

THE SAS AND LRDG ROLL OF HONOUR 1941-47

by Ex-Lance-corporal X, QGM

A seminal project that brings together the moving stories of every Special Air Service and Long Range Desert Group casualty of the Second World War.

Published in the summer of 2016, the 75th anniversary of the SAS, this exhaustive work, meticulously and passionately researched over 13 years, is a unique combination of operational reports, personal service records and medal citations, all given colour and depth through correspondence with next of kin and the recollections of those that were there. Lavishly illustrated, with many photographs published for the first time, it celebrates the extraordinary and largely unreported bravery of 374 casualties now commemorated in seventeen countries.

100% of profits from the first run will be donated to the erection of memorials and to service charities, predominantly Combat Stress.

13 years ago the author answered a call to lay wreaths on a small group of wartime graves at one of the more inaccessible locations covered by this Roll of Honour. The headstones of the casualties concerned revealed that they had lost their lives after the fighting had moved on, although it was soon apparent that no one seemed to know why – their stories had simply been lost over the intervening years, initial research revealing that this was true of the majority of Second World War SAS casualties.

Although no historian, his interest had been piqued and he set about verifying or establishing facts by interviewing as many veterans as he could, every subsequent leave being spent recording material at various archives. Back abroad he sifted hundreds of thousands of photographs that he had taken of official reports. In spite of the scale of the task, conflicting accounts, inaccuracies and the minutiae of war crimes investigations were all meticulously cross-referenced late into the night, early in the mornings, or whenever his off-duty hours allowed.

One lead followed another, the flow of unique material from diaries, photos and letters increasing after tracking down relatives: for every casualty there had been a next of kin and for every next of kin the devastation of an unwanted telegram. The pain was still evident as was the fact that sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews were also passionate that the story of each casualty, regardless of rank or class, be told as factually and respectfully as possible, not as yet another Boy's Own myth that morphs into history.

The project led the author to visit every grave relevant around the world. Many years of continuous effort, full of unexpected ups and downs, reversals and leaps forward, have now resulted in this private publication.

This box set of nearly 800 pages will be of huge interest to any former or serving member of the armed forces who appreciates the history of WW2 Special Forces. The 374 individual entries give a fascinating insight into the courage and fortitude of both

professional and wartime soldiers who performed special deeds for the sake of others. Many were former members of traditional county regiments of PWRR lineage, their engaging stories intertwining to accurately plot the evolution of the SAS, SBS (1st SAS), LRDG and of F Squadron, GHQ Liaison Regiment (Phantom). They also throw new and objective light on operations, the lessons of which still ring true today. This Roll of Honour forms a fitting tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during such operations.

- Limited initial print run of 2000 with more than half already sold. 17 maps and 752 photos of the casualties, the scenes where their achievements were accomplished, and of their final resting places. Full colour throughout
- Newly discovered casualties recognised as SAS or LRDG for the first time
- Sympathetically designed and bound in foil embossed Wibalin. Three volumes and a User Guide contained in a handmade and beautifully designed slipcase, all proudly produced in the UK

Overwhelming feedback has been received from both veterans and next of kin:

“You've done Dad proud ...”

“I am lost in admiration of the job you are doing, it will add tremendously to our history.”

“I cannot thank you enough for the care and attention you have paid to my brother and his fallen comrades ... though my mother and father did visit his grave I myself have never been in a position to do so. So, it is all the more touching to me to know that there are other people who care and remember.”

“Your dedication to honour those that fell in long forgotten actions speaks volumes for your determination and commitment. Dad spoke often of your work on this book and how valuable a reference it would be to researchers. But most of all it would be a lasting memory to all those brave men who did not join the SAS for glory, but to do their best against often impossible odds with no desire for personal recognition.”

To read more and for the only place to order please visit: www.sas-lrdg-roh.com

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