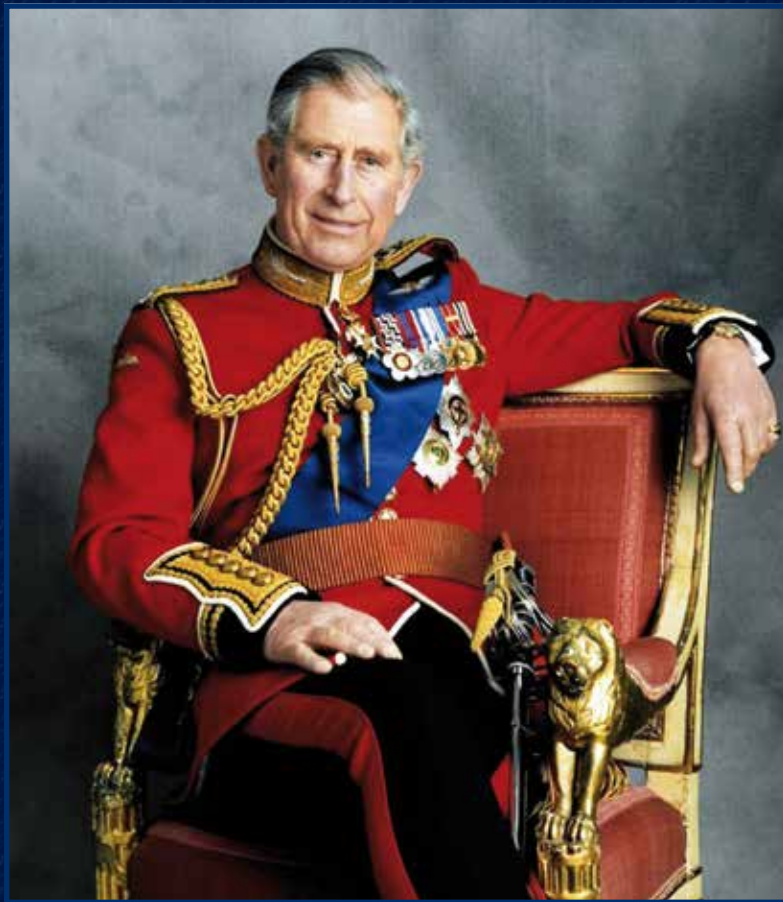


SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN'S

UNCONQUERED I SERVE
1966-1992



HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

CORONATION EDITION

THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

2023



FOREWORD

BY COLONEL TONY 'MONTY' WARD OBE DL



By the time this edition of *The Journal* drops through your letterbox, I, together with our Association Secretary and 38 others, will have returned from a battlefield tour to Salerno to commemorate the landings on 9th September 1943. Those of you as old as me will recall that it was on 9 September 1992 (31 years ago) that the amalgamation took place between our Regiment and The Royal Hampshires. That, after all this time, the Association has 2,768 members on its database, with more joining each year than being on their 'Last Parade', is remarkable. Indeed, just 10 years ago there were only 1,000 members! I am certain that the commitment of all the sixteen branches of our Association, the hard work and dedication of all those in Regimental Headquarters (especially our Regimental Secretary) and the production of this excellent journal have played an immeasurable part in keeping our Regimental Family together. They all deserve our admiration and gratitude.

I commend especially three articles in this edition. The first is about Peter Clemence (Ex 1 QUEENS): the Association Secretary discovered that he had been awarded The Queen's Gallantry Medal, when as a Security Guard, he apprehended an armed robber even though he had already been shot by him and badly wounded – a demonstration of raw courage. The second article by Russ Feakins (ex 2 QUEENS) tells of ex-Queensmen demonstrating great courage and compassion helping orphans and others in need in Ukraine. Lastly, Neil Furminger (ex 3 QUEENS and one of our youngest members at 58!) tells of rowing across the Atlantic and raising £100,000 in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and the WOLO Foundation. Why did he do it? Because you are never too old! It is another example of great determination and courage. All three are outstanding examples of living up to our Regimental motto: '*Unconquered I Serve*'.

I hope all those on email receive the weekly PWRR '*Regimental Family*' sitrep which also includes news of our Association and those of predecessor Regiments. It also shows the number of benevolence cases handled by RHQ. Over 160 cases were referred last year. I don't know how many of you looked at last year's accounts which showed that The Queen's Regimental Association had some £1.5m in investments. Whilst this sounds a great amount, it only produces an income of some £47,000. From this sum, benevolence grants were made to 38 ex-Queensmen (plus three to veterans of forbear regiments); there are then the considerable costs of printing and posting this Journal plus grants to branches, the Annual Reunion and many other overheads. The upshot is that to balance the books, the Association has to raise considerable funds annually. How lucky we are that last year there were two considerable legacies from Colonel Jon Wright and 'Banzai' Brett's family. The Queen's Association Riders have raised over £60,000 over the last few years and thanks to the herculean efforts of Alasdair Goulden, some £250,000 has been raised to build the Rehabilitation Centre and Riders' Clubhouse at Kennels Field just outside Faversham. We all owe them and many others a big thank you.

Never forget it is 'Our Association'. It must be for us all, the members, to provide the oxygen for it to flourish, so I ask that you support the Association Chairman Colonel Anthony Beattie, who puts in many hours each year, and all the branch officers, who work tirelessly to organise events at which friendship can be strengthened. Do join a Branch or attend the Annual Reunion if you don't already.

Lastly, thank you Alasdair Goulden for producing yet another outstanding *Journal*. Well done!



EDITORIAL

BY ASSOCIATION SECRETARY
MAJOR A M GOULDEN



Following the sad death of our beloved Queen, this year we have had the joy of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and the start of the new Carolean era, and it was obvious that many of us went onto the streets to celebrate. It is right and proper that we use this journal to celebrate Their Majesties.

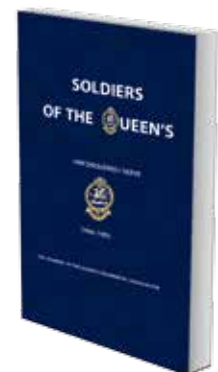
The branches have continued their hectic round of activities and my thanks to all the branch officers for their continued efforts to keep the Association alive and functioning. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Each year I have said that I thought that this will be the last journal as I find it difficult to believe that anyone has anything else to say and report. Well, this year's proves me wrong! I really do commend to you all the different articles which show what an interesting and varied life some of us lead. If you have been inspired to do something different, and what you have done epitomises what it means to be a Queensman, please share your experiences.

The stories of funny events continue to be submitted but *The Journal* is always in need of more. So, do cast your mind back to those stories you tell over a beer, of what happened in the distant regimental past. Please don't wait for a heartfelt plea for material as publishing day gets closer, but whenever you think of a story, or you take part in an event, get writing and send it in with photos. The deadline to receive articles is 7 September 2024 but please don't wait till then.

My thanks as always to my three proofreaders: our President Anthony Beattie, Mike Jelf and Nick Keyes. Without their input, the very high standard which I think *The Journal* achieves would not be reached.

May I finish by wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.



Made up of a number of branches, the overarching aims of the Queen's Regimental Association are:

1. To foster the spirit of comradeship between all members of The Association past and present.
2. To provide assistance to past and present members of The Association, their wives, widows, children or other dependants who are in distress or suffering financial hardship.
3. To assist members to obtain employment in civilian life and to promote their businesses.
4. To foster good relations with civil society across the Regimental area.
5. To support those charitable organisations which operate for the benefit of the soldier (or ex-soldier) and his dependants
6. To foster close relationships between the Queen's Regimental Association, forebear regimental associations and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Association

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
FOREWORD	1	TO UNDERSTAND A VETERAN	44
EDITORIAL	2	QUEEN'S REGIMENT GATHERING AT THE ARBORETUM	45-47
FOREWORD	1	REMEMBRANCE	48-50
EDITORIAL	2	PRESENTATION OF STANDARDS AT THE MENIN GATE LAST POST CEREMONY	51-54
HOW WE CELEBRATED THE CORONATION	4-9	PRAYER BEFORE AN ATTACK	55
THE REGIMENTAL CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL HOUSE OF DENMARK 'DEN DANSKE FORBINDELSE'	10-13	ALBUHERA	56
PETER CLEMENCE QGM: THE QUIET HERO	14-15	THE FOSIM TOUR TO SALERNO, CASSINO, ANZIO AND ROME	57-61
QUEENSMEN IN UKRAINE	16-20	AUSTRALIA'S ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION	62-64
A TEST OF ENDURANCE	20-21	THE MUSEUM REPORTS	65-66
THE EFFECT OF EARLY INSPIRATION ON COLONEL (RET'D) KEITH FARNES WO	22-23	REUNIONS	67-76
THE NEARLY DIRTY DOZEN	23-25	BRANCH REPORTS	77-104
RETURN TO DERRY	26-28	BOOK REVIEWS	105
MESSAGE FROM THE BOGSIDE	29	OP COURAGE	106
THE QUEENS FLAG FLIES OVER PALACE BARRACKS AGAIN	30	OP JACKDAW	107-108
RECCE PLATOON, 1 QUEENS 1987-1988 & REMEMBERING CSGT 'CHELSEA MAC' MACLEAN	30-33	ARMED FORCES QR CODES	109
FROM 3 QUEENS TO A LIFETIME BEHIND BARS	34-35	BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS DECEMBER TO SEPTEMBER	110
THE BRITISH MILITARY BUGLE	36	WELFARE	111
THE RBLI GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT	37	MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	112-116
PROUD RECIPIENT OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT MEDAL OF MERIT	38-39	OBITUARIES	117-122
IN PRAISE OF THE STAR & GARTER	40-41	IN MEMORIAM	123
A NEW NOSE FOR MATTHEW LATHAM	42-43	ASSOCIATION BRANCHES	123-127
		WHEN YOU ARE GONE	128



HOW WE CELEBRATED THE CORONATION



Alastair and Kay Meldrum in a Force 5 off the coast of Japan



Dee Hutchison and husband David at the Coronation Garden Party



Billy Brett, Les Vial and Tony Bunyan



Frimley and Camberley Cadets parade in Fleet



Danny Tillyer



Mo and Derrick Harwood



Cadet Gamaralalage on parade with Frimley and Camberley Cadets in Fleet



WO2 Alan Songhurst



David and Sue Goodwin



Nick Burnley at the Aldershot Church Coronation lunch



Andy Hillion



Mark Birch and fiancée Gaynor in Locksbottom Kent



Paul Cook at Southwell Minster at the invitation of the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire



Chris Skaife holding the ground at Westminster Abbey. The ancient tradition of guarding the Crown Jewels



Diehards giving it large, Redman King House Eastbourne



Ian Chatfield with his wife Jane and granddaughter Charlotte



Geoff Minter celebrating the Coronation at the British Embassy in Seoul Korea



Les Edwards



Martin Wilson and friends



Saundersfoot Councillors Dean Ludlow and Mick Gibbs



Major (Retd) Martin (Maggie) Magee supporting the coronation with St John Ambulance Wantage



Martin Featherstone Front Left Coronation 1953



The Millard Family



WO2 Neil Godden now Operational Team Leader in the Ambulance Service



Paul Gray at Lourdes



Stewart Wooles with friends in Sparsholt



Richard Elliott Dover Castle Coronation Day



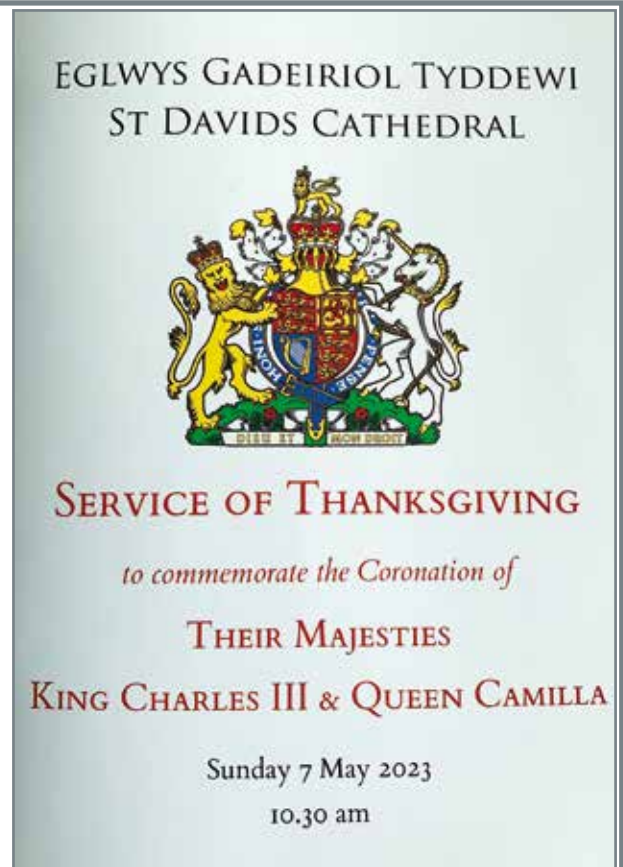
Mick Knibbs Invitation to St David's Cathedral



Steve and Sally Barden



John MacCarthy



St David's Cathedral



Nick Burnley with the Aldershot MO and CO of the Grenadier Guards



THE REGIMENTAL CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL HOUSE OF DENMARK 'DEN DANSKE FORBINDELSE'

By Colonel John Powell OBE – Regimental Secretary PWRR

The Danish connection originated in 1689. In this year command of a regiment, known as the 'Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot' or the 'Lord High Admiral's Regiment', was given to King James II's son-in-law, Prince George of Denmark, husband of Princess Anne (later Queen Anne). Shortly afterwards, this regiment was disbanded, and Prince George was appointed Honorary Colonel of the next regiment in the order of precedence. This was the Holland Regiment or 4th Foot. It now received the title of 'Prince George of Denmark's Regiment or 3rd Foot'. The marriage of Princess Anne and Prince George helped seal the Anglo-Danish pact against the Dutch and, in part, it is felt that renaming the Holland Regiment would have been a further diplomatic signal.

The full fruits of Prince George's Honorary Colonelcy, an appointment which he held until his death in 1708, were not reaped until the connection with Denmark was revived in 1906. On 9th November of that year, the birthday of King Edward VII, it was announced that King Frederick VIII of Denmark would be made the Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), the title by which, since 1782 the 3rd of Foot had been known. King Frederick VIII of Denmark's sister was Queen Alexandra who was married to King Edward VII, thereby reinforcing the family link. The appointment of foreign Kings and Queens as Colonels in Chief was not unusual. King Edward VII was himself Colonel of the Danish Hussars and Czar Nicholas II of Russia and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany both held colonelcies of British regiments: 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) and The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons) respectively. The Royal Dragoons had served with the Tangier Regiment of Foot at Tangier.

On the death of the King in 1912 his son, King Christian X, was appointed Colonel-in-Chief, an appointment which he held for the next thirty-five years. Far from being a mere titular head of the Regiment, King Christian invariably displayed a most active interest in its life and affairs, witnessed by his tireless work for Buffs prisoners of war during the First World War; his peace-time visits in England to the Home Battalion; his periodical awards of Danish decorations to Officers and Warrant Officers; and the privilege granted to all battalions and the Depot of flying the Danish Flag on the anniversaries of his birthday, anniversary of his succession to the Throne and appointment as Colonel-in-Chief. These were all actions which went far to endear him to The Buffs and to create a bond between himself and the Regiment, and a tie of friendship between Denmark and Britain.

In 1941 the War Office authorised the enrolment in the British Army of eligible Danes and, as a result, over one thousand such young men passed through the Buffs Regimental Depot at Canterbury. Their connection with, and loyalty to, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) as it was now styled, continued and was exemplified in the Denmark Branch of the Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association. One of the Danes was Anders Lassen who then transferred to the Special Air Service and was awarded the VC and MC** (the Victoria Cross was posthumous).

King Christian died on 20th April 1947. Shortly before Christmas of that year, the announcement was made that King Frederick IX had accepted the Colonelcy-in-Chief of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) in succession to his father. Although primarily a sailor, King Frederick took as keen an interest in his English regiment as had his father before him, paying numerous visits to The Buffs. When, in 1961, The Buffs were amalgamated with The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, King Frederick at once agreed to continue the Danish connection by becoming Colonel-in-Chief of the newly-styled County regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment. He came to Folkestone one year later to present the 1st Battalion of the Regiment with their first Colours. This appointment was short-lived with the formation of the Queen's Regiment in 1966. However, the King was not to be denied. On being approached, he readily agreed to become one of the two Allied Colonels-in-Chief of the new Regiment, the other being Queen Juliana of The Netherlands. The King died in January 1972 and, after her accession to the throne, the newly crowned Queen Margrethe II of Denmark became Allied Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen's Regiment on 27 June.

One of her first duties was to present new Colours to the Queen's Regiment on 4 May 1974. A painting by Terence Cuneo captured the event at Armoury House, the Honourable Artillery Company Barracks in London complete with the traditional mouse in Cuneo's paintings, but this time bearing the Danish Royal Standard (by the nearest Drumhead Altar). The original hangs in RHQ PWRR but was recently lent to the Danes for an exhibition commemorating Her Majesty's 80th birthday in Copenhagen in 2020.



The portrait also shows the Danish Royal Standard being flown in front of the marquee on the far left. It is not clear how this was allowed to happen since the Royal Standard can only be flown on buildings that are owned by Her Majesty. The mistake came to light during the unveiling of The Buffs soldier statue in 2015 when the Standard was again flown but this time on Canterbury Cathedral (and ownership was jokingly claimed). The Chief of the Danish Adjutantstab at the time carried out an investigation (the Standards are few in number and are supposed to be accounted for) but the Royal Standard has now been returned to Denmark.

Queen Margrethe II continued to play an active role in the affairs of the Regiment until 9 September 1992 when The Queen's Regiment and Royal Hampshire Regiment amalgamated to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's & Royal Hampshires). Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was appointed the first Colonel-in-Chief of the new Regiment, (she had formerly been the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Hampshire Regiment); Queen Margrethe II maintained the Danish link as the Allied Colonel-in-Chief. In 1996 The Princess of Wales stood back from public life and on 25 February 1997 Queen Margrethe II of Denmark assumed the appointment of Colonel-in-Chief of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

It is not often realised in the UK that Queen Margrethe II is the first Queen of Denmark in her own right (not married to a King). At the time of her birth in 1940, only males could ascend the throne of Denmark. As the young Princess Margrethe had no brothers, it was assumed that her uncle Prince Knud would one day assume the Throne. The law was changed (after a lengthy process being approved by two successive parliaments and then by referendum) in 1953 to allow Princess Margrethe to ascend to the Throne of Denmark on the death of her father.



Queen Margrethe II plays an active role in the life of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment; on a three-year rolling programme Her Majesty visits battalions, holds receptions at Her Embassy in London and attends the annual Officers' Club Dinner. In addition, Her Majesty holds a Royal Audience in Copenhagen to mark the changing of the Colonel of the Regiment, Regimental Secretary, and commanding officers.

As a result of the Regiment's connection with Her Majesty, strong ties have been built between the PWRR and the Danish Royal Life Guards Regiment, with formal exchanges and invitations to social events leading to firm friendships. This link percolates to other Danish regiments who serve with the PWRR on operations or train with us, most recently during the training of the Ukrainian Army in the UK. It can also be seen in the activities of the Danish Royal Life Guards Association Branch in London who march as a contingent with the PWRR to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and in reciprocal social events.

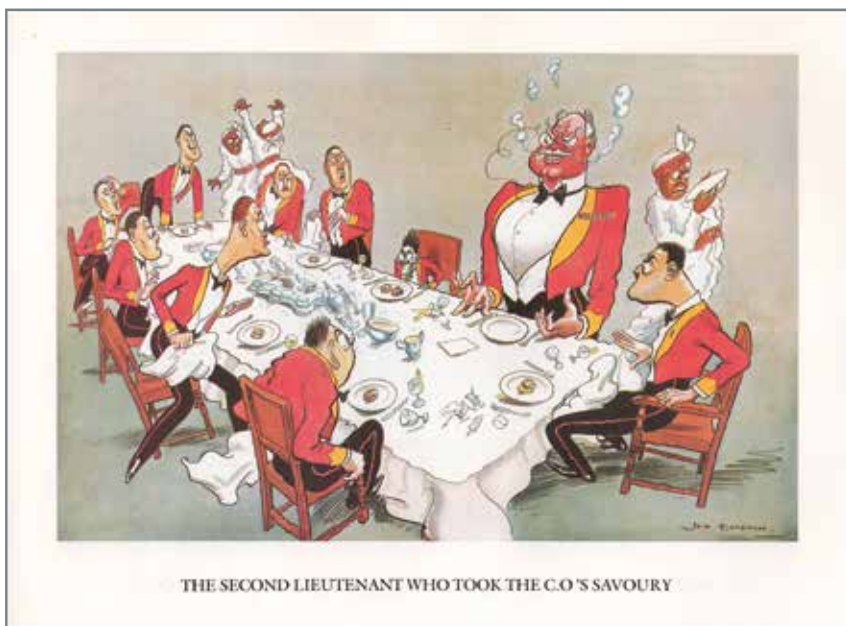
Testament to Her Majesty's interest in the Regiment is her continued interest in The Queen's Regimental Association. She became the Association's Patron at the time of the amalgamation, a position that she still holds, and which is valued enormously by all members. She has always been interested in the activities of the Association, receiving regular updates and has granted audiences with the President, Secretary, and members where possible.

Any activity involving Her Majesty requires careful planning; RHQ has a close and healthy relationship with Her Majesty's Adjutandstab (essentially Her Military Royal Household) who are adept at giving first class advice and ensuring that protocols are understood. That said, things can go awry.

In 2019, Her Majesty visited 1 PWRR in Paderborn. Before she arrived at Paderborn Airport, a request had been received from the British Liaison Officer for Paderborn Garrison to allow both the Bürgermeister and Airport Director to meet Her Majesty at the airport in the reception line. A quick check with the Danes confirmed this was appropriate, but only if activity was confined to a handshake and short words of welcome.

Come the day all went well until Her Majesty reached both Germans who suddenly produced gifts and positioned themselves to have selfies taken with Her Majesty as the gifts were handed over. As ever, Her Majesty remained gracious, smiling throughout, whilst the rest of us gave a good impression of being in a Bateman's cartoon (example below).

I'm sure my predecessors as Regimental Secretary could find similar stories to tell. Of course, conversations held in private must remain private but two public interactions with Her Majesty, that have been supplied by Colonel Mike Ball, are worth recounting.



A famous example of Bateman's work in a military setting

During lunch in an Officers' Mess he (Colonel Mike Ball) was describing how Her Majesty's father the Late King Frederik IX, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs, used to dine in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess and his party trick after dinner was to strip off and give a display of his many and varied tattoos, with an explanation of where he had obtained them – "I got this one in Hong Kong when I was in the Navy, this one in Shanghai" etc, etc'.

Her Majesty's comment on this was: "I think he was exaggerating... I am sure he got them from his tailor in Jermyn Street". King Frederik seemed to be very proud of his tattoos and photographs are easily found on the Internet, along with a recent Danish article about where the tattoos came from and when.

On another occasion Mike was waiting for Her Majesty in the Officers' Mess in Paderborn. On arrival, he showed her the portrait held by 1 PWRR of King Frederik wearing the uniform of the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Mike commented that the King had always seemed to have his hat on at an angle, to which Her Majesty replied: "I know, I never understood it either, uniform normally means that things are on straight, but Kings can do that".



Her Majesty at lunch in the Officers' Mess 1 PWRR in Paderborn February 2019 sitting in front of the painting of her father King Frederik IX.

Today the Regiment is one of only two regiments to have a foreign head of state as Colonel-in-Chief, (the other being King Abdullah of Jordan who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Light Dragoons). As a Regiment we are privileged to have such a close, warm relationship with Her Majesty that is embedded in over three hundred years of association



ROYAL STORIES

In the early 1980s, as a member of the Corps of Drums, I once played the Last Post and Reveille at Mill Hill Cemetery, London in the presence of HM Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. If memory serves me correctly, I believe HRH Princess Anne was also in attendance. After I left The Queen's Regiment, I joined 8 UDR, becoming Prince Andrew's driver whilst he was in the Province.

Chris Oakley



PETER CLEMENCE QGM: THE QUIET HERO

By Alasdair Goulden



At Buckingham Palace

Imagine my surprise one day when, chatting to an old soldier, whom I had met on a frequent basis over a number of months, he was handed his two medals which had just been remounted. Obviously, I recognised his GSM 62 for service in Northern Ireland but didn't recognise the other. The conversation went something like this:

Me: *What's that, Tank?*

Peter: *A QGM.*

Me: *Really? How did you get it?*

Peter: *Being a f...ing idiot.*

Me: *Seriously, Tank! When, where and how?*

It took me weeks to drag the story out of Peter Clemence, aka 'Tank', and carry out the research to find out what had happened. This is Tank's story.

In a world where bravery is often lauded and celebrated, there are those individuals who exhibit extraordinary acts of courage without seeking any recognition or praise. Ex-Queensman from the 1st Battalion, Peter Clemence, at the time of the incident a security guard for Security Express, is one such unsung hero whose remarkable bravery has shone through during critical incidents, changing lives and upholding the safety of those around him.

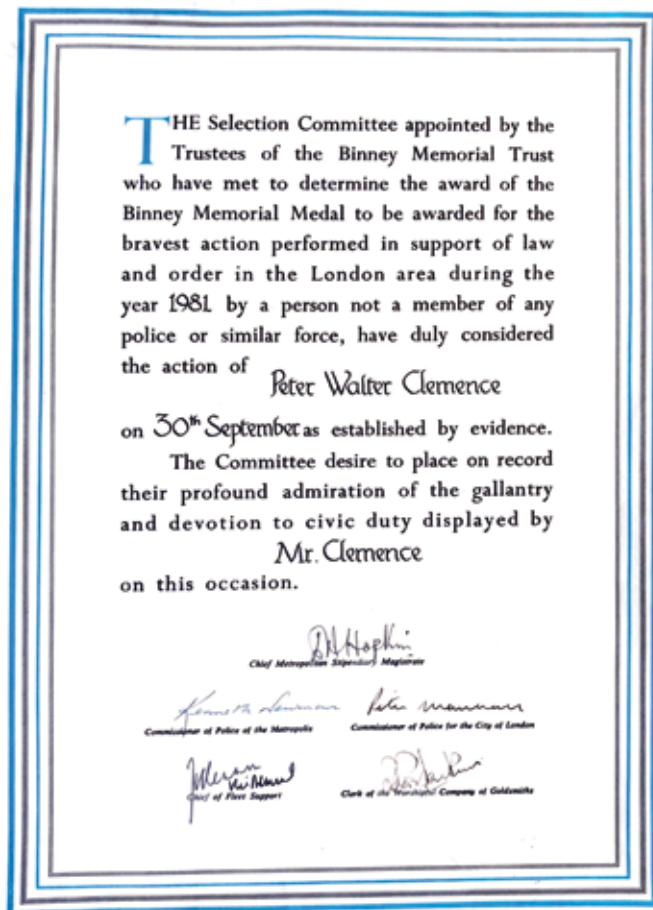
It all began in September 1981, when Peter and his colleague, Gary Pluthero, were collecting funds from the National Westminster Bank in New Addington, Surrey. Their routine job took a dramatic turn when they were attacked by an armed man. In a display of extraordinary bravery, the duo attempted to defend themselves, and Peter found himself shot in the chest during the struggle. Despite this harrowing experience, they didn't cower; instead, they fearlessly confronted a getaway car driven at them.

Refusing to back down, Peter and Gary managed to hold down the attackers until the police arrived, ensuring that justice prevailed. This valiant act of courage earned them the prestigious Binney Award, an accolade reserved for outstanding acts of bravery by civilians. Remarkably, despite his injury and the danger he faced, Peter never mentioned the incident to those around him, showcasing a humility and modesty that are truly awe-inspiring.

The second incident in Peter Clemence' life that highlighted his incredible bravery occurred five years later when he was working as a security guard in Gillingham, Kent. In an unfortunate turn of events, an armed robber attempted to snatch £25,000 during a heist. Peter, without a thought for his own safety, sprang into action and joined an off-duty police constable, Malcolm Henley, in pursuing the fleeing robber.

During the intense confrontation, Peter and PC Henley managed to knock the raider to the ground, but the situation took an even more perilous turn when the getaway driver, intent on escape, drove at them. Displaying immense strength and courage, passers-by joined the battle, ultimately thwarting the robbers' escape plan.

In the aftermath of the encounter, it was revealed that Peter had been shot in the stomach, unbeknownst to him until others pointed out the blood staining his shirt. His injury required hospitalization for ten days and kept him off work for two months. Despite facing such a traumatic experience, Peter's resilience and selflessness shone through as he humbly played down his role in foiling the robbery, stating that he simply went to assist the brave policeman.



The Binney Certificate



Peter 'Tank' Clemence QGM

The most remarkable aspect of Peter Clemence' bravery is his unassuming nature. Throughout his career, he never sought recognition or accolades for his heroic actions. Despite the danger and the injuries that he faced, Peter remained committed to his profession, delivering and collecting cash from London banks, undeterred by the risks involved.

However, his actions did not go unnoticed, and in a fitting tribute to his courage, he was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal. The honour was bestowed upon him by HM Queen Elizabeth herself during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Despite receiving such an award, Peter remained and remains humble, with his wife, Margaret expressing immense pride in her husband's selflessness and bravery. Margaret still vividly remembers the phone call saying her husband had been shot. *"Even now, I get a shiver whenever the phone rings,"* she said.

Peter's story is one of quiet heroism, of a man who faced danger and displayed remarkable courage without seeking the spotlight. Through two life-changing incidents, he demonstrated selflessness, resilience, and a willingness to put others' safety above his own. His actions remind us that true heroism often lies in the everyday actions of ordinary individuals who rise to the occasion, driven by a sense of duty and a commitment to others' well-being.

While Peter may not have sought fame or recognition, his story is one that deserves to be told and celebrated. He is a shining example of the unsung heroes among us, silently making a difference in the lives of others and embodying the true spirit of bravery. It is through individuals like Peter Clemence that we are reminded of the potential for greatness within all of us, and that sometimes, the quietest heroes speak the loudest through their actions. He is the epitome of a true Queensman and the Association is proud to be able to recognise his example.



QUEENSMEN IN UKRAINE

By Russ Feakins



Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Two Queensmen, Malcolm Maynard and Brian Terry, ex-2nd Battalion, went there to give aid to refugees and orphans. After a number of trips, they established contacts in Romania and Ukraine. Malcolm asked me if I would like to join him.

My first trip was in November 2022. Landing at Suceava airport in Romania, I met Daniel, one of Malcolm's contacts and were taken to an orphanage run by a charity called 'Fight for Freedom'. This is a church-based charity. As soon as the war started, they established this orphanage for Ukrainian children in Romania in the village of Veresti. It had about 100 kids at that time, but they were expecting over 300 more in the following weeks. The children are completely looked after by Ukrainian women and very rarely see any men. As soon as we walked in, we were greeted by a rush of kids shouting "Tato, Tato" (Ukrainian for Daddy!) and we were soon submerged in a tide of 2- and 3-year-olds, who wanted nothing more than to hold our hands, head, or arm and lots of attention! It was very moving. But I noticed a few of the kids were hiding themselves away under tables. It was a sharp reminder of some of the things they had gone through.

The next day, along with several church members, including a choir, we went out to some of the poorer rural villages near the border. After some sermons, songs and aid distribution, we were invited to dinner in the evening, which was accompanied by plenty of loud accordion and guitar music. The next day we woke up to snow. Malcolm and I went to an empty hotel that the

charity was refurbishing, and spent the day assembling bunk beds, ready for the orphans that were expected to arrive soon from the war-torn areas.

Finally, we got to Ukraine itself. Part of the organisation consisted of some Americans, who took van-loads of food into Ukraine, and who gave us a ride. This first day we went to Ivano-Frankivsk. There were huge queues of trucks at the border, extending 44 miles on the Ukrainian side! It took us hours to pass. As we drove into the country, I saw some stunning Orthodox

churches with the typical polished, bright domes, and everywhere there were steel I-Beams welded together as tank obstacles. When we arrived, there was already a long line of refugees waiting. They all had their IDs checked to ensure they were entitled to the food packages we gave out, with sweets for the children.

The next day we did another run into Ukraine, this time to Kamyanets-Podolski, a beautiful medieval town. After handing out food, we were invited in for a meal, which was all cooked on a gas burner as the electricity was out. We then drove to Dunaivtsi, where we unloaded hundreds more food packages into the local church which was the local distribution point. Driving back, it was incredibly eerie. Without any power on anywhere, we passed through large towns, with no lights at all - no







streetlights, no traffic lights, no shop windows... but with just the occasional glow from a candle somewhere!

My second trip, in January 2023, was with Malcolm again, and with Bob Frazer. This time we drove over in Malcolm's van, as he had acquired some electricity generators, which were to be a great help following the Russian attacks on the Ukrainian power grid. There was no space in the van to rest as we had packed it with clothing and other donations.

We visited the orphanage, unloaded our van and bought food for the kids. Then we drove into the Ukraine with Petru, who runs the 'In God's Hands' organisation, which has two soup kitchens and another orphanage in Chernivtsi. We first went to the local Elim church. It had been converted to house refugees, and to act as a central storeroom for food, medical supplies and other donations, which were then transported to communities in frontline places such as Kherson, Mikolaev and Kharkiv in East Ukraine. This alone costs over 5,000 euros a month! There was a soup kitchen, where we helped out with the serving. After this we went shopping to get more food for the kitchen. We visited the local market, housed inside a dilapidated warehouse, and rather reminiscent of the souks of Morocco. Driving back to Suceava, we passed dozens of posters commemorating fallen soldiers and exhorting people to keep up the fight. The next day, Malcolm went to the orphanage to give out

Teddy Bears and cuddly toys collected by Malcolm and Carl Fearon, another 2nd Bn stalwart, from the Coxheath Ladies and Mothers, while I hitched a lift to Kamyanets-Podolski, handing out food packages again, and then on to Dunaivtsi. This was the first time in three weeks they had been able to deliver packages due to lack of funds.

I got speaking to a guy called Vitali, who wanted to practice his English. He showed us his collection of missile fragments, Dushka empty cases, and an expended Russian cluster bomb unit! Crossing the border we saw several packs of dogs which had been abandoned by refugees, as they weren't allowed to take them across the border. Apparently, the border guards and truckers fed them! We returned to Suceava and headed home.

My third trip, in March, began with a message asking if I would like to go on a trip to East Ukraine. I quickly agreed. Accompanied by my old Mortar Platoon colleague, Tony 'Coups' Couperthwaite, we flew out to Suceava, where we brought food for the orphanage as usual, and saw the kids again. We then went to Chernivtsi to help in the soup kitchen again. I hitched a lift to Dunaivtsi, where we loaded the van with food and medical supplies. Early the following morning, one of the Fight for Freedom guys, Adrian, eight Ukrainians and I set off for Zaporizhzhia. It was a 17-hour drive, via Kryvyi Rih, hometown of President Zelensky. We slept that night in the church at Zaporizhzhia, memorable for its toilet: a western porcelain toilet, positioned over the traditional hole in the ground! The next day we continued, going through ever more frequent VCPs. You could tell how close you



were to the front by who was manning them, and whether they were wearing their helmets and body armour. We arrived in a village called Hirnyk, had breakfast, and unloaded half of the van. Adrian and I walked around a bit. Hirnyk was then only about 14 km from the front line, and 30 km from where the battle around Avdiivka was raging. The uninterrupted sound of explosions came from the front. The Hirnyk church was also the collection point for drinking water, the church having a large filtration system. Later we drove over to Selydove, seeing an old British Army Saxon on the way.

Using Selydove as our base, over the next 3 days, we loaded up food parcels, and went to the outlying villages of Zoryane, Tsukuryne, Ukrain's'k, Novodmytrivka, and Sontsivka (birthplace of Prokofiev). In each village the guys would hold an outdoor service, and then distribute the food parcels. Virtually everyone was elderly. And here there were no orderly queues, just a free for all, led by some very sharp elbowed Babushkas! Military vehicles were everywhere, and many of the houses had been taken over by the Army. Photography was strictly forbidden! All the time there was still the constant sound of shellfire. We left for Zaporizhzhia after a lunch of deep-fried Piroghi and then on to Dnipro, where we reloaded the van with more food and supplies. On the way back we got a flat tyre, but luckily there was a garage in the next village. We had a coffee while the flat was fixed, and then drove on for another hour or so. Suddenly, with a bang, the supposedly repaired wheel flew off and bounced off down the road in front of us! We were in the middle of nowhere, with no cell phone coverage. A police car came along and gave one of the guys a lift to the nearest village. The local church people came out and got the wheel back on. While waiting, a column of low loaders passed carrying damaged tanks and BMPs, all marked with the Russian "Z", presumably for recycling.

We stayed the night in Uman. There was a missile strike in the night, but not quite close enough to get us out of bed. Eventually we got back to Dunaivtsi, and the next day to Suceava, and home.

For my fourth trip, the 'Action' message came from Petru. He explained that the storeroom, used by the church in Toretsk, had been hit by shelling and destroyed, so they were doing a run from Chernivtsi to try and replace the urgent stuff. I flew to Suceava, crossed the border and loaded the van with Sasha and Andreii. We left for Toretsk. It was a bit disconcerting to be asked if I really was sure I wanted to go. There was heavy shelling apparently, and it was very dangerous. However, with them standing in front of me, getting back on the plane with a cheery farewell "kimayoyo" was not much of an option! We left Chernivtsi at 03.30 to the sound of air raid sirens, and drove to Kyiv, past bombed-out buildings from the fighting for Hostomel, but, due to heavy summer storms, we only made slow progress, stopping for the night at Pokrovsk, in a really dodgy 'Hotel Europa'.

The next morning, we drove through Kramatorsk, and Mikalaivka to Kostyantynivka. The area was full of military vehicles including Humvees, BMPs and lots of civilian vehicles, painted green. While getting a coffee, I chatted to a German, who was the paramedic with an infantry unit, and had asked about my Queen's badge,





so he was given a little bit of regimental history! We arrived in Toretsk about 10.15, and unloaded helped by locals, one of whom turned up in a shrapnel-riddled LADA. Outside the church,

which was a converted cinema, there was a large tank of drinking water, as there was no water supply. There was no electricity either. A generator was chugging away, so at least they had power to charge their phones. We had lunch - Borscht and Piroghi, and as the Ukrainians talked, I went outside. It was still raining, and there was a lull in the shellfire. I heard a couple of mortar rounds explode. We were much closer to the Russians here, the nearest were only 7km away, and Bakhmut was very close.

We were surrounded by empty apartment blocks, but there were still several old people who refused to leave. We left at midday, and drove on to Kramatorsk, and then Kharkiv. Scenes of the Ukrainian autumn offensive were all around: smashed tanks, burned out AFVs, charred buildings and blown bridges. After driving through Kharkiv, we carried on to Kyiv, where we had dinner with Sasha's brother and talked in English with his daughters. The older Ukrainians speak Russian, but the younger ones are all learning English now as their

second language. We got back to Chernivtsi. I crossed to Suceava and caught a flight home.

Support for Ukraine is going to be a long-term commitment. The hardest lesson of all is that, in the end, the best help we can offer the Ukrainians is just money! All our material donations are basically superfluous. They can buy cheaper food, clothing and technical equipment locally in Romania, Poland and Hungary. I'm collecting cash donations wherever I can. I have set up donation boxes in some cafés and pubs in and around Canterbury. For the benefit of HMRC, all the donated money is meticulously accounted for. That's another thing I have learnt! But it's important to know, if you are considering donating, that we buy stuff for the people in Ukraine with the money personally, and personally put it directly into their hands. Nothing goes into any sort of charity organisation or administration. So, if you give something, just give what you can easily afford - the price of a pint maybe - because I will be back again in a year's time asking for more! Thank you to all of you who have donated so far. It is sincerely appreciated by the Ukrainians. They will not forget!

(Ed. On 6th September, after this article was submitted, the village of Kostyantynivka was struck by a Russian missile killing 17 civilians, injuring numerous others and destroying the village centre.)

A TEST OF ENDURANCE

THE TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE 2022/23

By Neil Furminger

I served as a soldier in 3 QUEENS for five years in the 1980s. Now aged 58, I decided to row 3000 miles across the Atlantic from La Gomera, Canary Islands to Nelson's dockyard in Antigua. I teamed up with two other friends, Matt Garman aged 53 and Steve Woolle, 47. Our aim was to raise money for two charities; The Prostate Cancer UK and the WOLO Foundation, a Sussex-based charity, supporting families who have been affected by cancer. We successfully raised a total of £100,000 which was split between the two charities. We wanted to show people that one is never too old to take on a task like this; and I was given huge moral support from my wife Madeleine, my son Lee and daughters Libby and Jemima.

We took three years to prepare for what has been called the world's toughest row. The preparation, beginning in 2020, comprised of strength and nutrition training and boat familiarisation. Winter training consisted of hours spent on rowing machines. Raising sponsorship, public relations and local challenge activities were also a key part of preparation. We visited Eastbourne College where the pupils set up ten rowing machines in the sports hall and rowed for eight hours, testing their own endurance.

Our boat, a 28ft Rannoch R45 Elite, was delivered in May 2021. We rowed mainly in Seaford Bay off the Sussex coast. The Spring and Summer training consisted of 24, 36 and 72-hour rows, where we practiced rowing in the brutal shift pattern that we were going to experience.



In early December 2022, the boat was shipped to La Gomera and we flew out to join it for the final preparations. There were 43 boat entries, comprising of solo rowers, pairs, trios like us, and four and five-man teams. Our food would be dehydrated packs and snack bars. We would be boiling water in a jet-boiler stove (not always an easy task) which would then be saved in a thermos for later use to hydrate the dried food. Water was to be provided by a solar powered desalination unit that converted seawater to drinking water. Although each of us consumed between 4000 and 6000 calories per day we still lost significant body weight. Our toilet would be a bucket, simple, but not always easy to use in the Atlantic swell. Every part of the boat was used for stowage. We checked and rechecked our stowage lists preparing for our departure on the 12th December.

After departure, using GPS for navigation, we completed the first 1000 miles in 18 days. This was a gruelling physical and mental challenge for all of us. We rowed during the day time, two rowers on for 2 hours followed by one hour's rest. At night we dropped to 1 hour on, 2 hours off. Our hands were split with blisters and crusted with the drying salt spray. Our backsides also suffered; it was like sitting on broken glass. We only had one option; to keep going and suck it up! Without doubt, it was simply torturous, but we were doing it for a great cause.

Christmas Day was celebrated with reindeer stew, nuts, pork scratchings, jelly babies, Haribo sweets and fizzy drinks to maintain the calorie intake. After Christmas, we were smashed by an horrendous storm for 72 hours. We had to retreat to the coffin like cabins situated at each end of the boat. The waves, up to forty feet high, tossed the boat around like a toy. We were subjected to zero gravity on each toss and were thrown around, it was manic!

Comms were achieved using iridium satellite phones for contacting safety officers. To contact passing freighters to avert collision, we had a VHF radio with line of sight, probably no more than five miles of range. An American forces veteran's team of four was rescued in late December when their boat failed to self-right. They abandoned the boat into their life raft, their EPIRB (Emergency Position Radio Beacon) distress signal was apparently ignored; it was their handheld VHF radio to a passing ship that saved them. They were dropped off in Canada, the ship's destination.

The next 1000 miles were completed in 15 days. We were well into the rhythm of the challenge and now on the final 1000-mile home leg. Night time, despite the relentless nature of the rowing, was magical with the stars above and shoals of flying fish scudding across the waves with the odd one landing on our boat. The temperature was warming day by day as we approached the Caribbean.

We arrived on the 30th January in Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua, crossing the finish line in darkness and lighting our safety flares in jubilation. The final 1000 miles took 16 days, making a total of 49 days, 15 hours and 12 minutes. Once alongside, we stepped ashore with wobbly legs to be greeted by our families and friends. An amazing adventure, a test of endurance and fortitude was over but it was a challenge I shall never forget.



Before departure



Neil center



Neil front



THE EFFECT OF EARLY INSPIRATION ON COLONEL (RET'D) KEITH FARNES WO

Some soldiers stand out for their varied military contributions and the impact they had on shaping the careers of others. For one soldier, Lt Col Ian Brotherton of the Middlesex Regiment, this sentiment rings true as it was his guidance that laid the foundation for a military career that would span several special units.

The journey began after Farnes suffered pleurisy in his late teens and was told that both National Service and all thoughts of joining the Regular Army would have to be put on hold for 5 years to regain fitness. With the backing of his Old Boys soccer club, Finchley Harriers and above all 8 Middlesex TA, he made a full recovery; The Middlesex Regiment TA providing him with the

necessary training and experience that would serve as a springboard for a military career. With 8 MX and the support of Capt Harold Crouch, PSI Bert Callaghan and Sgt Don Gainsbury, he went four times to the Nijmegen Four Days Marching Festival as well as attending all their annual camps, field exercises and weekly training.

From the 8 Middlesex, he went on to join the ranks of the Parachute Regiment (3 PARA) where he was later commissioned, moving then to 22 SAS, serving as a Troop and Squadron Commander with operational tours in Borneo, South Arabia, Dhofar and Northern Ireland, then Second-in-Command of that regiment before commanding 21 SAS (R) with whom he had already served as their 2ic/Training Major.

A new chapter awaited in the Sultanate of Oman, where he became the Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Special Force (SSF). In Dhofar, Oman's southern region. The SSF faced a unique task - to unite and train a diverse group of Dhofaris, who had once been enemies during the Dhofar war, into an effective fighting force answerable only to the new Sultan and leaving behind their previous loyalties and differences.

Spending nine years in Dhofar, Farnes was fortunate in having a formidable team assembling a diverse mix of instructors and sub-unit commanders from various backgrounds, including veterans from 22 SAS, Rhodesia, Australia, and New Zealand Special Forces. The unit also boasted a large Indian and Gurkha administrative staff, adding to its strength and diversity.

The SSF not only came together in their new military training but also bonded with camaraderie and sports. Playing football proved to be a unifying force, with the SSF displaying impressive skills on the field. Water polo, athletics and tug-of-war added an element of fun and competition, forging stronger bonds among the soldiers.

The regiment's athletic prowess extended beyond casual sports. Their running abilities earned them numerous victories, including the prestigious Annual Great Dhofar Road Race, a gruelling 19-mile race from the top of the jebel into Salalah, the capital. The Boat Squadron demonstrated their mettle by securing the Annual Raft Race trophy, defeating the Omani coastguard.



8 MX with Keith Farnes seated with the light coloured shirt and tie



Farnes makes a point to the always interested Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent during his extended visit to discover how former enemies in a civil war can be brought back together.

The SSF also staged parades and demonstrations for distinguished visitors, such as Their Majesties Sultan Qaboos, King Hussein, and the Emir of Bahrain. Field Marshal The Duke of Kent, also visited, tasked by the MoD with recording how former adversaries had come together harmoniously under one banner. The Duke extended his stay, such was his interest.

As Farnes time in Dhofar drew to a close, the SSF had evolved into an independent and proud regiment, later to be no longer reliant on expat support. This achievement bore testimony to everyone's leadership and the legacy of those who played pivotal roles during the early stages of the regiment's formation.

Reflecting on his journey, Farnes expressed his immense gratitude to Lt Col Brotherton, the former Commanding Officer of 8 Mx, and those others. Their guidance and support during his soldier's beginnings as a corporal in the Middlesex Regiment set the stage for a fulfilling career.

The photo is of the successful B Coy 8 MX 5 Day Nijmegen March Team with Lt Couch (centre) with Sgt Don Gainsbury and Farnes to the left. The mustachioed Sgt in glasses had served with the Artists Rifles before the war. He had the ribbon of the Burma Star. The Artists Rifles became 21 SAS (R) after WWII, and it was with them that Farnes was to finish his Regular Army time as CO. Great times, happy memories!

(Ed: The 'WO' after Farnes' name in the title refers to the award of The Sultanate's Knighthood, The Order of Oman or 'Wisam-al-Oman')



Sport was one of the greatest healers between old enemies, whilst care was taken to ensure there were always mixed teams of those who had fought against each other..Tug of War proved novel and one of the most popular



Farnes introduces HRH The Duke of Kent to 'Salim Khazay', better known as 'Abu Fass', when he served as a young man with 'Said Hof', leader of the Communist insurrection from neighbouring Yemen

THE NEARLY DIRTY DOZEN

By Joe Dormer

The nearly 'Dirty Dozen' consisted of Ken Hames, Mac Mackay, Dave (Baldrick) Perkins, Paul (Joe) Dormer, Lee (Ding Dong) Bradley, Richard (KT) Kendall-Tobias, Derek (Padlock) Locke, Barry (Stitch) Azzopardi, James (Son of Stitch) Azzopardi and Steve (Navigator) Gaskill.

I heard a rumour that Ken Hames was looking for intrepid members to join him on a North Italian Alps walking jolly. The aim was to prove a walking route that had never been done before. So, I volunteered and soon realised that the group consisted of, in the main, ex-1 Queensmen; KT being 2 QUEENS and Baldrick who should have been a Queensman.

We met at Milan airport where my best Italian got me two hot milks and we journeyed to our overnight accommodation, Scuderia Castello, which was run by



Padlock, Joe, Barry, Lee and KT



a Giovanni, who reminded me of the puppet master in Pinocchio.

The banter started immediately and continued throughout the walks. I felt like I was instantly back in the Army and apart from being overweight and unfit, was ready for Day One. We started our walk and sweated immediately and climbed a mountain called Pizzocolo which is higher than Ben Nevis. No one could pronounce the name so it was dubbed Mount Pepsi Cola. After the summit, we moved to Refugio Pirlo. This was a bunk bed mega room reminiscent of Crossmaglen accommodation. The farting and snoring commenced. We had no showers and you can imagine the smell!

Remembering that the average age was about 60, (Mac being the oldest by some distance and the fittest) and our legs were tired, it was with great amusement that we saw that the toilets were the squat down type; let's just say that no-one should apply to be a bomb aimer. Steve Gaskill mentioned that he needed a straining bar and held on to the door handle as if his life depended on it. KT snored like a wounded dinosaur; I should have read the packing list which included ear defenders.

Day 2 - the accommodation was fantastic and I shared a double bed with Padlock, top and tailed, sleeping on the edge all night in case of bodily contact. With aching

legs, we set off the next day and Padlock reminded us that we had achieved 31,744 steps yesterday. Onwards to Campovalle and a general theme appeared to be just UP. 28, 660 steps completed.

Day 3 - up instantly but refreshed, weather hot and sticky and we all talked about the women's international triathlon that we saw the day before. (You had to be there). Lee Bradley commented "DING DONG" in Leslie Phillips style. Onwards to Cima Rest: 31,000 steps. Ouch! Beer on arrival.

Day 4 - This was a rest day but Gaskill, Perkins and Azzopardi Junior ventured to climb Mount Tombea in the early hours, while the rest of us tended blisters and smelly pants and we started drinking heavily. This led to great sights of Mac Mackay performing Tai Chi, Ken Hames yodelling and the remainder under the DJ skills of Lee Bradley dancing.

Day 5 - Onward to Al Lambic Prabione, an awesome walk with momentous views and high-level banter. Padlock again reminding us that he was supposed to be the driver for the Biff wagon, and KT sweated like he was in a sauna. On arrival at the accommodation, we had the now obligatory beer and the hostess Barbara was absolutely brilliant.

Day 6 - Onwards to Costa Terrazzo. En route, Ken inspired us with his knowledge of Roman and Italian history, James Azzopardi deployed his drone, Gaskill resumed

Padlock, Lee and Barry





Dave Locke and Lee Bradley



L to R - Mac Mackay, Barry Azzopardi, James Azzopardi, KT, Steve Gaskill, Ken Hames, Joe Dormer, Dave Perkins, Lee Bradley, Derek Locke



Padlock



L-R Mac MacKay, Barry Azzopardi, James Azzopardi, KT, Steve Gaskill, Ken Hames, Joe Dormer, Dave Perkins, Lee Bradley Derek Locke , Chopper Harris and Argus the Dog

his role as check navigator and Barry limped and never complained, stating "All Good!" every time he was asked. Again, beer and our hostess Francesca fed us until we burst. While here, Dave Perkins was awarded honorary status and promoted to full corporal for all his Baldrick-style actions.

Again I endured another double bed with Padlock and his giraffe legs and awoke to him standing naked on the balcony; my eyes still hurt!

Day 7 - We were transported back to Giovanni's where we wandered into town whilst dancing and singing to 'Is this the way to Amarillo' and met with Barry (Chopper) Harris, his lovely wife Elli and dog Argus on the edge of Lake Garda. Much drinking and a great final meal. We thanked Ken for setting this up and also Giovanni for being a great host.

In all, we covered nearly 100 miles up and achieved the aim of proving the route. This is roughly the distance of the length of Hadrian's Wall. A fantastic journey where I relived my youth with great characters and a great leader. Thanks, Ken!



RETURN TO DERRY

By Tim Scott

Derry/Londonderry always had a different feel to it. With its Catholic/Republican majority and proximity to the border with Donegal, the western 'Cityside' always felt more Irish than British. It emerged as an early forerunner of the Civil Rights movement in the late 1960s and the 'Troubles'.

All the Queen's Regiment battalions served in Derry - some several times. Those tours are recounted masterfully in *The Longest Stag* by Jonathon Riley and Alasdair Goulden. At the height of the troubles in the early/mid 1970s, the Army commitment in Derry was as large as four battalions. Many veterans will recall the Creggan Piggery Ridge Camp with its huge sandbag wall and the Blighs Lane base.

Veterans may also remember Fort George on the River Foyle, once a battalion base. By the 2 QUEENS tour of 83/84, in which I served, it housed Company Headquarters and a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) platoon, with a platoon at Masonic by Bishops Gate and also one at Rosemount at the top of the Creggan. A platoon from Ebrington (where BHQ was based) covered the Waterside and Gobnascale. From four battalions to four platoons in little more than 10 years was quite an achievement, with both the Creggan and Blighs Lane camps dismantled.

The broader historical sweep of events deserves mention, from the infamous Siege of 1688-89, as the Apprentice Boys closed the gates against the advancing Jacobite Army seeking to restore the Catholic King James II to the throne. In more modern times, Derry saw the early days of the Civil Rights marches and protests for better housing, to the Battle of the Bogside with the RUC in 1969, Internment in 1971, to the no-go areas in the Bogside and Creggan, Bloody Sunday and Op MOTORMAN (both in 1972), the latter of which broke up the no-go areas.

Despite an IRA raid on Ebrington Barracks in 1951 which captured some weapons, there is little evidence of IRA activity in Derry during the 1950s and 60s. They started recruiting again from about 1970, allegedly receiving some training and support from the Irish Army over the border in Donegal. The fledging IRA received an early blow when three of their activists managed to blow themselves up with their own bomb. This was to be repeated in 1987, with a premature explosion killing two. These were to be the first and the last of the 38 IRA 'active service' deaths in Derry, recounted on www.anphoblacht.com/roll-of-honour. Quite a few of these were 'own goals', including the death of Richard Quigley, hit by debris from his own bomb in 1984. Less publicity is given to those IRA men tortured and executed for allegedly being 'informers' and those killed in internal feuds.

Peace Bridge





The Square, troops accommodation & BHQ

I was able to re-visit Derry when over in Northern Ireland a few years ago. From Co Antrim, the beautiful drive was taken over the Sperrin hills and through the Glenshane pass (for security reasons, we always went round the north via Coleraine); passing through Dungiven and its memorial to hunger striker Kevin Lynch and then Burntollet, where Civil Rights marchers were attacked in the early days of the Troubles.

Ebrington Barracks is now an open business park. No more guard duties and 'staggering on' in the sangars! I had a coffee and croissant in the café next to

where the C Company office was, and the old parade square is used for concerts. (You can look it up on Google Maps).

The coffee has certainly improved since our day, and I don't ever remember seeing croissants anywhere - we were lucky to get toast! They'll be doing smashed avocado on sourdough next.

A new pedestrian bridge has been built from the square across to near the Guildhall (the 'Peace Bridge'). I walked over the bridge, up Shipquay Street and round the walls to the site of Masonic base just inside the City walls near Bishopsgate. The Bogside Inn (since demolished - probably the best thing for it!) was avoided but I did walk up Waterloo Street, past the Gweedore Bar and through Butchers Gate. I am glad to say the Rossville flats have also been demolished and replaced by lower-level housing. (They were down by 1990 when I previously visited, and the site was then a carpark).

The site of Fort George is now a shopping centre and industrial park; it even boasts a McDonalds! The northern Foyle bridge was built and opened whilst we were in Derry, indeed there was much talk at the time of it providing yet another get-away route for the bad guys. In fact, it provides a useful link from the Waterside to the north of the Cityside and expanding Shantallow area. Whilst there, I did keep a lookout for any illicit helicopter landings, but the area remained quiet.

The road north to Muff and the border was open, only a change in the tarmac and road signs showing when you had crossed into the Republic. The 'human car bomb' attack on PVCP Victor 2 on the Buncrana Rd in 1990 which killed 6 troops came to mind. These were to be the last Army deaths in Derry. We remember Alan Stock, Neil Clarke and Julian Gibbs from our tour, as well as those from other tours who paid the ultimate price.

Derry, having been a hotbed of the troubles, is much more at peace now.



Old guardroom & front gate



Old C Coy and new Cafe



Masonic front gate



Masonic city wall: door in wall we used is on the left



Top of Bishopsgate (P5A) looking down to where Masonic was



Looking up from Shipquay gate



Where Kilo sanger was

MESSAGE FROM THE BOGSIDE

This message was handed to Pte William Wilson, B Coy 1 QUEENS, in August 1969 by a member of the Civil Rights movement as the Battalion moved into the Bogside in Londonderry to secure what had become a no-go area to the RUC:

BARRICADE BULLETIN

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

WE WISH TO MAKE YOU WELCOME TO DERRY. YOU PROBABLY KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING HERE. FOR THE PAST TEN MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN RIOTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR AREA AND THE POLICE.

THE TROOPS WERE CALLED IN WHEN THINGS GOT TO SUCH A STATE THAT THE BRITISH GOVT. DECIDED TO TAKE A HAND.

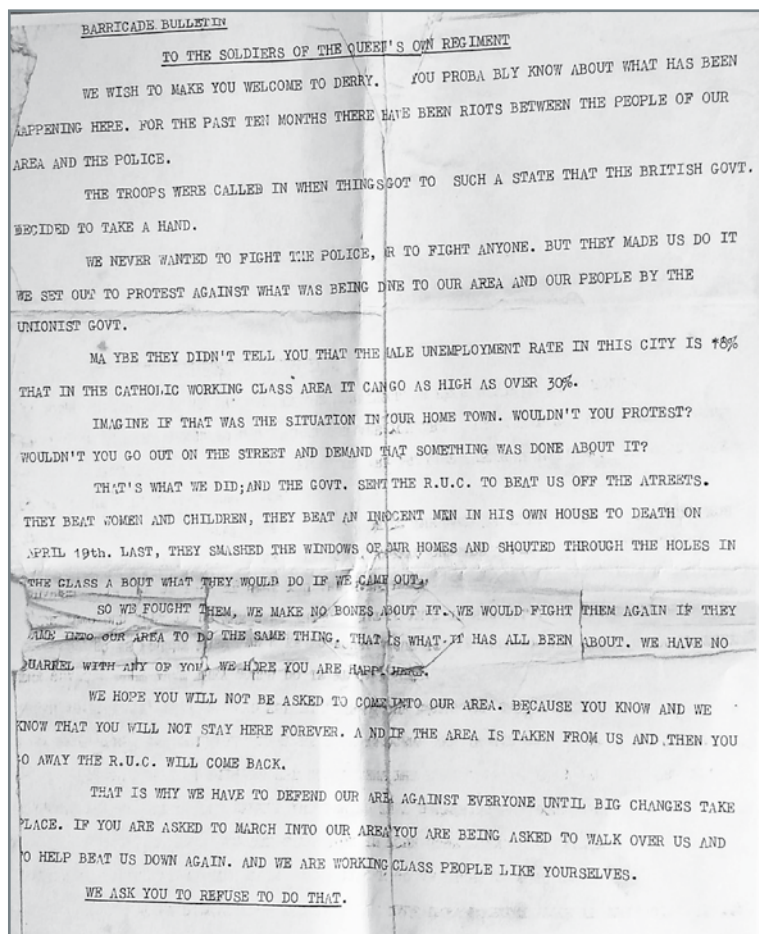
WE NEVER WANTED TO FIGHT THE POLICE, OR TO FIGHT ANYONE. BUT THEY MADE US DO IT. WE SET OUT TO PROTEST WHAT WAS BEING DONE IN OUR AREA AND TO OUR PEOPLE BY THE UNIONIST GOVT.

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT THE MALE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THIS CITY IS 18% BUT IN THE CATHOLIC WORKING CLASS AREA IT CAN GO AS HIGH AS OVER 30%.

IMAGINE IF THAT WAS THE SITUATION IN YOUR HOME TOWN. WOULDN'T YOU PROTEST? WOULDN'T YOU GO OUT ON THE STREET AND DEMAND THAT SOMETHING WAS DONE ABOUT IT?

THAT'S WHAT WE DID; AND THE GOVT. SENT IN THE R.U.C. TO BEAT US OFF THE STREETS. THEY BEAT WOMEN AND CHILDREN, THEY BEAT AN INNOCENT MAN IN HIS OWN HOUSE TO DEATH ON APRIL 19TH. LAST, THEY SMASHED THE

WINDOWS OF OUR HOMES AND SHOUTED THROUGH THE HOLES IN THE GLASS ABOUT WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF WE CAME OUT.



SO WE FOUGHT THEM, WE MAKE NO BONES ABOUT IT. WE WOULD FIGHT THEM AGAIN IF THEY CAME INTO OUR AREA TO DO THE SAME THING. THAT'S WHAT THIS HAS ALL BEEN ABOUT. WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH ANY OF YOU. WE HOPE YOU ARE HAPPY HERE.

WE HOPE YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO COME INTO OUR AREA. BECAUSE YOU KNOW AND WE KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT STAY HERE FOR EVER. AND IF THE AREA IS TAKEN FROM US AND THEN YOU GO AWAY THE R.U.C. WILL COME BACK.

THAT IS WHY WE HAVE TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST EVERYBODY UNTIL BIG CHANGES TAKE PLACE. IF YOU ARE ASKED TO MARCH INTO OUR AREA YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO WALK OVER US AND HELP BEAT US DOWN AGAIN. AND WE ARE WORKING CLASS PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES.

WE ASK YOU TO REFUSE TO DO THAT



THE QUEENS FLAG FLIES OVER PALACE BARRACKS AGAIN

By Mick Collins

On 22 July, The Queen's Regimental flag flew high and proud over the Memorial Garden in Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland. Queen's Regimental Veterans and their families stood proud to commemorate the 9th Anniversary of the laying of The Queen's Regiment Memorial stone. The weather was kind to us, which proves that the sun shines on the righteous....and that God is a Buff (*Ed: Maybe!*).

On parade were Ed Holmes, Speedy White, Chalky White, Steve Redford (son of the late Geoff Redford), Anne and Mick Collins, Kathy Moat, Pat Baker, Pete Walker, Roy Barnes, Jumbo and Maddie Jarvis, Steve Still, Barry Crocker, Jean Hayley and Steph Helle (daughter of Jean and Tim). A retirement presentation by Mick Collins on behalf of the Queen's Regiment was made to Albert Owens MBE whose vision it was in 1993 to create a memorial garden in Palace Barracks. There are now over 100 memorial stones in the garden, which Albert and his son Darren also maintain. As Albert retires, Darren takes over, so it bodes well for the future.

RECCE PLATOON, 1 QUEENS 1987-1988 & REMEMBERING CSGT 'CHELSEA MAC' MACLEAN

By Mike Scott

CSgt 'Chelsea Mac' MacLean passed away in May 2023. He served first in a rifle company and then in the Recce Platoon, 1 QUEENS. Latterly he served in the MT Platoon in 2 PWRR. However, I recall MacLean from my time as OC Recce, 1 QUEENS (1987-1988), and so by way of tribute we'll focus here upon his time in the Recce Platoon alongside his comrades in arms. In doing so, I will recall those days in the 1980s when, as fit young regimental soldiers, we shared service together towards the end of the Cold War.

Following the 1 QUEENS tour in South Armagh in 1987, where MacLean had served in Lt John Powell's rifle platoon, in B (Holland) Coy under Maj Anthony Beattie, he was posted to the Recce Platoon. For my part, I felt extremely fortunate that the CO, Lt Col Mike Ball, had decided that, upon returning from the Province, I should command the platoon. The CO also appointed CSgt (as he was then) Mike Woodward, who had been my Assistant IO in South Armagh, as 2IC Recce, and nobody could have wished for a more capable or reliable wingman. Moreover, with Henry Eagan as our company commander, we knew we had a consummate professional at the helm of Support (Quebec) Company.

Having returned to Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth in early November, following post-tour NI leave, we had a change of Commanding Officer. Lt Col Chris Charter took over the reins from Mike Ball whom, having been wined and dined out in style by the battalion, was posted to the sunny climes of Zimbabwe. Under Chris Charter, we began training in earnest as part of 1 Inf Bde, in its UK Mobile Force role. Although the battalion had in fact joined the Brigade on return from Gibraltar in January 1987, we had immediately embarked upon NI training and then deployed to South Armagh. It was therefore only at this juncture that we were able to engage with our new role.

Following reorganisation in 1982-83, 1 Inf Bde had been re-roled as the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF), with the wartime mission of reinforcing NATO Allied Land Forces in Denmark. Danish forces were reinforced by UK and German forces and, whereas earlier in the Cold War a divisional force had been earmarked as the UKMF, by the mid-1980s it was just 1 Inf Bde. Little did we know it at the time, but the Cold War had only another two years to run. It would finally be declared over by Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush at the Malta



**RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON
1ST BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT
MOOLTAN BARRACKS, TIDWORTH 1987 - 1988**

*Back Row: L/Cpl Rennocks, Cpl Malloy, Cpl Beale, Pte Maclean, Pte Thirwell, Pte Taylor, Pte Rozier, Pte Matthews, Pte Richardson
Centre Row: Cpl Faith, Pte Bartlett, Pte Ratcliffe, L/Cpl Blythe, Pte Williamson, L/Cpl Canham, Cpl Dowling
Front Row: C/Sgt M Woodward, Capt MG Scott, (PI Comd), Sgt Loosley*



Capt Mike Scott (right) and Cpl Molloy, Ex BOLD GROUSE, Sep 88



Summit in December 1989, a month after the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the interim, we focused upon our wartime role, on NATO's northern flank, in countering Soviet and Warsaw Pact aggression.

While 1 QUEENS for the most part converted to SAXON vehicles (Wheeled Armoured Personnel Carriers), the Recce Platoon was equipped with eight FOX close recce vehicles, which had been garaged and 'moth-balled' ever since our return from Gibraltar. The FOX or CVR(W), ('Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Wheeled)', in the often-cumbersome military vernacular) had a crew of three men, a rotating turret armed with a 30mm Rarden cannon (manually fed with three-round clips), a coax 7.62mm MG, and a set of two 4-barrelled smoke dischargers. The aluminium armour was effective against small arms fire and shell splinters, but not against sustained HMG armour-piercing (.50 Browning) fire or anything heavier. It was fitted for Clansman radio, and Cpl Molloy, our platoon signaller (who was also my gunner), did a sterling job keeping the comms up and running for us.

Nobody in the battalion had any experience of wheeled recce, except Cpls Smythe and Beale who had qualified as instructors in FOX gunnery and vehicle maintenance respectively just prior to NI. From this 'standing start', the platoon had less than three months to prepare for the UKMF Recce Concentration at Castlemartin, Wales. During this extremely short period, an intense series of courses were completed, including commander tactical training, gunnery, driver, and vehicle maintenance courses, as well as FOX conversion live firing at Lulworth ranges in Dorset in December '87. For his part, as a driver, MacLean also became something of a 'grease monkey' mastering the internal mechanics of the FOX. No doubt this affinity with the internal combustion engine paid dividends later, when in the MT Platoon in 2 PWRR. Throughout, we received excellent assistance from the Bovington travelling training team.

Given its specialist function, the Recce Platoon always drew from amongst the most experienced and dependable soldiers in the battalion. Mike Woodward and I were fortunate to have with us as commanders operators such as Sgt Loosley, Cpl Dowling, Cpl Faith and Cpl Beale. By this stage MacLean was an experienced private soldier and an 'old sweat' in soldiers' parlance. This experience, along with his professionalism, meant that he fitted in exceedingly well. The Recce Platoon soldiers were also expected to be resourceful; LCpl Canham, my

FOX driver, always stashed away a 'smuggler rod' when in the field, to supplement rations.

FOX live firing at Castlemartin in Wales followed in February 1988. Our 1 Inf Bde close recce comrades were those from 1 R HAMPS and 1 D&D. The latter was equipped with SCIMITAR (rather than FOX), a tracked (rather than wheeled) recce vehicle that elicited a few envious glances. It is testament to the extremely high calibre of our platoon soldiers, MacLean amongst them, that excellent results were achieved, and our Recce Platoon was deemed operationally fit by the end of the Concentration and well within the three months allotted.

Hot on the heels of our sojourn at Castlemartin, there followed a steady stream of exercises. The first of these was the CO's battalion Ex SAXON QUEEN, on Salisbury Plain at the end of February. Ex FAST BALL, a 'Spearhead' test exercise, then followed Easter leave, and with it a period undertaking that role and responsibility. This was in turn followed by Ex STANFORD SNIPE, a 1 Inf Bde CPX, in early June. There then came two 1 Inf Bde field exercises: Ex WILTSHIRE PHEASANT on Salisbury Plain in July 1988, and Ex BOLD GROUSE in Denmark, in September 1988. One might be forgiven for suspecting the possibility of a keen wildfowler within 1 Inf Bde HQ.

Ex BOLD GROUSE was undoubtedly a highlight. Conducted on the island of Zealand, it was the third in a series of exercises in Denmark and Northern Germany (which followed Ex BOLD GUARD in 1986 and Ex BOLD GANNETT in 1984). During manoeuvres, HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark visited 1 QUEENS and was entertained by Chris Charter and his Bn HQ to a Royal lunch in the field. A good degree of schizophrenic juggling by Bn HQ and the Quebec Band, between ongoing manoeuvres and loyal toasts, was stylishly accomplished. The exercise also transpired to be one of the last significant NATO exercises on Danish soil during the Cold War.

Those in Recce Platoon relished their unique role, and once FOX got into its stride, it generally did us proud, even if on occasion it tested the mechanical skill of our drivers, such as MacLean, in keeping it operational in the field. Developed in the 1960s, it was brought into service in 1975 (as replacement for FERRET and SALADIN) and was withdrawn from service in 1993-94. Powered by a Jaguar XK 4.2 litre 6-cylinder petrol engine (the same as used by several Jaguar cars), and with a top (road) speed of 100 km/h, it was fast for a vehicle of its type. Given its several-tonne weight, its momentum was truly impressive and on occasion somewhat disconcerting, particularly if LCpl Blythe was driving!

One can't help but wonder where those eight FOX are now? Five of the eight vehicle plates are discernible from photos that I hold. Having run the VRNs or, more correctly the ERMs (Equipment, Registration, Mark) through the Merlin database, ours are recorded as coming into service between 1974-75, and having a disposal date of between 1995-97. Many FOX turrets were subsequently removed and remounted on SCORPION chassis, to create a new CVR(T), the SABRE, which itself was only withdrawn in 2004. Nonetheless, perhaps a couple of our FOX may survive intact in museums or private hands, albeit when I first saw a FOX in a military museum some years ago, it made me feel particularly long in the tooth!

At the end of my time in the Recce Platoon, I was fortunate to secure an overseas loan service posting as a Captain Instructor on the Mozambique Training Team. As for our other FOX soldiers ...? Throughout our tenure, Mike Woodward and I were conscious of how extremely privileged we were to operate with a first rate set of soldiers, MacLean amongst them. Professionalism and dependability shone through. These attributes, along with MacLean's ready sense of humour and good cheer, meant that he always enjoyed great respect and popularity amongst his colleagues. MacLean will surely be remembered by his Recce Platoon comrades in arms.



Recce Pl arrival, Lulworth ranges, Dec 1987



CSgt Mike Woodward, Lulworth ranges, Dec 87



L-R Anthony Beattie, Chris Charter, John Holman and Mac Maclean



FROM 3 QUEENS TO A LIFETIME BEHIND BARS

By Adrian O'Donnell

Like many kids leaving school in the late seventies, I sat outside my high school at 15 years old eating a crisp sandwich and wondering how to escape a lifetime of factory work and joining three million unemployed.

The answer seemed simple at the time. All I needed was my parents' approval and a trip to the recruiting office. Fast forwards 18 months to the Winter of 1980 as I ran onto the beach in Cyprus straight from a landing craft and tabbed through the hills with my new best mates, factories long blown out of my mind as the sun rose through the orange grove while I patrolled through the rocky landscape, somewhere only seen before on TV.

This is what my life had always been heading for; friendships, fitness, danger, and an overwhelming aim to achieve everything possible, and at 18 years of age nothing was out of bounds. From training as a Junior Leader in Shorncliffe, through to Dover, Fallingbostal, and everything that fell in between, I loved it all, but life was about to take me on a random journey. After five years of soldiering, I faced my most difficult challenge: a life full of danger, excitement and opportunity waited for me as I took on a fresh career in Her Majesty's Prison Service.

April 1986 and fresh from the Prison Service training school, I looked up at the black plumes of smoke rising from all areas of the prison. The sound of exploding industrial gas canisters ripped through my feelings of disbelief as I saw a gang of over fifty prisoners racing towards me. The home-made balaclavas added to the inexplicable feeling of excitement for me as I turned and sprinted for the safety of a secure area and the company of the other three staff on duty that evening. Only four of us guarded four hundred and fifty prisoners as a result of last-minute industrial action by the Prison Officers Union, who without notice, told all staff that were working overtime to refuse to work and go home.

Making it back to safety, and protected by another fourteen-foot-high metal fence, I looked at the scene in front of me as the sun set. The prison was on fire, the prisoners were rioting, and the staff were the targets. Informants started to whisper messages through the fence to the few of us standing waiting for reinforcements to arrive. *"Boss, prisoners are getting tied to the gas canisters and killed, you need to do something."* At that moment my pregnant wife turned on the news on ITV, the headlines telling her why I was late home that night. She could see my prison burning to the ground



Adrian O'Donnell being interviewed about his latest book by the BBC 2023



Black plumes of smoke as HMP Northeye, Bexhill, burns 1986

as staff fought back to save what they could. She was scared, I was buzzing with adrenaline, and I knew from then on that I had found my calling.

During the following 32 years, I witnessed two more riots. saw violence that people outside of the prison walls would never see, or indeed believe. I also had the misfortune of finding numerous suicide victims, and, as I progressed to the rank of prison governor, I was tasked to inform the next of kin about the deaths. All of this chips away at your own resilience and mental health as you start to pack things mentally into safe little boxes at the back of your subconscious.

(Ed: See the review of Adrian's book 'High Risk' under Book Review later.)

However, the most challenging moments fell outside the surrounding brick walls the prisons when my wife was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Despite fighting the illness for twelve years and seeing both of our sons join the Army, she died in 2011 at 46 years old and all at once those carefully packed boxes I mentioned earlier sprung open and filled my head with darkness. If I hadn't sought the help of trained counsellors, I am not sure how I would have got back on my feet, but I did, and grew stronger as a result. If I could just give one piece of advice, it would be 'Don't try to work these things out yourself. If you are finding yourself struggling, get help'..

OPTIONS FOR CHANGE – 1992 EXPLAINED

ANON

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE OPTION

AND THEN CAME THE ASSUMPTION

AND THE ASSUMPTION WAS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE

AND THE PLAN WAS COMPLETELY WITHOUT FORM

AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE UNITS

AND THEY SPOKE AMONG THEMSELVES SAYING

"IT IS A CROCK OF SHIT AND IT STINKETH"

SO, THE UNITS WENT UNTO THEIR SPONSORS AND SAITH UNTO THEM

"IT IS A PAIL OF DUNG AND NONE MAY ABIDE THE ODOUR THEREOF"

SO, THE SPONSORS WENT UNTO THE GENERAL STAFF BRANCHES AND SAITH UNTO THEM

"IT IS A CONTAINER OF EXCREMENT AND IT IS VERY STRONG, SUCH THAT NONE MAY ABIDE IT"

SO, THE GENERAL STAFF WENT UNTO G3O&D AND SAITH UNTO THEM

"IT'S A VESSEL OF FERTILIZER AND NONE MAY ABIDE ITS STRENGTH"

SO, G3 O&D WENT UNTO THE MINISTRY AND SAITH TO THEM

"IT CONTAINS THAT WHICH AIDS PLANT GROWTH AND IT IS VERY STRONG"

SO, THE MINISTRY WENT UNTO DMO AND SAITH UNTO HIM

"IT PROMOTES GROWTH AND IS VERY POWERFUL"

SO, DMO WENT UNTO CGS AND SAITH TO HIM

"THIS NEW PLAN WILL ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY OF THE ARMY AND THESE AREAS IN PARTICULAR"

AND THE CGS LOOKED UPON THE PLAN AND SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD AND THE PLAN BECAME POLICY

AND THAT IS HOW A CROCK OF SHIT BECAME ARMY POLICY AND DESTROYED OUR REGIMENT!



THE BRITISH MILITARY BUGLE

By Dave Kirby

The modern metal bugle was developed as a signalling and communications device from an instrument originally made from animal horn, its name originating from the Latin word *buculus*, meaning bullock. Formal military use of such a device in the British Army began around 1764, when a German instrument, the *Halbmondbläser*, or half-moon bugle, started to be accepted by a small number of British infantry regiments. Bugle calls were quickly standardised amongst infantry regiments for use in camp and barracks to direct men to a particular duty and signal events such as Reveille, Mess Call, Last Post and Lights Out.

The CO's bugler would often be tasked to sound bugle calls around Clifton Barracks. One bugle call of note was always to summon the Orderly Sergeants. The RSM would wait patiently for the OSs to come running at the double but inevitably they would either not hear the call or not recognise it was for them,



The Halbmondbläser

so at the delight of the RSM, he would go in search of the sergeants and jail them for not obeying the COs orders; I would always have a little snigger under my breath when a sergeant was doubled away with belt and beret off. After 1855 all regiments in the British Army were issued with a standard bugle, which is still in service up to the present day.



The standard British Army Issue Bugle (having seen some service)

I remembered just after I joined the 1st Bn 1966 in Munster (Oxford Bks) I was outside the Guard Room opposite the HQ Block and the RSM (Ron Wildgoose) shouted out of the window to me "You there!" in a loud voice that stopped me in my tracks. "Go over to the band block and get the Duty Bugler to blow CSMs to the RSM at the Double!" So I ran across to the Band Block and told the Duty Bugler what the RSM had said, then I started making my way back to the guard room. Just as I approached, the Duty Bugler started sounding off and the RSM shouted out of his window to me, "You there! What's the bugler calling?" I said "CSMs to the RSM at the Double Sir..." He said "Very good..!. "

Mick Malam

THE RBLI GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

Eleven members of the Queen's Regiment Riders Association (QRR), and a random member of the Royal Navy who turned out on the day, took part in the Royal British Legion Institute's (RBLI) Great Tommy Sleepout for March. Braving the chilling wind and a torrential downpour in the middle of the night, the Riders, aged between 59 and 75, spent the night under the stars in a variety of small tents, bivvy bags and bashas to raise over £2,000 in aid of the RBLI's work with homeless veterans. Any resemblance to homeless veterans in the photo is purely coincidental. The QRA and the RBLI have a close connection with each other. The Queen's Regiment has three known members currently being assisted by the RBLI and shortly it is hoped that the QRR and the RBLI will be cooperating in the horticultural side of the rehabilitation project on Kennels Field. The Sleepout was visited by Emily McNeillis, coordinator of the Great Tommy Sleepout. It is planned to repeat the event next year. Anyone who fancies taking part please contact the Secretary.



Drying out



The night begins



The Great Tommy Sleepout Team Photo



PROUD RECIPIENT OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT MEDAL OF MERIT

By Staff Sgt Teresa Reynolds



Representing the Queen's Regiment at Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee

I am the proud recipient of the Queens Regiment Medal of Merit. In fact, I am the only servicewoman to have received it for which I will be forever grateful. I will give it to my Granddaughter in due course.

I wear my medal with pride whenever I can as you can see from the photos. I was at the last ever parade of the WRAC at Guildford before we were finally disbanded and sent off to our respective Corps. In No 2 dress proudly displaying my medal, I was lucky enough to see the late Queen Mother and the Duchess of Kent approaching our group as we were patiently waiting behind the barriers.

The Queen Mother stopped and said: *"I don't really like to mention this, but your medal is on the wrong side my dear"*. I responded politely saying that because it

was an 'honour' medal rather than a service medal it was worn on the opposite breast. I explained that this was the Queen's Medal of Merit. She giggled and she said: *"Doesn't my daughter have some funny ideas?"* A few weeks later, I was privileged to be invited to the last ever WOs and Sgts Mess Dinner for the WRAC that was held at the Russell Square Hotel in London. We all lined up to greet our Colonel in Chief, and when the Queen Mother got to me, she said: *"Oh hello, it's you again!"*

I was also very privileged to present a flag on behalf of my fellow WRAC Veterans on the occasion of her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee to the Premier of Nevis, Mark Brantley. Nevis is a tiny island in the Caribbean - you can't even fly there direct - you must go via St Kitts. It is where I got married in 2015 on a beach and to me is a very special place. It just seemed right to bring something of relevance to a Commonwealth Country which was a Queen's Protectorate and is now a King's Protectorate.



The final Parade of the WRAC before rebadging



With my late father laying a Somme Wreath



A younger me



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother approaching



Presenting to the the Premier of Nevis, Mark Brantley

(Ed: Teresa was injured while serving with the 6/7th Bn but continued serving.)

The following were recipients of the Medal:

Lieutenant IMR Wright (1st)

Lance Corporal RB Gallett (1st)

Cpl RS Phillips (1st)

Captain J Day TD (6th/7th)

Lieutenant-Colonel LMB Wilson MBE (1st and RHQ)

WO2 Reader (Flying Dragons)

SSgt TH Reynolds ACC (6th/7th(V))

Brigadier MRI Constantine (2nd and 3rd)

Major JF Burke (3rd)

Corporal R Brill (1st)

WO1 (BM) B Cunningham (5th(V))

Major-General MF Reynolds CBE

Mrs Margaret Smithers

WO2 JG Murphy (1st and 3rd)

WO1(BM) B Cunningham (5th(V))





IN PRAISE OF THE STAR & GARTER

By Paul Gray

I have been a resident in The Royal Star and Garter Home in Surbiton since January 2022. I had a serious fall near my home in Paddington, in December 2021, when I broke six ribs, got a lung infection, and spent 13 days in hospital. My ataxia, diagnosed in 2007, had been getting worse, and my falls were becoming more frequent and more serious. My family, with my reluctant agreement, decided that I could no longer live safely by myself, and made moves for me to move into a nursing/care home. I have been supporting The Royal Star and Garter Home(s) since 1994 with modest financial contributions, and it seemed sensible first to investigate the Royal Star and Garter Home in Surbiton.

There are 63 residents, about half of whom suffer from dementia. Many require constant care, which includes help in feeding, washing, dressing. As well as nursing staff, there is a 'well-being' staff, providing caring and who organise activities. We have a lot of music as this provides good therapy for people suffering from dementia. Most of this music consists of pop songs from the 1960s/70s/ and 80s, and songs from WW2. I do attend these music activities but more to show support for the well-being staff, than out of interest for myself. ('Nothing after Mozart' is my call!). Other activities include Church Services, quizzes, cooking, and poetry reading. I have given up the cooking classes as I know as much as, or more than our instructor! I do however thoroughly enjoy quizzes. Many readers of the Journal will remember that I am no clever intellectual, but here I shine! Sadly, many of the residents, even the non-demented ones, show little interest in the activities which the well-being staff lay on for us.

The Royal Star and Garter Home started in 1916, when philanthropists bought the old Star and Garter Hotel at the top of Richmond Hill, to be a nursing home for wounded service personnel of The Great War. In 1922, the Trustees pulled down the Hotel and built a purpose-built Nursing Home, which you can still see to this day - the large red brick building on the top of Richmond Hill, on the West side of Richmond Park, with lovely views over the River Thames. By the 2000s this had become beyond economic and medical improvement. The Trustees therefore sold the building for development into luxury apartments and with the proceeds built three Homes, in Surbiton, (2013), High Wycombe and

Solihull. (Colonel Les Wilson MBE is a resident in the High Wycombe Home; and Major Tony McManus, late of the Middlesex Regiment, and 4 QUEENS, has joined me here in the Surbiton Home. Captain Gary Anglin of the Regiment died here in 2015. He had been a prolific fund-raiser for the Regiment). The average age of the residents is 87, I am 86; and we have two residents over 100. It isn't cheap!--I have to pay £2,000 a week—people suffering from dementia pay an extra £100 a week. For this we receive nursing care and have carers to help us; many activities; and three meals a day—the main meal is lunch. We get a free glass of wine, although I expect that this would be curtailed if a resident took too much advantage of such largesse! Very few of us drink wine, but kind friends have kept me supplied with bottles of beer!

As well as the nursing and care staff, there are several very kind volunteers from the local community who join us a few times a week, and on special occasions. I was taken in a wheelchair by one such volunteer to a local street party on the Queen's Jubilee Weekend. And volunteers have accompanied us to the Royal Hospital for the Founders Day Parade; and to RMA Sandhurst for a TA Passing Out Parade; on that occasion, three of the Officer Cadets were for 3 and 4 PWRR. The 'Lest We Forget' charity and various other charities have supported us with cruises on the River Thames, and similar outings; and with music. In May, I was lucky to be taken to another Star & Garter home to meet my old friend Lt Col Les Wilson, who I first met 66 years ago in 1957.

The original criterion for entry—a Service background—has been suspended, and National Service now counts—so anyone over 78 can now obtain entry, for themselves, or for their wife. This Home at Surbiton has become the nursing/care home of choice for the local population. (There are six other Nursing/Care Homes, in this area). Consequently, most residents have families and friends close at hand for visits; and they, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, provide a constant source of activity, particularly at weekends, bringing flowers, and goodies for residents. Although my family and friends are scattered, I have been fortunate to have had 55 visitors, including ten from the Regiment; and several of my visitors have been to visit me more than once. They keep

me sane! My health—or lack of it—prevents me from living safely by myself, and I consider that this Home is probably the best place for me. My family and friends

agree. Several of my visitors, who have had experience of nursing/care homes, have told me that I am lucky to be here, and that this place is the best that they have seen.



Paul Gray and Les Wilson



Paul Gray and Star and Garter Staff Member Katie Clarke



A NEW NOSE FOR MATTHEW LATHAM

By Coralie Clover



In 2022, the PWRR and Queen's Regiment Museum won a Places of Science grant from the Royal Society. We received this grant funding to explore how improvements in military medicine affected our soldiers between 1800 and 1920. We're using most of this funding to support GCSE history students who are learning about the development of medicine. However, we have also been able to delve deeper into the story of Lieutenant Matthew Latham.

The story of Matthew Latham's heroism is astounding, but after the battle of Albuera he barely received recognition outside his regiment, The Buffs or 3rd of Foot. He was even left out of the original Regimental History of the Buffs. His actions were attributed to Ensign Walsh, who originally held the Colour. In a letter to the United Services Gazette in 1840, John Morrison - a surgeon for the Buffs - put the record straight. He mentioned that Latham received nasal reconstruction surgery - which was paid for by the Prince Regent. However, he was not on the battlefield and didn't treat Latham.

We wanted to know more about Latham's surgery - how, in 1815, did a surgeon recreate his nose? Luckily, the man himself, Joseph Constantine Carpue, wrote a record of the surgery and Latham's recovery. It was published in 1816.

Carpue gives a different - and more detailed - narrative of Latham's exploits and injuries. According to Carpue, Latham lost his arm first while he was protecting the Colour. After he lost his arm, he received five more wounds, including the blow to his face which took most of his nose and part of his cheek. We also now know what knocked Latham out: a lancer struck him in the groin, which threw him in the air a few metres. Latham was knocked out when he landed on the ground.

Carpue knew Latham personally - he not only operated on him, but also treated him throughout his recovery at the Prince Regent's expense. We think this is therefore a more reliable source than Morrison's letter for what really happened to Latham at Albuera.

The Surgeries

Carpue took his method from Indian surgeons. He saw a published etching and description of the surgery performed on an Indian bullock-driver called Cowasjee in 1794. Cowasjee worked for the East India Company when he had his nose cut off as a punishment. Indian surgeons cut a flap of skin from Cowasjee's forehead, twisted it around, and used that as the skin for his new nose. Carpue, once he had confirmed that this was possible (though only through British surgeons), looked for an opportunity to perform the surgery, and even advised his students to try it. Latham was the second person Carpue performed the surgery on - but the first wounded soldier.

When he operated on Latham, Carpue altered his plans so that he could attach the new nose to Latham's remaining nostril, at Latham's request. He cut the skin from Latham's forehead, twisted it into a new nose, and held it in place using stitches and sticking plaster. Latham claimed that he felt no pain throughout.

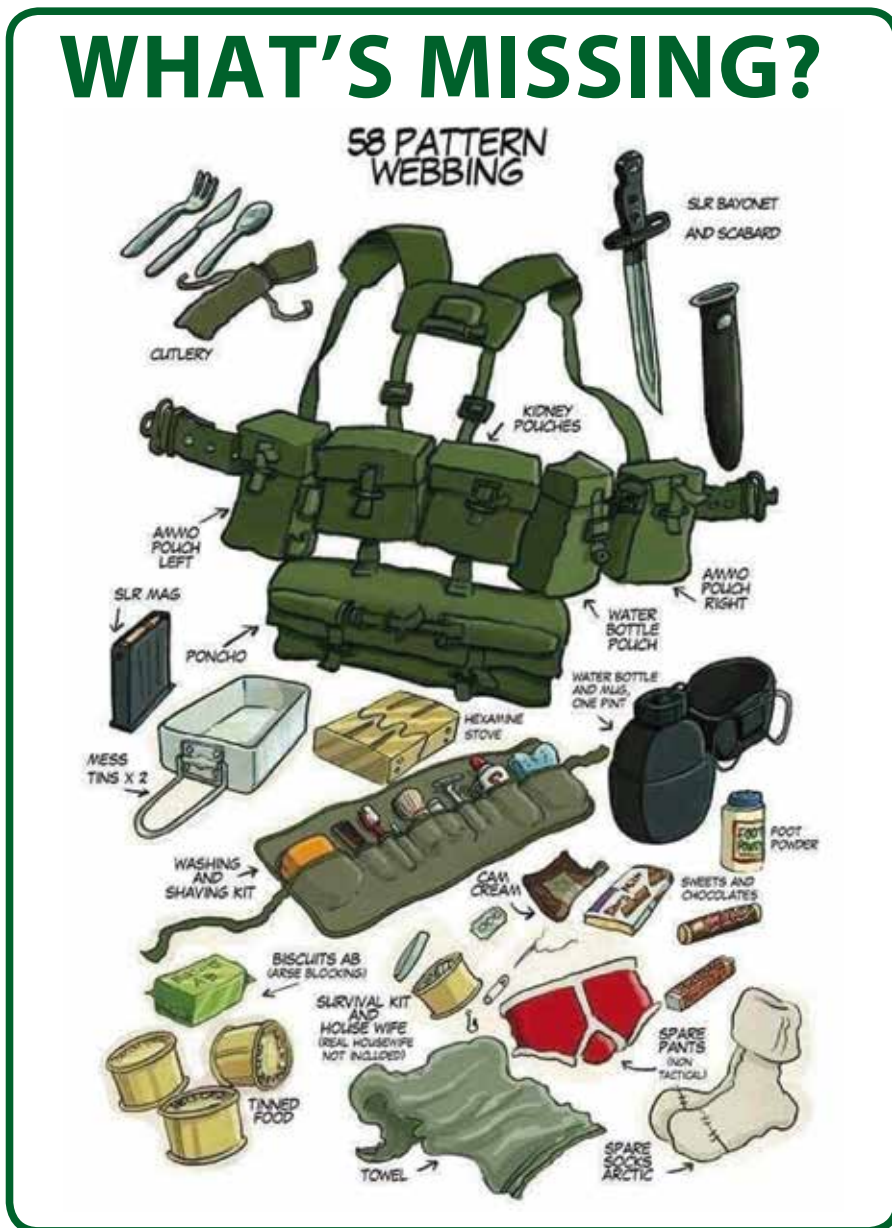
Carpue noted how difficult it was to keep sticking plasters attached to Latham's scarred cheek. Despite the lack of antibiotics or antiseptic on hand at the time, after ten days - and a considerable amount of pus - it was clear the first operation had been successful. It took about eight weeks to heal fully. Carpue looked after Latham throughout his recovery, and the Prince Regent had a carriage sent daily so Latham could 'take the air' to help him recuperate.

In the end, Latham underwent three surgeries to ensure that he had a working nose. The surgery changed his life – he retired from the army and moved to France, where he married a French woman. He died in 1865, and was buried in Blingel Cemetary, Pas-de-Calais, in France.

The Prince Regent’s Role

Carpue dedicated his book to the Prince Regent, and Latham was eternally grateful to him for arranging for him to have surgery, with the promise that ‘the entire expenses of which will be defrayed by his Royal Highness’.

The Royal Archives have digitised the Prince Regent’s account books, and our curator spent a week working through them to try and find out how much the Prince paid for Latham’s surgery and care. Interestingly, there is no evidence of any sort of payment to Carpue from the Prince Regent’s personal accounts. We can’t conclusively say that the Prince Regent didn’t hold up his end of the bargain, but the evidence isn’t in his favour!



(16+ Items) Answers on Page 66



TO UNDERSTAND A VETERAN

By RP Singh

To understand a military Veteran, you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
We found new friends and new family.
We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.
We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
We didn't get enough sleep.
We smoked and drank too much.
We picked up both good and bad habits.
We worked hard and played harder.
We didn't earn a great wage.
We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
We participated in time-honoured ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
We have celebrated and mourned.
We lost a few along the way.
When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.
We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.
Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.



(Ed: Lt Col (Retd) RP Singh 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) of India attended with our President, Colonel Anthony Beattie, the Indian Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, the college at which Brigadier Mike Constantine, Major Douglas McCully and the Secretary also studied. RP has regularly kept in touch with Colonel Beattie and maintains an enthusiastic interest in the Association.)

QUEEN'S REGIMENT GATHERING AT THE ARBORETUM

By Phil Dobson

Saturday 23rd September 2023 saw the fourth Arboretum meeting, and we couldn't have been happier to see our old comrades. We had the usual regulars who attend and this year several new faces including several from the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. Some were accompanied by family members which was great to see.

We were blessed with a glorious sunny day and, after a boozy Friday evening, we started to muster in the Arboretum quad on the Saturday morning. We moved to our Regimental Memorial and assembled ready to begin our service.

Den Gallacher began by welcoming everyone and thanking one and all for coming. Each year Den researches a comrade who gave his life in Northern Ireland and this year it was the turn of Pte Stan Evans from the 1st Battalion. Den carries out a great deal of research into his presentation and contacts Stan's comrades who knew him well, some of whom were present at the time of his death.

Eddie Dale read out an amusing ditty about a young soldier arriving at the Pearly gates which helped to lighten the mood slightly. This was followed by the Roll call of the 68 brothers who had gone to the FRV in the last 12 months.

I had the honour to read the list for the 1st Battalion with Michael Rowney covering the 2nd Battalion, John Edwards for the 3rd and Chris Thornton- Dunning reading our TA Battalions and our forebear regiments, after which a number of wreaths were laid. Our Service continued with the Act of Remembrance, the Last Post, a minute's silence and the Rouse. Eddie Dale then read the Regimental Collect, which is transcribed onto our Memorial. Den Gallacher then led



The 2023 Arboretum Remembrance Gathering



Eddie Dale, Tony Farrow, Mike Woodward, Billy Bolton



Den Gallacher (1st)



Michael Rowney (2nd)



John Edwards (3rd)



Maj Billy Bolton

the Lord's Prayer and brought our proceeding to an end. As usual, lots of photos taken in groups and old mates posing with old mates.

It was great to see new faces: Major Anthony Bolton, who at long last has reached his majority having been NATO's longest serving captain for many years graced us with his presence minus his bowler, which raised a few eyebrows; Michael Rowney, who had come down from north of the border; Jim McKeown from over the pond who managed to disappear! Needless to say, there are too many names to mention all but suffice to say 'the day went well'. We would like to thank one and all for giving us your company at the event. We hope it met with your approval and will spur you to come again next year. If you did, spread the word to our comrades not on parade. Finally, we look forward to Saturday 21st September 2024 for our next event. Until then we wish you all the very best from Den Gallacher, Eddie Dale and me.



Tony Farrow

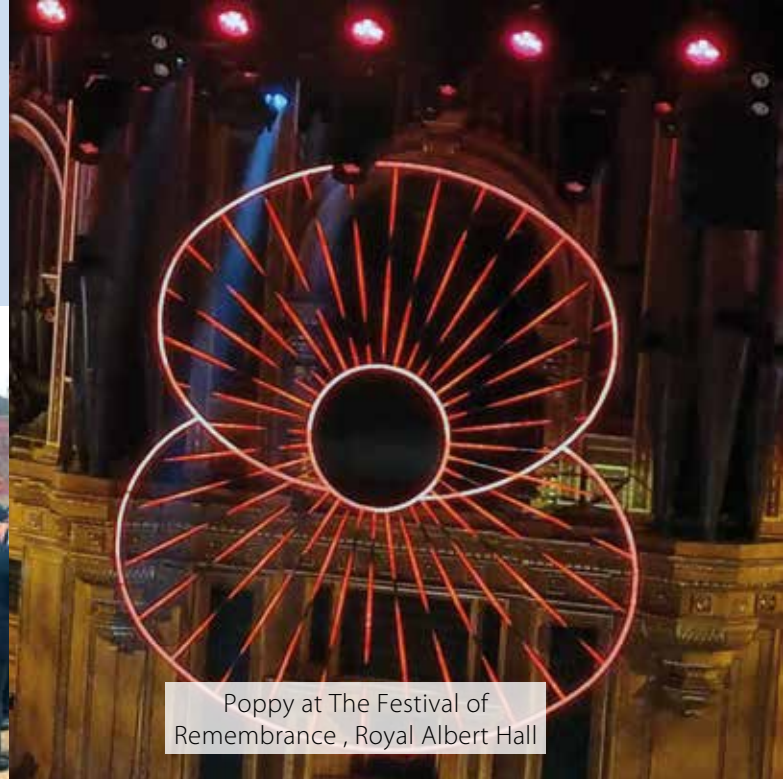


Donk and Lindsay Parsons

REMEMBRANCE



Philip Finch and Col Anthony Beattie



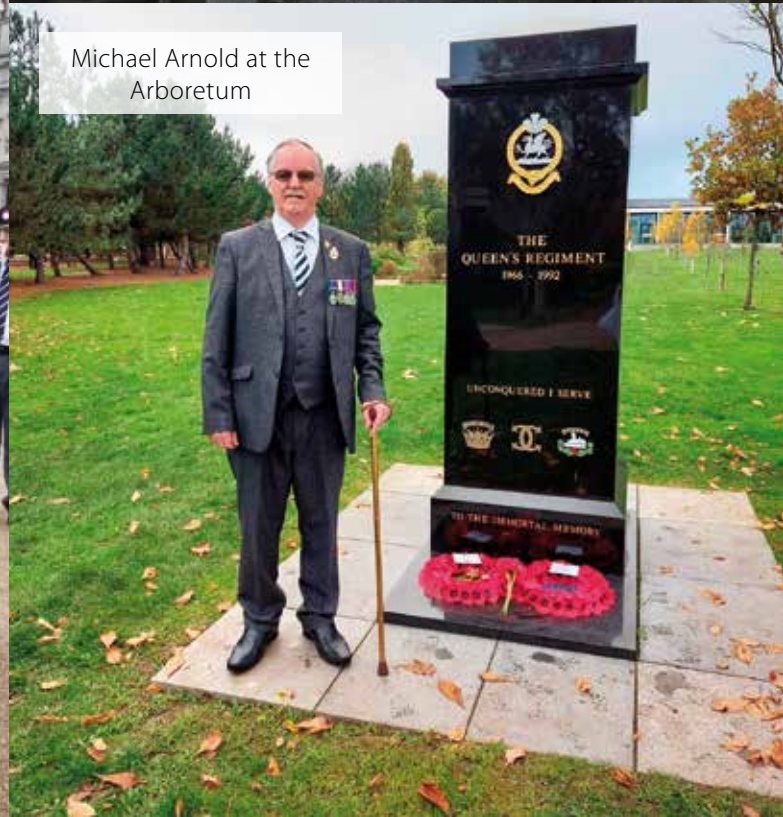
Poppy at The Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall



Neal Peckham

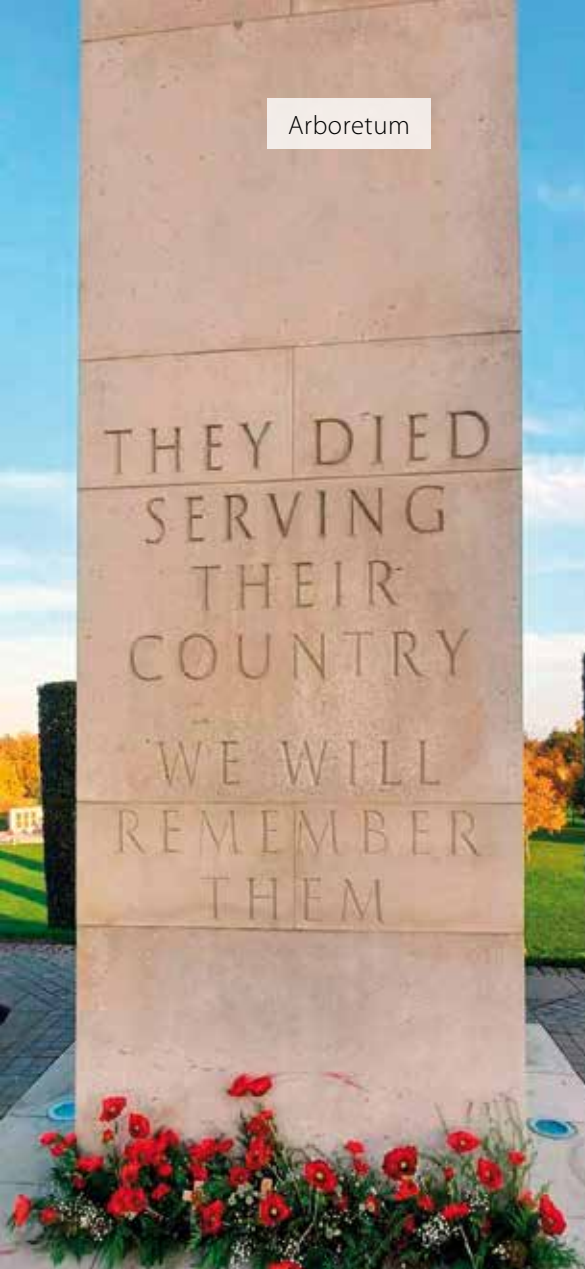


48 | Soldiers of The Queen's 2023



Michael Arnold at the Arboretum

Arboretum



Michael Arnold remembers at the Arboretum



The Donaghadee Northern Ireland Contingent



Our taxi driver Dave Cannell ex 2 QUEENS with Pat Donnelly



Julian DeZille Parade Marshal in Deal



Meeting for Remembrance Jim Vaughan, Gary Morrow and Steve Stockwell



Dee Hutchison, Ian Chatfield and David Pollard at Monte Cassino



Peter Swanson and Brian Wright chat to HM The Queen Consort at the Field of Remembrance



Stephen Stockwell and friends

PRESENTATION OF STANDARDS AT THE MENIN GATE LAST POST CEREMONY

By Barry Lane

In March 2023, the Menin Gate Memorial closed for a period of between 18 months and two years for restoration. This has become necessary due to water ingress of the roof and its impact on some of the panels. The roof will be re-sealed, the affected panels replaced and all the brickwork re-pointed in a project that will cost three million Euros, funded by the Flanders Regional Government, Ypres Town Council and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

The Royal Sussex Association felt that before this happened, we should arrange to parade the Branch

Standards at the Last Post Ceremony before closure. Therefore, on Thursday 23 February, a party of 28 members and partners crossed the Channel by ferry in order to parade the following evening on the 24 February. They were joined in Ypres by four other members and their wives who moved independently.

On the inward journey, we stopped at the the Brandhoek CWGC Cemetery located between Poperinge and Ypres, to pay our respects at the grave of Captain Noel Chavasse RAMC, one of only three men to have been awarded the VC twice.

The Menin Gate at night





Tyne Cot Cemetery



With the Belgian Fire service



On Parade at the Menin Gate



The grave of Pte Strudwick, the youngest recorded British casualty



Branch members on the ferry



Peter addressing the Group



John Osborne with the Association wreath

The excellent New Regina hotel was located right in Ypres town square and after sampling the delights of Ypres that evening, everyone was on the coach next morning for a tour of the Salient, conducted by Peter McClelland from the Queen's Regimental Association who had offered his services.

We are most grateful to Peter for a very insightful tour, which took in Essex Farm Cemetery to see the Field Dressing Station of Captain John McCrae of 'In Flanders Fields' fame, Langemark German Cemetery to see the difference in style and feel of their cemeteries, Vancouver Corner, Tyne Cot and finishing for lunch at Hooze Museum. The tour ended by paying our respects at the Hooze Craters, where Lt Eric McNair VC of the 9th Battalion won his VC in 1916.

After a shower and change, everyone was on parade at the Menin Gate. Six of our seven standards were on parade along with a contingent of Association members behind them.

At the playing of the Last Post by the Belgian Fire Service, the Chairman read the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph. A wreath-laying party consisting of two bearers and one of our last WWII veterans went forward and Fred Hill laid a wreath on behalf of the Association with David Allaway laying one on behalf of the Mid-Sussex Branch.

After breakfast next morning, we returned to the UK in slow time. The Association would like to thank Peter for his wonderful tour and to our Communications Director Greg for all his hard work in organising the visit within a very short time-frame.

PRAYER BEFORE AN ATTACK

*It ain't as how I hopes He'll keep me safe
When the other blokes go down
It ain't as I wants to leave this world
And wear an hero's crown
It ain't for that that I says me prayers
As I goes to the attack
But I pray that whatever comes my way
I may never turn me back.
I leaves the matter of life and death
To the Father who knows what's best
And I prays that I still may play the man
Whether I turns east or west.
I'd sooner that it were east you know
To Blighty and my girl Sue
I'd sooner be there, with the gold in her hair
And the skies behind all blue.
But still I pray I may do my bit
And then if I must turn west
I'll be unashamed when my name is named
And I'll find a soldier's rest.*

*GA Studdert Kennedy MM
aka 'Woodbine Willie'
British Army Chaplain 1914-1918*



ALBUHERA -

FROM 'CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE'

*O Albuera, glorious field of grief!
As o'er thy plain the Pilgrim pricked his steed,
Who could foresee thee, in a space so brief,
A scene where mingling foes should boast and bleed!
Peace to the perished! May the warrior's mead
And tears of triumph their reward prolong!
Till others fall where other chieftains lead,
Thy name shall circle round the gaping throng,
And shine in worthless lays, the theme of transient song.*



By George Gordon, Lord Byron



Battle of Albuera by JJ Jenkins



The Buffs at the Battle of Albuera

Sometime in the late seventies I was fortunate enough to be in a four ball with two of our stalwart Warrant Officers: Dan Whalley and John Burke. I couldn't help noticing that whenever Dan played a poor shot he referred to himself as a something berk and when John messed one up he chastised himself as a something wally. I pointed out the irony as I think they were totally unaware. Needless to say, they beat us.

Mark Rayner

THE FOSIM TOUR TO SALERNO, CASSINO, ANZIO AND ROME

By Alasdair Goulden



Monte Cassino Monastery 1944

Following the success of previous tours under the expert administration of Dee Hutchison, 41 members of the Friends of Surrey Infantry Museum (FOSIM) ventured forth to Italy to walk the battlefields of Salerno, Cassino and Anzio. Checking in at the unearthly hour of 6.20am, the group gathered at Heathrow for the flight to Rome's Fiumicino Airport.

The tour was led by military historian, Lt Col (Retd) Andrew Duff, one of Anglia Tours' expert guides. Ian Chatfield explained the detailed action of the Queen's Royal Regiment and East Surreys. Any thoughts that this would be a gentle swan about Italy looking at the various battles that involved The Queen's Royal Regiment, East Surreys and The Hampshire Regiment (they received their Royal title in 1946) were quickly

dispersed. Straight off the aircraft and straight into the coach for our first stand where we received a briefing on the overall campaign. No sooner was that complete, we were then introduced to the terrain and an outline of the assault, visiting Pt 338 to view the assault from the German perspective. Eventually, we were dropped at our hotel with a chance to relax over dinner and the odd glass of vino to meet with old friends and start the process of making new ones.

Day Two kicked off early (well, for some of us anyway). Grabbing our packed lunches, we followed the Queen's and Hampshire's assault and the establishing of the Salerno beachhead, looking at the beach, the horticultural hinterland, the airfield and Hill 210. We were also given the background to the infamous Salerno Mutiny (a synopsis can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salerno_mutiny).

Gathered in the heat of the day for the Act of Remembrance, a moving service of commemoration was held for the Fallen at the Salerno Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on the 80th anniversary of the battle. We were joined by 80 members of the US Navy. Wreaths were laid by Alasdair MacWilliam and Sheila Harrington on behalf of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) (QRR). Alasdair and Sheila's father was Major (later Brigadier) MEM MacWilliam DSO** MC. He later became

Salerno Day





CO of 2/7th QRR from Sep 44 to Jan 45. Mr Jeremy Archer, representing the Hampshire Regiment laid a wreath on their behalf. A wreath was also laid on behalf of the US Navy by Shanta Minnick of

the Naval Computer and Tele-communications Station Naples, EURAFCENT and Christine Nesterenko, from the German National Support Element. Brigadier Tony Ling read the Kohima Epitaph. Brigadier Tony's father was Maj-Gen Fergus Ling CB CBE DSO DL who was Bn 2IC 2/5th QRR at Salerno and CO Dec 43–Dec 44 and later Colonel of the Queen's Regiment. A medal from NCTNS EUEAFCENT was presented to the Surrey Infantry Collection.

In the evening four guests joined us for dinner – Maj-Gen Jez Bennett, Deputy Commander NATO Rapid Deployment Force, Col Matt Smith, British Defence Attaché Rome, Maj Pete Eagan, MA to Maj-Gen Bennett and Ms Palmira Cerullo, Army Relations Officer Italy.

Packed lunches in hand, Day Three concentrated our thoughts on the Monte Stella (169 Queen's Bde) and Vietri (131 Queen's Bde) actions. We examined the 131 Bde Volturno Crossing at Grassanise before seeing where the Monte Lungo/Mignano Gap was forced, while at the same time looking at the action from the Italian side. The Mayor of Scafarti greeted Col Tony Ward and the group by the memorial erected by the town in recognition and gave thanks for the actions and bravery of 1/6th Bn of The Queen's Royal Regiment who on 28/29th September 1943 with local partisans ensured the defeat of the Germans without destroying the town. Apart from meeting us, the mayor arranged for a police escort clearing the way for our visit! The story was that the troops were able to cross an unguarded footbridge, fought their way to the main bridge and ended up in a house overlooking the bridge. Leaning forward to check how many Germans were on the bridge, the corporal's tin hat fell off, clattering to the ground thus betraying their presence. With only two soldiers to back him up he shouted "*Hände hoch!*". So surprised by the falling tin hat, the German soldiers surrendered to a man and the bridge was theirs, thus saving the town.

We then moved to Monte Camino and Galaucio Village to see 169 Bde's approach to Cassino. This was of particular interest to me as I had been taken to Cassino by my parents some 60 years ago when I was about ten years of age and still remember the devastation in this area.

Over the next three days, we concentrated on the four Cassino battles. The first battle around Mt Belvedere

involved the 1/6th East Surreys as part of the 34th Bull's Head Division and lasted from 27 March to early April, forcing the Rapido and moving into the mountains but failing to break into the Liri Valley. We visited the Caira German Cemetery and looked at the battle from the German perspective. We also had the chance to walk the battles of the town – part of the 2nd Battle of Cassino

Day 2 of the Cassino battles concentrated on the 4th Indian Division and the British Army's involvement at Castle Hill, the bombing of the monastery by the Poles and the British Army, the 1st Bn East Surreys at Snakes Head Ridge and Pt 593 and the armoured attack by C Squadron, 20th New Zealand Armoured Battalion, before visiting the Cassino Monastery itself and the Cassino War Cemetery and Memorial. We also had the chance to study the German medical arrangements during this period of warfare.

On our third 'Cassino' day, we looked at the 4th battle, Op DIADEM, with the 1/6th Bn East Surrey's preparation and action for crossing the River Rapido/Gari. This was part of the 4th Infantry Division's action in the Liri valley and Amazon Bridge and 169 Bde actions including the Garigliano Crossing and Monte Damiano. It could be argued that the 1/6th Surreys' night river assault was the key to the fall of Cassino as it allowed the sappers to bridge the river and get the tanks across.

It was a day of high emotion. Starting at the place where the 1/6th East Surrey's gallantly secured the riverbank to enable the Royal Engineers to lay AMAZON Bridge across the River Rapido, we were taken through the heroic actions of all who took part. It was at this action that the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Robert Thompson, won his DSO. A service of commemoration took place during which Col Robert's sons Tim and Robert DeGavre, who had flown over from USA especially for this tour, laid a wreath in remembrance of their father and all East Surreys. A wreath was then laid by David Hutchison RE at the Memorial to the Royal Engineers. The East Surreys Memorial was built by the Royal Engineers two years ago and this was the first time that the Regiment has had an opportunity to lay a wreath.

Following the ceremony at AMAZON, the tour then moved to Garigliano where Lt Frank Noah of the 2/6th Queen's Royal Regiment was injured and captured and taken to hospital where he was subsequently released by the Allies during their advance. He remained at the hospital acting as the administrator. Lt Noah's son, also known as Frank, was a member of the tour. Also captured at Damiano was Lt CRC Elverson whose son John was also on tour. Lt Elverson 2/6th was taken as POW and



Contemplation at the tomb of St Benedict at Cassino Monastery



Landing point on Salerno beach



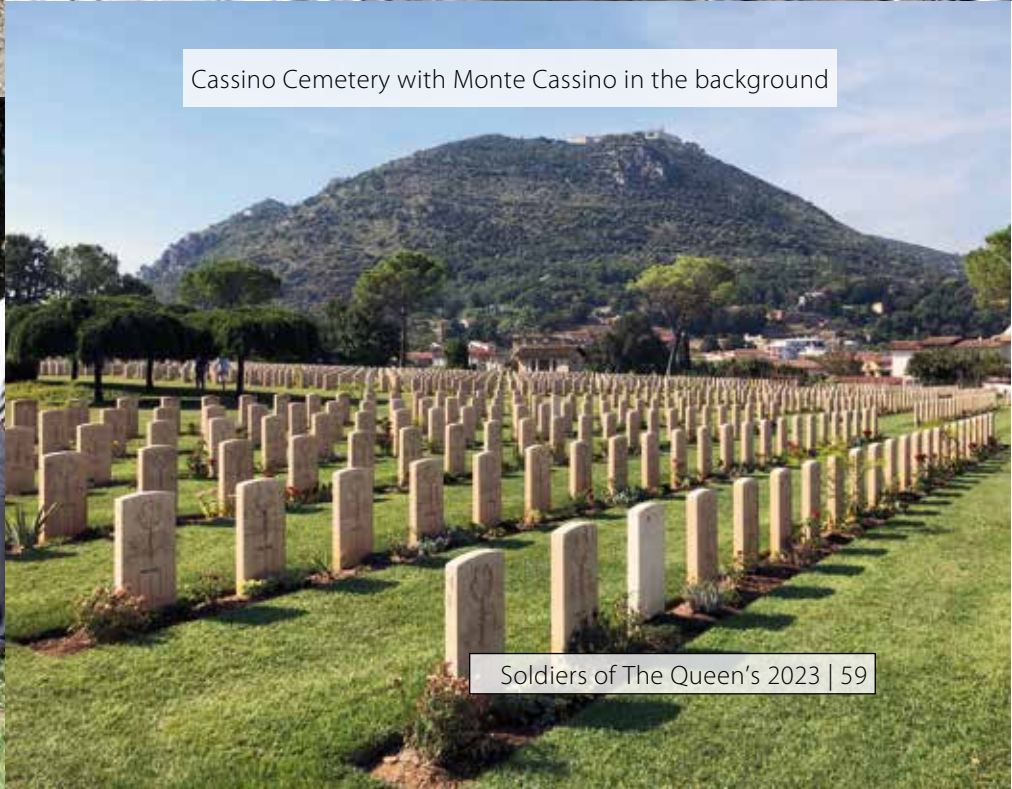
Col Tony Ward presents Brig Tony Ling with his Father's replacement medals



The Caves of Aprilia



Gathered at the Polish Cemetery



Cassino Cemetery with Monte Cassino in the background



sent to Stalag 7A and OF 79 until release

Whilst at Garigliano, the citation for Maj Fergus Ling's DSO was read out. Maj Ling was 2IC and then CO of 2/5th

QRR when his outstanding courage and inspirational leadership ensured success of the mission operation. Maj Ling was subsequently promoted to Major General



Monte Cassino Monastery 2023

and was Colonel of The Queen's Regiment between 1973-77. In a surprise and emotional presentation, a set of his medals, which had been totally destroyed in the Clandon fire, were given to his son, Brig Anthony Ling at the spot where his father won his DSO. The medals (less the CB CBE and K1 (Order of the Dannebrog)), some of which were actual medals rather than replicas, were sourced and mounted by Stephen Blanchard, volunteer medal expert at the Surrey Infantry Collection.



The Mayor of Scafarti greeting Col Tony Ward

We finished the day at the CWGC Cemetery at Minturno where further wreaths were laid commemorating the almost 2,000 souls of the three Regiments who are laid to rest in Italy. We ended the day with a drive through Anzio.

Our last day entailed a visit to the Anzio Beachhead Cemetery and a final drive through the 169 Bde combat area. Our final stand was to a very rural farm at Aprilia to be greeted by ducks, geese, goats, donkeys and pigs before walking through the vines to a wadi where in February 1944 the 2/7th Queen's had been sent to take

Gathered at the Polish Cemetery



over from an American battalion 2/157th which had taken a pasting. They were soon cut off and surrounded by five German battalions with tanks and flamethrowers. Taking refuge with the wounded Americans in a cave complex, they were forced to bring down artillery fire on themselves. Eventually at night, they escaped in small groups. Over 300 were casualties and the battalion subsequently had to be completely re-constituted. On our drive to the airport, we were all reminded of the brutality of battle.

This excellent tour was enhanced by the many tour members who had family connections with the battles for the liberation of Italy. They were: Frank Noah, and John Elverson, both fathers were captured near

Damiano; Brigadier Tony Ling, whose father was Maj Gen Ling CB CBE DSO DL and was 2IC of 2/5th Queen's Royal Regiment at Salerno and subsequently CO 2/5th Queen's, Sheila Edwards, whose father landed at Salerno with the RASC; Alasdair MacWilliam and Sheila Harrington, son and daughter of Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam DSO**MC and CO 2/7th Queen's Sept 1944, Robert Hanson, whose father served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was killed in action at Anzio; Penny Nieto, life partner of Col Blum, who as a Lieutenant served in Italy with 2/7th Queen's and Tim and Robert DeGavre, whose father Col ROV Thompson DSO was CO of 1/6th East Surreys in Apr 1943. He was killed in action in June 1944 by a mine on the road between Tivoli and Sant Angelo Romano.

WORDS NEVER SPOKEN BY A SOLDIER!

1. Don't worry the REME will fix it
2. We'll just go for one pint
3. I'm glad the Americans are here
4. Here's your combi-tool back that I borrowed
5. The custard at scoff had absolutely no lumps in it
6. I wouldn't shag her
7. Shit's getting serious, let's call the RAF Regiment
8. 'Ere Sir, you take the map
9. Sennybridge accommodation for a week? Yesss!!
10. I'll trade my biscuit fruits for your biscuit browns
11. Let's help the guy who dropped his plate in scoff
12. I just got back from exercise, time for a quick and easy shit
13. It's nearly the end of the month and I have still got a shed load of money in my bank account
14. Don't worry, the clerks will sort your pay out
15. The Rasman wants to see me ASAP, it MUST be good news
16. The rifles haven't been fired so we're not gonna bother cleaning them
17. That new NAAFI bird is a 10
8. The bullshit actually stops once you get to your regiment
19. Of course I don't mind you taking my weekend away from me so I can teach the TA
20. Your RAF flight is running without delay
21. I'm not very keen on Haribo
22. The NAAFI is really well priced these days
23. The CO is doing CO's PT this week
24. Who wants to swap my sausage and beans for a mushroom omelette?
25. Another beer? No thanks, got CO's PT at 0600, and I need some sleep
26. I have total faith in the professional standards and leadership ability of my Platoon Commander



AUSTRALIA'S ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

By John Brennan past CO 1/19 RNSWR

I was asked by your Secretary to pen a short article for the Association Journal regarding the Royal New South Wales Regiment (RNSWR), and it is an honour to oblige. As many of you may be aware, The Queen's Regiment was one of the RNSWR's Allied Regiments, and the alliance has continued since your amalgamation. We still proudly toast your health at every Regimental Dinner. The links hark back to the Regiment's 19th century service in Australia up until 1870. I believe the 3rd, 50th, 57th, and 77th Regiments of Foot were posted to the then New South Wales colony at various times.

I should briefly describe what the RNSWR looks like today, before I update the Journal as to recent regimental activity. The RNSWR is, as the name suggests, the state regiment for New South Wales and is an entirely reserve organisation, equivalent to the UK Army Reserve or former Territorial Army.

Currently, it consists of four battalions (1/19RNSWR, 2/17RNSWR, 4/3RNSWR and 41RNSWR), all spread across

their own city and regional recruiting areas. All battalions are basically conventional light role infantry, with some slight variations as to equipment and specialisation in terms of what we might term support company roles. Command elements are usually part-time, with full time staff occupying various roles at HQ, and some regular training staff at Company level. All the battalions of the Regiment are now operationally part of 5 Brigade, headquartered in Sydney. There is no Regimental HQ as such, but we maintain our regimental traditions with a Colonel Commandant (Maj Gen Hon Paul Brereton AM RFD SC) and volunteer regimental executive staff.

In line with this year's journal theme of the Coronation, I can report that we remain immensely proud to be a 'Royal' regiment. We have not yet been directed to change the crowns on our uniform badges, but we have indeed toasted the King. Long May He Reign! Some of our older members had the pleasure of meeting him as the Prince of Wales in 1989, when a RNSWR contingent travelled to the UK.



1-19 Bn force on force simulation training activity 2023



RNSWR Soldiers during a range exercise at Majura Training Area 2023

The last three years have been busy for the RNSWR. All of our Battalions have supported domestic operations ranging from bushfires, floods, COVID and health care emergencies over the period 2019 -2023. At times, under Brigade arrangements, our Battalion HQs have taken under command regular sub-units and ad hoc elements from all services, as well as our part-time soldiers. In early 2020, the Army Reserve was mobilised for the first time since WW2 to support civil emergency services during the Christmas/New Year bushfires. Our members carried out a wide range of duties, ranging from logistic support, assistance in evacuations, supporting fire-bombing aviation assets, liaison and standing up regional operations centres. COVID and later major flooding required similar support in 2020 through 2023. For example, members of our regiment stood up the Joint Task Force HQs for both NSW and the Capital Territory within 12 hours of being called to do so (ie without formal call-out), and maintained those HQ for over two years, with supplementation from reserve and regular forces from across the country.

On more conventional military tasks, the Regiment's members have been active during the last decade across a range of operations in the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Sudan to



Section training



name the most prominent. In addition, RNSWR-led sub units have been deployed on border protection duties in the far north of Australia, and training rotations in Malaysia. RNSWR senior officers have commanded a number of

joint Australian contingents in the Pacific, Afghanistan and Africa.

Of course, training for war-fighting remains our day-to-day focus as a Regiment. As I write, a contingent has just returned from EX TALISMAN SABRE, Australia's biennial high-end, joint combat exercise. Each battalion will also conduct weekend training throughout the year including small arms practices, support weapons ranges and infantry minor tactics training, and take part in longer training concentrations as part of the Brigade. Our ceremonial duties include supporting over 50 Anzac Day events and a Regimental Church Parade each year, in addition to occasional Freedoms of Entry ceremonies and national Remembrance events.

In closing, may I wish all members of The Queen's Regimental Association and your successors in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment all the very best, and hope we can continue our alliance for many years to come.



3rd and 4th Bn Colour Party ANZAC Day



ANZAC RSM Sydney 2023



RNSWR Soldiers during a field training exercise

THE MUSEUM REPORTS

By Assistant Curator Cory Clover

PWRR and Queen's Regiment Museum Dover Castle

We are always busy at the PWRR and Queen's Regiment Museum. Our newest installation in our gallery is an interactive shooting range. Installed in June 2023, with the help of our maintenance volunteers, the simulator shows our visitors the basics of firing a weapon – in this case, a pistol, but we intend in time to switch over to other weapons. Visitors test their aim and fire at Figure 11 Targets, just as the Army does on its ranges. Over 2000 people have used the simulator since it was installed – it's been a massive success.

This year we've also expanded our family activity programme. We're now running an activity trail for families every school holiday, with at least one 'craft afternoon' for our visitors to enjoy every holiday. This summer, we've shown visitors how Matthew Latham's surgery worked (using satsumas!) and made our own medals for visitors to take away with them.

For two weeks in May, around Albuhera Day, we let military medicine takeover the museum as part of our 'Treating the Troops' project. We added the story of Matthew Latham to our gallery, along with a new interpretation showing how soldiers' wounds were treated through time from the Napoleonic Wars to The Great War or First World War – with a day dedicated to Latham in the middle! Tesco's Community Champions supported the day along with the Royal Society. Our visitors were so interested in Latham's story that we'll be running the event again next year – and we'll be looking to include his story in our galleries permanently.

The final part of our medicine project is a set of schools' resources for GCSE history teachers, all about medical advances in the First World War. We will be offering schools new sources to look at from our collection, a loan box of objects both real and replica, and workshops at the castle as well – including a tour of the Secret Wartime Tunnels.

We look forward to your visit soon! Check what's coming up on our website, www.pwrrqueensmuseum.co.uk.

Surrey Infantry Collection

It's been a year since I started working as the Collections Officer at Surrey Infantry Collection, and the Collections Review Project is progressing well.

We have now catalogued every object in the museum store, assessing each item against the Collection Review Matrix (evaluating its historical significance, condition, rarity, and potential for use). Now that this initial cataloguing has been completed, we have found that several items which we thought were lost did indeed survive the fire. We have re-evaluated objects assessed at the start of the project, as duplicate material was uncovered. Work is now underway to reconcile the almost 400 objects which were assigned temporary records with our original catalogue and photographs of the museum at Clandon Park to properly identify them or assess their relevance to our collection.

Objects are currently being transferred to new boxes and storage materials, to better preserve and protect them for future generations. As a result of this repackaging work, we have managed to clear space in the store to provide better access to material and house any new acquisitions.

Now that we have catalogued our collection, work is progressing to dispose of any items which are either more relevant to other institutions, too damaged for us to be able to properly care for given the restraints of our storage facility, or which have no relevance to the history of the East Surrey Regiment and Queen's Royal Regiment. We have transferred objects to museums including the Museum of Army Music and Museum of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. We are currently in conversation with West Dean College, who will be able to use our more fire-damaged items to train the next generation of Museum Conservators.



Volunteers are continuing to donate their time to help the project. Steve, our resident medals expert, is halfway through creating a new, current medal catalogue. He is identifying every medal in the Surrey Infantry Collection, and adding more contextual information, allowing us to pull out more stories about the soldiers in our history and collection. Dee continues to answer research requests, discovering more personal stories, which are opening new avenues for our own research into the history of the regiments.

Elsewhere, conversations are taking place with various conservators about the future of certain objects in our collection. Thanks to a grant from the Army Museums' Ogilby Trust, conservator Richard Rogers is currently working on a water bottle which belonged to Lt RH Mangles, who later became a Major and Brevet Lt Colonel in the Royal West Surrey Regiment. He was wearing the water bottle when he was wounded in 1900 on Monte Christo while his battalion was trying to relieve Ladysmith during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War in 1900. The bottle is particularly interesting because it's not a standard British Army issue water bottle (over 200000 were issued during this war). Soldiers travelled very light during the Boer War, with limited food and water, because their success relied on their mobility. Water was always in short supply in South Africa during the war and this bottle will have helped Mangles carry more with him. Richard is also working on an East Surrey side drum. We hope he will have these restored and returned to us soon. We have been conducting research into the provenance of the Standard for the 13th (Wandsworth) Battalion, and (if the grant fund allows) once work has been completed on the above items, we will be passing it along to Richard Rogers for mounting and preservation. Similarly, we are researching the exact history of the vase taken from the Summer Palace in Beijing in around 1860. Currently in over 200 pieces, this vase tells the story of looting in the British Army, and sadly is the only looted object which survived the fire. Unfortunately, we are reliant on anecdotal history for its provenance, as the little documentary evidence we have, seems to be untrue. I am currently in talks with the Collection team at the National Army Museum to trace this history further.

Outside the office, a new exhibition has opened at Guildford Museum. Part of the 'Soldiers of Surrey' display, the new exhibit tells the story of the Battle of Festubert, one of the most devastating battles in the history of the Queen's (Royal West) Surrey Regiment in the First World War. The exhibition focuses on two individuals who lost their lives in this battle. Both private soldiers, their stories – and the stories of thousands of other men like them – are often lost to history. This exhibit uses personal testimony and objects recovered from the battlefield to tell their stories and honour their memory.

While the Surrey Infantry Collection has no museum building, we have little opportunity to generate our own funds. As much of our collection is fire-damaged, we are restricted in our options of objects to display. Now that our Review work is reaching the final stages, we have been able to identify which objects have the greatest potential for use. This could mean which are best placed to go on display, or be used as handling items, or to be transferred to PWRR to display to the present-day counterparts of the Queen's Royal and East Surrey Regiments.

Some of our collection of drum staffs and maces have been allocated for return to 4 PWRR for display in the Officers' Mess. With your help, we will be able to fund the restoration of these objects, and use our limited funds to better preserve, restore and display objects allocated for exhibition at Guildford Museum, the Surrey History Centre, and The Lightbox. Every donation helps save these objects for future generations.

WHAT'S MISSING?

Second water bottle and pouch, Weapon cleaning kit, Spare boot laces, Poncho and bungees, Spare pen and pad, Torch, NBC respirator and pouch, Second ground sheet holder with full NBC suit, De-contamination kit, Can opener, Puri-tabs, Additional magazines, Shovel or pick axe, Toilet paper, model kit, boot cleaning kit, and no doubt other items!

REUNIONS

1ST BATTALION WERL SUBALTERNS



Clockwise from the left

Howard Beeston, Andy Bickerdike, Mark Cowan-Aston, Martin Featherstone, Al Cooper, Rob Walker, Neil Peckham, Henry Eagan, Richard Madeley, Tim McDermott, Alain Chissel, Alasdair Goulden, Nick Keyes

CARRY ON "2 QUEENS" CAMPING WEEKEND - DUNN STREET FARM, ASHFORD, KENT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

'Brothers from other Mothers'

By Daniel Mayhew

I wanted to share an incredible experience I had over the weekend attending the 2nd Battalion's Regimental Reunion.

Carry on '2 QUEENS' Camping, is a reunion weekender where it was truly heart-warming to be reacquainted with some amazing individuals, some of whom I hadn't seen in over 30 years, reconnecting with my brothers and reminiscing about our time which seems a lifetime ago. Every moment was filled with real belly laughter and it is amazing how time hasn't changed the strong connection we have and I'm so grateful for these lifelong friendships forged in the best regiment of the British Army!

The reunion reminded me of the unique bond we all share as veterans of the military. It's a bond that transcends time and distance. It was truly special to reconnect with old comrades who have played such a significant role in my life and to hear their versions of shared experiences. Hearing their side of the many stories provided me with great examples of perspective.



As I reflect on the gathering, I couldn't help but wonder if civilian jobs offer the same opportunity for reunions after such a long time. While I know my answer to that question may be different to others, it made me appreciate the camaraderie and lifelong connections that military service provided to me and my 'brothers from other mothers'.

I am grateful for the chance to have served alongside such incredible individuals. This reunion only reinforced the importance of staying connected and supporting one another, even years after our service has ended. To all my fellow veterans and active-duty personnel, I encourage you to cherish these moments and continue to foster the bonds we've formed. To those who have never experienced military service, I hope this note sheds some light on the unique aspects of our military community.

Thank you to everyone who made this get-together possible, especially Smudge, Mehmet and Alf. Here's to many more reunions in the future. Well done once again for those that made it happen and to those that made it!



2 Queen's Veterans and Families

So Why Reunions?

By Andy Liddicott

On arrival at the camp site, it was like going through the front gate of many of those locations we have entered over the years; a friendly face to meet and greet, a helping hand to set up your tent, then a *"Go get yourself some food, Mate"*.

On approaching the cook area, the banter started straight away and all those years of not seeing each other suddenly seemed like yesterday. The excellent in-house catering went down a treat; food aplenty and brews flowing, then the click of the cans opening, settling into the evening session just like the good old Naafi days. The entertainment was fantastic and great songs drifted over the North Downs Camp with some dodgy dance moves gracing the dance floor. The night turned into the next day where early morning PT was dismissed after such a heavy evening. A late brunch involved more catching up, and later a sports afternoon with the youngsters was organised, with rounders, volleyball, badminton, football and boules affording great fun. Nipping to the local shops for resupply and then we were ready for the next evening.

So why reunions? These days with technology it's too easy to follow and communicate with people on social media. What a reunion gives you is a real face to face experience, a laugh about old times, linking back into lost friendships and

remembering a community we were all in and created together. So, if you weren't sure about attending this year and sitting on the fence, why not try it next year as the campsite had great facilities and you are given great pre-warning of dates so you can book into your calendar early? If you're not into camping, why not come visit for a day or evening, as you'll be made more than welcome and I'm sure you won't regret it? All in all, a thoroughly fantastic weekend and superbly arranged by the guys - see you all next year!

3RD BATTALION OFFICERS' REUNION LUNCH 2023

By Mike Hurman

On 27 April, another most congenial reunion lunch was organised by Guy Wood and held at the Army and Navy Club, St James's Square, London. The service period of those attending ranged from the 1970s in Dover, and further back in time, through the six years in Fallingbostal, then Canterbury, Belize, Aldergrove and finally Cyprus in 1992, where disbandment and amalgamation took place.

Meeting in the downstairs bar for pre-lunch drinks, the warmth and friendship meeting up with old chums shone through. The distances travelled by some I always think worthy of note. Last year's winner went to John Collingridge from Bunbury, (south of Perth), Western Australia. This year I believe it was Andrew Mallon from Harare, Zimbabwe and probably not far behind was Stephen Kilpatrick from Geneva. Within UK, I think Ian Raynes from near Brecon who travelled that morning with a cancelled train and taxi share in lieu, travelled the furthest. If I have missed more worthy travellers, please accept my apologies. The distances and determination to attend are testament to our comradeship.

At the lunch upstairs on the 2nd floor, Stephen Kilpatrick was asked to provide the speech this year. He mentioned his diary had been amended by his wife to show 'Lunch with old duffers talking rubbish' which was very accurate. His theme of 'If you know, you know' highlighted the memories we all hold of our time serving with one another. One memory amongst many that he highlighted was about not being where we should have been, ie geographically embarrassed. A toast was held and given 'To good friends and great memories'.

After lunch, we repaired downstairs to the bar where the balance of the tab kindly provided by Mark Ingledow, Paddy Reynolds and Stephen Cooper who had dropped out after paying for the lunch was readily consumed. Drink continued to flow until departure. A comment from Mark Rayner the next day of "*My head feels like a Fallingbostal Sunday morning*" summed it up.



Left to Right Clockwise: Mark Smallwood, Simon Wilson, Mark Rayner, Jerry Maltman, David Shephard, Mike Jelf, Alan Weston, Mike Williams, Clive Meek, Keith Gubbin, Mark Hutchinson, Brennan Dwyer, David Greenfied, Ian Raynes, Andrew Mallon, Richard Graham, Peter Goulston, Mike Hurman, Guy Wood, Mark Dunham, Stephen Kilpatrick, Bob Wilby, John Russell, Paul Edwards, Nick Sharples



The Reunion of the Gentlemen Rogues of C Company, 2 QUEENS took place at the White Horse Inn at Hawkinge on 24 June. A total of 51 members attended with their ladies.

A number had not seen each other for over 40 years, which included Ken Mankelow and Bill Ellis who were both involved in a fatal IED incident on the last two weeks of our tour in Armagh 1980. Ken was first man on the scene to tender First Aid on Bill and was credited with saving his life. Wonderful days, wonderful soldiers and wonderful memories.



On 2 June, the Chichester Branch took off to Gibraltar on the 50th Anniversary the 3rd Battalion's posting to the Rock in 1973. A church service was held on the Sunday at the Old Garrison King's Chapel bringing back memories to some of the veterans present. On 6 June, the 79th Anniversary of D Day, a wreath was laid at the WWII memorial by veterans of The Queen's Regiment and the Royal Sussex Association. Veterans present had served in the Korean, Aden, N Ireland and Falklands conflicts. Needless to say, many stories were told, and retold, and old haunts revisited. New friendships were formed, and old friendships renewed on this nostalgic trip to the Rock after 50 years.



Chichester Branch in Gibraltar



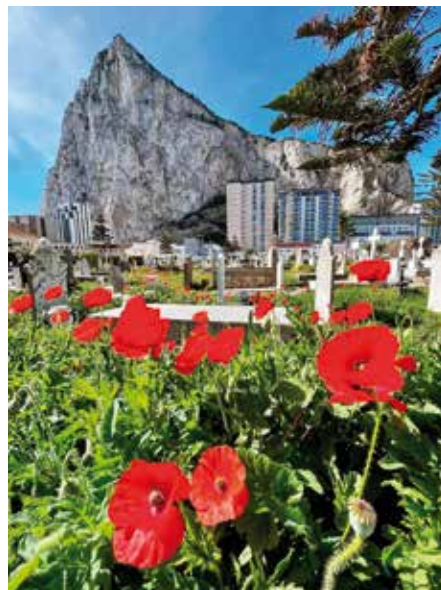
Enjoying the ambience



The Re-enactment Band play for us



King's Chapel next to the Governor's Residence, The Convent



The Poppies Blow



Dave Tilley and Brian Morley



DIEHARDS' REUNION

By Brian Finch

It is now more than half a century since The Middlesex Regiment ceased to exist as a separate regiment, following the amalgamation of all the regiments of The Home Counties Brigade to form The Queen's Regiment in 1966. For many years, both the Middlesex Regimental Association and the Officers' Club continued to flourish, supported by a gradually dwindling membership. Inevitably the passage of time and continued reduction in numbers led ultimately to the winding up of both these institutions.

But all was not lost. Determined to keep up the Diehard spirit, Steve Dowse, ably assisted by his wife Helen, started a new tradition of an annual lunch held in a hotel in Salisbury where former Diehard officers would meet with their wives to reminisce, chew the cud as well as their lunch, and compare the photographs – taken by ace photographer Hugh Lohan – with those of previous years, everyone trying not to look any older as each year passed.

This year events took a slightly different turn. Gavin Bulloch decided to reinstate an age old tradition of the 1st Battalion Officers' Mess – that of a curry lunch. These were often held on Sundays, when families were invited to take part and enjoy what everyone agreed was the finest curry this side of India (whether or not this was true). One of the features of these occasions was the presence of young toddlers running around the Mess playing with the side tables made from drums but hopefully not wrecking the Mess silver, indulged by the older officers but leaving many of the young subalterns feeling somewhat irritated; perhaps not quite realising that this was mainly because they shared with the children a similar level of immaturity.



Standing, left to right: David Falcke, Peter Clarke, Steve Dowse, Mike Ball and Hugh Lohan
Sitting, left to right: Brian Finch, Ginny Russell (daughter of the late Tony Pielow), Gavin Bulloch, Peter Gybbon-Monypenny, Julia O'Kane (daughter of the late Peter Cheeseman), and Roger Gancz.. Peter Clarke is holding a Middlesex Regiment Guidon brought by Ginny Russell, that originally belonged to her father, Tony Pielow. Sadly, its precise origins and purpose are lost in the mystery of history.

On 19 May, the closest convenient date to Albuhera Day, Gavin generously hosted a curry lunch at his home in the beautiful countryside near Marlborough, with the sterling help of his son James. The quality of the curry more than lived up to the standard of the traditions of 1MX Officers' Mess, and another tradition was also respected: that of including a few of the erstwhile toddlers, although by now some of these were themselves grandparents and were no longer running around in small circles!

The party took place in Gavin's magnificent garden, and the weather was kind to us. For a brief moment a slight drizzle – more like a Scotch mist – descended, causing a pause for breath, but happily this quickly changed its mind and moved on to other pastures, leaving the guests to enjoy a dry and sunny afternoon.

While we enjoyed the delicious food, Gavin announced, for those who had not been aware, that a petition had just been presented to His Majesty King Charles III for the reinstatement of the historic County of Middlesex. This was based on a proposal by Middlesex Heritage, and included the celebration of Middlesex Day, to be held each year on 16 May, chosen in recognition of the Battle of Albuhera and in memory of The Middlesex Regiment. Gavin explained that the way the system worked meant that if a petition reached the stage of being presented to His Majesty, it would undoubtedly succeed.

Several of the wives were also at the lunch, but not in the photograph, including Eryl Gancz, Karen Falcke, Ann Ball, Gillian Finch, Helen Dowse, as well as Geraldine Lofting (widow of the late John Lofting), Carol-Ann Hubert (widow of Peter Hubert) and Vanda Hewson (widow of John Hewson); and of course James Bulloch who, conscious of being a mere cavalry officer who never had a curry lunch in his Officers Mess, remained camera-shy. To be fair to James, not only did he enjoy a distinguished military career despite being in the wrong regiment, he also demonstrated his considerable social skills by helping Gavin host this truly memorable and enjoyable day.

Those unable to attend for various reasons including ill-health and living abroad included Moira Jeffcoat, widow of the late Jeff Jeffcoat, Mike Heyward, Tony McManus, Gordon and Margaret Crumley, Peter Packham and James Jonklaas.

Despite the ever decreasing numbers, the few remaining Diehards are determined to live up to their name and continue gathering for many years yet. Who knows when and where the next occasion will take place?

HORSHAM CURRY LUNCH

A bit of a cock up on the catering front

By Colin Hurd

Readers of a certain vintage will recognise the catchphrase 'A bit of a cock up on the catering front' from *The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin*. And so it was for the Horsham Branch's curry lunch on Saturday 16 September: not our finest hour. Thirty-eight of us met at the Drill Hall, Horsham for a reunion in our 23rd year to reinforce *esprit de corps*, reminiscence and remembrance. All went well as folk met up from midday for a drink on the house. Serenaded by a concert of recorded military music, chat and banter quickly filled the large hall where many of us had soldiered in days of yore; indeed, where The Royal Sussex Regiment Territorials had soldiered well before us. Sustained by social intercourse, the thought of curry and the odd alcoholic beverage, the countdown to 13:00 continued. Only Derrick Harwood was AWOL by the time folk homed in on their seats.

Rosie Potts, our newish committee member and valiant volunteer, began to suffer much organiser anxiety as she realised there was no sign of curry. The caterers were unexpectedly running two events, the other being just down the road at the local Masonic Hall. The caterers were unexpectedly running two events, the other being just down the road at the local Masonic Hall, where the caterers had





contractual obligations and where our own curry was being prepared. At last, someone arrived and began boiling bags of rice. Ten minutes overdue turned quickly to thirty-five minutes late for service! So, it fell to the Branch Chairman to

follow the programme but not necessarily in the intended order. The gap was filled with the welcome, fallen comrades, the 'few words' that might otherwise have followed the toasts – including thanking Rosie for her considerable efforts and thanking Paul Gooderson, late REME and Colin Penfold, late RAF who joined us for lunch for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club in Crawley and Horsham. A few ad libs also helped amuse the crowd until curry finally hit plates.



The temporary bar was fully operational and port was duly distributed. Our first Loyal Toast to HM The King and toast to our beloved Regiment were followed by the Regimental marches including the mandatory "Sussex by the Sea". Since only the chorus ever gets sung, the Chairman decided to render the full words of "Soldiers of the Queen" without music to, it has to be said, mixed reviews. A valiant effort nonetheless.

A cock-up on the catering front indeed it was but 'no plan survives etc' and it could have been worse. We learned later that afternoon that the caterer had nearly cancelled the night before but decided to "just do the best I can". The alternative might well have been a shipping order for fish and chips! Unconquered we were and the caterers just about served. By the way, Derrick Harwood timed his entrance to coincide with the availability of curry. Attention seeker!



JT, Ollie O'donoghue, Jock Hail, Danny Sandiford (steel band composer and inspiring music leader of Diehard Steelband) and his son Mark



5th Bn Middlesex Regimental Reunion, 10th June 2023, Witham

L-R: Brenda Bell, Joe "Jock" Bell, Margaret Stone, Rod Stone, Sheila Davis, Derrick Harwood, Maureen Harwood, Tim Barton, Valerie Barton, Roger Bird, Liz Smith, Alison Bird, Roger Davis



5th Bn Middlesex Regt Reunion 11th June 2022

L-R: Rod Stone, Charmaine Hunte, Valerie Barton, Margaret Stone, Monica Aldridge, Maureen Kavanagh, Ron Aldridge, Mary Crosder, Robin Crosder, Vernese Hunte, Tim Barton, Eggy Hunte, Alison Bird, Roger Bird, Sheila Davis, Roger Davis, Liz Smith, Sharon Williams, Maureen Harwood, Derrick Harwood





B COY 3 QUEENS



C COY 1 QUEENS



BRANCH REPORTS

1 QUEENS

By Steve Parsons



A big thank you to Joe Dormer for once again organising the 1 QUEENS Reunion on 27 May in Herne Bay, Kent. We were rather light on the ground this year, however Alistair Nelson kept the troops entertained reminiscing about the good old days, with a few stories that can't be mentioned here... no names, no pack drill!





Sadly 'Days to do are getting few' in a different way for us all, having lost more brothers this year. Do please keep an eye on www.1queens.co.uk for an update on the 2024 Reunion. It was great to see a few new faces this year, but it would be better if more of you could attend - especially the officers!





Laying of the Wreaths

No new members have joined since I last reported, and thankfully, none have left. Our branch remains at 30 members. Due to our huge geographical spread the branch activity is focused on 'virtual support', localised social meetings and supporting activities on our old battlegrounds. 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.

Ex-WO2 Streeting (1 QUEENS) is the stalwart and backbone of organising the May Albuera celebrations, having organised the parade, written the programme and speeches as well as acting as Master of Ceremonies for 14 events (at Albuera and Elvas). The service at Elvas is 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. Members of the Branch represent the Regiment and our forebear regiments by laying the official wreaths. This year Colonel Mark



Luis Santos GNR and Clive Oakes RBL



Col Kian Murphy at the Badajoz Wall



The Commandant Badajoz, Gen D Pablo Gomez Lera



Gen Rui Mourant salutes the grave of Lt Col James Ward Oliver



Col Mark Nooney MC, Celia Denning and Lt Jon Stone PWRR



Nooney MC represented PWRR RHQ, and his attendance was warmly welcomed by everyone. Portugal and Gibraltar branch Members attended both Elvas and la Albuera.



Stewart Streeting receives his gift



Col Mark Nooney MC at the award ceremony for local school students



The Ceremony

The Branch has also been assisting one member with welfare support, and has offered remote support to another member.

Finally, if anyone is living 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

By David Tilley

On 24 April, we joined the Royal Sussex Association at Chichester Cathedral to celebrate St George's Day. This was followed by a buffet lunch at the City Club.

On 20 May, 51 members and families and widows of the branch attended the Albuera Dinner at the Beachcroft Hotel when the guest of honour was the President of the Jean Carr Trust, Mr B Knight BEM.

Several members of the branch had a 5-day trip to Gibraltar in June and were the guests of the Gibraltar Regiment. A separate report is given earlier in the Journal.

On 5 August we organised a lunch for members and guests in the City Club to celebrate our anniversary as a branch. The food was great, the company entertaining

and to finish off, everyone joined in singing 'Soldiers of the Queen' and 'Sussex by the Sea'.

In September, we joined with members of the Royal Sussex Association at Goodwood Races and at their Annual Dinner in Lewes Town Hall. In November, we attended the usual Remembrance Services and parades.

We ended the year with our annual Christmas Dinner at the City Club. We had 64 members attending, although the Chairman bailed out due to being hospitalised and Eddie Drew had to take the reins.

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 2024.

Paraphrasing Dickens, the last 12 months: 'It has been the best of times, it was the worst of times'.

As far as the trustees and senior management in the Corps was concerned, it was the latter, but for the cadets, it was most certainly the former. So let us concentrate on our main objective ie the cadets and of following the dictate of our Founder, Miss Grace Reynolds:



Accepting the Community Award

“To give moral, mental and physical training in a military environment, to boys and girls of any race, colour or creed, so that they develop their characters in the best of ways and become adults with moral strength, good manners, self-control, self-respect, and thus good Citizens likely to have a happy and successful life in whatever career they pursue.”

Our cadet total number are spread over five age-related companies plus a Corps of Drums, and fluctuates between 75 and 95. Fully trained Instructors numbers between 10 and 18, and at one time, trained female Instructors outnumbered their male counterparts.

Training closely follows the ACF syllabus, with awards and promotions accordingly. During better weather, training is put into formal practice as much as possible in the woods and fields surrounding us.

Main parade evenings take place on Tuesdays, with Fridays for Burma Coy (youngest). The Corps of Drums meets on Thursdays, and those with Special Educational Needs meet on Mondays.

Kayaking at Annual Camp





At the Czechoslovakia Memorial

The following special uniformed events took place:

- a) Prize Giving of cups, shields, rose bowls presented by a distinguished guest to nominated worthy cadets, in the presence of the Mayor, parents and invited dignitaries
- b) Helping RBL with sale of Poppies with a stall in Camberley town centre.
- c) Celebrating our Fallen at our own on-site War Memorial.
- d) Joining all local youth groups for Remembrance Sunday parade.



At No 10 Downing Street

- e) Joining local church congregation with cadet and parents for a Carol Concert.
- f) Parading in Camberley, Farnborough and Fleet for the Coronation of King Charles III
- g) Parading at Brookwood Cemetery with the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, MPs dignataries, numerous Military Attachés and MoD representatives.
- h) Parading at Brookwood Cemetery for Brookwood's "Last Post" Association.
- i) Collection made on behalf of F&CCC at local Waitrose and M25 Services.
- j) In-house shooting competition over several weeks.
- k) Various "Cadets in the Community" initiatives.
- l) Annual Camp this year was held at Runways End, Farnborough. With the assistance of their specialist instructors, we organised canoeing, building and racing rafts, rock wall climbing, target shooting and orienteering.
- m) Parading with QRA and the Combined Irish Regiments Association at the Cenotaph in London followed by a visit to No 10 Downing Street.
- n) RAF Odiham (Home of the Chinooks): special invited to their Staff & Parents Open Day, but unfortunately not a flight in a Chinook this year.



Raft Race

The F&CCC won the Hampshire County Council and Rushmoor Borough Council, Community Service Award and were in the final of the Surrey County Council Award for Championing Equality and Diversity

HORSHAM

By Colin Hurd OBE TD

The Horsham Branch remains a fully operational part of the QRA ORBAT. We held our 23rd AGM on 6 March, when Colin Hurd was re-elected (coerced) as Chairman for a further term. Talking of AGMs, a section's worth of us supported the QRA's meeting and reunion at the London UOTC on the Saturday before. Much banter, batter (on the fish) and beer all round.

The Royal Sussex Regimental Association celebrated St George's Day at Chichester Cathedral on 24 April followed by a buffet lunch in the Assembly Rooms. Those of us who served in Sussex have a particularly strong connection to our forebear regiment. Our orange lanyards in the early years were testament to this, as is our ability to render 'Sussex by the Sea' with much enthusiasm. Rosie and Shane Potts were there as guests of Mick Courtnage and his wife Anne. John Ross also appeared. Quite a few other Queensmen were present. The service was a reminder of our own 6/7 Queen's Colours event last year and how wide is our extended regimental family.



Horsham Normandy BFT 2022 - bumped into Piers Storie-Pugh in pink trousers

There are certainly non-Branch Queensmen about. They can sometimes be found attending the Crawley & Horsham Armed Forces & Veterans' Breakfast Club, which is now firmly established. Not everyone is a joiner, but it's good to make contact and we are here if needed.

Talking of breakfasts, five of us braved the M23 / M25 in the rain to join the Middlesex Branch for its August repast at the Whitewebbs Toby Carvery, Enfield on Saturday the 5th, there to experience the eat-all-you-can £6.99 offering including, stand by, breakfast Yorkshire puddings and breakfast gravy! I've eaten some strange combinations whilst in the military but, after confronting a bewildered older lady clad in Winceyette pyjamas at the wrong address (46 vs 49), we trundled on for our 90+ mile journey. More miscommunication than on approaching Heathrow as one of our number remarked



that it was a long way to Henfield, which is only 16 miles from his home! Junction 25 and the A10 provided more fun as a critical turn was duly missed resulting in a short tour of a housing estate.

The group wiggled its way back to the A10 crossing point, into the countryside and thence to the well-camouflaged Toby Carvery entrance (now in the extended ULEZ). Our Middlesex brethren were well



St Georges Day Mick Cortnage - John Ross - Rosie and Shane Potts



Horsham Normandy BFT 2022 Adrian Smith - Graham Morrison monkey about

ensconced, and breakfast, banter and beer followed - and of course batter for those with an appetite for breakfast Yorkshire pudding!

Such regimental *esprit de corps* is of course the basis of the annual Albuhera Commemoration. Our Branches did very well with twenty-two members taking part in the Silent Toast to 'The Immortal Memory'.

Many sailors, soldiers and aviators, including a high proportion of our Branch membership, spent their military service as part of NATO, deterring the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact armies - the Cold War years. Thankfully, no shots were fired in anger by us but the invasion of Ukraine where shots are being fired in anger daily, regrettably, reinforces the need for a strengthened UK and NATO to face down Russia.



Horsham Albuhera 2023 led by Adrian Smith with Jonathan Purdy I/C loving cup

For the moment, our battlefield tours are confined to earlier 'hot' conflicts. Following our successful September 2022 tour in Normandy, plans are in hand for another tour in 2024.

Our thanks go to our new(ish) committee member Rosie Potts for organising a successful curry lunch at the Drill Hall, Horsham.

Regretfully the Royal British Legion's plan to acquire the Drill Hall in Horsham has come to naught. Our reunions therefore continue at the Horsham Sports (Cricket) Club. We meet four times a year.

Our 2024 dates Mondays are:

4 March, 13 May (for Albuhera), 2 September and 2 December.



QRA reunion 2023 Marc Harrold (L) briefs Colin Hurd on the finer points of catastrophic bleeds



Horsham Albuhera 2023 Mike Cattell - Adrian Smith - Jonathan Purdy & Richard Taylor remember



QRA reunion 2023 - Steve Grey - Bob Hill - Jim Wilson lay siege to the bar

ISLE OF THANET BRANCH JOURNAL REPORT 2023

By Kev Minnis



The new branch standard

Like all the other branches we have been busy over the year. Members took part in Remembrance parades across Thanet. The QRA Corps of Drums supported the parade at Ramsgate and as usual were professional and were a credit to the Association. Also, after our November meeting we withdrew from the Ramsgate RBL due to their unacceptable attitude towards a member of our Branch.

This left us homeless for our December meeting and Christmas drinks. Fortunately, the Ramsgate Branch, Royal Air Force Association (RAFA), kindly allowed us to use their Club for our meeting and Christmas drinks. This meant that we were able to hold the draw for the 'Lest We Forget' garden chair to raise funds for the Benevolent Fund. Wendy James, Ron Brown's partner, drew the winning ticket for us. Steve Scully, whose ticket it was, was delighted as he has never won anything before, and he was presented with his new garden chair in January. We raised £115 with the raffle, but on the night of the draw, fellow members donated an extra £35 which took this to £150 for the Benevolent Fund, which was presented to the Association Secretary by Lt Col Martin Neame later in the year.

With the end of 2022 approaching, we were still homeless but we were thrown a lifeline by the Senior Service. The Ramsgate Branch of the Royal Navy Association (RNA) very kindly allowed us to use their Club for meetings. So, we started 2023 in a new home and were welcomed as fellow shipmates. The help received from the RNA and RAFA has allowed the Branch to carry on and shows how veterans can work together in mutual support!



This year has seen the Branch hold several Branch RVs, an AGM and regular meetings. Members also attended the QRA AGM in London. February saw us supporting our shipmates on the 12th, with the RNA Ramsgate holding a commemoration parade for the 81st anniversary of the Channel Dash. On 12 February 1942, three significant German warships, the *Sharnhorst*, *Gneisenau* and *Prinz Eugen* left the secure port of Brest and made a run up the English Channel to break out to home waters before being deployed into the North Atlantic. They were not detected for 12 hours. At that time the Royal Navy was badly stretched escorting vital convoys from the USA and there were meagre resources available. Six Swordfish torpedo bombers of the Fleet Air Arm stationed at Manston and two motor torpedo boats in the harbour at Ramsgate were deployed to attack the German warships as part of Op FULLER. The operation did not stop the warships from reaching their home waters but damage was inflicted by mines in the North Sea. Unfortunately, all the Swordfish were lost to heavy AA fire and German fighters, which overcame the courageous action of the pilots and crews. Lt Cdr Esmonde, Fleet Air Arm was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. Our branch was invited to take part and our Standard was on parade with other Ramsgate Veteran Associations. We look forward to taking part in future Channel Dash parades.

In April, we held our own AGM to elect the branch committee and our first Branch President, Martin Neame. We held our Albuhera Dinner on 16 May, with 23 attending including members of the RNA, REA, RAA, RLCA, a Royal Welch Fusilier and our Danish member Torben Hilligsoe. We also had the privilege of the Queen's Regimental Association Corps of Drums performing a drums display for the dinner; this was much appreciated by those present who were not part of



Martin Neame presenting £150 to QRA Secretary with Brian Clarke, Peter Steele and Kev Minnis



Steve Scully receiving his "Lest We Forget" chair



Albuhera Dinner 16th May with the QRA Corps of Drums

the regimental family. We look forward to next year's dinner and we hope that more members of the regimental family who live in and around Thanet can join us.

This year marked the 229th Anniversary of 'The Glorious First of June 1794'. The Regiment has forged strong links with the Royal Navy, continued today by the PWRR with HMS Excellent which inherited the traditions of HMS Queen Charlotte. As we now meet at the Ramsgate RNA, the branch took this as an excellent opportunity to invite Ramsgate Branch RNA to join us in comradeship and fellowship of a shared heritage to commemorate the joint Battle Honour. We had a buffet laid on after a short presentation on the battle. The RNA was so impressed with this that next year they will host a dinner which will take place on 1 June. We hope that we can continue this commemoration on into the future and join with them during Armed Forces Day.


The Armed Forces Day parade went well in Ramsgate with members on the parade supported by the band of 3 PWRR who did us proud.

We have just received a grant for a new QRA Branch standard. This has been funded by the QRA. We look forward to receiving the new standard in mid-September and are now in the planning stage to have it consecrated as well as having our Queen's Own Buffs Association standard laid up. The report will be in next year's Journal.


We look forward to 2024, with a new standard, focusing on recruiting, social events, parades, our Albuhera Dinner and collaboration with the RNA, for the Glorious First of June 1794 Dinner. If you live in or around Thanet, please contact us if you would like to join the Branch; former members of the Queen's, PWRR, forebear regiments and serving personnel are all welcome to join. Details on how to get in touch are at the back of the *Journal*.




QRA Corps of Drums Display



Isle of Thanet Branch
Queen's Regimental Association
Albuhera & Glorious First of June 1794 Dinners 2024



Albuhera Dinner
Thursday 16th May 2024 in Ramsgate
(Veterans & serving personnel only)



Glorious First of June 1794 Dinner
Saturday 1st June 2024 in Ramsgate
(Veteran's, serving personnel, family & friends welcome)
If you would like to attend please e-mail the Branch for details
QRARamsgate@outlook.com
Unconquered I serve

In 1972, we were on patrol just off the Royal Avenue, Belfast when there was an explosion in a side street! We rushed to the scene of the location of the explosion. A number of shop windows had been blown out, the main one being a tailor's shop where a lady was leaning against the door frame looking a little shaken. I asked if she was OK and she nodded. I then asked if she thought the bomb was sectarian- motivated. She looked at me with a faint smile spread her hands and in a very London Jewish accent said: "My boy - what do you think?"

John Taylor



Army & Navy 2023 Regimental Gathering

Again, the Association provided an event at the annual Army & Navy Rugby match at Twickenham. Thanks to Maj Giles Walsh, who worked tirelessly to ensure the Association has sufficient tickets for the game and make sure that refreshments were provided for those who attended. This is becoming increasingly harder because of the constraints on holding a regimental stand by the ARU and Twickenham. But thanks to Giles's networking and organisational skills, he managed to ensure we had a focal point with refreshments for everyone who turned up. A great day was had by all, despite the efforts of TFL and the RMT union to ruin the day!

PWRR Remembrance 2022 Cenotaph Parade

The Association attendance grew in number for the 2022 parade with many PWRR Veterans and London Branch members attending. As usual, there was a great deal of waiting around. However, it was great once we stepped off and the camaraderie between regiments is fantastic. If it is something which if you have never taken part, it is strongly recommended that you do at least once in your life. It is a truly memorable event. *(Ed: I send out an email every year inviting applicants. It is important that you respond if you want a ticket straight away and then you get on the list.)*

Social Gathering & Communication

The Association has stopped sending out its newsletter because all members should now receive the Regimental update directly from RHQ if you have signed up and registered. The London Branch will only send out communications now if is specific to the London Branch and its members.



Members taking a 30inch pace...most of the time

Albuhera Dinner & St Pauls Service

Sadly, due to industrial action it was agreed to cancel the 2023 Albuhera service and function, planned to be held at St Paul's and the Union Jack Club (UJC) this year. The Association is keen to have an event that is attractive for all regimental veterans to attend and is not an exclusive event. Further details on this will be pushed out by the branch after discussion with RHQ.

Contact the Branch

If you wish to join the Branch, or pass information or ideas to the Branch, please contact Capt (Retd) Dennis Sharrocks Branch secretary. Email secretary.pwrralondon@gmail.com



Preparation of the Regimental stand at Twickenham



Gathering at Trafalgar Square



Waiting for dispersal on Horse guards and the social drinks after the event



Story-telling and lantern-swinging post Cenotaph parade



Members gather to swing the lantern at Twickenham



Formed up ready to step off



2023 has been another busy year for the Middlesex Branch with many ups and a few downs. Our traditional luncheon to kick-start the New Year in January had to be postponed when the organising committee all went down with a non-Covid related lurgy. However, the luncheon did go ahead in February with over 40 members and guests attending.



2 MX Graves

In March, several members attended the AGM and Reunion in London. The Secretary (after imbibing freely) stumbled when leaving Handel Street, banged his head on the pavement and ended up in the University College Hospital for the night with his wingman Trevor Canton (our Chairman) keeping him company. Dave Saunders was another who had difficulty remaining vertical after leaving and he too took a tumble. The less said the better about our member who shall remain nameless, who was so 'happy' that he couldn't remember the name of his hotel or even the PIN for his mobile phone! Good to see the Middlesex Branch upholding the traditions of the Regiment. *(Ed: I say nothing!)*



Some of the Branch on the Battlefield Tour outside the hotel

In May, we commemorated the Battle of Albuhera with the Silent Toast Ceremony at the Army Reserve Centre with B Company 4 PWRR. On 3rd June, we held a very successful Albuhera Dinner in the Officers Mess at ARC Edgware with another full house including our guest of honour - Major Andy Keen, the new OC of B Company 4 PWRR. A healthy number of members also attended Woolwich Barracks on 10th June to see 4 PWRR receive new Colours from HRH Prince Frederick of Denmark.

The annual branch battlefield tour took place in July. 15 members spent 5 days in Albert, France on Leger Holidays' 'The Somme Offensive Tour' tour. The itinerary included a number of very interesting visits including the Thiepval Memorial, the South African Commemorative Museum at Delville Wood, the huge mine crater at Beaumont-Hamel, the Ulster Tower and the fantastic Sir John Monash Centre that commemorates the Australian war effort in WW1. As usual there was much laughter, banter, reminiscing, lamp-swinging, mickey-taking, beer-drinking and red-wine quaffing, but also on a more serious note, a reminder that in 141 days, British and Empire troops plus the French advanced only seven miles; British and Empire losses were 420,000, 200,000 French and 450,000 Germans. A sobering reminder. Bill Murphy, a former Branch Chairman, returned home from the trip with



Meet the gang 'cos the boys are here - boys to entertain you. The battlefield tour team

an unwelcome souvenir in the form of a plaster cast due to fracturing his wrist after slipping and falling in the shower at the hotel.

Our monthly Breakfast and Beer Club meet-ups continue to be very popular with around 12-15 members regularly attending, including a welcome party of five from the Horsham Branch who travelled up to join us in August. We try to hold our meet-ups on the first Saturday of the month and alternate the venue between the Toby Carvery at Whitewebbs, Enfield and the Toby Carvery at Studio Way, Borehamwood. If there are any Queensmen who live locally and would like to join us, we would be glad to see you and you will get your first breakfast bought for you.

Sadly, at the time of writing these notes for the Journal we have lost two branch members. Earlier in February, Steve Dunkley passed, and several members of the branch attended his funeral at Aldershot. In July, whilst we were away in France, we learned that our good friend and one of the founder members of the Branch - Les White - had died due to respiratory failure caused by Motor Neurone Disease. Our thoughts are with their respective wives Jo and Mel.

Looking forward, we will be holding a Summer Luncheon in August and in September. The Branch will represent the Regimental Association in France for the reburial of three formerly unknown Middlesex Regiment soldiers killed in the Great War who have now been formally identified through DNA testing. A full report will be provided in next year's Journal.



Bill Murphy after his accident - still able to smile and raise a large Scotch!



Ian Nickels and John Sajdler at the Thiepval Memorial

October will see former Officers, WOs and Sgts join the serving senior ranks of B Company 4 PWRR for the annual Feathers Club Dinner. Then we will be into November for the various Remembrance services we attend with B Company 4 PWRR which will round off what will have been another full and varied year of activity for the Middlesex Branch.

Our numbers remain healthy at around 100 Full, Associate and Honorary Members and we recently heard that one of our members, Lt Col Jonathan Bowman has been selected to take command of 3 PWRR - good news indeed!



The new Banner since being dedicated last year (see last year's report) has already been put to good use and was paraded for the very first time in support of the Circuit of Service Lodges in March of this year. We have also now secured from the original funding a silk version which can be used when travelling to other Masonic centres.



Stuart Clarke at his initiation

In June of 2023, thanks to the rail strike, we had to move our meeting venue to Upminster Masonic Lodge in Essex. We were very well looked after and at that meeting W Bro Stuart (Monty) Clarke was installed as the Worshipful Master of our Lodge. He then invested his officers for his year in office, Ian (Chelsea) Hall, ex-1 QUEENS and PWRR, as the Senior Warden; Terry Crosby, ex-3 QUEENS and PWRR as Junior Warden, Paul Dove, ex-2 QUEENS, as Senior Deacon Dennis Sharrocks, ex-1 QUEENS and PWRR, as Junior Deacon; and Michael Prime, ex 1-QUEENS, as the Inner Guard. A full list of our Lodge Officers is available on our web site at <http://queensmanlodge.co.uk>.

I travelled over to Ulster in August for a mini 3rd Battalion reunion and had the honour of presenting James

The banner design, for those that know our regimental history, recognises all the forebear regiments and currently the PWRR.

During the year we also held a meeting in Colchester to raise Bros Joy and Perfect to become Master Masons.

We have had a few new additions to the Lodge and sadly since our last report we have also had to say farewell to those that have gone to the Grand Lodge above.



Colchester ceremony

McKeown with a framed mini-banner in appreciation for all his contributions to our raffles over the years.

In October, a few of the Lodge members are travelling once again to Guernsey to visit two separate lodges that we also visited last year. Also, in October WBro Steven Simmons will become the first Worshipful Master of a new lodge in East Kent to be known as the East Kent Combined Services Lodge. Queensman Lodge sponsored the formation of that new venture.

Our December meeting is going to include a Festive Board (dinner) at which wives and non-Masons can attend. It gives us the opportunity to have a social event with our wives and partners and anyone that might have an interest in the Masonic fraternity.

I was just finishing my patrol report when the CO paid an unexpected visit. He looked over my shoulder and said: "You have spelt Niebuhr wrong!" I replied: "Have I, Sir?" He turned to me and said: "But you have just passed your EPC Advanced haven't you?" I replied: "That's right Sir, I can spell it any fucking way I want now!!!"

John Taylor

The start of the year was fairly quiet performance-wise for the Drums, kicking off the year at their favourite watering hole, The Saracen's Head (sadly now closed) in a joint fundraiser for the Benevolent Fund and The Golf Road Community Centre in Deal. The evening was a great success even with an extensive injury list to the drummers (a broken foot and a torn ankle to name just two) which did not stop them from putting on a successful display.





In March we formed a partnership with the Margate Sea and Royal Marine cadets, allowing us to train permanently at their unit.

May saw us celebrating with the Isle of Thanet Branch at their annual Albuhera Dinner in the beautiful setting of Pegwell Bay. It was a chance to catch up with some old friends, some of whom we had not seen for over 30 years!

July meant the return of the fantastic 'One Aim Rally' for the QRRA and the 'Lunch with Heroes' at the stunning Folkington Manor, performances that all the drummers look forward to each year.

The close of the year is set to be very busy with displays at the Sea and Royal Marine Cadet hut for their Merchant Navy Day; the Grand Shaft in Dover where we are still the only Corps to play there in over 100 years, the British Legion Poppy Appeal Concert and Remembrance Day Parade, in Ramsgate to name a few!

We are hoping to be even busier in the New Year with plans for a big recruitment drive and the start of our very own drums merchandise!

As always we would like to thank the President and Secretary for their unwavering support and guidance.

Should anyone wish to join or book the Drums please contact Amy Holden on 07568630924 or email qracorpsofdrums@yahoo.co.uk



The primary aims of the Queen's Regiment Riders Association (QRRRA) are to ride motorbikes with fellow Queensmen and to raise money for the Benevolent Fund. It is open to those who serve or have served in any branch of the Regiment, be it forebear, actual or successor or who were attached, and who have a motorbike – we even allow people with scooters!

Tragedy struck the QRRRA this year with the deaths of two stalwarts. First was Bruce 'Flattie' Chapman who died suddenly and second was Glyn 'Stix' Clarke who was killed on his motorcycle trike by a hit and run driver who had just ridden through a red light and ran from the scene – arrested the following day. Stix will be sorely missed: he was the Club's horticultural expert and land manager and had been responsible for sourcing and the organisation behind the planting of over 1700 trees and shrubs at Kennels Field.

The One Aim Rally was yet again a great success with some terrific bands and of course the QRA Corps of Drums – always a highlight. The usual bike competition was held, and we were able to take the opportunity to have a relaxing weekend away from pressures of the building of the Rehab Centre while at the same time carrying out one of the main aims of the Association. Sadly, because of the cost-of-living crisis hitting everyone's pockets, numbers attending were down, but this did not halt the generosity of those who did attend as we raised in excess of £7,000 beating last year's total. This means that since we started the QRRRA, we have raised over £60K for the Benevolent Fund – something about which we are very proud. We have also had the chance of hosting two other events, both of which generated money for the BF.

The build continues relentlessly. What has been achieved to date is remarkable considering that the fundraising and the actual build has been done entirely by member volunteers from within the QRRRA and the wider regimental family. To date over £250K



Stix



Flattie



One Aim Rally



Part of the 'Lest We Forget' poppy bank



The Horticultural Rehabilitation, Social and Community Centre

has been raised through fundraising and grants. We dug a 1400m trench to facilitate the electricity connection. Sadly, because of the lack of efficiency among the various electric companies with whom we have had to deal, the building still has not been connected but it is hoped that this will actually happen at the beginning of October. What didn't help was the fact that 100m of cable was stolen as the contractors laying the cable omitted to cover it up for the night! The inside is coming together with plasterboard up and shortly the roof insulation will be installed. There is still a great deal of work to be done but, funds permitting, it is sincerely hoped that after 4 years since the inception of this project, it will be complete in time to report next year.

The QRRRA Committee would like to thank all volunteers for their support and hard work in helping us achieve what so far has been a remarkable one for a bunch of unqualified ex-



Top Cover and Boots Scully



Willo and his crossbow on the range

squaddies. They would also like to thank the Regimental Trustees for their interest and continued support in the work of the QRRR, without whom this project would have ground to a halt.

We hope to see you next year at the next One Aim Rally on 5-7 July 2024. Do please come!



Nothing more needs to be said!



We started the 2023 season off as we always do with a Society get-together known as First Knock. This is also the first of our four 'Majors', the other three being the Annual General Meeting, Captain's Fun Day and the End of Season Dinner. The winner of the year will be the one with the accumulative highest number of points from these four Majors. We welcomed a few new members from all branches of the regimental family.

First Knock was held on Saturday 25 March 2023 at Top Meadow Golf course in Essex. As expected at this time of year, we were very much dependent on the weather in the coming out of winter. The course was a bit damp in places, but it did not dampen the spirit of the Society. Thirty-six players turned up, some of them new members.



First Knock Group Photo

The next big get-together was the Inter-Battalion match held at Warley Park Golf Course in Essex on Saturday 15 April. This was made up of four teams representing 1QUEENS, 2 QUEENS, 3 QUEENS and PWRR/R HAMPS. The captain of each team tactically sent their players out in their chosen order. Captains were as follows: 1 QUEENS – David Myers, 2 QUEENS – David Kirby, 3 QUEENS – Martin Russell and PWRR/R HAMPS – John Edney. 1 QUEENS emerged victorious.



Inter Battalion Match



1 QUEENS winners Inter Battalion Match

Our Annual General Meeting was our next big get-together, held at Upchurch River Valley Golf Club in Kent on Friday 26 May 2023. It is a long day and always has a big turnout. The day started with breakfast, followed by a nine-hole fun match, lunch, then the big 18-hole match. The day ended with an evening meal, presentations and the Annual General Meeting. The weather was kind. The 1 QUEENS reunion fell on the next day: respective members started that day with a round of golf before their get-together.



QRS Match

Captain's Fun Day was held at Bletchingley Golf Club in Surrey on Friday 7 July. This is another Society get-together and one where money is raised for the Captain's chosen charity. Thirty players turned up and over £400 was raised.



The Society visited Bletchingley Golf Club again on Friday 11 August 2023, this time for the Chuck Cullinane Trophy, an event organised by past Society Captain, Steve Richards. Yet again we had a good turnout and £300 was raised.

On Thursday 22 June 2023, a team of 12 players headed up to Shirley Golf Club in Solihull, where the annual Triangular match between The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers took place. Each year, each regiment take it in turn to host the match, this year being the RRF. As the current holders of the trophy, the Society captain and his team travelled up the day before and stayed locally before battling it out to emerge victorious again and to retain the trophy. Next year, it is the turn of the R ANGLIAN to host.



Martin Brady and Steve Richards

On 1 August, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society match took place at Poulton Wood Golf Club in Kent. Sadly this was the last time that the Golf Society will play against QRSR GS; credit should go to Peter Swanson who kept the society going for as long as physically possible. Peter is still very active with the Golf Society. The match was won by the Golf Society.



Triangular



Presentation at the Queen's Royal Surreys Match



QRS Match



Every year we play matches against other societies. Some of these have been regular annual matches for a number of years and are played for bragging rights. A team of 8–12 players is normally gathered.

Our season at the time of going to print is not over yet and we are looking forward to our second match against Kent Police, End of Season Dinner and then our match against Kingsnorth Golf Club. There is also a Poppy Day match that we are invited to by Jez Davison at Cottesmore Golf and Country Club.



Col J Wright Memorial

Gathered. So far this year, match results are as follows:

Date	PWRR v	Venue	PWRR result
31 March	Barkway GC	Top Meadow	Draw
28 April	Barkway GC	Barkway GC	Won
12 May	Kent Police	Canterbury	Won
15 June	Sussex Police	Lingfield Park	Lost
25 August	Lewes Prison Officers	Lingfield Park	Won

At the time of writing this report, representatives from the Society have just returned from a Memorial Game in respect of the late Colonel Jon Wright held at Gloucester Golf Club where he played.

WEALD

By John Grinham



Weald branch has had a busy year organising four events; the Queen's Christmas Drinks at the Castle Lake Restaurant in Leybourne, (sadly this venue is no longer available due to change of management); our Kohima Lunch which was held at the Rose and Crown hotel in Tonbridge; the Weald Branch BBQ and camping weekend was held at Burham in Kent with the kind consent of Martin and Jenny Wilson and thanks to wives Jane and Joan for their hard work. All of these events were well attended by our members and families. Barry Crocker, the committee and I are busy organising the Christmas dinner and badgering local businesses for gifts towards branch raffles etc.



Sadly, we had to attend the funerals of two of our branch members: Capt Ham Whitty our former Branch Chairman, and our oldest member Alfred Hunt MM who was 103 years old.



Two of our branch members have independently made several trips to Ukraine over the last two years to give aid. We applaud them both for their considerable efforts and all of you for contributing to this cause.

We are still trying to recruit new members which always seems an uphill struggle particularly with the younger Queensmen. If there are any of you that live in the West or wider Kent area and would like to get involved, come along and catch up with your Army buddies. If there was enough interest, we could hold extra meetings in the evenings. Please contact me if you are interested - it's your local association. As a taster, we are looking to organise a trip to Normandy or Ypres in the coming year if there is enough interest.

WESSEX

By Anthony Bolton

The Wessex Branch has had a similar year to the last, fairly quiet and low key; our main event was a successful pre-Christmas gathering in Salisbury to which we welcomed the presence of Ken Hames and his wife Caro, as well as Pete Dunncliffe and Mike Woodward from slightly outside our normal TAOR, together with Barry Azzopardi and Brian Kelling who joined the usual suspects. For reasons not revealed, there is little photo evidence of the occasion. The Branch has supported various charity expeditions and members have attended the Regimental Association AGM and the 1st Battalion reunion in Herne Bay.

On a very sad note, several of us attended the funeral of Col Jon Wright in Cheltenham in May. Jon will be missed by all; having just landed a job at the museum in Dover, he was about to get pinged to assume the role of Branch Chairman of the Wessex.

At time of writing, several members are girding their blazers, medals and berets ready to attend the now annual gathering at the National Memorial Arboretum – a report of which will no doubt follow.

Finally, thinking that he was finally about to hang up his sword, the Branch Secretary was dined out by 4 Military Intelligence Battalion in Bulford, to which he invited Col John Baynham who'd been a Potential Officer when the former had occupied an Adjutant's chair.



Baynham and Bolton behaving badly - again! ...the sins of the fathers...'. If you know, you know!



The branch is ticking along nicely although we struggle to

increase membership, as do other branches I suspect. Our monthly meetings at A Coy, 4 PWRR, Farnham continue, greatly supported by Maj Willie McKean, PSAO A Coy who has assisted on many occasions. Sadly, in February we lost our long-standing member Steve Dunkley. Steve served in 6/7 Queen's at D Coy Sutton.

Remembrance Sunday Parade was well attended, as was the Christmas Party held the following month at Willems Park, Aldershot, built on the site of the former Willems Barracks (West Cavalry Barracks) where there was also a WW11 POW camp. The photo shows the remains of the Barracks!



Farnham Armed Forces Day L-R Jenny Hill, Bob Hill, John Tucker, Nick Bryan, Andy McAinsh and Ray Morris

Monday 19 June was Farnham Armed Forces Week flag raising which some members were able to attend and make the most of the tea and cakes provided by the Mayor and his team. We are fortunate to have a very good relationship with Farnham Town Council, which values the town's military connections.

On 8 July, a small number of us went to see the Royal Armouries 'Standing With Giants' artwork at Fort Nelson, a tribute to the service personnel who lost their lives during the Falklands campaign. The artwork consists of 258 life size



Willems Barracks (West Cavalry Barracks)



The Royal Armouries 'Standing With Giants'

silhouette military figures located around the Fort; a moving reminder of the sacrifice. The photo shows only a small part of the installation. For those who have never visited the fort, do try to if possible. It is situated at the top of Portsdown Hill and the view down to Portsmouth City and Harbour is impressive, to say the least.

In August, our annual Picnic in the Park took place. This year it took place in the park as against last year, as there was no heat wave to drive us to shelter in the Chairman's' garden! Another successful family day at Frimley Lodge Park.

Looking beyond the AGM in October, there will be no Christmas Party in December. Instead, we will hold a New Year's Party in January which is good news as far as the writer is concerned as I can use it as an item in next year's report!

THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

By Barry Lane

Things have picked up apace for the Association since the beginning of 2023. Our involvement at the Menin Gate in Ypres has been covered earlier in this Journal. We have, however, been busy elsewhere during the year.

On Saturday 22 April, Von Arnim's Staff car was displayed at 'Tiger Day' at Bovington Tank Museum, and it completed two laps of the arena with a narration and stops for the crowd; a big thank you to all who gave up their weekend to man the stand and answer questions from the crowd.



Von Arnim's car

On the same day, the Chair represented the Association at the Presentation of Colours to 4 PWRR at Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich. On a fine but blustery day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark presented the Colours after their consecration. The Battalion then marched past in both slow and quick time. A splendid meal was laid on in the Officers' Mess for all guests after the parade. We would like to thank the organisers for the consideration shown in using the Royal Sussex silver drums for the drumhead service.



St George's Day was celebrated on Monday 24 April as we are unable to use Chichester Cathedral on a Sunday for obvious reasons. 90 members and guests assembled at 1130 for the service with the Lord

Lieutenant of West Sussex and the Deputy Mayor of Chichester in attendance. The service was followed by a reception in the Assembly Hall.

As one event followed another in May, the Association presented the Chichester Detachment of the Sussex ACF with a new standard, jointly funded by the Chichester Branch and the Association. This was presented at a ceremony at the Detachments HQ, which just happens to be the Keep at what was Roussillon Barracks, our old Regimental Depot. In attendance was the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, The Chief Executive and Deputy of SERFCA as well as other guests.

Cadet Standard



4 PWRR Colours at Woolwich

BOOK REVIEWS

HIGH RISK By Adrian O'Donnell

When Stephen Byfield takes on the challenge of becoming the youngest governor of a high security prison, he fails to realise the depth of devious behaviour plotted amongst his own staff. He also faces the murderous intent from the psychopathic serial killer Martin Heard. This fictional book is about the battles he and his family face.

While the story of High Risk is not completely true, it draws on the experience of the author who served in 3 QUEENS before leaving and joining the Prison Service, finally ending up as the Governor. Part of a series, this book is one of five written by Adrian and can be bought through Amazon or on Adrian's website www.adrianodonnell.com either as a paperback or for Kindle.

Reviews:

'Utterly BRILLIANT!! I couldn't put it down. It's an absolute page turner from dusk till dawn (you won't go to sleep early, be warned, you'll be reading till the early hours). Not only is that a sign of a fantastic book, but also the feeling of bereavement you will experience when you have finished it.'

'The beginning of this book is quite violent and I wondered if I was going to enjoy it. Having read on a little I discovered it was one of those 'ignore the dirty dishes in the sink' books.'

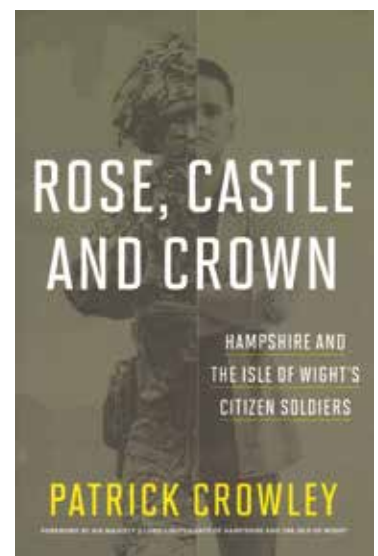
'Author O'Donnell has indeed created the stuff of nightmares in the introduction of Martin Heard as a psychopathic killer hell bent on revenge at any cost. O'Donnell's 32 years in prison service lends the book a feel of authenticity that adds credence to the story as well.'



ROSE, CASTLE AND CROWN:

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT'S CITIZEN SOLDIERS

This new book, written by Colonel (Retd) Patrick Crowley MBE DL, is a unique history of the part-time soldier of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, from the time of the militia, yeomanry and volunteer, through to the Territorial Army and today's Army Reserve. This is all placed in the wider context of the British Army's history. The book tells the fascinating story of citizen soldiers woven through times of war and peace. It begins nearly 500 years ago with the raising of a militia that repulsed the French invasion of the Isle of Wight and continues with an examination of volunteers and the subsequent birth of the yeomanry in the late 18th century. Drawn from towns, villages and hamlets across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, volunteers have served at home and in numerous territories abroad: including the former Ottoman Empire, Burma, Siberia, France, Belgium, the Balkans, as well as post-9/11 Afghanistan and Iraq. Rose, Castle and Crown underscores the challenge and sacrifice that all military volunteers, throughout history, have had to make balancing the needs of service with family demands and their main civilian employment. It also demonstrates that reservists continue to contribute significantly to the United Kingdom's military capabilities.



"A gripping read." SIR JULIAN BRAZIER, FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER FOR THE RESERVES

"Compulsory reading for today's Reservist." MAJOR GENERAL AIDAN SMYTH, DEPUTY COMMANDER FIELD ARMY

The first call for help takes courage

Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service

Specialist care and support for Service leavers, reservists, veterans and their families

The first step to getting help is to contact Op COURAGE or ask your GP, a charity or someone else, such as a family member or friend, to do this on your behalf.

Contact details

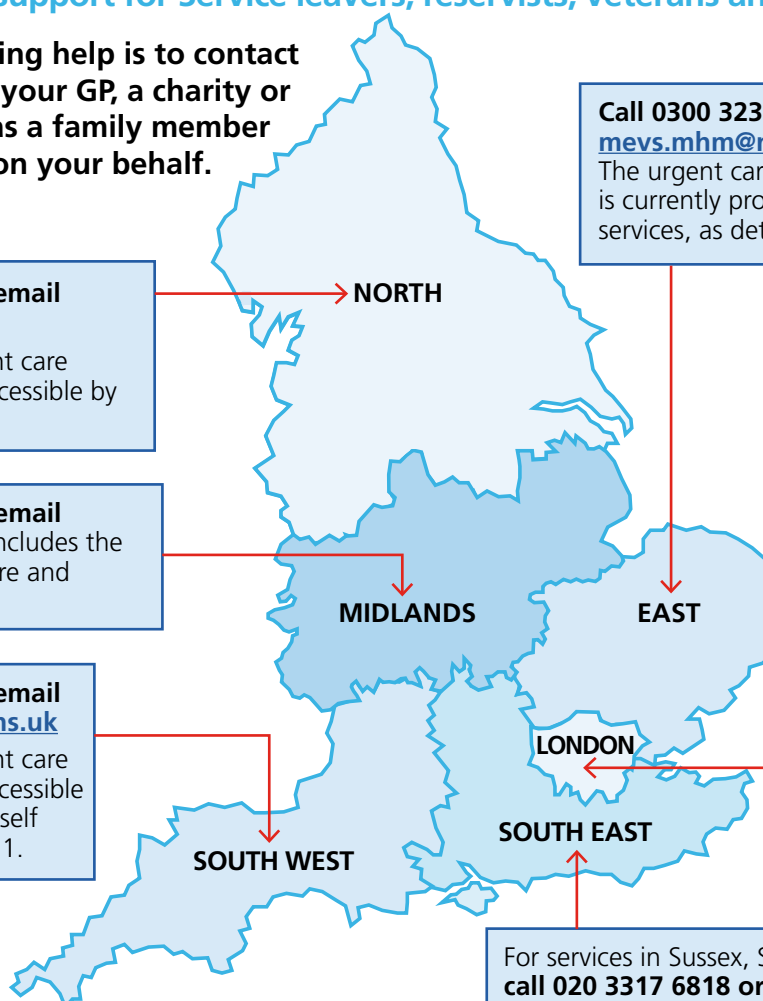
Call 0800 652 2867 or email VTILS@cntw.nhs.uk

The Op COURAGE urgent care and support service is accessible by healthcare referral only.

Call 0300 323 0137 or email mevs.mhm@nhs.net (includes the Op COURAGE urgent care and support service).

Call 0300 365 2000 or email gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk

The Op COURAGE urgent care and support service is accessible by healthcare referral or self referral by calling NHS111.



Call 0300 323 0137 or email mevs.mhm@nhs.net

The urgent care and support service is currently provided by other NHS services, as detailed below.

Call 020 3317 6818 or email cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net

(includes the Op COURAGE urgent care and support service).

For services in Sussex, Surrey or Kent, call 020 3317 6818 or email cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net

For services in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire or Buckinghamshire, call 0300 365 2000 or email gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk

For the Op COURAGE urgent care and support service, call 023 9438 7924 or email snhs.veteranshis.se@nhs.net

Urgent and emergency support from other NHS services

If you experience a mental health crisis you can also get help by dialling **111**, booking an emergency GP appointment, visiting A&E or calling **999**. If you are still serving, you can also call the Military Mental Health Helpline on **0800 323 4444**.

Register with a GP

If you've left the military, it is important to register with an NHS GP and tell them that you've served in the Armed Forces so you can access dedicated services for veterans. To find your nearest GP visit www.nhs.uk.

For further information on Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service, visit: www.nhs.net/opcourage

Op JACKDAW

By Paul Shilling



Operation Jackdaw is an organisation set up with the aim of getting ex-military personnel communal help with PTSD and other related mental health issues. Our aim is for veterans to come and wild camp with us in a comfortable, fresh and friendly environment. We want all veterans to come and enjoy the fresh air and get back to basics and to meet other veterans with similar backgrounds and converse about the old days and share life skills with others.

We are a non-profit organisation and only ask for a contribution towards materials, upkeep of our site and dry goods. We do not promote or provide alcohol, and this is a personal choice of each person who comes along without prejudice. We want all veterans to leave with a small sense of pride and achievement as many haven't been back in the field since they have left the services. It is important to note that Op JACKDAW is not a counselling organisation or a service. However, by engaging in the activities offered during the event and being





in the company of like-minded individuals who have shared similar life experiences, can provide therapeutic similarities. Spread over a weekend, it gives veterans the opportunity to relax with other like-minded

veterans. This is just one of the reviews of the weekend:

'Thanks to you and the boys for the gleaming weekend Bro, for putting all the time and thought into it. I had an amazing sleep. I needed it. The whole experience really helps the soul. Get out in the wilderness with like-minded individuals. You just can't beat it. I like the fact that you have the chance to see what's being used today in the Army when it comes to rations and kit. Not only that you get the chance to learn other things like bushcraft, camping tips, what's best to buy and more importantly what's not; you also get to see what everyone else is rocking for a first hand review to see if it's worth buying for yourself. The atmosphere was constant. Just full on banter and laughs, especially when we were all locked on around that main fire. I believe the group, mission idea can do a lot for an individual(s) - especially mentally. It's a get away from reality.'

For more details of the next Op JACKDAW please contact paulandrew.shilling@me.com



ROYAL STORIES



I was a young 18-year-old soldier in the front rank of No 3 Guard (Holland Company). Her Majesty Queen Margrethe passed me, without any chit chat, and was heading towards No 4 Guard (Quebec Company) when a weird feeling came over me. Suddenly, I collapsed backwards in the attention position narrowly missing the bayonet of the middle rank. I was dragged out by the medical orderlies and came to in their tent. An ignominious end to all those preparations and rehearsals.

Mike Hurman

ARMED FORCES QR CODES

An aid for the support and effective discharge of patients who are members of the Armed Forces Community



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Sight Loss Support



[BLESMA](#)
The Limbless Veterans
Charity



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Welfare Service](#)
Healthcare Support



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Directory of Services



[Veterans Trauma
Network](#)
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Physical Injuries

Scan the above codes on your phones camera for more information. You can also identify as part of the Armed Forces community on our system.

For more information regarding Armed Forces and available support, please contact cuh.armedforces@nhs.net



BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS DECEMBER TO SEPTEMBER

The following members are thanked for their very generous donations:

Nick Carter
John Noble
Nick Goble
Steve Scully
William McMahon
Kevin Brown
Colin Pitcher
Anonymous x 4
Peter Goulston
Mike Hurman
Peter Hiscock
Mac Mclvor
Kevin Biggs
Mike Cattell
Giles Morgan
Phil Turner
Brian Vallis
Mark Gibson
Terry Webb
Peter Lanham
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Robert Rust
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Barry Lane

Tim Trotman
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Les Vial
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Ricky Mattioli
Tony Robinson
John Collingridge
Graham Morrison
Adrian Birtles
John Frost
Ian Brien
Bluey and Maureen Hedges
Jonathan Purdy
Isle of Thanet Branch
Alan Swan
Queens Regimental Riders Association
Robert Maxlow
Mike Woodward
Jonathon Riley
Mr and Mrs EJ Noyce

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

WELFARE

By Di White, Welfare RHQ PWRR

The last couple of years have not been easy as we began to get back to the new normal. Add into the mix the latest hurdle of the cost-of-living crisis and it is not surprising to hear that people are still facing challenges whether financial, mental or physical. This is where the Queen's Regiment Charity can help. It is here for you as veterans and your family. It can relieve financial hardship and distress and provide crucial support and signposting when something unexpected occurs. It is here to help you.

Over the last year we have helped 38 individuals with grants totalling just under £21,000, covering a wide array of assistance. The majority of cases received grants for household items, electrically-powered vehicles (EPVs) and general needs. Assistance was also provided for priority debts, home adaptations and funerals. The more unique requests included specialist furniture, emergency travel, removals, vehicle maintenance and care home top-up fees.

Hopefully this highlights that support is out there and gives you an idea of the type of reasons grants are provided for. Remember if you are in need, or know of someone who is, then the Queen's Regiment Charity may be able to help.

CASE STUDIES

Background: This veteran lives in a small flat within a warden-controlled environment, has a number of medical conditions and can collapse at any given moment. Due to mobility difficulties an EPV is used but their current one doesn't hold its charge. Without the EPV this veteran loses independence. Requested assistance towards a replacement EPV.

Grant: £500

Almonised: £500 from the ABF, £710 from TRBL

Background: This veteran is physically well but struggling with mental health since a recent divorce and is also a carer for a child which is an extra responsibility and means that work is not possible. Living solely off benefits, a flat has now been allocated by the local authority. Requesting assistance towards essential household items.

Grant: £700

Almonised: £900 from the ABF, £700 from TRBL

Background: This veteran is terminally ill sadly. Obviously, this is a challenging time for the family and to ease the pressure they contacted SSAFA for some assistance towards general needs, including food. It is an attempt to make the remaining time as stress-free for the family as possible.

Grant: £500

Almonised: No need as the total amount requested was provided

Background: This veteran initially contacted TRBL for assistance with removal costs. However, it soon became apparent that there were also financial concerns and council tax arrears. The veteran was encouraged to contact a debt advisor and seek advice. CAB was contacted; they recommended clearing the council tax arrears and provided advice for the future.

Grant: £500

Almonised: £3,250 by TRBL (covering both removals and priority debts)

Background: This veteran sought assistance from SSAFA for help with paperwork, but it soon became apparent there were other needs. The veteran has both physical and mental health concerns which has affected the house. It is in a poor state of repair and will need intensive renovation. A DFG has been applied for but in the meantime there was an urgent need for essential household items including a bed.

Grant: £923

Almonised: No need as the total amount requested was provided

This is by no means an exhaustive list of the financial assistance that the Benevolent Fund has provided over the last 12 months but gives an idea of the support that is available. Please do not be afraid to ask for help and reach out to SSAFA, The Royal British Legion or the Association.

If all else fails, get in touch with PWRR RHQ or the Association Secretary. There is a system to follow but this ultimately opens a huge network of support whether for financial reasons or other. The Queen's Regiment Benevolent Fund is here to help you.



MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE LONDON UNIVERSITY OFFICER TRAINING CORPS 4 March 2023

Attendance:

Chairman Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members 44

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks.**The Chairman expressed delight that so many have turned up with 130 sitting down for lunch which is marginally fewer than two years ago but still significantly more than previous years, considering the problems of the last couple of years. Also, a special welcome was given to anyone who has 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. **Apologies.** Henry Thomas, Steve and Lindsay Parsons, Amy and Tony Philpott and Col Tim Trotman.
3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2022 Executive Committee AGM Minutes.**The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were posted online for perusal and comments had been invited. None had been received and the minutes were taken as an accurate record of the AGM.
4. **Points arising.**There were no points arising.
5. **Update on QRA activities and the way ahead**

The Chairman reported that the Association had a better year than last year:

- a. Overall, numbers have increased with more registering with the Association than are falling off the end, and membership now stand at 2,848 members - up 104 on last year even though 69 members died . There are, potentially 7,500 ex-Queensmen who are not registered. All were asked to encourage any whom are known to register so that the Association can keep in touch
- b. 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 £325,000 through events, activities and grant applications. The Chairman emphasised that no QRA money had been used in this this project. They still have £30K to go and additional activity is planned to raise this last amount.
- c. The website continues to be developed with the continued, expert support of Lindsay Parsons. Grateful thanks went to her. The Association database is working well but members were asked to note that if they unsubscribed emails, they will not be informed of members' deaths. Members were also asked to note that the database has been moved to the MOD server which will save a considerable amount of money. It is believed that the glitches have all been sorted out, but if not yet please be patient.
- d. There have been a couple of occasions when funerals have taken place, where the Regiment was represented but the details had not been 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.

6. **Finance and Benevolence.**

- a. **Finance.** The Secretary reported that the Benevolent Fund had a total income of £51,769 which was down on last year. This was, in the main, from investment income and donations. Total expenditure for the year was £83,324, inflated because of a large bill from 2021 not being sent until March because of the problems with the distribution of the Journal. Therefore, in effect, two years' worth of Journal costs have been included in 2022's accounts. The main elements of our expenditure were our share of benevolence payments, Journal costs, Association Secretary's salary and office running costs. Therefore, in our day-to-day running costs, there was an excess of expenditure over income of £57,808 for the year. Investments decreased in value by £192,227 this was a snapshot when the market was at its lowest because of the invasion of Ukraine and the serious effects of Liz Truss economics... Thankfully the market has recovered, and our funds are very nearly back to where they were before – not reflected in these accounts. As at 31 December 2022, the total fund stands at £1,573,788. The Chairman and Secretary were satisfied with the current state of the fund and believe that we can maintain our support for past members for as long as is required.
- b. **Welfare.** During the year a total of 55 cases were submitted and 38 individual grants were approved. Out of the 17 cases not receiving grants; 5 cases had already had the need met by other military charities, 6 cases were declined as they did not meet the benevolence criteria and 4 cases were declined due to the applicants having substantial savings or large disposable incomes. 1 case had already received the maximum grant for the same request and the final case was withdrawn. The majority of cases received grants for household items (9), EPVs (6) and general needs (5). 3 cases received grants towards priority debts, 3 cases for home adaptations and a further 3 for funeral costs. Financial assistance was also provided for specialist furniture (2), emergency travel (2), vehicle maintenance (2) and removals (2). The final grant was provided for care home top-up fees. The Queen's Regiment Charity paid out £20,840 as individual grants; the ABF contributed £11,761 in general grants whilst TRBL contributed £17,650 in grants.

The Secretary acknowledged the assistance provided by the Army Benevolent Fund which has been extremely helpful with prompt actions, advice and guidance. Also thanks were given to SSAFA and The Royal British Legion as the main organisations which investigate the majority of our cases.

7. **RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout.** – The Secretary, Steve Scully and Howard Copsey are joining The Great Tommy Sleepout on 18 May, sleeping out in aid of homeless veterans. They are doing this at Kennels Field and welcomed anyone else who would like to join them. The QRRA are keeping the bar open! Members were invited to join them or if not to donate towards this great cause. Members were informed of our decision to support the RBLI with fundraising activity is because at least three members of the Regiment are currently being looked after by the RBLI.
8. **Arboretum Reunion.** Den Gallacher gave details of the proposed Arboretum Reunion on 23 September. Members are asked to contact him to book in.
9. **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 principle medium of annual communication. However, as he habitually says, it is only as good as the material received for consideration. Additionally, with such comprehensive publications as *'Soldiers of The Queen'* and *'The Longest Stag'* – and he digressed to offer the Association's thanks and congratulations to Gen Riley and the Secretary - a publication of its size and quality may be considered extravagant. On the positive side over £2,500 to date has been donated specifically as a result of the Journal. The Chairman has no doubts that with the active membership we have, we need an annual publication in some form, but he would welcome your views on the possible options.
10. **Dover Museum**

In 2022, the museum had its first full summer season since 2019 and received 107161 visitors. One of the main achievements this year was launching the museum's website, the first dedicated website for the museum. It replaced a previous website on the topic of our regimental history and includes a new virtual museum section with a collections page dedicated to objects from our collections. At the beginning of 2022, the curator and volunteers were successful in creating a full inventory of the collection in Dover with all the paperwork in place for the next accreditation return.



The process of rationalising our collection has begun, removing objects which do not come under the Collections Development Policy.

The museum received a grant from the Royal Society's Places of Science programme in 2022. The project, 'Treating the Troops: Medicine and the Infantry, 1800-1920' will create a set of school resources for GCSE History 'Medicine Through Time' syllabus. It has also allowed the museum to investigate the story of Lieutenant Matthew Latham, who was one of the first British soldiers to receive facial reconstruction surgery. A major exhibition will be held to cover this project opening on the 13th May 2023. The Museum is looking for volunteers for the day, so if you would like to assist, please let Henry Thomas know.

Regarding the revamp of the Museum, we are still awaiting English Heritage to address the roof of the building. Once this is addressed, plans and applications for grants to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations will be made to raise funding to complete our aspirations to tell the stories of those who served in the Regiment, improving the visitors' experience. For us to achieve this, we would like to see some personal donations and stories to build our Queen's Regimental area.

Finally, we completed our transition to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the final swap to our new structure to be made on January 1st, 2023, for which we have a new charity number 1198899.

11. **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 but perhaps we should look initially towards centring our activity at the NMA where our main Memorial is sited. Please let the Secretary have your thoughts and ideas.

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

13. **Update on PWRR Activities.** Colonel John Powell gave an update on PWRR Activities.

14. **Combined Irish Regiments Association March – 14 June.** The Chairman reported that the Combined Irish Regiments Association has once again invited all members of The Queen's Regiment to take part in their annual commemoration march at the Cenotaph on Sunday 11 June. This is a singular honour being afforded to us and he encouraged all those who served to take part. The Secretary will be sending out further instructions in due course but the parade forms up at 0930 hrs 11 Jun 2022 in King Charles Street, Whitehall in London at which further instructions will be given. The Secretary should be informed by members who wish to attend.

15. **Date of Next AGM and Reunion.** 2 March 2024 at University of London OTC.

16. **Any Other Business.** There being no further business the meeting closed at 1215hrs.

Alasdair Goulden

Association Secretary

Distr:

President

Secretary

Branch Secretaries

Website

Attachment:

Income and Expenditure Account Year End 31 Dec 22

Accounts for the Queen's Regiment

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Account	2022	2021
Turnover		
Benevolence Refunds : RBL & SSAFA	500	0
CAR BADGES SALES & COIN SALES	235	3,053
Interest	3	3
Investment Dividend	42,166	42,139
Misc Donations	8,625	11,436
Reunion Income	240	0
Investment Withdrawals	0	10,000
Total Turnover	51,769	66,631
Cost of Sales		
Membership		
Ex Service Association	100	0
Anglo-Danish Society	200	200
Canterbury Cathedral Fiends	25	25
Wolfe Society	6	6
	331	231
Welfare Grants - RBL & SSAFA	25,591	16,727
Total Cost of Sales	26,253	16,958
Gross Profit	25,516	49,673
Administrative Costs		
Investment Management Fees	3,694	3,771
Accountancy	660	4,176
Association Secretary Fee	29,092	28,973
Events Costs	350	0
Grant - Association Branches		
Middlesex Branch	1,161	1,341
Horsham Branch	500	400
Weald Branch	1,283	0
Drums	317	0
Grants Misc	0	100
	3,262	1,841
Grant - Golf Society	300	400
Hospitality	120	
IT Software and Consumables	14	
Journal Costs	30,824	6,976
Meetings Costs	800	
Office Expenses and Postage	1,197	1,235
Parking	6	
Coins and Badges	0	1,992
Presentation Costs	2,437	282
Association President Expences	236	333
Printing & Stationery	10	0
Remembrance cost	804	163
Reunion Costs	548	0
Telephone & Internet	55	0
Travel & Subsistence	2,533	1,453
Website Maintenance	6,381	5,629



Accounts for the Queen's Regiment

Insurance	0	23
Total Administrative Costs	83,324	57,224
Operating Profit	- 57,808	-
		7,551
Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments	-192,227	-182,758
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-250,035	-175,207

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2022	2021
	£	£
Assets		
Investments	1,543,670	1,735,897
Bank	6,298	20,649
Debtors	0	
Prepayments	0	
Accrued Income	0	
Total	1,573,788	1,756,546
Liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Total	0	0
Net Worth of Fund	1,573,788	1,756,546

RULES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When thinking about posting something on social media, especially on regimental sites, you are requested to follow the Triple Test (with apologies to Socrates):

1. *Is what I am about to post true? That means do you stake your reputation on what you are saying or just repeating hearsay?*
2. *Is what I am about to post either good or kind?*
3. *Is sharing the information useful to the person who is reading it?*

If the answer to any of these questions is 'No' please don't post.

OBITUARIES

COLONEL DEREK BISHOP MBE



Derek was educated at William Ellis School, Highgate and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the East Surrey Regiment in 1948, and joined the 1st Battalion in Salonica, North Greece, where they remained in case the civil war, caused by a Russian-backed Communist uprising, should cause the Greek government to collapse. It didn't

and Derek moved with the Battalion to Somalia and then on to Barnard Castle in 1950 where he was a platoon commander and then intelligence officer.

In August 1950, he joined volunteers raised to reinforce the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment as part of the UN force within the 27th Commonwealth Brigade in Korea. They joined the drive along the western axis into N Korea with temperatures down to -20C, initially with only battledress. There was much movement up to and, after massive Chinese intervention, down from the 38th parallel. 1 MX eventually returned to Hong Kong having had 42 killed and 94 wounded out of 600 effectives.

Having learnt Russian at Sandhurst, in 1951 Derek was sent for an academic year to London University and then to live for 8 months with a Russian immigrant family in Paris. He qualified as an interpreter and had 2 years in an intelligence appointment mainly concerned with Russian open source material.

In May 1955, he joined 1 East Surreys in Brunswick and became Adjutant where Brenda joined him after their marriage in June 1956. After graduating from the Army Staff College in 1959, he was promoted major and worked with 3rd Infantry Division and 16 Airborne Brigade. He was intended to be with them for a year before becoming Brigade Major of the Airborne Brigade. Fate decreed otherwise and he broke his leg very badly in a parachute accident, so moved to HQ 3 Division and was involved with exercises in Libya, Kenya and Portugal as well as UK.

In 1962, Derek rejoined the regiment, by then the Queen's Royal Surreys, as a company commander in Hong Kong

where they supported the police in returning those Chinese crossing from the mainland border into HK in search of food.

In 1963, a revolt against the Brunei government was led by a man called Azerhari. As it was a British protectorate, the British Army intervened and Derek was sent from Hong Kong to Brunei Town to command the Forward Administrative Complex for 3 months. The revolt was quickly suppressed, but the Indonesians took the opportunity of encroaching on Malaysian territory which caused a protracted border struggle, eventually ending with Indonesian defeat.

In November 1963, the battalion moved to Munster, Germany, to become a mechanised battalion. Derek left in 1965 to rejoice in the title of Deputy Assistant and Quartermaster General of 12 Brigade in Osnabruck as the principal personnel and logistics officer of the brigade, administering a 5000-strong garrison; a job full of variety which carried the plum of his being made MBE.

In 1967, Derek was posted back to HK as 2IC of 2 QUEENS. There was a great deal of disruption to colony life by Communist disorder and much time was spent confined to barracks awaiting call-out in support of the police.

In 1968, he was promoted lieutenant-colonel and commanded 5 QUEENS (V), based in Kent, Surrey, Middlesex and Sussex. This was followed in 1970 by a staff appointment at HQ The Queen's Division in Basingbourn, dealing with career planning for officers of the three large regiments (QUEENS, RRF AND R ANGLIAN) of the Division.

In 1973, Derek was promoted to full colonel as deputy commander of 3rd Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland, which dealt with security along the N and S borders.

In October 1973, he went to the MOD as Head of DI2, concerned with India, China, Japan and Korea. He described it as joining the world of professional spookery until his retirement.

Derek then attended Cambridge University to learn Turkish to become a linguist for the role of Defence and Military Attaché in Turkey. This provided the most



interesting and enjoyable life for both Derek and Brenda in a beautiful country.

His last Army appointment was as head of DI3, responsible for intelligence on the ground forces of the Soviet Union and Soviet bloc.

Throughout his career Derek, enjoyed the company of his soldiers both before and after retirement. Many became valued friends.

On retirement, he was delighted that all his past Intelligence experience took him to the Intelligence staff of the Cabinet Office. He was one of a team of five monitoring all incoming intelligence on a 24hr basis; a fascinating job which allowed him to retire at 65 instead of the normal Civil Service age of 60. However, when 65 came, he was very sorry to retire and to no longer know what was really going on behind the headlines.

Born in January 1928, Derek died on 22 January 2022



LT COL JAMES BRYAN RAY MBE

By Anthony Ray

In 1948, as a newly commissioned national service subaltern in the Royal Fusiliers, Bryan Ray was posted to the Somaliland Scouts. Having never left the British Isles before, he found himself commanding a platoon of 30 Somali Askaris, none of whom spoke a word of English. Based with D Company in Awareh he was engaged on extended patrols keeping warring tribes apart in the border region of the Ogaden between Ethiopia and Somaliland. It was a case of learning on the job – not just the language but understanding the Askaris and the political sensitivities that surrounded any border incident. He quickly developed a deep love for the Somali culture and the delights of an independent command away from any overbearing interference!



The Thugs and Poles in Tripoli (L to R: David Froud, Bryan Ray, Noel Pepperall, Hugh Greatwood)

Having realised that soldiering was the life for him, he applied for a regular commission in the British Army. This coincided with the arrival of 1st Bn East Surrey Regt in Italian Somaliland. It was there that he took salt with the Regiment and afterwards signed the Salt Book. It was a friendly and professional battalion and he soon settled in. His cockney soldiers were tickled pink to have a platoon commander who could chat up the locals in their own language and be royally entertained in the village stockades.

1951 saw him in England serving with other subalterns who would become lifelong friends: Hugh Greatwood, David Froud and Noel Pepperall in particular. Hugh and David were both accomplished heavyweight boxers for the battalion and were labelled the Thugs. Noel and Bryan being similarly tall but lacking the breadth were known as the Poles.

Subsequently Bryan served in Libya, Egypt (Tel El Kebir) and Cyprus (as Aide de Camp to the Governor). In 1960, he was on parade as the East Surreys were amalgamated to become the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. He was a member of the Colour Party with the new Colours being presented by the Duke of Edinburgh. He served with the Queen's Royal Surreys in Oxford Barracks, Munster from 1964-1966 before being posted to HQ NEARELF in Cyprus.

Not long after the County Regiments of the South-East came together to form The Queen's Regiment, Bryan

was posted in 1968 to the 2nd Bn at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland. The Battalion anticipated the enjoyment of a home posting, but at the beginning of 1969 the 'Troubles' erupted.

Mike Jelf, one of his platoon commanders, writes:

"On 15 August with B Coy leading, the Battalion deployed onto the Shankill Road, formed into box formations and marched smartly down Dover Street (6 Pl) and Percy Street (5 Pl), welcomed on all sides by the clapping, relieved population across the sectarian divide. B Coy established itself on the Falls Road with the chaos of serious rioting littered all round."



'Hey, Youse Major!': Bryan Ray in B Coy ops room, Belfast 1969

"It was on the streets of Belfast that Bryan excelled. There were plenty of disturbances, some rioting, mainly at the weekends but generally the role was reassurance, keeping the peace between sectarian groups in streets where it was hard to define where Protestant areas ended and Roman Catholic began. Bryan saw to it that he was out there ready to discuss issues with both leading local councillors and the locals themselves. "Hey, youse Major!" became the common cry on the streets when the distinctive OC was spotted doing his rounds. The 'call' was eventually engraved on his leaving present from the Company months later.

"In a matter of a few months, Bryan had knitted together a very proficient and happy company. The platoons knew what his standards were, they liked him because he was interested in their welfare and morale. He knew their names and led by example. Perhaps his shock of white hair and distinguished nose gave him a fatherly air and at a time when a new supersonic aircraft was coming into service, in their wisdom, the soldiers soon gave the OC the nickname of 'Concorde'.

It was about that time too that David Bowie released his 'Space Oddity' and it seemed that the whole Battalion was no longer singing about 'Major Tom' but 'Major Ray'! It fitted beautifully. A Christmas party was held in the Manor Street Boys Club. The theme was 'This is Your Life', a marvellous opportunity for the company to show their appreciation. All this reflected the high regard in which he was held right across the Battalion. The award of the MBE in the first Northern Ireland Honours list a few months later was richly deserved and very popular amongst his soldiers."



North Frontier Regiment (NFR) in Oman



WO 1 (RSM) BERNARD 'CURLY' LIVELY BEM By Jesse James

As I sit in the quiet of my study with my memories all around, my mind's eye catches a glimpse of that immaculate and very proud Drum Major that was Bernard 'Curly' Lively. Dressed up to the nines in his distinctive regalia, stepping off smartly to the beat of *'Soldiers of the Queen'*, Curly would proudly lead his beloved Corps of Drums ahead of the Battalion, marching with panache, dignity and great aplomb, leaving those onlookers in no doubt that The Queen's Regiment was on parade.



Born on 17 May 1943 and died on 30 December 2022, 'Curly' Lively was one of the 2nd Battalion's greatest legends and he was without doubt, one of the finest soldiers of his generation.

He was a genuine man of great integrity and reliability, who possessed many fine qualities. The most endearing of these was the love and pride that he showed in his Corps of Drums. They were his 'pride and joy' to which he dedicated his life. They, in return, reciprocated with that unique deep bond of trust, respect, loyalty and comradeship that can only be found between the finest of leaders and that remarkable of all soldiers, the

'Infantryman'. For his outstanding contribution to the Battalion, he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Curly's Corps of Drums became 'Nulli Secundus' in the very competitive world of drumming. Ex-Drum Majors and drummers will, hopefully, forgive me for making such a bold assumption on this occasion.

Bernard's wife, the equally admired and much-loved lady 'Winnie', made a wonderful and very unselfish contribution to enhance his very high-profile career within the Regiment. They made a truly formidable and inseparable couple, who introduced and inspired many of the up-and-coming young sergeants and their ladies in the art of enjoying the social life of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants mess'.

Those of us who had the privilege of serving alongside Curly, regarded him as the epitome of everything that was good and honourable in an outstanding Warrant Officer who upheld the finest traditions of The Queen's Regiment. He was a gentleman with a wonderful friendly disposition and an extremely playful and sometimes wicked sense of humour.

Bernard enlisted into the Buffs at their depot in Canterbury in 1958 as a junior drummer aged 15.

By the time he joined his battalion in 1960, the Buffs and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's had amalgamated to become the Queen's Own Buffs. He was identified very early on as a fine drummer and certainly NCO material by the then Drum Major, the renowned and unforgettable Windsor Clark of the Queen's Own Royal West Kents. Windsor immediately recognised a future budding Drum Major in Bernard and groomed him through the ranks to finally take over that most coveted and prestigious role of Drum Major from himself on his retirement from the Army.

Curly was always instrumental in welcoming any new members into the Mess who had arrived to serve in the 2nd Battalion. This was most evident when those proud members of the 'Die Hards' arrived in our battalion family. I clearly remember Curly saying in later years, *"How would we have felt, Jesse, if we had our battalion ripped away from us?"* Curly, so thoughtful and caring, always gave most generously of himself to others who he felt were less fortunate.

Curly ended his Regular Army career on a high note as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 6/7th Battalion, in

Horsham, adding yet further fame to his already glorious reputation and career.

Curly was not prepared to hang up his uniform after leaving the army. He fortunately found himself in the ideal post as RSM of the Combined Cadet Force detachment of Giggleswick Public School in Settle, North Yorkshire. Curly was a great asset to the school and as always devoted himself with his own brand of flamboyant enthusiasm, which endeared him to the teaching staff and pupils alike.

Curly was in his element with the cadets at Giggleswick, and it was here that Curly and Winnie spent 15 fulfilled and very enjoyable years prior to his retirement. This

was the perfect way for Curly and the family to end an outstanding military career.

Bernard leaves behind his beloved wife 'Winnie' and his two sons Bernard and Simon along with their wives Michelle, Nicola and the grandchildren Mae, Danny and Eddie.

As the sun set on 30 December 2022 when Curly marched away from us, a door closed on another chapter of our proud history. In an attempt to find some fitting words to end Curly's obituary, I recall that most poignant sentence from Lawrence Vaincourt's poem 'Just a Common Soldier' which says:

"The world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today."



COLONEL JGW DAVIDSON

John Davidson died at home on 15th October. Although full of beans and as cheerful as usual, he had for the last two years been very weak.

He was educated at Rugby and then went to Sandhurst. His intake took part in the Coronation of HM Queen



By Col Tony Ward

Elizabeth II. John was always very proud of his coronation medal. He was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), a regiment of which he was immensely proud. Soon after joining the 1st Battalion, then stationed in Malaya and commanding 10 Platoon, he was tasked with patrolling on Mount Ophir, the highest peak in South Malaya. Having climbed through thick jungle and slippery rock faces, the platoon reached the 2,500-foot summit and found a terrorist camp. They killed a very high-ranking terrorist and badly wounded another who the patrol carried for 26 hours down the mountain. He died just before he could be flown out. John was awarded a Mention in Dispatches for his leadership. It was a fine example of the British Army demonstrating concern and care for a wounded adversary.

John was fortunate to spend many years in the Far East. In 1961 whilst in Singapore, he married a 'Foreign Office Girl' – Jennifer Knapp who was a terrific support to him during all his Army Service. At the earliest age, he went to the Staff College Camberley, afterwards being posted to 19 Inf Bde as DAA & QMG. In 1966 as a Staff Trained Major, he was the last Adjutant of 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in Munster and the following year, for both the 1 QUEENS amalgamation parade and on the occasion of HRH Princess Marina's visit as Colonel-in-Chief. He then took over C Company



in Munster, Lingfield and Bahrain which under John was the first to take the title 'Kirkes Company' after the annual Inter-Company Competition was named.

After a tour in Norway doing a NATO job, he commanded Support Company 2 QUEENS which won the Inter-company Competition – 'The Invicta Trophy'. Not by coincidence did he twice command the Champion Company in different Battalions. After this tour, it was off to the US Army Staff Course and Fort Benning. In 1974, John assumed command of 1 QUEENS in Tidworth before moving to Werl with successful tours in Belfast and Londonderry.

After command, he had a further tour in Hong Kong and then MOD in London. On retirement, he became Secretary of St Georges Hill Tennis Club; a very fitting job for a great sportsman with skiing, squash, cricket and hockey played regularly. As a golfer, he all too frequently took the majority of Silver at the Regimental Golf Meetings.

He always looked after his team extremely well. During 1 QUEENS Londonderry tour when each Battalion was allowed to nominate only 10 to receive the Silver Jubilee Medal, the first to be nominated by John were those who had been wounded. Mind you, he himself was used to being wounded! On the Belfast tour, John Acworth struck him badly with his squash racket and later whilst playing hockey for the Battalion he injured his leg resulting in him being in plaster for a number of weeks. He was one of the few casualties on that tour! When he left the Battalion, he was pushed round the ranks in recognition of all his injuries whilst CO and then strapped to the outside casualty pod of a waiting Gazelle helicopter and flown away!!!

In 2003, Jennifer very sadly died. John and Jennifer had three children (Christopher, Richard and Carolyn) of whom John was immensely proud. Sometime later, he married Coral who quickly learnt to support and understand his many Army friends and activities.

If a picture is a thousand words, the attached photo says it all. It was taken at The Cenotaph Parade in November 2022: Fierce pride of being an outstanding soldier, his time in the Far East, his love of his comrades and remaining positive and cheerful. John was 90 when he sadly left us.



WO1 (RSM) CLIFFORD ROLAND SHINN



WO1 (RSM) Clifford Roland Shinn passed away on 29 March 2023 aged 88 years.

Cliff joined the Army in 1952, serving with 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and 6th Battalion (V) The Queen's Regiment.

He thoroughly enjoyed his 22 years' service in the Army, recollecting his exploits in Austria, Cyprus, Gibraltar, British Guiana and Germany many times. On leaving the Army in 1974, Cliff, his wife Reba and daughter Janice moved to Surrey where they opened a newsagents, and latterly a landscape gardening and floristry business.

On retirement in 1999, they moved to Northern Ireland, where Reba was originally from, to be closer to their daughter and her family. Reba sadly passed away in 2018.

Cliff's funeral took place on 1st April 2023. He was buried in Castlederg, CoTyrone alongside his beloved Reba.

IN MEMORIAM

The following is a list of our comrades who sadly have passed away since the last Journal. Members are requested to keep the Secretary informed of those who 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	2023	Battalion
15 Oct	Col John Davidson		1st, QRR and QRS
15 Oct	Cpl Kevin 'Ginge' O'Dell		1st
11 Oct	CSgt James Reynolds		1st, 4th and MX
11 Oct	Sgt Roger Glazier		1st, 3rd and QRS
6 Oct	Lt Col Malcom Gilham		2nd, 7th and MX
03 Oct	Sgt Martin Ferguson		2nd and PWRR
02 Oct	Maj Derek Dragonetti		6/7th
Oct	Cpl George Bashford		2nd
Oct	Pte Brian Woodbine		2nd and QOB
16 Sep	CSgt Francis 'Frank' Creane		1st
14 Sep	Pte Leslie Wellard		3rd
13 Sep	Capt Alan Andrews		8(V), 1QORWK, 4/5QORWK and 3 Ghana
04 Sep	Lt Col Brian Ray MBE		2nd, QRS, East Surreys', and SAF
02 Sep	Cpl Alexander 'Storky' Stork		2nd
01 Sep	Pte Charlie Brown		1st
06 Aug	Pte Glyn 'Stix' Clarke		1st
18 Aug	WO2 Eric Hemsby		6/7th, East Surrey's and QRS
07 Aug	Cpl Bruce 'Flattie' Chapman		2nd
03 Aug	Drm Maj Richard 'Smudger' Smith		1st
24 Jul	Cpl Rodney Lavender		2nd and QOB
24 Jul	LCpl Les White		6/7th
22 Jul	Pte John Keywood		1st
01 Jul	Cpl James 'Jock' McClung		6/7th
12 Jun	LCpl Dave Lester		4th and MX
15 Jun	WO2 Jon Newnham		2nd and PWRR
21 May	Pte John Hatton		1st and QRS
19 May	Pte Philip Wadey		2nd, Buffs and QOB
23 Apr	Cpl Nicholas 'Fred' Loates		3rd
29 Mar	WO1 (RSM) Clifford Shinn		4th, 6th, 6/7th and MX
28 Mar	Capt Ham Whitty		2nd, QORWK and QOB
27 Mar	LCpl Kevin Hinds		3rd
13 Mar	Capt George Wakely		1st, QRR and QRS
11 Mar	Col Jon Wright		1st and PWRR
10 Mar	Pte Philip Hill		2nd
03 Mar	Cpl Jim Ferry		1st and 4th
2 Mar	LCpl Colin Granger		1st
28 Feb	Sgt Steve Dunkley		6/7th
26 Feb	Bdmn (WO2) Don Palfrey		3rd, R SUSSEX and Aus DF
22 Feb	2Lt Robert 'Bertie' Saunders		5th and 4/5th R SUSSEX
21 Feb	LCpl Peter John Smith		NK
20 Feb	Cpl Keith Lepley		3rd
19 Feb	WO2 Andy Hyde		1st and APTC
17 Feb	Maj Ron Morris MBE		1st, 4th, QRS, East Surreys', MX and 22 SAS
15 Feb	Pte Lancelot 'Dizzy' de-Zille		3rd and ACC
10 Feb	Pte Wayne William (Wigwam) Jarvis		1st
07 Feb	WO2 Tim Hayley MBE		2nd QORWK and QOB
		2022	
31 Dec	LCpl Topper Thompson		1st
30 Dec	WO1 (RSM) Bernard Lively BEM		2nd, 6/7th , Buffs and QOB
22 Dec	Cpl Peter Shrewsbury		3rd
13 Dec	CSgt Patrick Dive		4th and MX
10 Dec	Capt Roger Sherrin MBE		3rd, R SUSSEX, King's African Rifles, Uganda Rifles and The Royal Brunei Regt
03 Dec	Maj Donald Abbott		East Surreys and QRS
25 Nov	Sgt Maurice Samson		2nd, QORWK and QOB
22 Nov	Paul Lemasonry		1st
17 Nov	Col Michael Rixon		1st, QRS, and East Surreys



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. 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/qrachichester/>

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. Our 2024 dates are 4 March, 13 May (for Albuhera), 2 September and 2 December. We also hold a luncheon, typically in September, and plan to run a Battlefield Tour in 2024 along with other minor events.

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 the 16th 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 - Kev Minnis:

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 - Dennis Sharrocks: - Tel: [07771 957 574](tel:07771957574)

Email: secretary.pwrrlondon@gmail.com



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 our the Secretary email:

Chairman - Trevor Canton: - Tel: 020 8368 0407

Email: queensman67@outlook.com

Secretary – Les Vial: - Mobile: 07713 150191

Email: lesvial@btinternet.com

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

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. The Corps of Drums meet twice a week on Thursdays and Sundays at Margate Sea Cadets, Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Road, Margate, CT9 5QX.

To discuss an event or to join please contact:

Tony Philpott or Amy Holden: - Mobile: 07568 630024

Email: qracorpsodrums@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 The Queen's Regiment. For more details please contact:

Secretary Tim Gifford: - Mobile: 07514 489777

Email: [Please use the Contact Form on the QRRA 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 they meet every 2nd Wednesday on alternate months starting in January.

For more details please contact:

Chairman - John Grinham:

Mobile: [0776 5673262](tel:07765673262)

Email: John@grinham.me.uk

Secretary - Barry Crocker: - Email: barrycrocker@hotmail.co.uk

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

Tel: [07530 690861](tel:07530690861)

Email: dsl9421@gmail.com

Treasurer - Mrs Sharon Scales:

Tel: [01962 826088](tel:01962826088)

Email: sturner@biopharma.co.uk

NON-AFFILIATED GROUPS which have contact with ex-members of the Regiment

QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREYS

Secretary - Dee Hutchison:

Email: Fosim@btconnect.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!



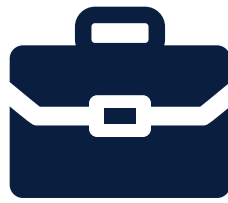
SUPPORTING VETERANS SINCE 1919

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.



THEIR MAJESTIES

Charity No 1024418

www.queensregimentalassociation.org