the Queen’s Regiment Fund.
- The re-designation of the Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment Designated Fund as a Contingency Fund (which still supports QRS activity).
- The re-drafting of the Trust Deed to allow anyone with the requisite skills to be a trustee (previously this was only open to serving or retired officers).

The charity must, by law, adhere to the Charitable Objective of the charity (at the beginning of this article). The trustees have recently defined how this manifests itself in objectives that have defined impacts and outcomes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Objectives: o Relief of financial hardship and distress. o Delivering services that meet individual social needs. o Supporting heritage conservation efforts. o Improving the efficiency of the Regiment. o Forming quality partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes: o Increasing security and stability. o Increasing in long term quality of life. o Strengthening social cohesion. o Increasing soldier and recruit satisfaction. o Preserving PWRR heritage. o Raising community awareness of the Regiment.
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The first observation is that the Charity is not only about welfare, but also includes other elements: sport, AT, parades, reunions, association branch activity (which in 2023 included the Kennels Field Project), recruiting, community engagement, communication (magazines) and maintenance of chattels. All this is to *‘promote the efficiency of the Regiment’*, a part of the object of the Charity.



Members of the Regiment are subsidised to enter adventurous training and sporting activities that challenge the individual to overcome adversity, build self-esteem and comradeship.

Grants paid in 2023 were c.£93k, overall charitable expenditure was c.£181k. Support costs were c.£127k. The trustees are always striving to drive down support costs and some success has been achieved in this area in recent years. Examples of larger costs amounting to c.£74k are consultancy fees (c.£26k), insurance (c.£13k), website costs (c.£9k), travel (c.£12k) and audit fees (c.£11k). One major cost was a fundraising event (c.£50k) which skews the overall costs total (and a small profit was made from the event). Without this £50k (which raised money for the Charity) the breakdown of everyday support costs v charitable costs is 30% to 70%.

Turning to welfare, ‘the relief of hardship or distress of former and serving members of the Regiment or former members of the former Regiments and their dependants,’ the following was achieved in 2023:

- 167¹ cases referred to the charity.
- £65.5k spent on 116 welfare cases (£68k was spent in 2022 but note that this year, by 31 July, we had spent £65k on 84 cases – anticipated expenditure will exceed £100k).
 - o 7 serving personnel.
 - o 2 families of serving personnel.
 - o 107 veterans (68 PWRR, 35 Queen’s Regiment, 1 Queens Royal Surrey Regiment and 3 Royal Sussex Regiment).
- 74 cases were referred to other charities.
- 16 cases have been referred to a veterans’ association for support.
- Up to six hundred members of 1 PWRR supported for cost-of-living issues (£20k authorised for expenditure in FYs 2022 & 2023).

The welfare grants and grants to battalions exceeded the income of the Day’s Pay Scheme. Like National Insurance, the donations you made when serving will have been spent in the year that you made them. The maximum grant per case is now £1,000 regardless of regiment served in. Five years ago, grants were capped at £500 for everyone less Royal Sussex Regiment which had a cap of £250.

Very often the individual is at a low point in their life; when this occurs, we make it a condition that they become Association members, thereby encouraging engagement with old comrades, and they then receive sitreps and magazines. Recently we have undertaken to enrol widows and divorcees in the associations to give them support should they need it.

It is worth noting that there are only three of us at RHQ who are directly involved in welfare grants: Regt Sec, Welfare Sec and Treasurer. In 2014 there were six staff working directly in support of welfare.

No one in the charity is a specialist but we can identify where specialist help can be obtained, for instance: housing (Haig Trust), mental health (Op COURAGE) or debt (any number of specialist charities). One of the strengths of the charity is that being registered with COBSEO gives us access to a standard IT system shared with other charities, allowing us to work in tandem with others such as the RBL and ABF to achieve a greater effect.

Where does the money come from? In broad terms it can be broken down as: returns on capital investment and interest c.£168k and donations c.£276k (of which individual donations represent £77k and Day’s Pay £70k). At first glance, the

¹Fifty-one were declined for the following reasons: did not meet criteria - 14, need met by another charity - 9, incorrect regiment – 23, maximum grant already reached – 3, withdrawn – 2.

Case Study 2

Status: Veteran

Background: This veteran’s health took a turn for the worse and after a period in hospital he is now being cared for at home. The veteran is struggling in general, having speech therapy and finding mobility difficult.

Benefits will soon be explored with the help of the caseworker but in the meantime, assistance was requested towards an Occupational Therapy Report, an Electronically Powered Vehicle and associated items to make the veteran’s quality of life better.

Grant: £1,000

Referral to military charities: ABF £2,974 and TRBL £6,221

Case Study 3

Status: Serving Soldier

Background: This request came direct from the Unit Welfare Officer with a follow up request from the ABF.

Sadly, a member of this soldier’s family had passed away. They needed to fly out immediately to be with their family and attend the funeral. The MOD was not able to support with public funds and the soldier was struggling financially due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Assistance was therefore being requested towards compassionate flights.

Grant: £500

Referral to military charities: ABF £1,000



latter figure seems to represent an over-reliance on donations but some of this figure came from the fundraising lunch and grants to support the Kennels Field Project that gives the Queen's Regiment Riders Association a club house and supports those veterans with mental health issues through the vehicle of horticulture (and note that the Association Secretary has involved the Royal British Legion Industries Village in Maidstone in the project).

One of the criticisms of the charity that is voiced is that it owns capital assets of c.£6m but does nothing with them when we could, for instance, buy a property and look after those with suicidal tendencies. We could, but the initial outlay, running costs, staff costs, staff training, utility costs, council tax and governance costs would soon spend the capital and the charity would be unable to function. In addition, there are many other charities who are focused on this niche, but vitally important, area and do a far better job than we could – our strength lies in motivating veterans to engage with those who are identified as being at risk (not an easy task since many at risk don't engage with the Regiment); this has been an effective approach as we all understand that any suicide is one too many.

Instead, the trustees view the capital as a means of generating income whilst seeking to grow the capital at rate above inflation to support future generations of soldiers and veterans. In 2023 the capital generated income of c.£167k. Without it the charity would have operated at a deficit, and overtime, such a downward trend (combined with a reduction in Days Pay income as the Army gets smaller) could see the charity being wound up. In this way the trustees ensure that the Charity will be there to help in the future.

Another criticism has been the time it takes for a grant to be made. All cases must be assessed by a professional (usually a SSAFA or RBL caseworker), cases are means tested, the need must be imperative and not a 'nice to have'. In addition, to obey the legally enforceable charitable object, proof of service with the Regiment or forebear must be obtained. The vast majority can produce a certificate of service or other proof, but for those who cannot, then an application has to be made to the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow and this can take time. In recent years with the advent of the new charity-funded data base (which also allows all of you who are registered to receive the weekly sitrep) we will accept registration as proof of service and this move has helped speed things up. Any charity that seeks to cut corners and not ensure that recipients are entitled to support as defined by their Charitable Object is breaking the law.

Staying with the law, all charities are protected by law and recent legislation allows for working names to be protected. In the case of our charity this includes 'Queen's Regiment, Tigers and PWRR'. The Royal Sussex Regiment and Royal Hampshire Regiment continue to run separate charities. Linked to this, the PWRR uses its Tigers Head Logo as the Charity's symbol. This has trademark protection, and the Charity has moved to prevent E-Bay and other traders from using it (the charity paid for its development, and we can license its use but only if the charity benefits).

One of the issues with social media is that it allows for uninformed opinion to be voiced. Comments regarding the charity are not excepted from this. Everything anyone wants to know about how our charity is being run is accessible on the Charity Commission website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>. In addition, to publishing weekly welfare statistics on the RHQ sitrep, there was also an open invitation to all veterans and serving personnel to attend a briefing at RHQ about the charity on 23 September 2024. By writing articles such as this one and being honest and open about the running of the charity, it is to be hoped that both serving officers and soldiers and veterans won't be in the position that I was in when I first joined The Queen's Regiment and have a far better informed understanding as to how the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's & Royal Hampshires) Benevolent Fund is run.

Case Study 4

Status: Veteran's widow

Background: Initially requested assistance for her husband's funeral but managed to fund this herself. However, when talking to the caseworker, it became apparent that she was struggling with the loss of her husband.

He was responsible for the household finances, managing within their means, but since his death, energy arrears had built up. Assistance was requested towards the arrears and general needs.

Grant: £250

*Referral to military charities: TRBL
£1,069*

Flying with the RAF was always very safe. They never took off if anything wasn't right: a full ashtray perhaps, a loo door not closing properly, a shortage of that tasteless orange squash. Sometimes they wouldn't take off at all, which was of course even safer. And before boarding any aircraft, the endless safety brief, invariably in a high-pitched nasal whine: "Right, gentlemen...". So when A Company, 1 QUEENS was in California in 1982, watching two US Marines Chinooks arriving to pick us up, we lay on the grass and waited. The rotors were still turning as the ramps came down, and two large loadmasters appeared: bulging pockets, helmets, sunglasses. They stared at us. Here comes the safety brief, we thought. Then the largest marine opened his mouth and yelled: "OK! LET'S HAUL A LITTLE ASS!" Less than a minute later, we were airborne. We liked the US Marines.

Nick Keyes

TRAINING ON EXERCISE POND JUMP WEST IN CANADA

On the day I graduated from RMCS Shrivenham with a degree in Civil Engineering, I rejoined 1 QUEENS and flew with them to Canada on Exercise POND JUMP WEST. Based in Wainwright in Alberta, the companies rotated through a series of activities including a weeks R&R. When it came to our turn, my Company Commander, Major Tim Trotman, persuaded his officers to hire a large car and join him on a trip down the



The offending glacier

Banff/Jasper Highway. The scenery was breathtaking with mountains rising steeply beside the road. Even though it was July there was snow on their tops and several glaciers cascading down from them. Tim Trotman said "I wonder why the glaciers don't fall off the mountains?" Digging deep into my new scientific knowledge, I said: "It is simple. The coefficient of friction is greater than the overturning moment". You could have heard a pin drop! It was the only time that I can recall Tim Trotman ever being lost for words!

Amédée Miéville



MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB ON 1 MARCH 2024

Attendance:

Chairman Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members 67

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks. The Chairman expressed delight that so many members turned up, with 144 sitting down for lunch and a further 10 having lunch in the restaurant as numbers exceeded the Union Jack Club (UJC) capacity. Looking at records this is the largest gathering for an AGM/Reunion in the last 10 years. Also, a special welcome was given to Cpl Ted Heath, our Chelsea Pensioner as well as those who had not been to an AGM before or not for a long time. He thanked all those who have kept the name of the Regiment alive whether it is by organising branches or just organising get-togethers.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM Minutes. The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were distributed prior to the meeting and comments requested. None were received and so the minutes were taken as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Points arising. There were no points arising.

4. Update on QRA activities and the way ahead

The Chairman reported that the Association had a good year and appeared to have emerged from the difficulties caused by COVID. He made the following points:

- a. The Association membership stands at 2,748 members. This appeared to be a drop of 100 over last year, but with the assistance of Lindsay Parsons there had been a complete clean-up of the database. Overall, there have been four more registrations than have sadly died. It is estimated that 7,500 ex-Queensmen are not registered. Members were encouraged to contact anyone they know who are not members and get them to register.
- b. The Chairman informed the Members that on the abdication of our Patron HM Queen Margrethe II, he had sent a letter thanking her for her support as our Allied Colonel-in-Chief and Patron of the Association. He reported that he had received a charming reply. The two letters were shown to the meeting.
- c. The build of the Veterans Horticultural Rehabilitation, Social and Community Centre, euphemistically named the QRRR Clubhouse, is making great progress having secured additional funds. Fundraising for the project has been very successful to date, raising over £350,000 through events, activities and grant applications. It is very near completion, and it is hoped that there will be a formal opening of the Centre later in the year and all members were encouraged to attend when the opening takes place. The Chairman congratulated the Secretary for his personal efforts and success in fundraising for the project.
- d. The website continues to be developed with the continued, expert support of Lindsay Parsons. Grateful thanks were given to her. The Association Database is working well but members were asked to note that if they unsubscribe from emails they will not be informed of members' deaths. The database has been moved to the MOD server which has saved a considerable amount of money. However, there are occasional glitches which cause the secretary grief. When that happens, Members were asked to be patient.
- e. There have been occasions when funerals have taken place, where the Regiment was represented but the details were not passed on to the Secretary and so people who would have liked to attend were not able to. The Secretary needs to be informed of the date of death, the person's last rank and details of battalions or regiments in which they served, unless, of course, the family has asked for no Association involvement. If any other details are added, he will try and include them in the post to members.
- f. The One Aim Rally organised by the Riders raised £7,200 for the Benevolent Fund, taking their total raised to over £60,000. Members were urged to support them this year.

5. Finance and Benevolence.

a. **Finance.** The Secretary reported that the Benevolent Fund had a total income of £61,124 an increase of £15,360 over last year. This was, in the main, from investment income and donations. Total expenditure for the year was £79,850 down from £83,560 last year. The main elements of our expenditure were our share of benevolence payments, The Journal costs, Association Secretary's salary and office running costs. Therefore, in our day-to-day running costs, we had an excess of expenditure over income of £32,168 for the year, a great improvement over last year's excess of just over £58,000. Investments increased by over £60,000 in value. As at 31 December 2023, the total fund stands at £1,630,020, an increase of just over £80,000 or just over 5%. With inflation taken into consideration in December last year sitting at 4%, we are maintaining the value of the account. The Chairman expressed satisfaction with the current state of the fund and considers that we are able to meet our objectives henceforward.

b. **Welfare.** During the year a total of 43 cases were submitted and 35 individual grants were approved. Out of the 8 cases not receiving grants, 4 cases were declined as they did not meet the benevolence criteria, 2 cases had already had the need met by other military charities. 1 case had already received the maximum grant for the same request and the final case was for a retrospective grant which we do not provide. The majority of cases received grants for household items (9), general needs (7) and home maintenance (5). 4 cases received grants towards mobility aids, 3 cases for funeral costs and a further 2 for removal or storage fees. Financial assistance was also provided for advanced rent (2), priority debts (1) and bankruptcy (1). The final grant was provided for energy arrears. The Queen's Regiment Charity paid out just over £18,000 as individual grants, the ABF contributed £20,134 in general grants whilst TRBL contributed £16,725 in grants. We need to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Army Benevolent Fund which has been extremely helpful with prompt actions, advice and guidance. Also, we need to give our thanks to SSAFA and The Royal British Legion which are the main organisations who investigate the majority of our cases.

6. **Arboretum Reunion.** Den Gallacher gave details of the proposed Arboretum Reunion on 21 September. Members are asked to contact him to book in via <https://www.facebook.com/groups/693799365399633>

7. **The Journal.** The Chairman acknowledged that the Journal is expensive, but he continues to support its production while it acts as a real stimulus to membership engagement and as a principal medium of annual communication. He reminded members that this year's journal is an homage to Queen Margrethe and requested that members search their memories and photo albums to help make this a success. Particularly pleasing is that £5000 to date has been donated specifically as a result of the Journal. He expressed no doubt that with the active membership we have, we need an annual publication in some form, and that he would welcome members views on the possible options.

8. Dover Museum

Henry Thomas, PWRR Area Secretary and Curator of the Museum gave the following report:

'We are still waiting for English Heritage to address the matter of the roof. Once this has been resolved, there is a plan to address the Museum in its totality There is a plan to revamp the entire area once EH has secured funding and the Trust applies for grants for this to happen.

We have changed our way of reporting stories. This is to allow visitors to engage with the collection much more. We no longer refer to individuals by rank and surname, but by their first name. This has been a positive approach as can be seen by Frank Sullivan's photo of him marshalling a helicopter in South Armagh: for February's half term, we engaged with our visitors to find a selection of equipment to dress Frank, which during that week's engagements raised over £150 and saw an increase in our general donations for the same period last year.

We still need to have your stories and artefacts for our collection. I see individuals sharing their exploits and offering up magazines on social media, etc. Can I ask that before you consider doing this, that you approach our Museum Staff to see if we would like to have these items for the Collection? For example, Peter 'Tank' Clemence's family donated his medals, which included his Queen's Gallantry Medal with the story as to why he was awarded such an honour plus his QRRR Cut (Bikers Jacket) which is just a great story. They also included the fact that 'TANK' always had a cigar on him, and we even have his cigar too! If you read Peter's story in the journal, you will realise that his exploits were post his service but reflected the ethos of the Regiment. As part of the revamp, we will be having a Veterans area. So please help us to tell the stories of our service and even the stories of our civilian life,



as our service makes the man! For example, Russ Feakins in Ukraine, Neil Furminger's rowing exploits and Ken Hames' team walking a route never done before, even if Derek Locke did try to outdo Frank Sullivan! We are still making history without wearing the uniform, which our visitors find astonishing that we are still trying to make a difference.

Our biggest attraction now is our new digital range, which was installed prior to the summer period 2023. I can guarantee that if you do have a go, you will want to have another. Just so you are aware, it is recalibrated weekly, so no excuses allowed for missing the target!

Our website is very much in its early stage. The old 'ARMY TIGERS' site was a little bit of a problem. It was costing us a small fortune. To have it revamped was going to cost us thousands. The decision was to disengage with our former developer and establish our own. We purchased new hardware and an IT Consultant volunteer agreed to help for free. Please remember that this is not a military site. It is a site to bring both our visitors and our military family together, so the text and stories are museum style, short and sharp to give a brief but giving an informative description that is easy to read, giving individuals a source to drill into at their leisure. Again, we need your stories and artefacts to enable us to tell our Regimental Stories. Please get in touch.'

9. 2026 –60th Anniversary of the Formation of The Queen's Regiment. As 2026 marks the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment it is thought that we would all wish to mark the occasion suitably. Any ideas as to how we approach an appropriate commemoration would be welcomed. One idea put forward already is that we will hold a commemoration at the NMA in September 2026, replacing the Arboretum Reunion for that year. All were asked to let the Secretary know if they had any other ideas as these things need planning well in advance.

10. Branch Reports. The Branches all gave a short brief on their activities.

11. Update on PWRR Activities. Colonel John Powell gave an update on PWRR Activities.

12. Date of Next AGM and Reunion. 1 March 2025, location Union Jack Club.

13. Any Other Business.

a. **RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout.** The Secretary briefed on the RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout and encouraged as many members as possible to join in this excellent initiative.

b. **The Combined Irish Regiments Association Cenotaph March.** The Combined Irish Regiments Association has once again invited all members of the Queen's Regiment to take part in their annual commemorative march past the Cenotaph on Sunday 16 June. Once again this is a singular honour being afforded to us and the Chairman urged as many members as possible who served in Northern Ireland to take part. Details will be sent out by email nearer the date but basically just turn up at 09.30 on 16th June in King Charles Street at which further instructions will be given. There will be a reception at the Civil Service Club nearby afterwards. Please let the Secretary know if you want to attend.

c. **Canterbury Regimental Families Day - 3 August.** Over the last few years, RHQ have arranged what was originally known as 'Buffs Sunday', traditionally organised by the Buffs Association. After a couple of false starts, it is taking place on 3 August. Members were requested to support it. Details will be sent out in due course. (*Ed: Sadly, cancelled through lack of support.*)

d. **Canterbury Cathedral Turning the Page.** Volunteers were asked to take part in the daily 'Turning of the Page' at Canterbury Cathedral. If interested please contact Henry Thomas at henry.thomas112@mod.gov.uk.

e. **Visit to Royal Hospital Chelsea.** Members were asked to indicate whether there would be interest in a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The view from the floor was positive. As a result a visit will be arranged. An email asking for applications to attend will be issued in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.50pm

Alasdair Goulden

Association Secretary

Attachment:

Income and Expenditure Account Year Ending 31 Dec 23

Accounts for the Queen's Regiment for the year ended 31 December 2023

Year	2023	2022
Turnover		
Benevolence Refunds :RBL & SSAFA	0	500
CAR BADGES SALES & COIN SALES	158	235
Journals	480	0
Interest	17	3
Investment Dividend	43,579	42,166
Misc Donations	20,143	8,625
Reunion Income	2,747	240
Investment Withdrawals	0	0
Total Turnover	67,124	51,769
Cost of Sales		
Membership		
Ex-Service Association	100	100
Anglo-Danish Society	200	200
Canterbury Cathedral Friends	25	25
IOD Membership	711	0
Wolfe Society	6	6
	1,042	331
Welfare Grants	18,400	25,591
Total Cost of Sales	19,442	26,253
Gross Profit	47,682	25,516
Administrative Costs		
Investment Management Fees	1,904	3,694
Accountancy	5,722	660
Association Secretary Fee	26,524	29,092
Association President Expenses	610	236
Events Costs	0	350
Grant - Association Branches		
Middlesex Branch	0	1,161
Horsham Branch	1,175	500
Chichester Branch	500	0
Weald Branch	1,750	1,283
Ramsgae Branch	1,033	0
QRA Drums	280	317
Grants Misc	7,200	0
	11,938	3,262
Grant - Golf Society	300	300
Hospitality	25	120
IT Software and Consumables	0	14
Journal Costs	20,262	30,824
Meetings Costs	0	800
Office Expenses and Postage	1,182	1,197
Parking	6	6
Coins and Badges	0	0
Presentation Costs	236	2,437
Remembrance cost	623	804
Reunion Costs	1,917	558
Telephone & Internet	94	55
Travel & Subsistence	1,425	2,769
Website Maintenance	7,082	6,381
Insurance	0	0
Total Administrative Costs	79,850	83,560
Operating Profit	- 32,168	- 58,043
Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments	68,385	-19,227
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	42,475	-11,676
BALANCE SHEET		
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		
	2023	2022
Assets	£	£
Investments	1,612,055	1,543,670
Bank	17,965	6,298
Debtors	0	0
Prepayments	0	0
Accrued Income	0	0
Total	1,630,020	1,549,968
Liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Total	0	0
Net Worth of Fund	1,630,020	1,549,968
Fund gain or loss 2023		+ 5.00%



OBITUARIES

Brigadier G Bulloch MBE

By Peter Gybbon-Monypenny



Brigadier Gavin Bulloch was known throughout his long and distinguished military career as a dedicated professional and a highly focused officer both at regimental service and in staff appointments. His serious approach to his work was tempered by a friendly, open and sympathetic nature that made him many friends.

A noted raconteur, he had a fund of amusing anecdotes, many making fun of himself. Born on 2nd October 1938 of Scottish parents, his father was a manufacturing engineer and Gavin had an older brother, Ian, and a twin brother, Colin, who pursued a career in medicine. Educated at King's School Taunton, Gavin was working in Glasgow when called up for National Service and enlisted into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

After attending the War Office Selection Board and completing officer training at Eton Hall, Gavin was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion (1Mx) in Cyprus in 1958, at that time involved in countering the threat posed by the Greek Cypriot terrorist group EOKA. During a routine operation with his platoon, Gavin, noticing an unusual smell emanating from an Orthodox church, instigated a search which led to the largest single 'find' of illegal explosives in that campaign. He was rewarded with a week's holiday in Israel where he joined a group of American tourists to visit the ancient sites. On moving with 1 MX to Hamelin in BAOR, Gavin was appointed Assistant Adjutant, played hockey and squash at Army level, enjoyed hill-walking holidays in Germany, Switzerland and Scotland and, with three other officers including the CO, Ian Battye, motored to Moscow to attend the May Day parade at the invitation of the British Military Attaché, Colonel Ian Burrows, himself a Middlesex officer. Crossing East Germany and Poland, they noticed that little had been done to remove the scars and debris of WW2 and that they were trailed all the way by the KGB.

Gavin's first posting away from regimental duty was to the Jamaica Defence Force as an instructor, during which

time he met and married the Governor's social secretary, Alexandra (Sandy) in 1964 and welcomed the birth of their son James in 1965. Back with 1 Mx, Gavin was with the Battalion in British Guyana as Regimental Signals Officer, in Northern Ireland where 1Mx evolved into becoming 4 QUEENS and as Adjutant of the Battalion until it was disbanded after being the Demonstration Battalion at the School of Infantry at Warminster. After that, he attended the Pakistan Army Staff College at Quetta. On returning from Pakistan, Gavin was appointed SO2 G3 HQ Northern Ireland where he became heavily involved in planning two major operations during 'the troubles', Op MOTORMAN (regaining access for security forces in 'no go' areas) and Op DEMETRIUS (the arrest and internment of IRA suspects) for which he was part of the team that briefed the Prime Minister, Ted Heath, CDS and CGS, managing to spill coffee over the CGS when the wheel came off the tea trolley he was commanding.

For his planning work at HQNI he was awarded the MBE. Gavin commanded a company of 2 QUEENS at Werl in Germany including an emergency tour in Northern Ireland and then was appointed staff officer to the Chief of Staff at HQ 1 BR Corps Bielefeld which was followed by a planning appointment on the staff of HQ Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF) at Heidelberg from which he was withdrawn early to take command of 3 QUEENS at Dover, part of 6 Field Force based in Aldershot. After a brief deployment to Denmark on a brigade exercise, Gavin took 3 QUEENS to South Armagh for a highly successful emergency tour in 'bandit country' for which he received a Mention in Despatches, following which the Battalion converted to the mechanized role and moved to Fallingbommel. On promotion to Colonel, Gavin completed a staff appointment in NATO Plans at NATO HQ in Brussels before being appointed Defence Adviser (DA) to the British Embassy in Athens in the rank of Brigadier. While serving as DA in Greece, Gavin planned and managed the 50th Anniversary celebrations for the Battle for Crete in WW2, attended by HRH Duke of Kent and hundreds of veterans from the UK, Australia and New Zealand as well as German Army veterans who had also fought in Crete.

On retirement from regular service, Gavin took up a UKLF RO1 appointment developing and publishing Army doctrine and he coordinated the development of joint counter-insurgency operations with the US Army, during which he worked with and became a good

friend of the American General David Petraeus, C-in-C US Central Command, who later became the Director of the CIA. In retirement at home in West Stowell near Marlborough, Gavin researched his own family history which involved him in travels to Scotland, Australia, South Africa and the USA where he discovered that an

ancestor had been present at the promulgation of the United States Constitution. His wife Sandy, died in 2015. Gavin, who remained a keen supporter of regimental affairs and events and retained his many friends through retirement died after a short illness, on 28 March 2024. He is survived by his son James.



COLONEL TIM TROTMAN

By Jimmy James

Tim was not only one of the most talented people I met during my short time in the Army: he was also one of the most modest and self-effacing, who never bragged – or indeed even spoke – about his many achievements.

Despite working for him for two years, I had no idea at all that he:

- Was a prize-winning Class 1 Russian interpreter, taught by the widow of the Speaker of the Kerensky Government (I imagine there must have been a number of such widows!)
- Also spoke fluent German
- Took part in the Cyprus Emergency (was one of the characters in 'The High Bright Sun' based on him?)
- Was in the USSR when the Berlin Wall went up – but got safely back!
- Examined Prince Michael of Kent in the Russian interpreter exam
- Played a leading role in the Greville Wynne/Gordon Lonsdale exchange which was later immortalised in the film *The Courier*!



So, to say that Tim's career was varied and unusual, not to mention successful, would be a gross understatement.

Where did it all start? Bury St Edmunds! Tim began his Army career with the Suffolk Regiment at Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds. In the next bed to him was Ned from Nacton who could neither read nor write. He was, however, brilliant in shining up boots, so he did Tim's in exchange for Tim writing out love letters to his girlfriend!

National Service seemed to qualify Tim for the Suffolk Regiment tie, of which he was rightly proud. Should you ever see Martin Bell on TV in his hallmark white suit, he invariably wears a Suffolk tie too!

Sandhurst followed, and Tim was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). An operational tour during the Cyprus Emergency followed, and then a Russian course at the Army College of Education at Wilton Park, near Beaconsfield. This led to an exciting career in the intelligence field, starting in Paris and leading to Berlin where Tim was the only Class 1 Russian interpreter. This may seem surprising, in view of the importance of the USSR in our strategic plans at that time. But the British have never been great at languages: when I left the Army just after Tim, there were around 55,000 British troops in Germany – and just 11 German interpreters Army-wide (not all in Germany, of course), only one of whom was Class 1!

One important and enduring feature in Tim's life was the Aldeburgh Golf Club – and I am not just talking about post-retirement. Sir Dick Franks, who organised the Wynne/Lonsdale exchange from Bonn, was a member; and on one of his many tours in Germany, Tim enjoyed playing at the RAF Bruggen golf course. There, he met Wing Commander Christopher Wood and his wife June, and discovered that their respective parents were next-door neighbours at Aldeburgh. It's a small (golfing) world.

Unlike that of many unconventional army officers in the post-war era, Tim's career was also fast-moving, culminating as the Head of Military Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence in Northern Ireland. In this role, he was enormously successful and played a pivotal role in a number of successful operations against terrorists during the Northern Ireland campaign.



It undoubtedly helped that Tim had previously commanded a battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment; and also that he had established an excellent working relationship in 1969 with Michael McAtamney, a Police Superintendent in Londonderry. By the time Tim returned as Intelligence chief in 1985, Michael had become Deputy Chief Constable.

Tim would undoubtedly have been promoted further had not ill-health intervened. A life-long smoker, he succumbed to angina and serious heart problems in 1989 and had to be airlifted to Woolwich Military Hospital.

Tim was not only a highly competent and visionary Army officer, but he was also great fun as well, with a wicked sense of humour. Like so many people from across the Services, I found him a rewarding and appreciative leader who cared about his soldiers, both male and female, at a rank where many officers lose interest in those at the bottom of the establishment. Like many too, I have happy memories of his final dining-out at Lisburn and the specially composed fanfare 'Farewell to Colonel and Mrs Trotman'. It was an appropriate note on which to bring an outstanding and unusual career to a close.

On retiring from the Army, Tim joined the Portal Group heading up their HR department. The business moved and so Tim took on the role of Estate Manager for the Quex Estate in Kent where he stayed until he retired aged 65. He filled his retirement years by playing golf and volunteering for SSAFA for which he was awarded the 25-year medal.

Colonel Timothy Lionel, died on 8th April 2023 aged 86. Beloved husband of Rachel, he was a much loved father of William and Harry and Grandpa to Jonas, Gustav and Sebastian.



LT COL MALCOLM GILHAM, ARMY OFFICER BEHIND DESIGN OF RIOT SHIELD IN THE 1970s

THE TIMES 9 DECEMBER 2023



In August 1969 Major Malcolm Gilham was stationed in Palace Barracks, Hollywood, five miles north of Belfast. He was in his early thirties, accompanied by his family, and his postings since leaving the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst had included Cyprus and Jordan at the time of the Suez crisis.

Yet within weeks of his arriving in Belfast, a Loyalist parade in Londonderry triggered three days of violence. Some historians mark the date as the beginning of the Troubles. For Major Gilham and the men of A Company, 2nd

Battalion The Queen's Regiment, it was a sharp lesson in learning how to patrol the streets.

It soon became clear to Malcolm that the riot shields provided by the Army could be better designed. He was a dogged figure with a reputation for always putting his men first — sometimes to the irritation of his superiors — and one of his first moves was to devise a way in which the shields could be improved upon to protect them from missiles including, as he described it, 'darts, pennies, marbles, cast iron, concrete and stones': first, he suggested making them taller, at 5ft 3in almost up to the height of a man, and second, that they be made of see-through Perspex.

In the early months of 1970, Malcolm's leadership skills were put to the test, but when he left after his 18-month tour came to an end, he was touched by a banner received from his Battalion. On it they had written '*In deep appreciation of the leadership and calm in the troubled streets of Belfast by Major 'Cool Cat' Gilham.*'

What Malcolm had learnt from Northern Ireland was used in his next posting to Sennelager, Germany, to help soldiers to prepare for forthcoming tours in the province. He was instrumental in devising the Northern Ireland Training and Advisory Teams, complete with fabricated street scenes and houses and potential booby-traps. At the end of the tour Malcolm was posted as Second -in-Command of the 7th Battalion before being promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and posted to Belize.

(Ed: For his contribution to soldiers' safety, Malcolm Gilham was awarded just a GOC's Commendation!)

IN MEMORIAM



The following is a list of our comrades who daly have passed away since the last Journal. Members are requested to keep the Secretary informed ofthose that have died so that the list can be updated, and other members informed. Please email queensregimentassociation@gmail.com or write to the Secretary, 5 Alfred Square, Deal, Kent CT14 6LU, ideally giving the date of death, rank, when they left the Army, battalions in which they served and any details of the funeral.

Date	Name	Battalion
2024		
22 Oct	Cpl Mick Tayler	3rd
14 Oct	Cpl Michael- Mick Tees	3rd and R SUSSEX
11 Oct	Pte John Berry Cook	2nd and QOB
Oct	Pte Peter Dunford	5th
23- Sept	Pte Dean Gibbs	2nd
25-Aug	Cpl John Robinson	1st
13-Aug	WOII Thomas McLucas	6/7th, 8QF and PWRR London Regiment
04-Aug	Pte Michael Moore	3rd
03-Aug	LCpl John Parsons	1st
29-Jul	Pte Kenneth George Taylor	3rd and R SUSSEX
23-Jul	Sgt Robin Dunn	7th, 6/7th and RE
13-Jul	Cpl Joe Grieve	2nd, UDR and RN
13-Jul	LCpl Mark Richmond	1st
20-Jul	Bandsman Pat Fuller	2nd
19-Jul	LCpl Jimmy Dillon	2nd
18-Jul	CSgt John Kench	1st and RCT
15-Jul	LCpl Frankie Chivers	1st
13-Jul	LCpl Mark Richmond	1st
11-Jul	Capt Alan Marston	1st
04-Jul	Cpl Justin Farrow	2nd and 2 PWRR
30-Jun	RNK Alan Swan	1st
26-Jun	Sgt Barry Cobolt	3rd and R SUSSEX
24-Jun	Pte Darrell 'Daisy' Caton	1st
20-Jun	Bandsman Paul Beeson	1st, QRS and RE
16-Jun	CSgt Brian Bartlett	1st and RRT
19-May	Dmr William Frederick 'Noddy' Davidson	3rd, 4th, MX and Royal Gibraltar Regt
19-May	Sgt John Norman	2nd, 4th and MX
19-May	Capt Richard Madeley RM	1st Bn attached
09-May	Pte Andrew (Butch) Gardiner	1st
06-May	WOII Denis 'Jock' Paterson	1st, 6/7th and QRS
05-May	Cpl Tom (Keril) Vicarey	2nd
29-Apr	Pte Ted West	1st and HCB
27-Apr	LCpl Les Parsons	2nd and QOB



IN MEMORIAM

17-Apr	Maj Tony McManus	3rd, 4th and 1 MX
17-Apr	Pte Graham Goodhall	6/7th
29-Mar	WOII Peter 'Russ' Russell	3rd and PWRR
28-Mar	Brig Gavin Bulloch	2nd,3rd, 4th and 1 MX
28-Mar	Pte Alec Higgins	1st
26-Mar	Cpl John Pirt	5th (V) Bn.
25-Mar	LCpl Charlie Wheeldon	1st
24-Mar	Major Tony Panayi	2nd and PWRR
23-Mar	Maj Frank Walter Le Maitre	1st and Int Corps
21-Mar	Sgt MC 'Fritz' Dean	1st
15-Mar	Cpl Clive Gerrelli	3rd and R SUSSEX
14-Mar	CSgt Chris Davis	5th and QRS
29-Feb	Pte Dion Williams	3rd
21-Feb	WOI Norman Cocking	2nd and QOB
17-Feb	Pte John Osborne	2nd and Royal Sussex
17-Feb	Cpl Harry Coulter	1st and MX
09-Jan	Pte Peter 'Tank' Clemence QGM	1st and QOB
08-Jan	Pte Lee Brightmore	1st
06-Jan	Cpl Dave Harris	1st and 5th
04-Jan	Capt Rupert Elliott	2nd and 21 SAS
02-Jan	Capt Mike Clinch	2nd, RWK and QOB
2023		
28-Dec	Sgt Charlie Miller	1st and QRS
22-Dec	Capt William 'Jim' Gibbs	8th and 4/5 QORWK
22-Dec	WO2 Kenneth 'Ken' Furie	3rd and PWRR
21-Dec	Maj Michael 'Mick' Ayling	1st, 2nd,7th and R SUSSEX
16-Dec	LCpl Alexander Mitchell	6/7th
08-Dec	Cpl William 'Bill' Holderness	2nd and QOB
06-Dec	Cpl Eddie Willcocks	1st and QRS
03-Dec	Cpl Allan Langstone	5th and 3 and 5 PWRR
02-Dec	Maj Tim Oyler	2nd and 5th
01-Dec	CSgt Les Blyth	1st, 5th and QRS
14-Nov	CSgt Roger Furlotte	1st, 2nd and MX
01-Nov	CSgt Peter Catchpole	3rd, R SUSSEX and R ANGLIAN
Nov	Cpl Lewis Rising	NK
2022		
22-Nov	LCpl Robert Moore	NK

ASSOCIATION BRANCHES

ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President - Colonel AAA Beattie, Barn Cottage, Fisherton de la Mere, Warminster, Wilts BA12 0PZ

Secretary - Major Alasdair Goulden, 5 Alfred Square, Deal, Kent CT14 6LU

Mobile: [0771 484 4069](tel:07714844069)

Email: queensregimentassociation@gmail.com

1 QUEENS BRANCH

The 1 QUEENS Branch meets on an ad hoc basis and all past members of the Queen's Regiment, or their associate Regiments are very welcome to attend any event. The annual reunion will be held on the weekend of the Spring Bank Holiday (24 May). All are welcome to attend. Details are posted on the 1 QUEENS Branch website.

For more details of the branch please contact:

Steve Parsons: - Mobile: [07742 830 750](tel:07742830750)

Email: webmaster@1queens.co.uk

Web: 1queens.co.uk; www.facebook.com/groups/61525655230/

ALBUHERA

Based in Spain but encompasses all members who wish to join who live in Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar.

For more details contact:

Chairman - Steve Wall, Partida Barranquet 40, 03792 Parcent, Alicante, Spain

Mobile: [+447958 596 598](tel:+447958596598)

Email: steve.wall@hotmail.co.uk

CHICHESTER BRANCH

The Chichester Branch meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the City Club, North Pallant, Chichester. They hold an annual Albuhera Dinner and always march with their Standard at the Chichester Remembrance Day parade.

For more details of the branch, please check the website or contact:

Chairman - Dave Tilley, 3 Mumford Place, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 2BG:

Email: davetilley47@hotmail.com

Secretary – Eddie Drew:

Tel: [01243 866887](tel:01243866887)

Email: edwindrew@btinternet.com

or use the 'email us' facility on the website: <http://www.freewebs.com/grachichester/>

EAST KENT BRANCH

This branch is part of both Regimental Associations and welcomes everyone who served in the Queen's, PWRR and forebear regiments.

More details can be found at:-

www.facebook.com/groups/3068692916477013



EAST SURREY REGIMENT

The branch meets on a monthly basis at the Union Jack Club in London and holds an annual dinner. For more details please contact:

Chairman - Ken Bowden: - Tel: [07714 844069](tel:07714844069)

Email: kjbowden@icloud.com

FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS

The Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps, which started over 100 years ago, rebadged back to the Queen's Regiment and continues to parade with their Queen's Colour. Boys and girls from a variety of backgrounds, aged 6 to 13, are instructed by volunteer staff in their personal development based upon military procedures and discipline. Their HQ is at Caird Hall, Camberley. They are fully self-funding as they are not supported by the Army, Army Reserve or ACF.

For more details of when they meet and how to get involved please contact:

Nigel Ferris - 1 Ffordd Dol y Coed, Llanharan, Pontyclun, CF72 9WA:

Mobile: [07836 726236](tel:07836726236)

Email: nigelferris21@outlook.com

HORSHAM BRANCH

The Horsham Branch meet four times a year at the Horsham Cricket Club.

For more details of membership and events please contact:

Chairman - Colin Hurd:

Email: ckh494@outlook.com

Secretary - Jonathan Purdy

Email: j.purdy1@btopenworld.com

ISLE OF THANET BRANCH

The Branch meets at the Royal British Navy Association (RNA) Club, 9 Church Street Hill, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8RA on the first Saturday of every month at 1800hrs for a branch meeting, social get together, drinks and fund raising. 'Teams' is used for members who can't attend in person. We also hold an Albuhera Dinner on 16 May each year; hold a social event along with the RNA for the Glorious First of June 1794 and an Annual Dinner in November. We will also be holding a QUEENS and PWRR Breakfast RV, and Branch Social RVs. Please see the Branch Facebook page for upcoming dates and timings. Former members of the QUEENS, PWRR, forbear regiments, Armed Forces or serving personal are welcome to join us.

For more details please contact: The Secretary on either:

Email: QRARamsgate@outlook.com

[QRA Ramsgate on Facebook](#)

LONDON BRANCH OF THE QUEEN'S AND PWRR ASSOCIATIONS

The two London Branches of the Associations have a combined branch and meet informally quarterly. In addition, the branch meets at Twickenham for the Army vs Navy match and after the Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday. All past members of the Queen's, PWRR or their forebear regiments are very welcome to attend any event.

For more details of the branch, please contact:

Chairman - Kevin Hibbert: - Email: kevinhibbert75@yahoo.com

Queen's Secretary - Adrian de Villiers: - Tel: [07847 780103](tel:07847780103)

Email: Adrian.devilliers@hotmail.co.uk

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

The Middlesex Branch consider themselves the senior local branch of the Queen's Regimental Association, having formed in 1985. We currently have around 100 members. Most of our events are held in the Army Reserve Centre, Edgware, Middlesex currently home to B Company 4 PWRR, with whom we have a close relationship. Our functions include a New Year's Luncheon, a formal regimental dinner to commemorate the Battle of Albuhera in May, an annual battlefield tour in the summer and various remembrance services in November. We also hold a monthly breakfast club which is very popular. Membership includes access to our Facebook group 'Albuhera Company' as well as receiving our excellent newsletter 'Dispatches' which is sent out three times a year.

If you are interested in joining the branch, please contact the Chairman:

Chairman - Trevor Canton: - Tel: [020 8368 0407](tel:02083680407)

Email: queensman67@outlook.com

Secretary – Post vacant

QUEENSMAN LODGE 2694

Queensman Lodge 2694 is a Freemasons Lodge within the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London and also a member of the Circuit of Services Lodges. Membership is open to all members of forebear regiments, Queen's, PWRR, Queen's Division and any attached personnel. Membership application is by being proposed and seconded, and by interview.

For full details please visit the website or contact:

John Edwards: - Tel: [01462 834134](tel:01462834134)

Mobile: - [07976 268151](tel:07976268151)

Email: johnedwards518@sky.com

Web: <http://queensmanlodge.co.uk/>

QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CORPS OF DRUMS

The QRA Corps of Drums meets on a regular basis and performs for the benefit of the Queen's Regiment Benevolent Fund whenever possible but primarily in Kent.

To discuss an event or to join please contact:

Tony Philpott or Amy Holden: - Mobile: [07568 630024](tel:07568630024)

Email: qracorpsdrums@yahoo.co.uk

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

This Branch is open to all ex-members of the Queen's, PWRR and forebear regiments who own and ride a motorbike or trike, and want to raise money for Benevolent Fund. For more details please contact:

President: Steve Parsons

Mobile: - [07742 830750](tel:07742830750)

Email: [Please use the Contact Form on the QRRR website](#)

Web: www.qrra.co.uk

THE PWRR GOLF SOCIETY (QRA BRANCH)

We are the original Queens Regimental Golfing Association. Upon amalgamation, we morphed into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Golfing Society. Our home has always been Canterbury Golf Club and we still play annually for all the cups and trophies associated with The Queen's Regiment. For more details please contact the two Queensmen currently running the Society:

Captain: Dave Body: - Email: d-body@sky.com

Secretary: Tony Harwood

Email: ice501@btopenworld.com

New members of all abilities are most welcomed, just call for a membership form, and come and play.



THE WEALD BRANCH OF THE QUEEN'S, QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS AND ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Branch meets at the New Telegraph Club, Priory Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2AS and we meet every 2nd Wednesday on alternate months starting in April.

For more details please contact:

Chairman - John Grinham:

Mobile: [07765 673262](tel:07765673262)

Email: John@grinham.me.uk

Secretary - Barry Crocker: - Email: barrycrocker@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: [01732 366048](tel:01732366048)

WESSEX BRANCH

The Queen's Regimental Association in Wessex, known as the Wessex Branch, meets on an ad hoc basis in the Salisbury area.

For more details of membership and any events, please contact:

Secretary - Major Anthony (Billy) Bolton:

Mobile: [07530 429926](tel:07530429926)

Email: Queensmen1661@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/QueensWessexBranch>

WEST SURREY BRANCH (was previously Farnham)

The West Surrey Branch meets every third Tuesday at the Farnham TA Centre, Guildford Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 9QB and all past members of the Queen's Regiment or their associate Regiments are very welcome. For more details of the branch, please contact:

Chairman - Bob Hill: - Tel: [01276 501644](tel:01276501644)

Email: bobhill@sky.com

Secretary - Dick Scales

Mobile: [07530 690861](tel:07530690861)

Email: dsl9421@gmail.com

Treasurer - Mrs Sharon Scales:

Mobile: [07455 981672](tel:07455981672)

Email: 35scales@gmx.com

NON-AFFILIATED GROUPS which have contact with ex-members of the Regiment

QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREYS

Secretary - Dee Hutchison:

Email: qrsinform@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS REGIMENT

<http://friendsofthebuffs-rekr.com/>

THE ROYAL SUSSEX ASSOCIATION

Chairman - Barry Lane:

Email: barry.lane@uwclub.net

Secretary - Ian Smith:

Email: iansmithbn1@gmail.com

WHEN YOU'RE GONE!

This year has unfortunately highlighted what happens if you do not make a will. Three members have died this year without making a will with the result that their possessions have been claimed by people whom it is very strongly believed should not have inherited.

Research from MacMillan highlighted the worrying fact that two in three people living in Britain don't have a will – including 42% of over-55s. Without an up-to-date will, the law will supersede a person's final wishes and leave treasured possessions, money, property and even dependant children with someone they may not have chosen.

Even if you have a will, official guidance is that you should review it every five years and after any major life changes.

TOP FIVE THINGS TO DO TO HELP YOUR LOVED ONES AFTER YOU HAVE GONE

1. WRITE A WILL

A Will ensures that the right people inherit from you, and while most of us know how important it is to have a Will and keep it up to date, many of us don't bother. It is especially important for cohabiting couples to have a will, as the surviving partner does not automatically inherit any estate or possessions left behind. And once you have a Will, check it every five years.

2. THINK ABOUT CARE OF CHILDREN

If you have children, it's important to decide on guardians, but three in five parents with children under 18 haven't chosen guardians should they die. Think about who you would want to step into this role, and ask them if they would be happy to do so. Then make sure you appoint them as guardians in your will.

3. WRITE A 'WHEN I'M GONE' LIST

More than one in 10 adults admitted that it would be very difficult for anyone to handle their financial affairs after they died. Putting together all your personal and financial information into one simple document can really help your loved ones when you are gone.

4. MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR FUNERAL

Research shows that the average funeral costs around £3,800, with one in six people saying that they struggle with the cost. Having a plan in place to pay for your funeral will mean that your family will not have to find several thousand pounds at a difficult time, and it's much cheaper if you pay well before the event.

5. HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR FAMILY

Having a conversation with your family about your wishes can remove a great deal of uncertainty for them in the event of your death. Two in five people who have to arrange a funeral have no clue about what the dead person wanted. Starting a conversation might include talking about your funeral wishes with your loved ones or showing them where important documents are kept.

WHEN YOU'RE GONE, IT'S TOO LATE!

THE MILOCARIAN ATHLETIC CLUB



**Established 1930
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All Ranks
Males & Female
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dependents and relatives too
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**Annual programme of cross-country and road races,
in the London area. For further details:**

www.milocarianac.info adamsonr717@gmail.com

Unit Contact.....



SUPPORTING VETERANS SINCE 1919

At Royal British Legion Industries, we help Armed Forces veterans and their families in their time of need and support them to live independent lives



HOMES

Our village in Aylesford provides homes for around 340 veterans and their families; from emergency accommodation and family housing to assisted living apartments and care homes.



EMPLOYMENT

Our award-winning employment programme, Lifeworks, prepares veterans for working life outside the Armed Forces while our social enterprises provide meaningful jobs to those who need them.



WELFARE

With each veteran facing unique challenges, our welfare support is tailored to their needs to ensure we can support them whenever and however they need it.



rbli.co.uk



[@RoyalBritishLegionIndustries](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalBritishLegionIndustries)



[@RBLICharity](https://www.instagram.com/RBLICharity)

Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NL. Registered Charity Number: England & Wales 210063 | Scotland SC048795 | VAT Number GB916326234

RBLI is completely separate to The Royal British Legion and receives no financial support from the annual poppy appeal. The charity must raise its own funds to deliver care and employability support, and build more homes.



Royal Cypher of HM Queen Margrethe II

Charity No 1024418

www.queensregimentalassociation.org